



# CITY OF VENICE

*Office of the City Manager*

401 West Venice Avenue, Venice, Florida 34285

(941) 882-7398

[elavallee@venicefl.gov](mailto:elavallee@venicefl.gov)

[www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

October 1, 2021

Mr. Jonathan R. Lewis  
County Administrator  
Sarasota County  
1660 Ringling Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34236

Dear Mr. Lewis,

On September 28, 2021, the Venice city Council voted to request the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners to accept Laurel Road (East) as a priority project. That request is being forwarded to the Board of Commissioners from Mayor Ron Feinsod.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the documents that will be sent to Chairman Alan Maio. Thanks again for continued collaboration and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Lavalley", is positioned above the printed name of the City Manager.

Edward F. Lavalley  
City Manager

Enclosures

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-28**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, REQUESTING SARASOTA COUNTY TO DESIGNATE LAUREL ROAD AS A PRIORITY ROAD PROJECT AND EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE SEGMENT FROM KNIGHTS TRAIL EASTWARD TO JACARANDA BOULEVARD; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Venice (hereafter referred to as the City) has identified Laurel Road (from Knights Trail eastward to Jacaranda Boulevard) as an important component of the City's northeast vehicle transportation corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, that segment of Laurel Road provides critical connection to several substantial residential communities, commercial and industrial destinations; Station #53 of the Venice Fire Department, and two heavily used access points to Interstate 75; and

**WHEREAS**, the continuing rapid development of residential complexes in the northeastern part of Venice has placed increasing demands on the use of Laurel Road, and has led to repeated need for repair; and

**WHEREAS**, projected residential unit construction and accompanying commercial, institutional and retail growth will place further demands on the capacity of Laurel Road; and

**WHEREAS**, current and projected development in the northeast corridor includes, but is not limited to a new hospital, retail and commercial outlets, and an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 new homes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Venice City Council has identified the need for expansion and improvement of Laurel Road as a priority road project; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the increasing traffic demands on Laurel Road and projections for continued rapid growth into the future, with approval from Sarasota County (hereafter referred to as the County) for the use of Venice Road Impact Fees, the City entered into a contract for the production of a 30% engineering and design expansion plan for Laurel Road; and

**WHEREAS**, a depiction of the project design, cost estimate for completion of the engineering and subsequent roadway construction, and attendant project details (Exhibit A) was presented to the Venice City Council on September 14, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council approved the project design and desires to move forward with completion of the engineering and construction as presented; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that Laurel Road and abutting rights-of-way are properties of Sarasota County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, as the property owner, possesses the rights and privileges attendant to altering, improving and expanding Laurel Road; and

**WHEREAS**, as the owner of Laurel Road, the County enjoys the right to pursue financial support from various regional, state, and federal funding sources for improvement and expansion of Laurel Road; and

**WHEREAS**, through growth and development of residential and commercial properties, the City of Venice has accumulated Road and Mobility Impact Fees and Park Impact Fees to be used exclusively for the expansion of capacity of public properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has accumulated Road and Mobility Impact Fees and Park Impact Fees that are currently unencumbered and otherwise uncommitted, and available for use toward the cost of expansion of Laurel Road; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the issues cited herein related to Laurel Road, on September 14, 2021, at a regular meeting of Venice City Council, the Council directed staff to construct a resolution enumerating the need for expansion and improvement of Laurel Road.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA**, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The above Whereas clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct.

**SECTION 2.** The City requests the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners (hereafter referred to as “the Board”) to designate the segment of Laurel Road as described herein as a priority road project, and program the road for expansion and improvement as detailed in the 30% engineering and design document attached (Exhibit A), as follows:

1. Direct appropriate County staff resources to undertake continuation of the 30% engineering and completion of the design work to achieve 100% engineering design and permitting.
2. Subsequent to completion of the engineering and design process, undertake construction of the expansion and improvement project.
3. Pursue financial support for the project from the Florida Legislature, and other appropriate state, regional and federal agencies.
4. Initiate use of the County’s procurement resources to complete the Laurel Road expansion project design, execute and oversee a contract for construction

including exercising appropriate processes to acquire necessary expansion of the public right-of-way, and employ appropriate related procurement and oversight processes attendant to project completion.

