

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Jason E. Brown
County Administrator

THROUGH: Phillip J. Matson, AICP
Community Development Director

FROM: Brian Freeman, AICP
MPO Staff Director

DATE: August 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Work Order with MBV Engineering, Inc. for Design of the Next Phase of the Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of August 17, 2021.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

The Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail has its roots in Indian River County going back to the late 1890's. From 1905 to 1951, the Trans-Florida Central Railroad constructed a track and operated rail service from the Florida East Coast (FEC) rail line in Sebastian to the interior of Indian River County, stopping at several locations in Sebastian and Fellsmere and transporting passengers and agricultural products to and from the FEC. Their work in constructing berms, drainage swales, and rail beds remains today, and forms the basis of a rail-to-trail between Fellsmere and Sebastian.

The most recent phase of the rail trail was completed in 2018 and includes a trail bridge over Interstate 95. The next phase of the trail begins at the west edge of the overpass and runs approximately 1.4 miles along the former rail bed. This phase includes the portion of the trail that crosses through the St. Sebastian Preserve State Park.

ANALYSIS

In coordination with the Public Works Department, MPO staff has prepared a work order with MBV Engineering, Inc. for civil design services for the 1.4-mile segment of the trail west of I-95 trail overpass. This section of the trail will be constructed as an asphalt paved trail similar to existing trail east of I-95.

The Board approved the Continuing Consulting Engineering Services Agreement for Professional Services with MBV Engineering, Inc. on April 17, 2018 and extended that agreement on May 18, 2021. In accordance with that agreement, MBV Engineering will provide professional services to prepare engineering design plans and specifications.

FUNDING

Optional Sales Tax revenues in the amount of \$84,750 will be used to pay for the design of the trail. Sufficient funds are available in Optional Sales Tax/Road & Bridge/Trans Florida Greenway Phase II, Account # 31521441-066510-21035 to cover the expenses associated with the trail design.

Construction of the trail will be mostly paid for by a \$920,000 grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT has programmed that grant for FY 2022/23, and it is included in the MPO's five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve the work order with MBV Engineering, Inc. for design of the next phase of Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail and authorize the Chairman to execute it after the County Attorney has approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

Attachments:

1. Work Order No. 22 with MBV Engineering, Inc. for design of the next phase of Trans-Florida Central Railroad Trail