



CITY OF VENICE FLORIDA


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Interoffice Memorandum

TO: Mayor Feinsod and City Council Members
FROM: Edward F. Lavallee, City Manager 
RE: Laurel Road Expansion
DATE: April 6, 2020

Attached is correspondence between the City of Venice and Sarasota County related to the possible expansion of the east end of Laurel Road. The specific section of road under consideration is between Knights Trail (western boundary) and Jacaranda Blvd. (eastern boundary). Following is a summary of relevant issues:

- Laurel Road is owned by Sarasota County; therefore, any planned improvements or alterations to the road and abutting ROW would require the approval of the County
- The City requested from the County and received approval for the use of Impact fees collected in Venice to pay for the preliminary engineering (10% drawings) of the prospective road improvement project. The sum of \$400,000 available in impact fee revenues was approved by the County for this engineering project
- One of the products of the 10% engineering work would be an overall cost estimate to construct the road, including the cost of acquiring property from private property abutters, cost of easements, and related project details
- Although the County owns the road, use of the impact fees to do the 10% engineering work is contingent on the City managing the project
- Once the engineering phase is completed, the City has up to ten years to construct the road, or return the impact fees expended on the engineering work
- Previously, I provided Council with a document outlining a funding strategy proposed by Mr. Pat Neal for this project. I have provided copies to the City Attorney and Finance Department for their review and comment

In summary, for Council consideration there are two issues to resolve:

First, should the City initiate the process of obtaining a contract for the 10% engineering which would include a project design and estimated overall project cost. For this initial project, the County has approved the use of Venice impact fees up to \$400,000, with two specific criteria referenced above:

- The County owns the road, but the City would be responsible for managing this project
- Once the engineering work is completed, the City would have up to ten years to complete the construction work or pay back the cost of this initial engineering work

Given these criteria, does Council wish to proceed with obtaining a consultant to perform the initial engineering work?

Second: Correspondence from Mr. Neal suggests a direct contract with his firm to manage the initial engineering work in lieu of following the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) process. If Council agrees to proceed with the 10% engineering phase of this project, I will obtain a legal and finance perspective of the best method to follow to procure the engineering contract and provide Council with a staff recommendation.

If the 10% engineering work is to proceed, one of the products of that work would be a total overall project cost, including but not limited to: cost of permits, easements, abutting property acquisition, and roadway construction. Also, the City would need to determine where the construction funding will actually come from. Once that information is obtained, Council could then decide whether to proceed with a plan and timetable for the roadway expansion.