

Sept. 19, 2008

Public can view plans for Venice roundabout at Sept. 25 meeting

Sarasota County will hold a public meeting Thursday, Sept. 25, to show plans for intersection improvements at Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard, including the first roundabout in the Venice area. The open house-style meeting will be from 5-7 p.m. at the Venice Middle School cafeteria, 1900 Center Road, Venice.

An alternative to the traditional, signalized roadway intersections, traffic moves through a roundabout intersection without traffic signals. One-way traffic flows around a circular island.

Plans for the Venice intersection improvements are about 90 percent complete. The roundabout will be built for two lanes, with the capacity to expand to three lanes. Other 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 traffic needs through 2025.

The estimated cost for construction is \$6.5 million. A public-private partnership has been established with developers of adjacent residential and commercial sites to share the cost of improvements to increase the capacity at the intersection. Construction is expected to begin in summer 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.