

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
FROM: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
DATE: May 23, 2019
SUBJECT: FDOT Barrier Island Traffic Study Recommendations

Recommended Action

None, for informational purposes only.

Background

Longboat Key remains an advocate of the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) Barrier Island Traffic Study (“BITS”) that has been in progress since July 2017. Town Commissioner Jack Daly serves as the Town’s representative on the Barrier Island Study Steering Committee and on the MPO Board. The BITS study is advancing as a three-phase study, with Phase 2 recently completed and Phase 3 beginning. As part of the Phase 2 completion, a number of recommendations were produced to improve traffic flow and safety along barrier island routes. The Town of Longboat endorses many of the recommendations, some of which are important recommendations within the City limits. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Short-Term BITS Recommendations within City limits

1. Pedestrian Management on St. Armands Circle-Assignment of pedestrian control officers at the crosswalks on St. Armands Circle during seasonal peak traffic flows to increase capacity and pedestrian safety by platooning on specific legs of the Circle, as previously recommended in a report to FDOT by Sam Schwartz Engineering D.P.C. dated July 14, 2016.
2. Elimination of parking spaces with operational conflicts with intersections to improve traffic flow, specifically, along the West leg of St. Armands Circle towards Lido Beach. This has been supported in the past but not implemented. With the opening of the new St. Armands parking garage, our goal is that the City and FDOT would help coordinate this effort with the St Armands Circle Business Association.

Longer Term BITS Priorities

1. An additional, flexible lane on future bridge replacements.
2. Elevated above-grade pedestrian crossings at key intersections on the U.S. 41 Corridor from Ringling Blvd. to Fruitville Road.

Other Supported Recommendations

1. Water Shuttles (mid-term)
2. John Ringling Parkway counter-flow (mid-term)

The Town would like to work collaboratively with the City, as well as the FDOT and MPO, on these current and future initiatives.

Attachments

BITS Presentation



Barrier Island Traffic Study

Joint Meeting Between the
Town of Longboat Key and City of Sarasota
June 13, 2019



