

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
CITY COMMISSION
FDOT TRANSPORTATION UPDATE WORKSHOP**

October 5, 2021

5:30 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Partington called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Partington, Commissioners Dwight Selby, Troy Kent, Susan Persis, and Rob Littleton, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, Assistant City Manager Claire Whitley, City Attorney Randy Hayes, and Public Works Director Shawn Finley, FDOT Consultants John Tyler, Ty Garner, and Jim Stroz, and Ghyabi Consulting & Management CEO Mariam Ghyabi-White.

II. DISCUSSIONS

Mayor Partington explained the workshop was for the Commission to have an open discussion with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and citizens should contact their zone Commissioner or himself with any questions or input.

Ms. Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, discussed that staff was working with Ghyabi Consulting & Management for a number of years as transportation was a priority set by the Commission, noting the workshop was delayed due to past hurricanes and COVID-19.

Mr. Shawn Finley, Public Works Director, introduced Ghyabi Consulting & Management CEO Mariam Ghyabi-White and discussed her background with the city and transportation. He then introduced Mr. John Tyler from FDOT.

Mr. John Tyler, FDOT consultant, discussed his history with the city and gave some background on the A1A and Nova Road projects. He stated the FDOT consultants who were there were to provide updates and receive feedback from the Commission. He introduced Mr. Ty Garner who was a Project Manager for FDOT and Mr. Jim Stroz who was the District Five Traffic Operations Engineer.

STATE ROAD A1A

Mr. Ty Garner, FDOT consultant, discussed his history with Ormond Beach. He stated the A1A project was project number 443512-1 and spanned from Milsap Road north to State Road 40 (East Granada Boulevard). He stated all proposed improvements would fit with existing right-of-way's, therefore, no changes would be needed there. He noted some of the crossings would be mid-block crossings with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) and all of the crossings would have overhead lighting. He stated all of the crossings would be Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS). He proceeded to discuss each crosswalk at Milsap Road, Benjamin Drive, Cardinal Drive, River Beach Drive, Rockefeller Drive, Arlington Way, Ormond Parkway, Osceola Avenue, and Bosarvey Drive.

Ms. Mariam Ghyabi-White, Ghyabi Consulting & Management, inquired if the raised crosswalks would interfere with a shuttle service, whereby, Mr. Garner stated it would be

able to accommodate the Votran busses and believed a shuttle bus would be able to cross without issue.

Mr. Tyler stated the raised crosswalks were similar to speed bumps but were larger.

Commissioner Kent discussed some concerns about the beach ramps and Volusia County; whereby, Mr. Garner stated he would have discussions with Volusia County.

Ms. Ghyabi-White stated her concerns with the River Beach Drive one-way exit and the River Beach Drive Beach Ramp and asked for the commitment from Volusia County to keep the Beach Ramps open in writing for the City of Ormond Beach.

Commissioner Selby expressed his concerns with the mid-block crossings.

Mr. Garner explained that studies were completed during a holiday weekend to insure they had the highest amount of traffic to complete the study. He discussed the raised landscaped islands and possible partnership with the city regarding maintenance.

Commissioner Persis inquired about speed limits; whereby, Mr. Garner stated the speed limit would be 35. Commissioner Kent confirmed the speed limit was currently set to 35 meaning there would be no change.

Ms. Ghyabi-White inquired about the local business concerns; whereby, Mr. Garner stated FDOT and city staff met with local businesses who expressed concerns.

Mr. Garner stated FDOT was looking into the State Road A1A (A1A) and East Granada Boulevard intersection and would complete studies to improve the intersection. He explained FDOT would consider lane elimination modifications based on a capacity analysis.

Ms. Ghyabi-White inquired about when construction would begin; whereby, Mr. Tyler explained construction was scheduled to start early 2022.

Commissioner Selby inquired about the A1A and East Granada Boulevard intersection; whereby, Mr. Garner explained FDOT was looking into the intersection but would be waiting for the studies to be completed before making any decisions on the intersection. Commissioner Selby inquired about the discussion to eliminate a lane; whereby, Mr. Garner stated it was suggested so the pedestrian crosswalk could be shortened.

GRANADA BOULEVARD

Mr. Garner discussed the Granada Boulevard, State Road 40, project number 447105-1 regarding resurfacing and safety improvements which would span from State Road A1A to US Highway 1. He explained the design process would begin in November of 2021, and construction was set for late 2023. He discussed the potential mid-block crossings, potential lane reassignment, and the possibility of modification of the existing mid-block crossing near Beach Street. He explained FDOT was looking at RRFB, raised crosswalks, and improved signalization.

Commissioner Selby inquired about the pedestrian signs on the roadway as there were many; whereby, Mr. Garner stated there were standards throughout the state for consistency. Mr. Garner explained there were options to explore, for instance a sign for pedestrian crossing for next mile which could reduce signage.

Ms. Ghyabi-White inquired if FDOT could provide a modern look to the signage and road technology; whereby, Mr. Garner stated he was not aware of any new technologies outside of wayfinding for conventions, libraries, etc. Ms. Shanahan noted the city already had wayfinding signage.

Ms. Ghyabi-White inquired how to make the roads safer, how would bicyclists fit into the future road plans, and how can the city create a safe and walkable community.