**SECTION 3.** The City endorses the use of unencumbered and uncommitted Venice Road and Mobility Impact fees toward this project, and pledges to work with the County in determining the Venice impact fees available for this project.

**SECTION 4.** The City endorses the use of unencumbered and uncommitted Venice Park Impact Fees for the portion of the planned Laurel Road expansion that constitutes a linear park.

**SECTION 5.** The City proposes that the planned resurfacing of the current travel lanes of Laurel Road be deferred in favor of using the funds toward the overall expansion and improvement project.

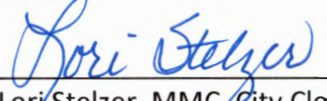
**SECTION 6.** The City pledges support and willingness to work with the County in pursuit of outside funding support for this project.

**SECTION 7.** This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption, as provided by law.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VENICE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ror. Feinsod, Mayor

ATTEST

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

I, Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Venice, Florida, a municipal corporation in Sarasota County, Florida, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and complete, true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, at a meeting thereof duly convened and held on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021, a quorum being present.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of said City this 28th day of September 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

(S E A L)

Approved as to form:

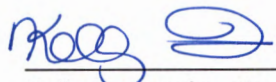
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Fernandez, City Attorney

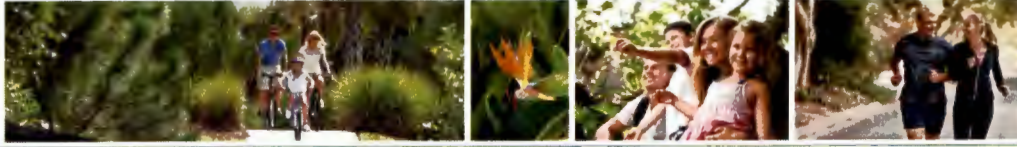
Exhibit "A"



# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

PROGRESS REPORT  
9/14/2021

Presented by:  
THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS WORKING GROUP



# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### OBJECTIVES OF THIS MEETING

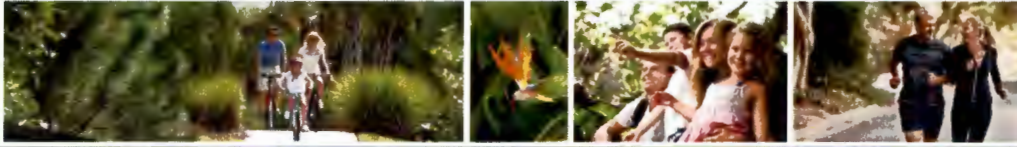
- To bring you up to date on the engineering design
- To lay out the budget for the construction of Laurel Road
- To lay out the budget for the Linear Park

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To ask you to authorize the **completion of engineering** to get Laurel Road shovel ready for the funding

