

EXECUTIVE BRIEF WORK SESSION

AGENDA DATE: May 9, 2022

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

TITLE:

Federal Highway Update

SUMMARY:

There have been many conversations about Federal Highway at the Commission, staff, and resident levels for the past few years. With state projects upcoming, now is the time to address these concerns.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

Last year at the September 21, 2021 Commission meeting, Public Works brought forth an agenda item for the joint funding of a Federal Highway traffic study with the Palm Beach County Transportation Planning Agency (TPA). The background for this study involved two upcoming Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Resurfacing Restoration & Rehabilitation (RRR) projects:

- 10th Ave South to 6th Ave North in 2024
- 6th Ave North to Arlington Rd in 2025

In previous City meetings, traffic concerns and possible calming measures have been discussed. One of these measures was the utilization of mini-roundabouts, which necessitated a particular traffic study scope. On September 9th last year, FDOT informed the City of certain aspects this study, to be performed by an FDOT pre-qualified consultant, should contain with a deadline falling at the end of December, 2021 for submittal (the study is included in the backup). This corridor level feasibility study included an ICE (Intersection Control Evaluation) component and examined intersections within the project limits. While ultimately FDOT didn't find the use of mini-roundabouts appropriate for within the corridor (the letter is included in backup), some positives did arise.

In addition to the mini-roundabout discussion, from the beginning Public Works has been adamant in requesting additional traffic calming measures on Federal Highway including:

- Addressing the inconsistent speed limit between the City's northern and southern borders
- Creation of a vertical deflection by raising the existing signalized pedestrian crosswalk adjacent to Sacred Heart School between 4th Ave North and 5th Ave North (would be one of the first on a State road)
- Creation of a vertical deflection by the addition of a raised pedestrian crosswalk east of South Grade Elementary in the vicinity of 7th Ave South to 8th Ave South OR 8th Ave South to 9th Ave South (per FDOT, creating a raised intersection at 7th Ave South is a possibility – also would be one of the first on a State road)

- Use of Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFB), which the City has recently received approval to utilize from the Federal Highway Administration (letter included in backup material)

The four options mentioned above are currently in discussion on this state project.

DIRECTION:

The 7th Ave South raised intersection traffic calming measure listed within the body of this executive brief would require a resolution of endorsement from the governing body. Should this be a direction in which the City wishes to move, Public Works would add this resolution to the next Commission meeting agenda for approval.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Federal Highway Mini-Roundabouts Report
FDOT Letter
FHA Letter
PBSO Approval
PBC Fire Approval