



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Planning Department

Planning Commission Meeting Date: December 3, 2024

To: City Council
From: Paula McMichael, AICP, Planning Director
Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Date: November 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Periwinkle Way and Causeway Boulevard Intersection Study Presentation.

BACKGROUND: On April 2, 2024, the City Council approved a Proposal and Scope of Services submitted by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to complete an Intersection Evaluation and Study for the intersection of Periwinkle Way, Lindgren Blvd., and Causeway Blvd. The Kimley-Horn consulting team will present their findings and recommendations to the City Council.

Kimley-Horn's approved scope of work includes completing traffic counts, turning movement counts, review of past intersection study recommendations, and an analysis of the Sanibel Causeway (capacity). The newly collected data, supplemented by the consultant's review of existing studies and reports related to the same intersection, and feedback received during the public engagement process, were analyzed by Kimley-Horn. The collected information was used to inform the development of two alternative intersection concepts, intended to improve traffic flow at the intersection.

Kimley-Horn completed the data collection and existing reports review in the spring of 2024. The existing reports included historic traffic counts to ensure the date used to complete the intersection study and project modeling was based on accurate data.

On July 31, and August 1, 2024, the consultants held six (6) public engagement meetings regarding traffic congestion on Sanibel and possible improvements to the intersection of Periwinkle Way and Causeway Blvd. The public engagement meetings included two (2) workshops that were held at MacKenzie Hall and were open to the public, three (3) focus group meetings with the Chamber of Commerce, Utilities Departments (IWA, LCEC), and island non-profit organizations, and one with Bill Millar, COTI President and Chair of COTI's Transportation Committee.

At the August 20, 2024, City Council meeting, the consultants, Bill Waddill, Ian Rairden and David Ervin, provided the City Council with a progress report and sought City Council input on traffic congestion issues. That meeting concluded the initial public engagement process and

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

subsequently the Kimley-Horn team developed two (2) alternative designs for the public, Planning Commission and City Council to consider. The alternatives were presented at two public workshops on October 23, 2024. The presentations from the workshops may be viewed [here](#).

On November 19, 2024, the Kimley-Horn consulting team presented their findings and recommendations to the Planning Commission. After discussion, the Planning Commission approved the following motions:

1. Motion to recommend to the City Council that the Periwinkle Way and Causeway Boulevard Intersection Study move forward to the next steps. The motion was approved 4-2.
2. Motion to recommend to the City Council hold discussions with Lee County regarding improvement to the Punta Rassa intersection. The motion was approved 6-0.

At the November 12, 2024, City Council meeting, the Vice Mayor also recommended that the City Council discuss, at a future City Council meeting, options for multi-lane exiting of Sanibel island, proposing to engage a consultant, possibly Kimley-Horn, to complete the study. City Council discussion on this topic suggested that the Mayor speak with BoCC members about options during the reconstruction of the causeway. Staff is discussing the potential for a study with County staff.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion. Provide direction concerning the “Next Steps” provided in the consultant’s presentation.