

**Charlotte County Major Roadway Improvements  
Administrator's Update for 1/1/14  
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Several major roadway improvements are underway in Charlotte County including Burnt Store Road, County Road 771 (Gasparilla Road), Edgewater Drive, Midway Boulevard and Winchester Boulevard. These improvements expand vehicular capacity, enhance the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, and upgrade existing infrastructure. Enhancements include improving hurricane evacuation routes, replacing bridges, major drainage and utility improvements, roadway lighting improvements, as well as sidewalks and bike lanes in multiple locations.

**Burnt Store Road** will be widened from a two-lane to a four-lane divided roadway between the Lee County line and a point north of Zemel Road. This project was designed to accommodate anticipated traffic growth and includes drainage improvements, street lighting, utility relocations, and six-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Funding for this project comes from the one-cent sales tax.

County staff is prepared to submit a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to award the construction contract on Jan. 14, 2014. Construction will take approximately 18 months to complete and is expected to begin in early 2014.

**C.R. 771 (Gasparilla Road)** will be widened to a four-lane divided roadway from S.R. 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. Design elements include sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and an additional left turn lane for west-bound traffic to turn off of S.R. 776 to south-bound C.R. 771.

The engineering firm is currently working on 100% design plans, permitting and final alignments which should be complete in early 2014. The roadway will be constructed using a "construction manager-at-risk" method, which is qualifications-based and includes a guaranteed maximum price (GMP). Staff is currently working with the contractor to develop a GMP to present to the BCC for review and approval. Our real estate services division is working to acquire the identified properties needed to construct the roadway. Construction is projected to begin in the spring of 2014 and should take approximately 24 months to complete.

**Edgewater Drive** will be widened between Harbor Boulevard and Midway Boulevard from a two-lane to a four-lane arterial roadway designed to better serve the central portion of the County and to accommodate anticipated traffic growth. Three bridges will be replaced over the West Spring Lake, East Spring Lake, and Sunrise Waterways. The design includes five intersection improvements (including four roundabouts), a raised median, curb and gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes, and landscaping. Funding for this project comes from the one-cent sales tax.

The 100% design plans have been provided to county staff and the plans are now under review. The design team is working to resolve conflicts with FPL facilities. Once the review is complete and conflicts are resolved, the package will be submitted to the purchasing department in preparation for bid solicitation. Construction is estimated to begin in late March 2014 and will take approximately 24 months to complete.

**Midway Boulevard** will be widened to a four-lane roadway between Harbor Boulevard and Kings Highway. Downstream stormwater improvements are necessary before widening this section of Midway Boulevard. The U.S. 41 micro tunnels and weirs project is underway at the Pompano, Elkcam, and Fordham Waterways, which will increase drainage capacity to accommodate widening Midway Boulevard.

The Midway Boulevard design plans are approximately 90% complete and rights-of-way acquisition is approximately 70% complete. Construction of the Midway Boulevard widening project is estimated to be advertised for bid in the summer of 2014 with construction to begin soon thereafter. Construction will take approximately 36 months to complete.

**Winchester Boulevard** (south extension) provides for a new four-lane divided roadway beginning at the intersection of S.R. 776 and Winchester Boulevard and continuing south to C.R. 775 (Placida Road). Construction includes roadway lighting, sidewalks, drainage improvements and utility work. Major components of this project include signalization of the S.R. 776 and Placida Road intersections. When completed, this project will result in a four-lane connector from Placida Road to the Charlotte/Sarasota County line, with a direct connection to Interstate 75 via River Road within Sarasota County.

Construction began Nov. 25, 2013. The first phase includes the installation of erosion control measures and endangered species mitigation. Negotiations continue for a scope and fee modifying the plans at the Winchester Boulevard North/SR 776 intersection to include a right turn lane onto Winchester Boulevard North. As construction progresses, the final design and permitting of the intersection will be complete and the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project. Construction is expected to take 18 months to complete.

The Charlotte County engineering division provides up-to-date project information online at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) – click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links list on the left. If you have any questions regarding any project, please contact the project manager by email (listed online in individual project status updates) or call 941.575.3632.