Commissioner Selby inquired if East Granada Boulevard was planned to have the road narrowed; whereby, Mr. Garner explained that the plan was to narrow the road by bringing in the curb while attempting to maintain as much on street parking as possible. Mr. Garner stated the goal was to slow traffic down before it arrived to A1A. Commissioner Selby discussed how the sidewalk banding project that would be voted on at the Commission meeting could affect the FDOT project and noted the coordination needed between the city and FDOT.

Commissioner Kent discussed the number of signs near City Hall and requested FDOT take a look into the number of signs.

Commissioner Persis expressed her concerns for the large trucks with reduced lane size; whereby, Mr. Garner explained that would be taken into consideration.

Mr. Garner stated this project was not as far along as the A1A project and many items were not definite. He discussed the ideas for East Granada Boulevard, noting there were discussions of RRFB's, mid-block crossings, raised mid-block crossings, as well as speed reduction and lane re-sizing.

Commissioner Kent and Commissioner Selby discussed their preferences for where the mid-block crossings should be.

Commissioner Selby mentioned Ormond Beach MainStreet being a good resource to contact during the FDOT studies.

Commissioner Persis inquired if there would be two crosswalks on East Granada Boulevard between the bridge to A1A and expressed her concerns for the traffic during busy times.

Commissioner Littleton expressed his concerns of the speeding traffic along East Granada Boulevard from the bridge to A1A, noting he felt speed reduction should be a main focus for FDOT.

Mr. Garner stated with the project the goal was to reduce the speed of traffic. He explained once there was more information the city and Volusia County would review the plan.

Ms. Ghyabi-White inquired about the bridge lighting; whereby, Mr. Garner explained that was something that could be looked into and would need to meet with the city on the aesthetic and costs associated with that kind of project.

Commissioner Selby stated he would like to see LED up-lighting on the bridge, that the city could change the color on.

Mr. Garner stated that was an option the city could do.

Ms. Shanahan stated a workshop may be best for bridge lighting as time was tight at the current workshop.

Commissioner Kent discussed a concern with the West Granada Boulevard and US-1 intersection traffic light; whereby, Mr. Garner thanked Commissioner Kent for the feedback and stated they would look into the light.

NOVA ROAD

Mr. Jim Stroz, FDOT Consultant, explained the Nova Road Safety and Management Improvement project was in the early stages of the project and just wrapped up a study. He stated the project was the half mile section of Nova Road between Wilmette Avenue/Main Trail and West Granada Boulevard. He discussed the city's concern for pedestrian safety in the area. He explained the area did not meet the criteria for a traffic signal, noting FDOT would look into access management, pedestrian operations, and speed management. He discussed raised medians and lane re-purposing, explaining that lane re-purposing could potentially change the roadway from six lanes to four. He stated the project could include lane narrowing, a lower posted speed limit, and wider sidewalks.

Commissioner Persis inquired where the lane re-purposing would take place; whereby, Mr. Stroz stated it would be at the half mile section between Wilmette Avenue/Main Trail and West Granada Boulevard. She discussed her concerns with pedestrian and traffic safety.

Mr. Stroz stated the project stemmed from the increased pedestrian traffic.

Commissioner Littleton inquired if the landscaped medians were planned for the whole half-mile stretch; whereby, Mr. Stroz stated that was correct, it would be planned for the whole half mile section. Mr. Stroz explained the city would design the medians.

Mr. Stroz inquired if the Commission would support the project and if it was something they were interested in pursuing; noting, if yes FDOT would submit the application to the central office for approval and conduct public engagement meetings.

Commissioner Selby inquired if the proposal was for a landscaped median for the entire half mile stretch; whereby, Mr. Stroz stated there would be medians throughout the half-mile stretch but would include left turn lanes. Commissioner Selby discussed Old Kings Road intersection at Nova Road. He inquired if the southbound right turn only lane at the West Granada Boulevard and Nova Road intersection could be duplicated on the northbound lanes.

Mr. Stroz stated Volusia County had the same request and with the lane re-purposing it would be possible.

Commissioner Persis discussed the entrance and exit of the strip mall area closer the West Granada Boulevard on the west side of Nova Road.

Commissioner Selby and Ms. Ghyabi-White agreed with Commissioner Persis and Commissioner Persis asked if FDOT could look into; whereby, Mr. Stroz stated FDOT could look into it.

Ms. Shanahan inquired if the Commission believed FDOT was on the right track with the A1A project; whereby, the entire Commission agreed. She inquired if the Commission agreed to allow FDOT to move forward with the Nova Road project; whereby, the entire Commission agreed.

Mayor Partington discussed his concerns with the entire length of Nova Road from West Granada Boulevard to US-1, noting he hoped FDOT would look into the other area as well. He mentioned he was agreeable with the raised medians as the landscaped look could continue throughout the city.

Commissioner Selby discussed his concerns with a couple of intersections in the city. He stated the crosswalk at Neptune Avenue and A1A needed to be repainted; whereby, Mr. Garner stated FDOT could look into it. Commissioner Selby mentioned he hoped for more RRFB along North A1A in future projects.

Mayor Partington thanked the FDOT consultants and Ms. Ghyabi-White.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Transcribed by: Taylor Lochert