

# MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners  
From: Ron Schulhofer, Public Works Director  
Date: July 31, 2017  
Subject: **Project Status Report**  
**44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Roadway Projects**



To keep the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) informed, this Executive Summary has been created to address the ongoing status of the various phases of the 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Roadway Project. Below is the overall status of the various phases of the project:

## **Scope of Project:**

The segment of 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue East from US 41 to 15<sup>th</sup> Street East is designed as a three lane divided roadway with sidewalks and streetlights. The segments from 15<sup>th</sup> Street East to 45<sup>th</sup> Street East are designed as a four lane divided roadway with landscaped medians, bike lanes, sidewalks and streetlights. The segments from 45<sup>th</sup> Street East to Lakewood Ranch Boulevard will be designed as a four lane divided roadway, with landscaped medians, bike lanes, sidewalks, and will include two bridges.

## **44<sup>th</sup> Avenue East - US 41 to 19<sup>th</sup> Street Court East**

The segment was completed and opened to traffic with substantial completion on November 28, 2015.

## **44<sup>th</sup> Avenue East - 19<sup>th</sup> Street Court East to 30<sup>th</sup> Street East**

**Design/Permit Status:** Complete

**Land Acquisition:** Complete

### **Schedule:**

The BoCC approved the project award to E.T. Mackenzie, November 3, 2015. Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued January 4, 2016. The project is anticipated to be substantially completed by the fall of 2017.

### **Current Construction Activities:**

Curbs, sidewalks, median, sod, structural asphalt and street lighting have been installed from 19<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E. to 30<sup>th</sup> St E. Installation of conduits, and light poles, storm sewer structures and storm sewer pipe were completed along 30<sup>th</sup> St. E.

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Construction of the roundabouts along 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. is ongoing. The first roundabout is located at the intersection of 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. and 27<sup>th</sup> St. E. and the second roundabout is located at the intersection of 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. and 30<sup>th</sup> St. E. Work being performed at the roundabouts consists of completing the drainage, sidewalks, miscellaneous grading and ancillary features, final restoration, and sodding.



#### Looking Ahead

Work to be performed on 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. from 19<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E. to 30<sup>th</sup> St. E., including 30<sup>th</sup> St. E. and the roundabouts on 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. E., will consist of completing all drainage work, final restoration, placing the final lift of asphalt, temporary striping, street light and signalization start-up, signage, and punch list items.

Work at US 301/38<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. intersection will start upon completion of the work at the roundabouts and 30<sup>th</sup> St. E. and when 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. is opened to traffic.

#### **44th Avenue East - 30th Street East to 45th Street East**

Design/Permit Status: Complete

Land Acquisition: Complete

#### Schedule:

The BoCC approved the project award to Woodruff & Sons, Inc. on January 27, 2015, with the NTP issued shortly thereafter. The project is anticipated to be substantially completed by the summer of 2017 with the exception of the signalization at 37<sup>th</sup> St. E. that is scheduled to be completed by fall 2017.

### Current Construction Activities

All Roadway improvements have been completed from 30th St. E. to 45th St. E. Roadway improvements at the 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. E/45<sup>th</sup> St. E. have been completed and the intersection opened to traffic. The 37th St. E. intersection roadway improvements that include the addition of turning lanes have been completed. The final lift of asphalt is underway along the entire segment.

### Looking Ahead

Work to be performed on 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. from 30<sup>th</sup> St. E. to 45<sup>th</sup> St. E. will consist of completing the final lift of asphalt, pavement markings, signage, signalization at 37<sup>th</sup> St. E., miscellaneous restorations and punch list items.

### 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue East – from 45<sup>th</sup> Street East to 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Plaza East (Braden River Crossing)

#### Design Status:

The consultant (AECOM) delivered 100% plans for review on December 21, 2016. County staff reviewed the submittal and provided comments to the consultant. The consultant revised the plans based on the review comments and delivered the revised 100% plans for review on April 17, 2017. Additional design review comments were provided to the consultant in May 2017. The consultant is currently coordinating with County Public Works staff to complete the final plan revisions for an anticipated submittal of the final 100% plans in mid-August.

