

Sept. 15, 2009

Media contact: Susan M. Walsh, 941-861-5504; cell 941-650-4791; swalsh@scgov.net

Project contacts: Thai Tran, 941-861-0889; cell 941-650-2810, ttran@scgov.net

Vinod Sancheti, 941-861-0803; cell 232-4274; vsancheti@scgov.net

Groundbreaking Sept. 18 for Honore Avenue extension

The 2.7-mile extension of Honore Avenue from Bee Ridge Road north to Fruitville Road will kick off with a groundbreaking Friday, Sept. 18, at 9 a.m. The groundbreaking will be on the north side of Webber Street, east of Mapleloft Lane and west of the bridge on Phillippi Creek.

Construction of the two-lane divided road will be done in three phases:

- Phase 1, from Bee Ridge Road to Colonial Oaks Boulevard, started this month with site clearing for the work on the four-lane bridge over Phillippi Creek.
- Phase 2, from Bahia Vista Street to Fruitville Road, is expected to begin in spring 2010.
- Phase 3, from Colonial Oaks Boulevard to Bahia Vista Street, is targeted to start in summer 2010.

The entire design-build project is scheduled for completion in spring 2011.

The nearly \$17 million improvement project includes the addition of medians, bicycle lanes and meandering sidewalks on both sides of the road, crosswalks, drainage improvements, Florida-friendly landscaping and decorative streetlights in the medians.

To improve traffic flow, at least five roundabouts will be built at the intersections of Brookmeade Road, Webber Street, Colonial Oaks Boulevard, Palmer Boulevard and Sawgrass Road. An additional roundabout is being considered at Camus Street.

Designed to protect the neighborhood character as an appealing roadway with sustainable, environmentally friendly features, the project includes bio-swales and rain gardens to treat stormwater runoff, and lush vegetative buffers with sidewalks set away from the road where possible. To avoid impacts to trees, boardwalks will be used to supplement sidewalks. An estimated 114 out of 140 significant trees will be preserved during construction.

The Honore Avenue extension is part of the Sarasota Economic Stimulus Program of fast-track, capital-improvement projects. Funding is provided by the penny surtax (1-cent sales tax).

On July 21, APAC-Southeast Inc. of Sarasota was awarded the design-build contract. On Sept. 8, HDR Construction Control Corporation, headquartered in Omaha, Neb., but with a local office in Sarasota, was awarded the contract for construction engineering inspection services.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

-end-