

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: October 8, 2024

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

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

RE: Recommendations for Additional Landscaping for Mid-Town Equipment

DATE: September 24, 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town staff will present recommendations for additional landscaping at several locations within the Mid-Town area of Undergrounding Program equipment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Mid-Town area includes Phases 4 and 5 South of the Town-wide Undergrounding Project. Due to the existing land uses in the fully built out area of Mid-Town which includes businesses, retail shops, restaurants, condominiums, and single-family residents, the Florida Power and Light (FPL) design and requirements for this area included over sixty (60) pieces of equipment (switches, PME-4, and capacitor bank) larger than the standard transformers. Staff was successful in getting voluntary easements on private property for over half of these. The equipment that was not able to be located on private property had to be located within the Town's right-of-way. The locations for the equipment were primarily determined by FPL demands and design. The design team made minor modifications to the design to avoid existing conflicts such as water, sewer, gas or drainage located within the right-of-way.

Staff treated these switches and other equipment similarly as the transformers that have had to be located in the right-of-way. Therefore, the plan was to ensure all equipment could be screened on three (3) sides with the side facing the sidewalk left without landscaping. All of the equipment has been installed and all of the switches are energized. At no point in time did staff provide Town Council with a comprehensive explanation of the number of switches and other equipment besides the transformers to be located within the right-of-way. At the May Town Council meeting, staff was directed to investigate an option for landscaping all sides of the switches. Over the past few months staff has worked with the design team and landscape architects to create a plan to achieve this directive. At this time, the equipment at the following addresses are being planted with green cocoplum on all four (4) sides.

240 Chilean Avenue	Vista Switch
	Vista Switch
	Vista Switch
	Transformer
	Exst. Cc Pwr Supply
	Cc Node
	Exst. Att Cabinet
	Exst. Att Pwr Supply
	Exst. Att Cabinet
300 Australian Avenue	Capacitor Bank
301 Australian Avenue	Standard Switch
	Standard Switch
215 Brazilian Avenue	Standard Switch
389 S Lake Drive	Standard Switch
330 Cocanut Row	PME-4
315 S Lake Drive	Standard Switch
315 Cocanut Row	Standard Switch

Staff will provide a presentation with renderings of the equipment left to be landscaped.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

Due to the challenging locations of the equipment and limited area for planting, staff recommends that the operation budget be increased in future years to maintain this landscaping.

cc: Jason Debrincat, P.E., Assistant Director
Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer
Carolyn Stone, Deputy Town Manager
Bob Miracle, Deputy Town Manager