



Meeting Name: Town Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 8, 2024

Prepared By: D. Dyess, Town Manager

Item Title: Ocean Ridge Way and Atlantic Boulevard sidewalk and pedestrian path update.

HISTORY:

In February 2022, town staff received correspondence from Ocean Ridge residents regarding the safety concerns at the intersection of Atlantic Blvd. and Ocean Dr. The town subsequently conducted a field inspection of the area with the Town's Traffic Engineer and Public Works Director.

At the March 23, 2022, Town Council meeting, the Town's Traffic Engineer, Mr. Bryan Kelly, P.E., explained the Atlantic Blvd. and Ocean Dr. intersection improvements that could be made regarding a sidewalk and crosswalk. Council came consensus to have staff get with stakeholders about coordinating a continuous sidewalk and without the proposed crosswalk on Ocean Drive.

On June 8, 2022, the Town conducted a public workshop to discuss the Atlantic Boulevard Pedestrian Path with the stakeholders.

Ocean Ridge residents informed the Town of additional safety concerns, mainly with the path located within their property. On April 19, 2023, the Town conducted a public workshop on the public ingress and egress easement and public pedestrian and bike easement located on Ocean Ridge Way.

At the April 26, 2023, Town Council meeting, the Council on a 3-1 vote, voted to have the Town assume ownership and maintenance of the public easements from Atlantic Boulevard to US Highway 1 and have staff bring back the recommendations and next steps to keep the path open in a safe manner.

The Town Attorney and staff worked with the Ocean Ridge HOA to authorize the mayor to execute the Assignment and Assumption Agreement, whereby the Town agrees to accept the maintenance obligation of the easements. The Town also accepts two deeds, a Special Warranty Deed from the developer of Ocean Ridge and a Quit-Claim Deed from the Ocean Ridge Townhomes Homeowners Association, to effectuate a transfer of ownership of the underlying property from Ocean Ridge to the Town. At the January 24, 2024, Town Council meeting, Town Council Town approved Resolution No. 2024-02, accepting ownership and maintenance of the public easements mentioned above.

At this time, the staff is ready to move forward with the improvements to Atlantic Boulevard and Ocean Ridge Way. For reference, please see attachment #1 which shows the proposed sidewalk connecting Town Hall Park to the Ocean Ridge Pedestrian Path. Please note that Town Council has already reviewed this proposal and approved it to move forward. The construction of the sidewalk is part of budget for this Fiscal Year.

Attachment #2 includes the three options that were provided by the Town's Traffic Engineer.

Alternative 1 incorporates a sidewalk from Town Hall Park and the same pedestrian path stripping pattern that was implemented when the project was approved. Furthermore, the Town's Engineer is proposing additional signage, stripping, installation of flexible delineators, and convex mirrors.

Alternative 2 incorporates a sidewalk from Town Hall Park and an updated pedestrian path that includes a crosswalk in the middle of Atlantic Boulevard. The stripped pedestrian path is fully located on the north side of Ocean Ridge Way and Atlantic Boulevard. Furthermore, the Town's Engineer is proposing additional signage, and stripping.

Alternative 3 incorporates a sidewalk from Town Hall Park to the corner of Ocean Drive and Atlantic Boulevard with a crosswalk at the intersection, a new sidewalk on the north side of Atlantic Boulevard and a "D" curve. The stripped pedestrian path is fully located on the north side of Ocean Ridge Way and Atlantic Boulevard. Furthermore, the Town's Engineer is proposing additional signage, and stripping.

All alternatives provide the same result, they keep pedestrians waiting to cross Ocean Drive off Atlantic Boulevard in a safe manner by providing a sidewalk, and they provide a safer pedestrian path from Ocean Drive to US Highway 1 by adding visible safety measures.

Staff discussed these three alternatives with the Ocean Ridge HOA prior to this meeting, and it was their recommendation for the Council to move forward with alternative 3.

It is the staff's recommendation to move forward with alternative 2 as it will provide the same result as the other two alternatives but will avoid having to redesign the swale area on the north Atlantic Boulevard ROW.

DISCUSSION:

During the January 17th council meeting, the council voted to move forward with alternative #3 and build a sidewalk on the north side of Atlantic Blvd. We were to engage our engineering firm to determine the best options for dealing with the storm water due to there being a swale and storm inlet where the sidewalk would go.

The engineering quote came back at \$45,000 for the requested work. The entire project was budgeted at \$90,000. Does the council want to proceed with Alternative 3 and take the \$45,000 from the budgeted funds then come back with a budget for the construction cost or change the desired route to Alternative 1 or 2?

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the additional information and direct staff on how to proceed.