



SARASOTA COUNTY
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

April 22, 2022

Mr. James Clinch
Assistant City Manager
City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285

Dear Mr. Clinch:

Sarasota County (County) is in receipt of the correspondences from the City of Venice (City) dated May 3, 2021, October 1, 2021 and October 26, 2021 related to the City's road project priorities and use of Sarasota County Mobility and Road Impact Fees collected in the City (Mobility Fees). Subsequently, representatives from County Administration, City Management, and County and City staff met on March 7, 2022 to discuss these topics. As a result of the discussions, County staff recommends the following plan to advance several of our priority projects.

- 1) ***East Venice Ave and Pinebrook Rd Intersection Improvement Project:*** Request the Florida Department of Transportation remove the PD&E requirement and advance construction funding in the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP). Consider a design-build option or begin full design and allocate a total of \$5.6M of Mobility Fees for this project.

An August 2018 Intersection Capacity and Concept Project report was completed for this project defining potential improvement options ranging in construction and right of way (ROW) costs from \$2.5M to \$7.3M (2018 \$). Adding \$1.3M in costs for design, internal fees and price escalation, the highest total budget of \$8.6M was defined for the CIGP grant planning. The CIGP project process is planned to begin a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study in 2024, followed by design in 2026, and construction in 2028. The County has committed to providing a CIGP grant match commitment of \$4,317,500.

A supplement to the 2018 concept report defined a \$3.9M construction and ROW project as the recommended option, including a roundabout at the intersection of Pinebrook Road and Ridgewood Ave. Adding \$1.7M for design, internal fees and price escalation, results in a \$5.6M total project estimate.

The 2018 Project Report provides sufficient information to move this project forward without a formal PD&E phase and could also be used as the design criteria basis for a design-build delivery method. Therefore, the following actions are recommended.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1660 Ringling Boulevard, 2nd Floor ■ Sarasota FL 34236 ■ telephone 941.861.5293 ■ fax 941.861.5987

- a) Request the Florida Department of Transportation remove the PD&E requirement and advance construction funding in the CIGP or commit to entering into a Local Agency Partnership agreement that would provide future reimbursement to the County for construction costs incurred prior to the availability of funds in the FDOT work plan.
 - b) Evaluate a design-build delivery method for this project based on the 2018 recommended project alternative(s). If determined to be a positive alternative, solicit for design-build team proposals.
 - c) If design-build is not feasible, pursue a traditional design, bid, build delivery method and solicit for design consultant proposals.
 - d) Allocate \$5.6M of Mobility Fees for this project and reimburse the fund when/if FDOT funds are budgeted. If FDOT funding is not realized for this project, all costs would be borne by Mobility Fees.
- 2) ***Laurel Road Widening Project (Knights Trail to Jacaranda)***: Fund design and engineering with Mobility Fees; Request ROW donation from adjacent property owners; and, Identify estimated capacity of future Mobility Fees to fund construction.

County and City staff have drafted an Interlocal Agreement to fund the City's completion of the project final design, engineering and construction plans. The County recommends City approval of this Interlocal Agreement. Once City approval is received, it will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration.

Advancement of this project is being compelled by adjacent developers well in advance of when it would be technically necessary based on future traffic modeling. It is recommended that the County and City make a joint formal request for ROW donation from adjacent developers to support anticipated project needs and offset some or all of the developer's estimated \$2.37M acquisition costs.

Attached Table 1 identifies capacity in the estimated balance of existing and future Mobility Fee collections that could be used to fund construction. The County recommends this topic be revisited at a future date when design, engineering, construction plans and ROW acquisitions are complete.

- 3) ***Allocate \$500,000*** of Mobility Fees for the County and City staff to cooperatively complete one or more of the minor improvements listed in the City's adopted Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS).
- 4) ***Allocate \$1.5M of Mobility Fees to the design of Lorraine Road*** from Knights Trail to SR 681.

This project will create a new north-south road corridor east of I75 to support continued City and County growth. Other phases of this project include extension of Lorraine Road

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from SR681 to Clark Road (SR 72) and full expansion of the SR681 and I75 interchange (I75 Exit 200) including an easterly connection to the future Lorraine Road.

The City staff's response to these recommendations, as further outlined in attached Table 1, is requested per the terms of our 2017 Interlocal Agreement for Mobility Fee Collection. County staff looks forward to continue working with you in support of these important transportation and mobility priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Cunningham', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mark A. Cunningham
Assistant County Administrator

Attachment: Table 1 – Recommended Mobility Fee Project Allocation

c: Jonathan R. Lewis, County Administrator
Edward F. Lavalley, City Manager
Spencer Anderson, PE, Public Works Director/County Engineer
Kathleen Weeded, PE, City Engineer

Table 1 – Recommended Mobility Fee Project Allocation

Project	County Mobility Fees Collected in the City of Venice
Available Balance (FY21 & Previous Collections as of April 7, 2022)	\$12.4M
1) East Venice Ave and Pinebrook Road Intersection Improvements	-\$5.6M
2) Laurel Road Widening Design (Knights Trail to Jacaranda)	-\$1.0M
3) City of Venice Minor CIS Improvement Projects	-\$0.5M
4) Lorraine Road Design (SR 681 to Knights Trail)	-\$1.5M
Remaining Balance (FY21 & Previous Collections as of April 7, 2022)	\$3.8M
Projected Collections (Remaining FY22 and FY23)	\$4.4M
Projected FY24 Balance	\$8.2M