

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 14, 2023

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: January 19, 2023

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town staff is recommending approval, conditional to the Landmarks Preservation Committee approval, to move forward with finalizing design to construct drainage and roadway improvements along the North County Road corridor between Wells Road and Miraflores Drive during the summer of 2023.

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, it was decided to address the other concerns along this segment concurrently. In response to comments at the October 2022 Town Council meeting, a graphically-rendered video has been created to illustrate the proposed condition of the corridor, which will be shown during the Town Council meeting. The video will also be made available on the Town's Website February 6th.

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. Subsequent to the October 2022 Town Council meeting, the curbing along the median has been modified to reduce the width of the concrete and to expand the width of the grassed area.

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.