

Pinebrook/Venice/Ridgewood intersections

I have followed the progression of the Venice/Pinebrook/Ridgewood intersections project for four years and wish to add documentation that I hope will be helpful to Council members who were not present during this time.

1. As discussed by Ed multiple times, the City of Venice entered a contract with Sarasota County for road swaps with a commitment from COV to encumber \$1.8M for improvements. COV Councilmembers added \$500,000 to this amount. The contract is included (A)
2. Karen Rushing, SC Comptroller, quarterly reports have documented this. The encumbered money from road impact fees is \$2.3M and reflected in our corrected financial quarterly report. (Included (B))
3. In 2019 the Engineer Firm of W.T. Bowman, P.E., and Tindale Oliver completed a study commissioned by Sarasota County *"to conduct a traffic operational analysis to improve the capacity and traffic operations at the intersections of Venice Avenue at Pinebrook Road and Pinebrook Road at Ridgewood Ave. This initial analysis reviewed the following future options:*
 - a. *Option 1- Intersection improvements to include turn-lane modifications and addition of through lanes at Venice Ave and Pinebrook Road*
 - i. *Option 1B-Intersection improvements including installation of roundabout at Ridgewood Ave and Pinebrook Road \$7M*
 - b. *Option 2A-Multi-lane roundabouts (2 lane) at Venice Ave. and Pinebrook Road \$2.277M*
 - c. *Options 2B-Multi-lane roundabout (2-lane and 3-lane hybrid) at Venice Ave and Pinebrook Road. \$3.9M*
 - d. *Option 3-Median U-turn; prohibit selected left-turn movements at intersection, accomplished by performing a right-turn and a U-turn at Venice Ave and Pinebrook Road \$2.588M*
 - e. *Optional roundabout- at Ridgewood Ave and Pinebrook Road (with any above option). \$1.388M (pp. 11, 32)*
4. *All these alternatives had estimated construction costs higher than the County's available budget. Therefore, additional analysis was requested to explore design options that could be accommodated within the budget. "*
5. The multi- lane roundabout at the intersection of Venice Ave/Pinebrook, replacing the current stoplights, and adding an optional roundabout at Ridgewood Ave and Pinebrook Road, replacing the current stop signs, has a cost of \$8.6M.
6. The engineering firm reported on Page 7, *"Based on the analysis, Option 4.3 is estimated to provide the best long-term operation within the County's budget. Additionally, although 2040 is expected to have operational challenges with all three options, Option 4.3 provides the best estimated intersection operation in 2040 and is estimated to provide acceptable operation through 2030."*
7. *Cost Estimate Summary of Option 4.3*
Construction Cost: \$2,389,327.77
ROW Cost: \$92,075.10
Total Cost: \$2,481,402.87 (Page 7) Report Included (C)
8. SC submitted a grant application for the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) in May 2019. (Included (D))

9. Ed stated the most expensive solution offered was used to maximize the amount of the grant requested (\$8.6M for intersection improvements and the construction of 2 roundabouts; one at the intersection of Pinebrook and Venice Ave: one at the intersection of Pinebrook and Ridgewood.)
10. Ed has stated to me that the solution of two roundabouts was not acceptable to him. It is not the recommended solution from the engineer firm Bowman and Oliver. But it does represent the maximum amount requested in the grant application from SC to the State of Florida.
11. This grant application is included. Please note the second page from the end of the document. This page states that the COV will not be asked for any additional monies for the completion of this project (*"Future Funding Requirements from Venice Road Impact Fees=0"*) and that *"Phase 3- Future Construction Phase-Construction estimated to be in the \$2M range is currently unfunded. Staff will be seeking additional funding opportunities of completion of the project."* (Included (D))
12. The grant was awarded to SC. With the committed \$2.3M from COV Road Impact Fees and now a match amount from the grant a total of \$4.3M is available for this project.
13. This is a SC project. The roads belong to SC. SC has yet to determine what solution, if any, they will select to remedy any problems with their intersections.
14. The recommended remedy from the engineer firm has a total price of \$2.4M.
15. There is more than adequate funding for this selection. (currently \$4.3M is available)
16. This is not the COV Council's problem. We are a COV policy making group, not a group that makes operational decisions for SC.
17. This is an operation issue between the SC staff and the SC Commissioners.
18. The SC staff charged COV impact fees approximately \$150,000 for the engineer study by Bowman and Oliver in 2019. This study produced a solution that would remedy the congestion for 20 years at the Venice Pinebrook intersection and cost \$2.4M. After 2 years, the staff has yet to promote this solution recommended by the engineering firm.

