# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: October 9, 2018

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer

**RE:** Chicane/Street Choker Installation in Phase 2 North

DATE: September 28, 2018

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

On October 2, 2018, Town staff presented to the Underground Utility Task Force the details of installing a limited number of Chicanes or Street Chokers within Phase 2 North for undergrounding equipment.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

To facilitate the undergrounding of utilities project, the Town has secured numerous easements permitting utility owners the right to use private property to install and maintain undergrounding utility equipment. Optimal equipment placements are determined by the utility companies and reviewed by the Town's consulting engineering firm, Kimley-Horn, for feasibility and cost minimization. While leveraging the Town's Right of Way for equipment installation is preferred, the optimal locations are frequently determined to be located on private property due to engineering parameters, cost considerations, aesthetics and physical constraints. In cases where property owners refuse to grant voluntary easements and no feasible road shoulder exists within the right of way, the Town plans to install a Chicane/Street Choker to facilitate the program and contain the necessary equipment.

Presently, the Town plans to install traffic calming features in three areas within Phase 2 North located on Reef Road, Angler Ave and Esplanade Way, see figures C3.04, C3.13 and C3.01, respectively.

The Florida Greenbook defines the mid-block reduction of the street to a single travel lane in both directions as a "choker." This is an acceptable method of neighborhood entry control per the Florida Greenbook. Staff is using this technique to place the required undergrounding transformer where voluntary easement acquisition could not be achieved. The remaining lane width on Reef is 13', Angler 18' and on Esplanade 10' at the narrowest point (face of curb to face of curb). Please note, the referenced distance is measured at the narrowest choker point and not the lane width for the entire length of the street.

The Florida Greenbook allows lane widths of 9 feet or narrower under constrained conditions, however, since we have more than 9 feet of lane width, we do not need a design exception. Our current lane width at the narrowest point of 10' is acceptable according to the Code (Code sections are attached for reference.) According to the FDOT permit obtained by the Town related to the largest fire engine (it is a

very heavy vehicle and required a permit), the width of the truck is 8'-6". There will be no issue for this truck to be able to pass by the traffic calming feature.

### **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for these services are available from the Underground Utility Project Fund leveraging the previously approved budget using proceeds of the GO Bond program. Utilizing traffic calming features avoids the need to utilize condemnation to acquire easements.

## **PURCHASING REVIEW**

Not Applicable