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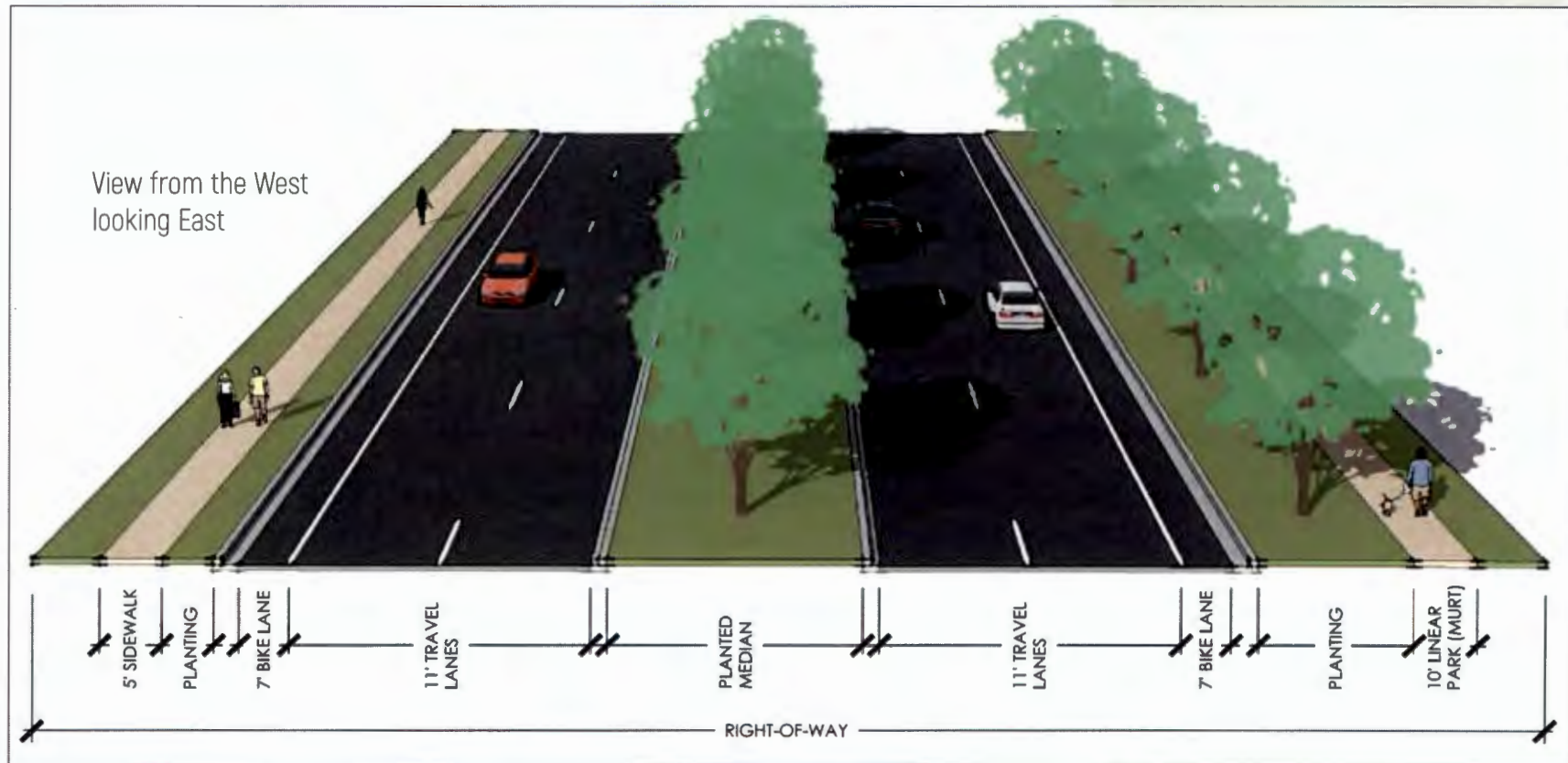




# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### LAUREL ROAD TYPICAL SECTION





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### INTERSECTION OF LAUREL ROAD AND JACARANDA BOULEVARD



Similar intersection layout to Laurel Rd. and Jacaranda Blvd. shown here at Deer Dr. & Lakewood Ranch Blvd.

**In Coordination with City of Venice, Sarasota County and Sarasota County Fire Department**



# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### EXAMPLES OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND LIGHTING





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### SUCCESSFUL HISTORY OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

#### • Resulted in major savings for taxpayer

- Our previous public/private projects
  - US Highway 301 in Manatee County
    - Budgeted for \$32 MM, built for \$21 MM
  - Honore Avenue Extension (3.2 miles in Manatee County)
    - Built for \$6 MM under original estimate
  - Fort Hamer Bridge project
  - Bay Street sidewalk for Sarasota County
    - Budgeted for over \$1.294 MM, built for \$304,000 and completed just 2 months after receiving approval
  - Currently working on the Missing Link in Sarasota County
    - East of I-75 Connecting Clark Road to Knights Trail
- The County budget for Laurel Road is \$16,000,000
- Our estimate for Laurel Road is consistent with our normal savings of 30% to 40%





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT WITH STANTEC

- Top engineering and planning firm
- Long successful history working on public and private sector projects



