

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
FROM: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
REPORT DATE: October 8, 2019
MEETING DATE: October 15, 2019
SUBJECT: Prioritizing Barrier Island Transportation Study (BITS)
Recommendations for MPO Submittal

Recommended Action

Approve the Longboat Key BITS priority recommendations.

Background

The Barrier Island Traffic Study (BITS) effort is coming to a conclusion. Stantec, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) consultant producing the study, has ranked 74 recommendations into a Top 20 list based on cost/benefit metrics to help reduce seasonal traffic congestion on the roadways.

The Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and FDOT have requested each local barrier island jurisdiction to review the Top 20 and overall recommendations and provide a list of priority projects by October 22, 2019. Once approved, this list will be provided to the MPO.

Commissioner Daly, as the Town's representative on the MPO and the BITS Steering Committee, and Town staff, have consistently advocated for the following recommendations:

- Gulf Drive (SR 789) at Cortez Road (SR 684)
BITS Rank **(not included – to be added)**
- John Ringling Parkway Counter-Flow
BITS Top 20 Rank #4
- Additional Flexible Lane added to all future bridge replacements
BITS Top 20 Rank #8 and #12 (Coon Key Bridge)
- Pedestrian Managers at St. Armands Circle (and Bridge Street)
BITS Top 20 Rank #13
- Anna Maria Island Trail through Bradenton Beach to channelize pedestrians to specific crossing locations
BITS Top 20 Rank #17
- St. Armands, Elimination of parking spaces (no cost) with operational conflicts with intersections to improve traffic flow (Ex. Lido leg)
BITS Evaluation Summary Rank #20
- Aerial Tram between Sarasota and St. Armands/Lido Key (long term)
BITS Evaluation Summary Rank #37

- SCAT and MCAT Coordination/Transit Services
BITS Evaluation Summary Rank #40
- Pedestrian Bridge Crossing(s) over U.S. 41
BITS Evaluation Summary Rank #74

As part of the Steering Committee Meeting on September 27, 2019, the FDOT and Stantec presented information from Streetlight Data, Inc., a company which provides “transportation analytics on demand” based on data captured from smart phones and navigation devices. The information primarily focused on travel profiles and travel times. The travel time information was used to determine the worst roadway segments by travel speed.

As a result, the data revealed the worst aggregated segments (on average) are Bay Isles heading north to 75th Street via Gulf Drive and Cortez Road and Bay Isles heading south to U.S. 41. The worst segment of all based on average travel time is Gulf Drive (SR 789) from Longboat Pass Bridge to Cortez Road. This speaks to the need for improvement to the overall operation of the Gulf Drive at Cortez Road intersection.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the Longboat Key BITS priority recommendations.

Attachments

- A. BITS Top 20 Recommendations (Available in Town Clerk’s Office)
- B. SMBITS Evaluation Summary (Available in Town Clerk’s Office)
- C. PowerPoint Presentation (Available in Town Clerk’s Office)

End of Agenda Item