



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 17-026

Date: March 20, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Re: Record Clarification – PUR 5 – 2/21/17

This memo is to provide information given at the February 21, 2017 Regular Commission meeting for PUR 5 item: Contract for Transportation and Mobility Community Investment Projects – Sun-Up Enterprises Inc. - \$2,733,061 (two-year total). Since this was a continuing services construction contract for multiple projects, and not specific to the Las Olas Boulevard Traffic and Pedestrian Safety CIP project, we wanted to add information related to the project.

1. **Project timeline** – Construction is expected to begin for SE 15th Avenue improvements in late April, with completion by early September. The traffic calming improvements within the Colee Hammock neighborhood will start in May and be complete by July. The Las Olas Boulevard temporary road diet (“redesign”) will be installed after the SE 15th Avenue and Colee Hammock traffic calming improvements are completed, anticipated to occur in mid-September. The overall project (all components just listed) is currently slated to be completed by October 1, 2017 pending any unforeseen issues. The 6-month trial will then start.
2. **Neighborhood participation** – Workshops were held since the beginning of the study in 2013 that included representation from various neighborhood associations, businesses, property owners along Las Olas Boulevard, residents, and other interested parties. Since receiving direction from Commission to move forward with the short-term and mid-term recommendations out of the plan, staff has and continues to meet with the directly impacted neighborhood, Colee Hammock. While there was no official support action solicited or offered, staff has worked with Colee Hammock for over a year to understand all concerns of the plan and impacts to their neighborhood. Staff has addressed these concerns by enhancing the traffic calming components and by phasing the neighborhood improvements to come before the temporary redesign condition. Staff continues to support the technical feasibility of the project they were tasked with implementing, especially considering there is a temporary trial period.

3. **Project cost** - The \$700,000 shown in the funding allocation table is an estimate to cover the traffic calming improvements within the Colee Hammock neighborhood, as well as the temporary redesign construction along Las Olas Boulevard. The final cost for the temporary redesign will be finalized once design is completed since line items and quantities are needed to calculate the cost.
4. **SE 15th Avenue as a designated truck route** – A statement was made that the City plans to designate SE 15th Avenue as a truck route. An item will be brought to Commission at a future meeting that recommends the removal of the truck prohibition that currently exists along SE 15th Avenue. It should be noted that trucks will be able to physically travel in both directions simultaneously. At the same Commission meeting, staff will be requesting that a “No Thru Trucks” will be designated along SE 17th Avenue. This will allow trucks to use SE 15th Avenue while reducing the cut thru occurring along SE 17th Avenue.
5. **Emergency responders input** – Representatives from the Police and Fire Departments are part of the design review process for Transportation and Mobility (TAM) capital projects. They provide initial input and then provide final design plan approval to ensure emergency responsiveness.
6. **Annual Daily Trips (ADTs) presented for Las Olas Boulevard compared to Davie Boulevard** – A presentation was made comparing the ADTs along Las Olas Boulevard to Davie Boulevard in that they are similar. While the graphic presented is based on the Florida Department of Transportation ADT database, it should be clarified that the information shown is at each intersection and does not represent the number of vehicles continuing west down the corridor, as indicated by the presenter. When viewing the documented number west of SE 15th Avenue along Las Olas Boulevard, there is a dramatic drop (from 23,000 to 16,000 ADTs). This drastic reduction is due to vehicles heading north on SE 15th Avenue and is consistent with what the original data collection efforts revealed from the study, and part of the basis to justify the temporary redesign west of SE 15th Avenue to the Himmarshee Bridge (SE 11th Avenue).
7. **Plans to perform new data collection in peak season** – After meeting with the community on January 26, 2017, staff plans to collect new data along Las Olas Boulevard. It should be noted that, since the original study data collection in 2013, additional counts were taken along Las Olas Boulevard in November 2015 and in February 2016. In addition, within the Colee Hammock neighborhood, additional traffic data was collected in 2015 and 2016 to 1) evaluate the feasibility of doing one-way pairs, and 2) to help define the traffic calming treatments in the neighborhood. New counts will be collected during the month of March 2017 along Las Olas Boulevard that will serve as the before counts to include in the 6-month evaluation. Additionally, interviews will be conducted with the businesses

within the temporary redesign area to understand their loading and unloading needs. This will allow staff to make the necessary accommodations.

8. **The temporary redesign evaluation** – The Las Olas Boulevard redesign 6-month evaluation will include vehicle counts, turning movements, and pedestrian and bicycle counts along Las Olas Boulevard, SE 15th Avenue, and within the Colee Hammock and Beverly Heights neighborhoods. It will also include field observations that will be documented with pictures. A survey will be conducted to receive feedback from the community. In addition, a survey will be conducted of City emergency responders. This will be done towards the end of the 6-month trial. All of this data, along with the results of a traffic simulation model projecting future growth, will be packaged in a report and presented to Commission.

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