## Stantec

Lump sum to complete engineering design to include:

- Environmental Constraints
- Stormwater Design
- Traffic Analysis
- City and County Coordination

Providing:

- 60% Permit Design Plans
- 90% Bid Phase Design Plans
- 100% Construction Phase Design Plans

**To make Laurel Road a shovel-ready construction project.**





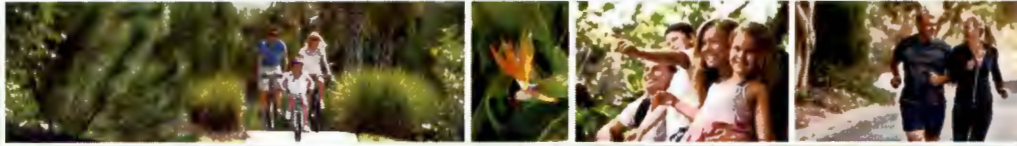
# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### THE BUDGET FOR LAUREL ROAD

|                                                               |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Completion of engineering design (Stantec)                    | \$894,000           |
| Right-of-way acquisition litigation (Bentley)                 | \$50,000            |
| Construction of the road (ESWG)                               | \$6,000,000         |
| Joint use ponds (other than right-of-way acquisitions) (Neal) | \$500,000           |
| Right-of-Way                                                  | \$2,370,000         |
| Lighting (ESWG)                                               | \$300,000           |
| Landscaping and irrigation (ESWG)                             | \$400,000           |
| Management fees 6% (ESWG)                                     | \$489,000           |
| <b>ESTIMATED TOTAL (PRIMARYLY FROM MOBILITY FEES)</b>         | <b>\$11,003,000</b> |

