

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2013

TO: City Council

THROUGH: City Manager Judie Zimomra

FROM: Public Works Director Keith Williams

RE: City of Sanibel Crosswalk Study Area: Tarpon Bay Road & Island Inn Road

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize City Staff to proceed with design, negotiation and acquisition of easements and construction of Alternative 3, the recommended alternative.

On July 16, 2013 City of Sanibel Public Works staff as well as staff from Kittelson and Associates, Inc, a transportation planning and engineering consultant, presented recommendations to Council regarding crosswalk options for the intersection of Tarpon Bay Road and Island Inn Road.

In consideration of the available crosswalk options, Kittelson and Associates, Inc carried out a study of the area including vehicular, bicyclist and pedestrian counts, vehicle speed analysis and field observation. The result of the study was four alternatives as well as consideration for a future path extension to improve connectivity; with alternative three being the recommended alternative. Alternative three proposes the addition of a crosswalk across Tarpon Bay Road north of Island Inn Road, addition of a crosswalk across Island Inn Road west of Tarpon Bay Road as well as the addition of sidewalk to provide bike/ped access to adjacent properties.

Alternative three was determined as the recommended alternative based on a series of factors resulting from traffic data collection as well as field observation. The primary goal in determining the scope of the proposed improvements was safety coupled with effectiveness. Based on the data collected as well as field observations, there is a greater volume of bike/ped traffic crossing Tarpon Bay Road within the study area than the casual observer would expect. As it currently exists, the Tarpon Bay Road/Island Inn Road intersection has no bike/ped crossing facilities despite the observation that both sides of Tarpon Bay Road have potential bike/ped destinations. Of the alternatives considered, alternative three proposes the most effective solution to safely address the existing and anticipated future bike/ped demands at the intersection. Other alternatives proposed placing a crosswalk across Tarpon Bay Road further north or south of the recommended alternative, but each faced significant challenges in servicing the crossing demand in the immediate vicinity of the intersection as well as physical challenges in the form of drainage impacts. In consideration of a crosswalk across Tarpon Bay Road and the question whether to place it immediately north or immediately south of Island Inn Road, the traffic volume data collected indicates that placing the crosswalk on the north side, as alternative three proposes, conflicts with less vehicular movements than one located on the south side. In conclusion, alternative three provides a crosswalk immediately adjacent to Island Inn Road, provides access to adjacent parcels for bike and ped ingress/egress as well as

proposes compatibility with any future path construction that would occur as a result of the development of the northwest corner of the intersection. The concept based engineering cost estimate for the construction of alternative three is approximately \$15,000-\$25,000.

Staff recommends authorization to proceed with design, negotiation and acquisition of easements, and construction of alternative three, the preferred alternative.

cc: Finance Director Sylvia Edwards  
City Attorney Ken Cuyler