

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: October 13, 2022

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk. W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Review of Proposed North County Road Alignment

DATE: September 26, 2022

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town staff is recommending an application be submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to modify North County Road between Wells Road and Miraflores Drive, which includes the North County Road tree canopy which was designated as a landmark in January 2014.

GENERAL INFORMATION

There are several concerns along North County Road that have been identified in past communications from residents and stakeholders including: poor drainage, limited sight distance for traffic exiting Canterbury Lane, and sod in the median that is routinely subject to damage and rutting from traffic. However, due to the sensitivity of the Banyan Trees that create the landmarked canopy in this road segment, construction along the roadway section has been avoided in the past. When Public Works identified that the utility Undergrounding Project would require the installation of underground conduits within the North County Road corridor during the summer of 2023, staff decided to address the other concerns along this segment concurrently. The following sections describe the proposed improvements that are currently under design.

Drainage Improvements Along the Roadway and Path

Public Works is having a new roadway profile and cross-section developed for the North County Road corridor that will provide consistent longitudinal and transverse slope along the pavement to existing and proposed stormwater inlets. There will be a limited number of new stormwater inlets installed to improve the drainage system. All proposed improvements have been designed to limit impacts to the roots of the existing banyan trees. The proposed stormwater inlets and pipes are being constructed within zones that have been identified as having the least damaging impact on the existing trees. The proposed roadway is intended to be constructed on top of the existing roadway whenever possible to limit the impact to the existing tree roots.

Improve Safety at the Canterbury Intersection

As part of the proposed improvements, the alignment of the north bound lane is being shifted to the west before and after the Canterbury Lane intersection to allow traffic entering North County Road to have better visibility of oncoming traffic. This shift in alignment will eliminate a portion of the existing median but will not impact the alignment of the southbound lane or impact any existing banyan trees in the corridor.

Protection of the Sod Within the Existing Median

As part of the proposed improvements, a mountable curb will be installed along the edge of the median to protect the sod from traffic, and the new typical section of the median will include well-draining rock, and a geotextile beneath the sod to limit rutting when traffic does drive on the curb.

Preserve and Enhance the Existing Tree Canopy

Prior to the Town Council meeting on October 13, staff and Chen Moore are meeting with the Garden Club to review the proposed road alignment and other changes in the corridor. Staff will also discuss the potential replacement of recent trees lost and the plan for future trees based on life expectancy.

If Town Council concurs with the proposed improvements an application to Landmarks Preservation Commission will be prepared. As part of the application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Public Works will present a series of graphic renderings that demonstrate not only the appearance of the new curbing and alignment, but also the evolution of the canopy with time. It has been noted in previous analysis that several of the existing banyan trees are nearing the end of their life and will require replacement. Exhibits will be provided with the Landmarks Preservation Commission application that illustrate a potential succession plan of new trees that will take the place of the trees that will eventually die and require removal.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of construction for the roadway including inspections and oversight is \$1.6M. This cost is for the improvements to drainage, realignment of the intersection with canterbury Road, and the upgrades to the median and curbs. This cost does not include the concurrent installation of electrical conduits which is part of the ongoing Undergrounding Project. This cost also does not include the succession planting of banyan Trees to replenish the corridor.

Attachments