Town Adopted Core Values

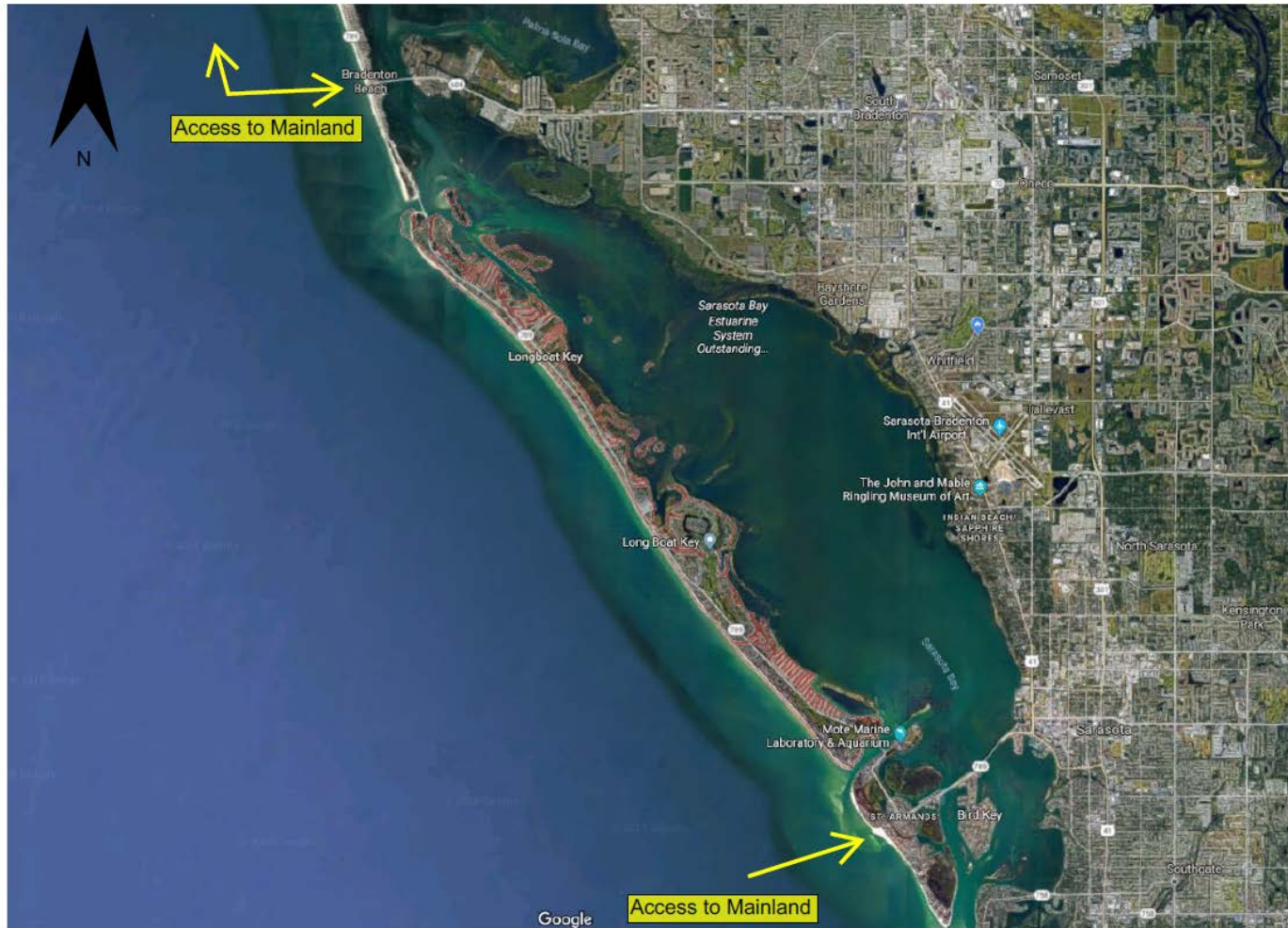
TRANSPORTATION VALUE/GOAL:

8. The Town will pursue long-term transit system solutions that provide reasonable travel options within the Town and off-island for residents, visitors, businesses and the local workforce, ***while maintaining and improving traffic circulation.***

