

NOKOMIS CENTER REVITALIZATION

Project: LANDSCAPING ON U.S. 41 (TR-2)

Project Type: County and State

Project and Background Description:

Develop and fund landscape plans to be included in the Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) U.S. 41 road widening project scheduled for construction beginning in Fiscal Year 2003.

The FDOT plans for widening U.S. 41 do not include any landscaping, but landscaping is an essential aspect of a successful road project and critical to the Nokomis Center revitalization effort. The County needs to develop landscaping plans for the medians and rights-of-way along U.S. 41 between the City of Venice and S.R. 681 as part of the FDOT U.S. 41 widening. The County can fund this project through its ongoing Street Tree Program.

The County forester has reviewed the U.S. 41 road plans and have determined that both canopy and smaller trees can be planted in the planned medians and within certain right-of-way areas. Existing drainage swales along U.S. 41, however, will limit planting in the rights-of-way north of Albee Road. There may be some state funding for the project.

Preliminary Cost Estimates:

Nokomis Commercial Center

Medians and Causeway Curry Creek to Shakett Creek \$ 37,000

U.S. 41 Commercial Corridor

Medians and limited rights-of-way

Between Bay View Parkway and Albee Road \$ 25,000

Medians from Albee Road to Laurel Road \$ 90,000

Albee Road “Gateway” Median \$ 10,000

Total Estimated Cost \$162,000

Potential Funding Source(s): Sarasota County Street Tree Program, Florida Department of Transportation

Implementation Time Frame: Mid term, three to five years

Responsible Parties: Public Works Landscape Operations, Sarasota County Street Tree Advisory Committee

Steps Required to Implement:

- Coordinate landscaping project through the Sarasota County Street Tree Advisory Committee.
- Prepare landscaping plans.
- Work with FDOT to determine availability of additional funding.
- Consider if gateway concepts such as lighting and signs can be located at the intersections of Colonia Lane and Albee Road.

Issues Requiring Further Analysis/Action:

1. The landscaping project must be coordinated with FDOT to ensure that soil types used in the road construction project are compatible with the planned landscaping plantings. Additional funding may be needed to ensure acceptable soils are used.
2. Put trees in grates in sidewalks in the Neighborhood Commercial Center at U.S. 41 and Colonia Lane (i.e., between Nippino Trail and Pocono Trail).

