



VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH

Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM:

Presentation and Council direction to add a capital project for the design and construction of the Madrid Street connection to State Road 7.

BACKGROUND:

The Village Council at a Special Council meeting held Wednesday, October 21, 2009, pursuant to input from the residents of La Mancha the Council voted to “close connection of State Road 7 to Madrid, remove asphalt and create buffer and request permission to complete berm”.

Ten years later at the 2019 Strategic Planning meeting the Madrid Street/State Road 7 connection was ranked a top priority under goal #3 Beautiful, Convenient Community.

The project was then added to the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2019/20 budget as project number EN2003. A study was then conducted by Simmons & White to determine the potential traffic impacts if the roadway connection was made from Madrid Street to State Road 7 within the Village. The study analyzed the impact of a right out only roadway connection from Madrid Street to State Road 7 and full access roadway connection which would allow northbound left turns from State Road 7 to Madrid Street.

The study concluded that there would be the following benefits and disadvantages:

Benefits

- Provide a faster and more direct route to State Road 7 and Okeechobee Boulevard
 - Vehicles trips that originate outside the La Mancha subdivision will pass through seven fewer signals and have a one-mile shorter trip to the intersection of SR7 and Okeechobee.
- Reduced traffic volumes on Royal Palm Beach Boulevard and Okeechobee Boulevard (West of SR7)

Disadvantages

- Substantial increase in traffic in the north half of the La Mancha neighborhood
 - The roadways impacted will be La Mancha Ave., Ponce De Leon St., Madrid St., Sevilla Ave., and Santa Monica Ave.
- The majority of the impacted roadways do not have the on / off-street bike and pedestrian facilities that are required for collector roadways.
- Cut-Through Traffic could lead to speeding on residential streets.

- Increased traffic volumes will create additional noise pollution within the La Mancha neighborhood.

In early 2020 Village Council voted to remove the Madrid Street Connection to SR7 from the Capital Improvement plan.

Then at the July 7, 2021 budget workshop Councilperson Samios suggested adding the project to the Capital Improvement Plan. The idea was discussed but was not voted on.

ISSUE:

At the July 15, 2021 Council Meeting Councilperson Roduski re-introduced the idea of connecting Madrid Rd. to SR7. The Village Council then voted unanimously to create an agenda for the August 19, 2021 Council agenda in order to discuss adding the said roadway connection to the Capital Improvement plan.

Simmons & White will present their report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends moving forward with the La Mancha Avenue extension to Okeechobee Boulevard project in lieu of the Madrid Street connection to SR7. The disadvantages associated with Madrid connection outweigh the benefits of a quicker commute during the AM week day peak hour, which amounts to five hours per week. The La Mancha Avenue extension will create a safe signalized crossing for bike and pedestrian traffic on the FPL pathway system. The connection will also improve the level of service of the Ponce De Leon and Okeechobee intersection while maintaining the current level of service for Okeechobee Boulevard.

Initiator:	Village Manager	Agenda Date:	Village Council
Village Engineer	Approval:	8/19/2021	Action: