

NOKOMIS CENTER REVITALIZATION

Project: U.S. 41 TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS (TR-3)

Project Type: County, State and Community

Project and Background Description:

Seek funding for decorative street lighting along U.S. 41, especially in the Nokomis Commercial Center between Roberts Bay and Dona Bay and at the intersection of Albee Road. Relocate electric and communication cables underground or behind the commercial areas where possible. Encourage shared and cross accesses between businesses.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will widen US 41 between Business 41 and SR 681 to 6 lanes beginning in Fiscal Year 2003 with sidewalks, bicycle lanes, mass transit bus stop pads, and access management improvements. Nokomis residents have asked that decorative street lighting be installed along U.S. 41, instead of the standard street lighting. Decorative streetlights are more expensive than the standard lights and additional funds and specific locations for the decorative lights need to be identified.

FDOT will close several existing median openings, including existing median openings at Sunrise Drive, Nippino Trail, and Pocono Trail. The existing median opening at Sunset Drive will be modified as a left in only. Other median closures are scheduled north of Dona Bay. Shared and cross access between existing businesses and new development will improve motorist safety along U.S. 41, but also can benefit businesses that lose access to a median opening. Such access should be constructed as part of all new development, when possible. Requirements should be specified at rezoning or at site and development plan review. The County should also explore options with the FDOT for constructing shared access between existing developments.

Preliminary Cost Estimates:

Decorative Streetlights (54 @ \$4,300 additional cost each light)	\$ 232,200
Decorative Mast Arms (2 @ \$20,000 additional cost each arm)	\$ 40,000
<i>Total estimated cost</i>	<i>\$ 272,200</i>

Potential Funding Source(s): Property Owners, County Road Program, Florida Department of Transportation

Implementation Time Frame: Mid term, three to five years

Responsible Parties:

Public Works Planning, Public Works Construction, Public Works Development Services, Florida Department of Transportation

Steps Required to Implement:

- Evaluate resident interest in paying to install decorative street lighting along all or portions of the U.S. 41 corridor through the Nokomis Center.
- Work with property owners to coordinate shared and cross accesses between businesses. Require new businesses to install shared and cross access.
- Evaluate resident interest in paying to relocating electric and communication cables underground along all or portions of the U.S. 41 corridor.

Issues Requiring Further Analysis/Action:

1. Coordinate with FDOT by January 2002 for streetscape improvements, including a JPA for funding.
2. Coordinate with the City of Venice and the private sector to investigate installing streetscape features such as decorative streetlights on U.S. 41 within the City of Venice (i.e., Hatchett Creek to Nokomis).
3. Identify opportunities and funding sources for shared and cross access improvements between existing businesses.