- Improving traffic circulation includes both on-island and off-island routes

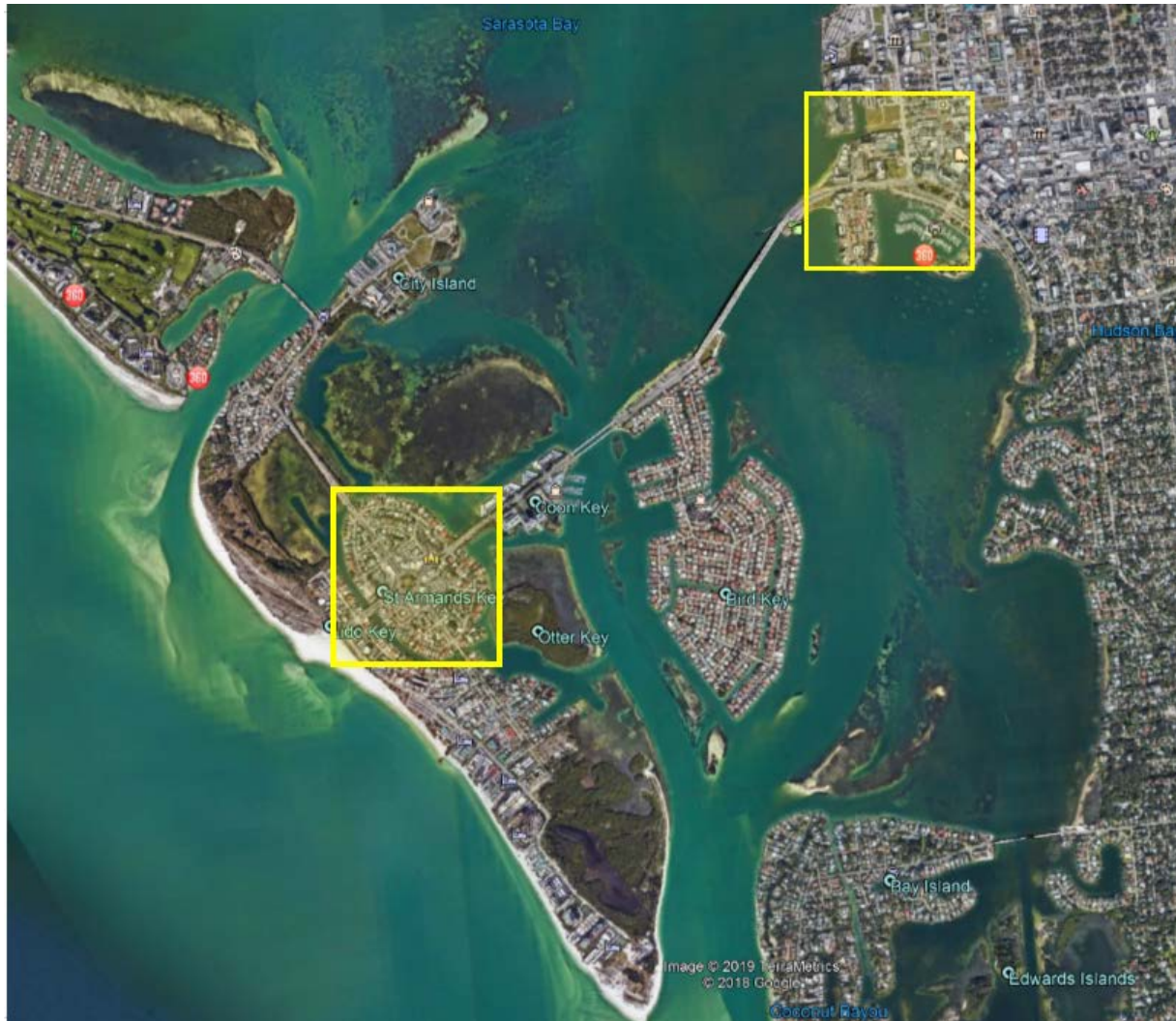


Aerial Photos





Aerial Photos Cont.





Background

Barrier Island Traffic Study (“BITS”)

- Began July 2017
- Three (3) Phase Study
- Phase 2 complete with recommendations
- Town Commissioner Jack Daly serves on BITS Steering Committee and MPO Board

The Town supports the recommendations of the BITS



BITS Short-Term Recommendations within the City

Town endorses:

- **Pedestrian Management - St. Armands Circle**
 - Assignment of pedestrian control at the crosswalks during season
 - Increase capacity and pedestrian safety (platooning)
 - Previously recommended in a report to FDOT by Sam Schwartz Engineering D.P.C. dated July 14, 2016.

- **Elimination of certain parking spaces – St. Armands Circle**
 - At intersections with operational conflicts to improve traffic flow
 - Specifically, along the West leg of St. Armands Circle towards Lido Beach.
 - Previously supported but not implemented.
 - Request support from City and FDOT to help implement this recommendation and coordinate with St Armands Circle Business Association.



BITS Long-Term Recommendations within the City Cont.

Town endorses:

- **Additional, flexible lane(s) on future bridge replacements**
 - Including Coon Key Bridge
- **Elevated above-grade pedestrian crossings**
 - At key intersections on the U.S. 41 Corridor from Ringling Blvd. to Fruitville Road



Other BITS Recommendations within the City

Town also endorses:

- Water Shuttles
- John Ringling Parkway Counter-Flow
- Wayfinding and Parking Information/distribution



Next Steps

Support to implement Town of Longboat Key priority recommendations within the City.

Thank you!

End of Agenda Item