

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA

INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING 2021-05

Held on Monday, the 26th day of April 2021, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Public Works Department located at 1050 Malabar Road, SW, Palm Bay, Florida. The minutes are not a verbatim transcript, but a brief summary of the discussions and actions taken at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gaume at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRPERSON:	Thomas Gaume	Present
VICE CHAIRPERSON:	Rebecca Thibert	Present
MEMBER:	Ann-Marie Fraser	Present
MEMBER:	Paul Edwards	Absent
MEMBER:	David Jones	Absent
MEMBER:	Terry Muller	Present
MEMBER:	Patrick Woodard	Absent

ALSO PRESENT:

Joan Junkala, Deputy City Manager; Juliet Misconi, Acting Public Works Director; Frank Watanabe, City Engineer; and Vincent Colombo, Administrative Assistant.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

1. Meeting 2021-03; March 22, 2021

Motion by Ms. Thibert, seconded by Ms. Fraser, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Update on the Malabar PD&E and the residential developments: Avery, Brentwood, Chaparral, St John Preserve and Palm Vista

Mr. Watanabe presented an overview of the Malabar Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. Mr. Gaume asked where the stormwater was in Option A. Mr. Watanabe responded there were five ponds identified in the project and the system consisted of culverts and drain-pipes. The roads were broken down into sections to be done in portions. Mr. Gaume asked if Brevard County (County) would contribute since it owned everything west of the C-10 Canal. Mr. Watanabe confirmed same. Mr. Gaume added that the County wanted to make Malabar Road the City's responsibility. Mr. Watanabe said there had been dialogue about sharing responsibility for portions of the road. Most of it was already built but this dialogue was for building four lane roads. Ms. Fraser asked the timeframes for traffic studies. Mr. Watanabe said the City had been ahead since before the pandemic. COVID-19 had altered traffic patterns in different ways for different roads. Ms. Fraser asked the time of day the studies were conducted. Mr. Watanabe responded it was done twenty-four (24) hours a day, including peak hours. Ms. Fraser asked the peak hours. Mr. Watanabe said it varied based on the area, but most were from 6-8 a.m. and from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Ms. Fraser asked if the counts reflected in the presentation were trip counts. Mr. Watanabe answered in the affirmative and said it was the average daily traffic counts. Ms. Fraser asked the number requirement before requiring four lanes. Mr. Watanabe said the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had a series known as generalized tables for level of service. A two-lane road had a threshold of 16,800. The City's standard for level of service was level C and a deficiency level was D. The four-lane road threshold was approximately 33,000. Ms. Fraser asked staff to get exact numbers. Mr. Watanabe said the City set thresholds based on the Comprehensive Plan and if a threshold were reached, contractors could be off the hook. Mr. Watanabe said he anticipated working with the City Manager on the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Fraser asked if there was a plan for congestion due to the increased timeframe for the project as well as the cost. Mr. Watanabe said staff was always looking at plans and options. He expressed concern that some two-lane roads were reaching capacity and he was exploring options of expanding to four lanes since the City owned the roads. Mr. Gaume asked where the city was for the amount of traffic on Malabar Road in regards to level of service and anticipated levels in 2023, when the project was scheduled to be complete. Mr. Watanabe responded there were about five or six streets at service level C but believed they should really be level D and there was still some capacity left. Mr.

Gaume asked the current capacity and where it was headed for FDOT's standards. Mr. Watanabe answered that it was approaching the threshold for service level C on two lane roads.

Mr. Gaume referred to the attachment of developments and the number of units going to each one and said with two cars per unit, it would get there quickly. Ms. Fraser agreed and calculated the City was currently at 1,818. She asked for clarification on the traffic counts from 2019 leading to the amounts listed for January 2020. Mr. Watanabe said he would clarify same with the consultant.

Mr. Watanabe gave a presentation on the developments of Avery Springs, Brentwood Lakes, Chaparral, St. John's Preserve and Palm Vista. Ms. Fraser clarified the traffic counts totaled 1,615 and 3,230 with two cars per unit. Mr. Watanabe said it was feasible to multiply by ten for actual average daily traffic. He added that Palm Vista had several phases and included commercial in the second and third phases. St. John's Preserve also included commercial. Mr. Gaume asked why the developers built twenty-five (25) model homes when developing and the advantage of doing so. Mr. Watanabe answered that it was part of the Comprehensive Plan and developers could do so if desired. Model homes assisted in jumpstarting the project.

2. Update on the Malabar Drainage Improvements

Mr. Watanabe presented an overview of the Malabar Road Drainage Improvement Project. Mr. Muller asked about the material's effect on the environment. Mr. Watanabe responded that it was water soluble and worked well with water. He did not see any environmental issues and stated that it was safer than alternatives.

Mr. Gaume asked if there were any other questions or any items for the next meeting. He asked staff about Florida Power and Light's (FPL) program to swap out the streetlights to light-emitting diodes (LED). Mr. Watanabe said that the City had signed an agreement with FPL in 2018 and completed the transition to LED in 2019. There were some streets such as private, commercial, and alleys that had yet to be upgraded. Mr. Gaume asked if the City had increased its footprint for anything besides new construction. Mr. Watanabe confirmed same and pointed out that the city was dark. He was looking at a plan with the City Manager's Office to add lights throughout the city in places such as intersections. He was reviewing accident reports to uncover high priority locations and implement as money was available. Ms. Fraser asked for an overview of the City's stormwater and drainage system due to the city's population growth. Mr. Watanabe said he would be able to provide an educational stormwater breakdown and added that a lot

of the General Development Corporation's (GDC) developed cities were done with standardized swales. He believed it could work better but there was not much that could be done because the infrastructure was already in place. Ms. Fraser asked if the City was building a new lift station. Mr. Watanabe said there were two types of lift stations -- storm/drain water and for raw sewage. He said it was a utility function and that he could provide information along with the stormwater presentation. He clarified the different types of water included potable water, reclaimed non-potable water mostly for irrigation, and stormwater.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Thomas Gaume, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Vincent Colombo, Recorder