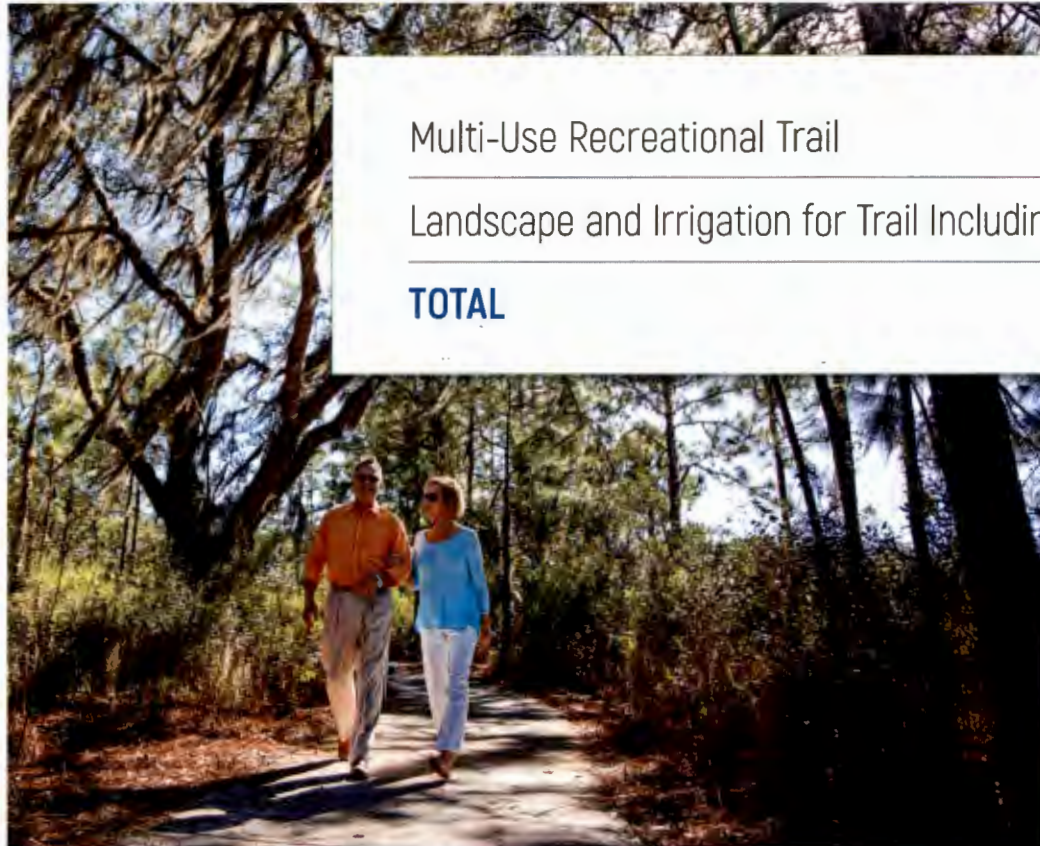




# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### BUDGET FOR LINEAR PARK (FROM PARK IMPACT FEES)



|                                                                      |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Multi-Use Recreational Trail                                         | \$400,000        |
| Landscape and Irrigation for Trail Including Enhanced Trail Features | \$300,000*       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                         | <b>\$700,000</b> |

\*If you direct us, we can revise to implement Florida Friendly landscaping





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### LINEAR PUBLIC PARK AND MULTI-USE RECREATIONAL TRAIL



- Enhanced trail features with strong connectivity to adjacent open space, attractions and amenities
- Creating fun activities for passive and active users to experience along the trail system
- Natural play elements, functional fitness nodes, along with passive and relaxing spaces
- Avid Trails is example





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### LINEAR PARK ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY

