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Public meeting scheduled Dec. 12 on Venice roundabout plan

Sarasota County will hold a public meeting Wednesday, Dec. 12, on its plans to build a roundabout and make other improvements at the intersection of Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard in Venice. The open house-style meeting will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m., with a presentation at 6 p.m. in the Venice Middle School cafeteria, 1900 Center Road, Venice.

An alternative to the traditional, signalized roadway intersections, a roundabout moves traffic through an intersection without the use of traffic signals by allowing one-way traffic to flow around a circular central island. Roundabouts are being planned in several locations in the county,

The proposed roundabout at the Venice-Jacaranda intersection will be built for two lanes of traffic, with the capacity for expansion to three lanes, if needed. Other planned improvements include drainage, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, pedestrian and bicycle crossings, Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) bus stops, streetlights and landscaping. The three-lane roundabout is expected to meet the traffic needs in that area through the year 2025.

The estimated cost for construction is \$9.6 million. An agreement is planned with developers of adjacent residential and commercial sites, providing for a cost sharing of improvements. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2009.

For more information on the public meeting or plans for the Venice-Jacaranda intersection, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000. For information on roundabouts, visit the county's Web site at www.scgov.net/PublicWorks/Roundabouts.

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