


MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor England
Vice Mayor Samora
Commissioner George
Commissioner Rumrell
Commissioner Torres

FROM: Max Royle, City Manager 

DATE: October 18, 2021

SUBJECT: A Street Drainage / Safety Improvements: Approval of Plan

INTRODUCTION

This topic concerns the section of A Street between A1A Beach Boulevard and the beach. In recent years, there's been a problem with water pooling in a certain area along the north side of A Street. The water would hinder residents from getting to and from their homes and would force persons to walk in the middle of the street. That stimulated the suggestion that this section of A Street needed a sidewalk, especially for safety reasons because of the heavy volume of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic on it. As A Street from the beach to State Road A1A is owned and maintained by the County, any changes to it would require County planning and approval.

OPTIONS FOR CHANGES

During 2021, County and City staff met at A Street to discuss a project to solve the drainage problem and provide a sidewalk from the Boulevard to the beach for safety. The owners of adjacent properties were also involved in the discussions. The improvements would be put along the north side and there are utility poles on the south side. The outcome are four options proposed by the County. They are:

1. Construct drainage improvement only. The County will maintain.
2. Construct drainage improvements and a concrete sidewalk as planned (3-foot valley gutter and a 6-foot concrete sidewalk) to meet County standards. The County will maintain.
3. Construct drainage improvements and sidewalk (3-foot valley gutter and 6-foot sidewalk). If the sidewalk is made of alternative material, the City will maintain it.

4. Construct drainage and sidewalk (1-foot trench drainage and 6-foot sidewalk) with the sidewalk made with or without alternative material or design. The City would maintain both the drainage improvements and the sidewalk.

The County has asked the City to select one of the four options so that the construction phase of the project can begin and be finished before the spring tourist season makes A Street a congested beach access point.

Instead, Vice Mayor Samora, who has been involved with this project from its beginning, and City staff recommend the following as the plan for the A Street improvements:

Drainage

- Underground as proposed
- Gutter width 1 ½ to 2-feet width (just like every other gutter in the City). This should be acceptable as it cuts cost and conforms to our standards.
- New drainage outfall relocated to just east of the property line between 15 A Street. As discussed and agreed to in our meeting.
- County maintains drainage.

Sidewalk

- Width 5-feet (to match other sidewalks in the City, such as along both sides of A1A Beach Boulevard).
- Material – TBD. Possibilities include concrete, tabby concrete, concrete stamped with decorative design, concrete bordered with brick, or even an alternative material such as pavers. Input from the Commission would be good. The property owners have also provided feedback.
- City maintains sidewalk.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is that you approve the plan described above. If you do, the County will be informed so that the project can be done in January or earlier before the start of the spring tourist season in February.