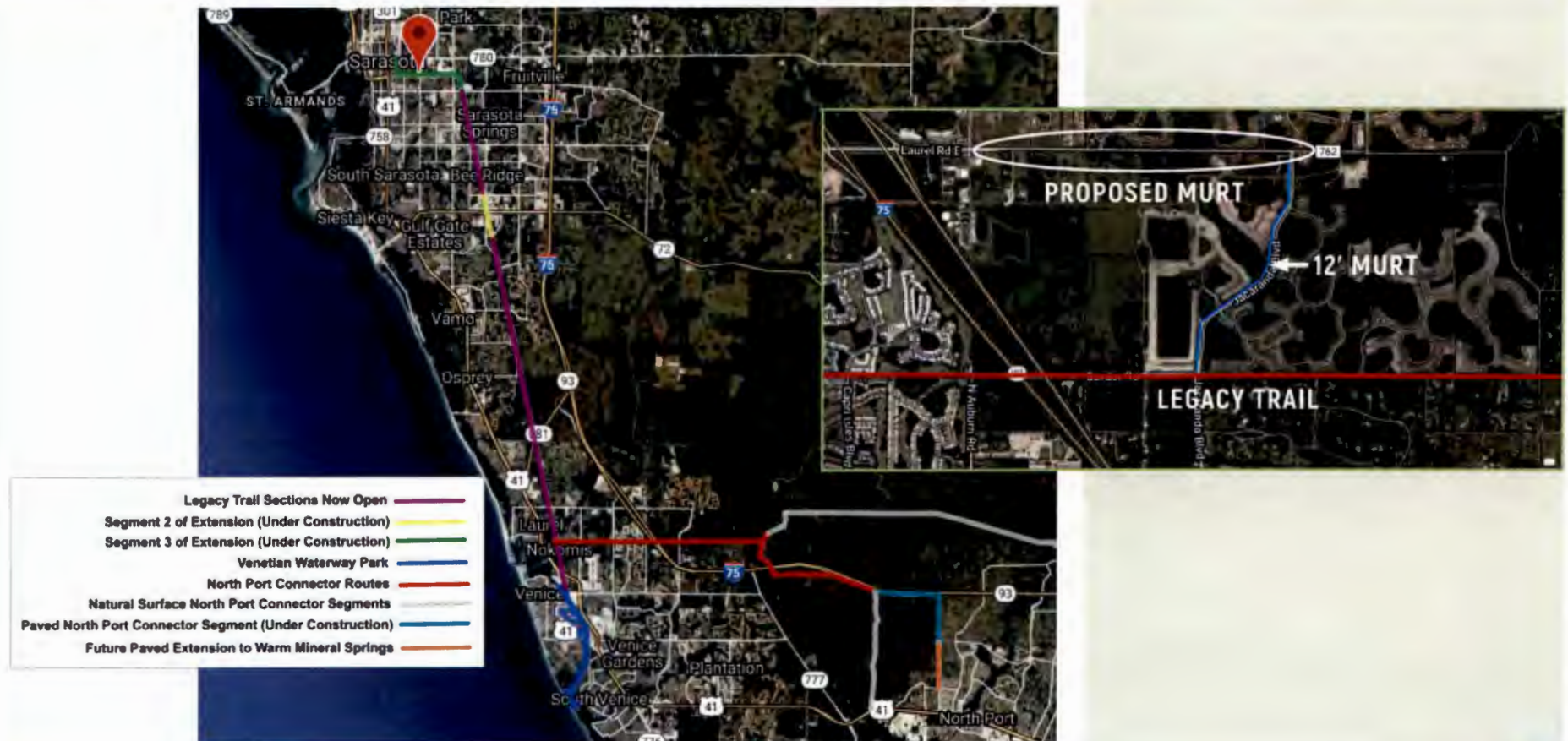


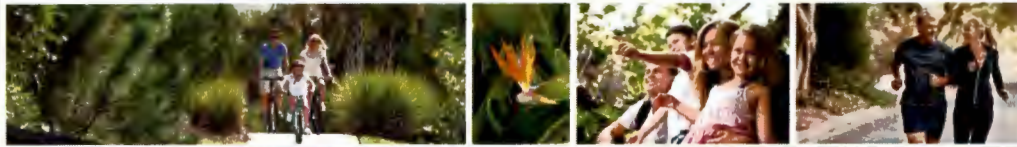


# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### MULTI-USE RECREATIONAL TRAIL CONNECTING TO THE LEGACY TRAIL





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### A PLAN FOR THE ANCHOR PARK



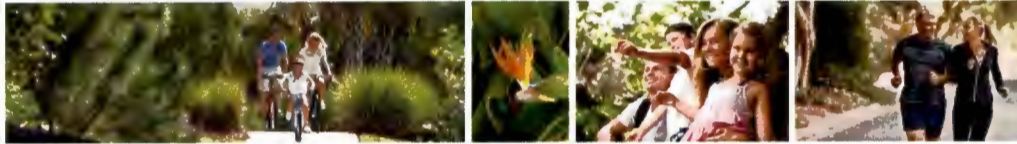


# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### INITIATING EMINENT DOMAIN





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### HERE'S HOW WE WILL PAY FOR IT



|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| City of Venice mobility fee balance | \$7,803,244         |
| • Additional 2022 fees              | \$800,000           |
| • Additional 2023 fees              | \$800,000           |
| • Additional 2024 fees              | \$800,000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>\$10,203,244</b> |

(You have ample sources from known or committed sources to build Laurel Road)

**ROAD AND MOBILITY  
IMPACT FEES - The City  
and County report the  
following balances at  
June 30, 2021**

|                                  | County              | City        |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Fund 125 - Mobility Fee          | \$ 5,453,896        | \$ 400,000  |
| Fund 183 - Road Impact Fee       | 151,271             |             |
| Fund 383 - Road Impact Fee Const | 4,498,077           | -           |
|                                  | 10,103,244          | 400,000     |
| Less: Commitments/Encumbrances   |                     |             |
| Pinebrook/Venice/Ridgewood       |                     |             |
| Intersection                     | (2,300,000)         |             |
| Laurel Road                      |                     | (400,000)   |
| <b>Amount Available</b>          | <b>\$ 7,803,244</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

Subject to information confirmed from the City of Venice and Sarasota County (and decisions related to the CIGP grant)



# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### AVAILABLE FUNDS SHOULD WE HAVE A SHORTFALL

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Grant from Florida Legislature | \$5,500,000 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Surface Transportation Act | \$5,500,000 |
|----------------------------|-------------|

[These are about 1/2 of the construction cost]  
 Our team has gotten grants in recent years of  
 \$17,000,000, \$11,000,000 and \$3,600,000

We think this is very possible

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| State Infrastructure Bank | \$2,000,000 |
|---------------------------|-------------|

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Laurel Road CDD | \$5,000,000 |
|-----------------|-------------|

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Pay Neal on Terms | \$2,000,000 |
|-------------------|-------------|

|                                                      |             |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Request Sarasota County to<br>reallocate resurfacing | \$1,900,000 |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

## BUILD THE ROAD

We think there are more than  
 ample funds to build this road  
 at this time.