#### Permit Status:

- An Environmental Resource Permit Application has been submitted to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). SWFWMD had comments on the application submittal and provided a Request for Additional Information (RAI) to the consultant. Responses to the RAI are due in September, but are anticipated to be sent to SWFMWD by mid-August.
- A Dredge/Fill Permit Application has been submitted as a joint application to the SWFWMD and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). Intent to Issue was received from the USACOE on April 18, 2017. The permit is pending.
- A joint application for an Eagle Disturbance Permit that was prepared in coordination with the consultant on the adjacent project (44<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. – 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. Plaza E. to Lakewood Ranch Blvd.) has been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and review is almost complete according to the reviewer. As of June, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission no longer requires a state bald eagle disturbance permit as long as a federal permit is obtained from the FWS.

- An advance approval letter with an expiration date of September 2018 has been received from the U.S. Coast Guard for the bridge.
- A gopher tortoise technical memorandum is to be prepared prior to construction activities.
- A FEMA No-Rise Certification is pending.
- As directed by County staff, additional utility design work was added following the 60% design phase. The consultant has prepared Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) utility permit applications that will be submitted to the FDEP following County plan review and approval of the revised 100% plans.

Land Acquisition:

Appraisals, offers and preparation for eminent domain suits are ongoing for the 37 parcels that will be impacted by this project. As of July 27, 2017, 30 appraisal reports have been received and 29 offers have been delivered.

Schedule:

Permitting and land acquisition is anticipated to occur through 2017. Completion of the 100% plans is anticipated in mid-August 2017.

Current Activities:

The consultant is making the final revisions to the 100% design package. Permitting and land acquisition are ongoing. Florida Power and Light (FPL) is designing the relocation of transmission poles affected by the proposed roadway alignment over the Braden River.

Looking Ahead:

Land acquisition and permitting is anticipated to be completed by early to mid-2018.

**44<sup>th</sup> Avenue East – from 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Plaza East (crossing I-75) to Lakewood Ranch**

Design/Permit Status:

An Alignment Feasibility Study was finalized in April 2016.

The project is being designed in two phases with Phase 1 extending from 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. Plaza E. to approximately 1,100 feet west of the Interstate 75 (I-75) right-of-way. Phase 2 includes the proposed I-75 overpass and extends easterly to Lakewood Ranch Blvd. The 30% Phase 1 design plans were submitted by the consultant (HDR) for County review on April 8, 2017. Design review comments were provided to the consultant on April 26, 2017 and the 75% Phase 1 plans are now being prepared with an anticipated delivery in the fall of 2017. The 30% Phase 2 design plans submittal is anticipated to be in late 2017.

The consultant (HDR) is continuing with regulatory permit coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Southwest Florida Water

Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Transportation.

Land Acquisition:

Land acquisition needs will be determined as the design develops.

Schedule:

Anticipate 75% Phase 1 design submittal in mid to late 2017 and 30% Phase 2 design submittal in late 2017.

Current Activities:

The consultant is continuing with regulatory permit coordination. Field crews are conducting survey, environmental and geotechnical data collection. Possible mitigation sites are being evaluated by the consultant.

The roadway alignment along the south side of the existing South Lake at the Southeast Water Reclamation Facility (SEWRF) is currently being studied in conjunction with the ongoing design for the adjacent SEWRF Reclaimed Water Pump Back Station project to determine the most appropriate alignment that could potentially minimize wetland impacts and reduce project costs.

The consultant is investigating the potential for the joint-use of several existing stormwater management ponds that are located adjacent to the proposed roadway corridor at the eastern limits of the project. Utilizing excess capacity that may be available in existing stormwater ponds has the potential to reduce wetland impacts, simplify permitting efforts and reduce total project costs.

Looking Ahead:

Survey, environmental and geotechnical investigations will continue in the field, along with the ongoing design and plan development for Phase 1 and Phase 2.

**Budget Status**

Total Budget

US 41 – Lakewood Ranch Boulevard	\$142,459,112.00
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Total Expenditures to Date:

US 41 – Lakewood Ranch Boulevard	\$54,157,499.32
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Funding Sources:

Gas Taxes, Road Impact Fees, Transportation Bonds, and \$1,530,150 FDOT contribution.

RS/wl/es

cc: Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator  
Dan Schlandt, Deputy County Administrator  
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Project File: 6001060 1.0