




## MEMORANDUM

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Date: December 14, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress   
City Manager

From: Gary Volenec, P.E.  
Engineering Director

Subject: **Approving a Task Order for Design of the Southernmost Point Plaza Project to BCC Engineering**

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### Introduction

Approve a Task Order to BCC Engineering for \$291,135.94 for Engineering Design and Bidding Assistance of corridor improvements along Whitehead Street from United Street to South Street and along South Street from Whitehead Street to Duval Street, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract upon consent of the City Attorney and execute any necessary budget transfers.

### Background

The Southernmost Point, an iconic visitor attraction, is located at the western terminus of South Street. In 2022, Hurricane Ian damaged the existing seawall near the Southernmost Point, cracking and undermining a portion of the decking around the buoy monument. During review and damage assessment of the seawall, Engineering staff observed the poor condition of the areas surrounding the buoy, benches, sidewalks, and drainage facilities. It is believed that the current facilities at the Southernmost Point are 20-25 years old.

Based on the upcoming roadway improvements to South Street as approved by Resolution 22-249 and the necessary repairs to the seawall and surrounding sidewalk area, the Engineering Department looked further into improving this visitor destination area from a functional perspective as well as enhancing the “Complete and Sustainable Streets” concept and “Vision Zero” goals set forth in Resolution 20-009. Crash reports log 8 incidents at this location and numerous complaints are heard of traffic difficulties. Standing water following storms, and visitors overflowing into the street around the buoy for photo taking are typical occurrences at this location.

In March of 2023, Engineering took an initial step by procuring Conceptual Design services to provide renderings of possible corridor enhancements at the proposed Southernmost Point Plaza. These renderings were then utilized on April 18, 2023 for presenting an FY 2024 Capital Projects (Bricks and Mortar) Funding Application to the Monroe County Tourist Development Council (TDC) which resulted in the City securing a \$1,000,000 grant.

City staff then requested a Task Order from BCC Engineering for the Design Development and Construction Documents preparation of the proposed Southernmost Point Plaza. The City Commission had previously approved a contract with BCC Engineering on February 7, 2023 to provide General Engineering Services to the City under Resolution 23-029. The scope of the Task Order will embody a creative, welcoming plaza focusing on the Southernmost Point and will incorporate a raised roadway surface, provide increased shade and landscaping, improve the overall area drainage, and enhance bike and pedestrian accessibility, all while accommodating the needs of adjacent residential and commercial properties as well as improving the experience of the large crowds that visit daily. Improvements along the two-block corridor will incorporate a one-way limited traffic flow pattern, and include resilience and sustainability strategies that address climate considerations and sea-level rise. Due to the high interest and visibility of the project, two public meetings as well as a presentation to the City Commission are included in the Task Order to solicit community input into the final design.

Renderings and design drawings developed under this Task Order will be used for presentation to TDC in April of 2024 to obtain further grant funding for the project.

### **Procurement**

The funds for this Task Order are budgeted from Account 101-1900-519-63 00 (Infrastructure Surtax), under Project IS19002401.

**Recommendation**

The City Manager's Office recommends the approval of a Task Order to BCC Engineering for \$291,135.94 for Design and Bidding Assistance of corridor improvements along Whitehead Street from United Street to South Street and along South Street from Whitehead Street to Duval Street, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract upon consent of the City Attorney and execute any necessary budget transfers.