We believe we need to get  
 started to have shovel ready  
 plans for construction.





# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### FREE MONEY FROM OTHER SOURCES



Successful history working with local governments in obtaining grants

Legislative and Political Process

Magic of A-S-K

**Importance of shovel-ready projects**

Grants not possible unless shovel-ready (Cattlemen Road example)



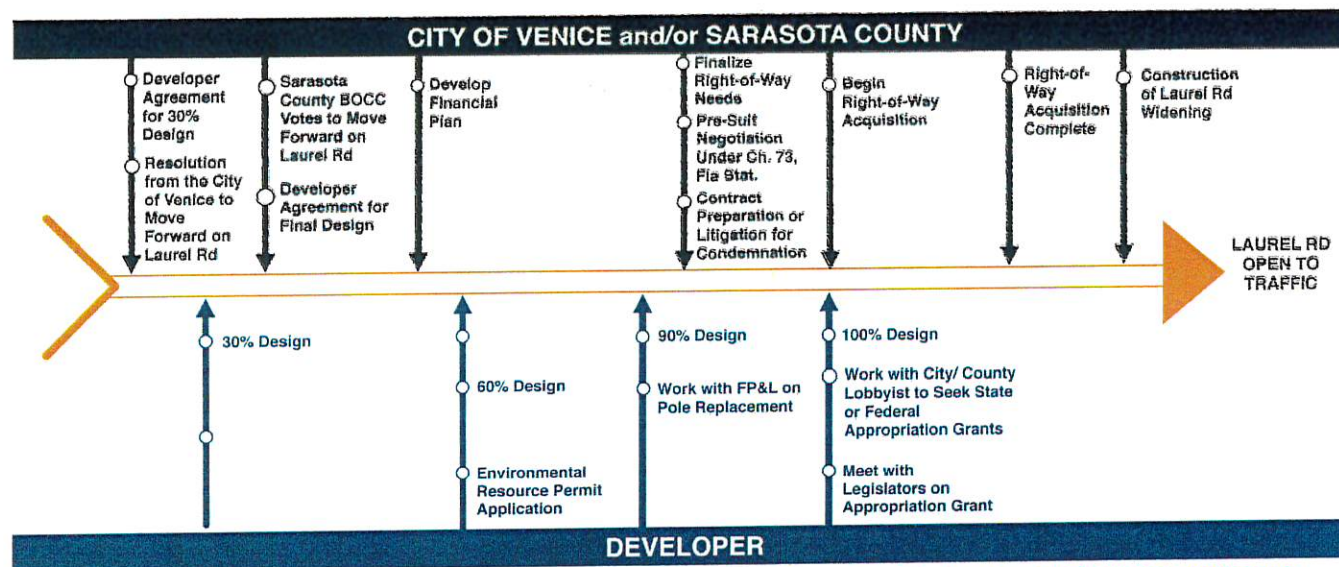


# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### CRITICAL PATH

#### LAUREL ROAD WIDENING COORDINATION PROGRESSION OUTLINE



The above activities are intended to outline the coordination progression between the City, County and/ or Developer and are not intended to dictate progress. All Venice actions would also have to be authorized by Sarasota County.

\*Schedule analysis will be needed to produce a project specific schedule.

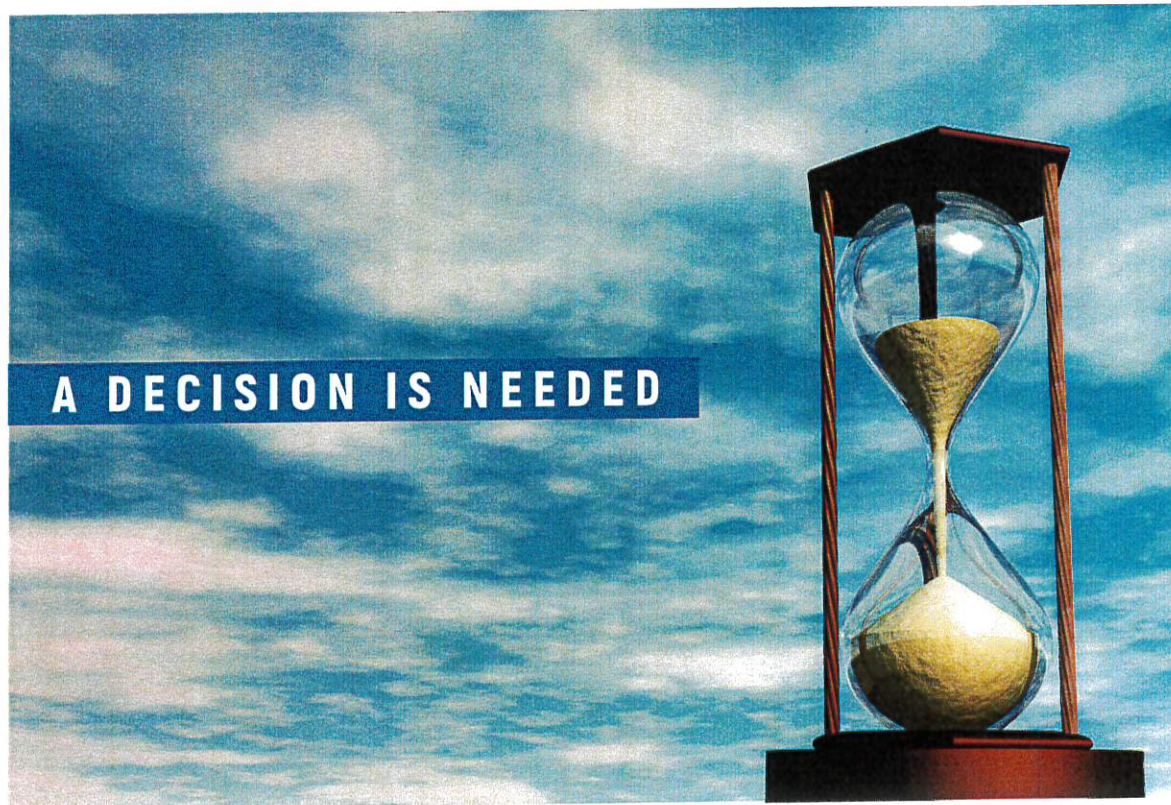




# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### IN CONCLUSION



**A DECISION IS NEEDED**

### Thank you for this opportunity

In discussion since April 2016

We have a rare opportunity to build this Highway for less than the budgeted cost

Particularly with the 2 Stimulus Programs in operation

And the opportunities available for the right-of-way, **but only for a limited time**



# LAUREL ROAD EXPANSION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### IN CONCLUSION

**If the City agrees to move forward with the next steps towards the completion of the Laurel Road Project, we would recommend the following motion:**

The Venice City Council authorizes Stantec Engineering, of Sarasota, Florida, to complete the required 100% plans for of the Laurel Road Project and agrees to pay Stantec an amount not to exceed \$894,000.

The Venice City Council requests the County to invoke its power of eminent domain for purposes of acquiring the right-of-way necessary for completion of the Laurel Road Project and further requests that the County retain Attorney Morgan Bentley to represent it in same, in order to expedite the eminent domain process.

The Venice City Council shall retain and authorize Capital City Consulting, Tallahassee, Florida, to obtain approval of a 50-50 grant from the Florida Legislature.

The Venice City Council hereby directs its Finance Department to work with the Economic Stimulus Working Group and Lucy Gallo of DPFG (Development, Planning & Financial Group) to develop a fiscal plan to expend approximately \$11,003,000.00 for the Laurel Road Project, and to report back to the City Council with such plan no later than December 1st, 2021.

