



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3700

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager
E. David Fernandez, Asst. City Manager – Operations

FROM: Doug Bradshaw, Senior Project Manager

DATE: November 10, 2011

RE: Staff Recommendation: Virginia Street Sidewalk Project

ACTION STATEMENT:

The November 15, 2011 City Commission agenda includes a Resolution sponsored by Commissioner Clayton Lopez canceling the Virginia St. sidewalk project. City Staff encourages the City Commission to move forward with construction as approved by Resolutions 09-090, 10-185, and 09-311.

BACKGROUND:

The project will construct sidewalks from Windsor Lane to Varela Street on the North side of street except on the 800 block where the City proposes to construct sidewalks on the Southside. The design and construction for this project will be reimbursed 100% through an FDOT Local Area Program (LAP) grant for design/construction. The City has awarded the project to Charley Toppino and Sons. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2011 per Resolution 11-243, but FDOT has notified the City that construction does not have to be completed until March 2012.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

- The Virginia Street sidewalk is part of the City Commission approved Pedestrian Action Committee's sidewalk plan. The plan was created by numerous and respected members of the public and was vetted through the public process. It was created for the benefit of the entire community.
- Staff has been accessible in an effort to provide current, accurate and complete information on the project. Two public noticed meetings were held in addition to numerous individual meetings, all in an effort to ensure each interested neighbor was informed.
- This is a fully funded grant project that City staff has been given direction by Resolution from City Commission to complete.
- Fences, decks, trees that are scheduled to be relocated are on City property. The City is not removing any structures or trees that are on private property.

- There will be 35 legal parking spaces on the north side of the road. Based on Staff counts, this should be sufficient for a majority of the time. Any affect on existing parking practices will be minor.
- Planned bulb-outs will not increase flooding but will be designed in a manner that should improve drainage even though this is not a stormwater project.
- The City is under a settlement agreement to install ADA sidewalks within 800 feet of Government buildings which in staff's opinion would include the City owned old fire station museum.
- There is one school within the project limits and three other schools within 300', 800', and 1,500' respectively. Virginia Street is used by parents and kids walking to these schools.

OPTIONS / ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES:

1. Staff feels that there is not sufficient justification for this project to be canceled. During the completion of numerous other sidewalk projects, the City dealt with encroachments and Staff worked diligently with property owners to accommodate minor encroachments. However, the major encroachments on Virginia Street as well as illegal head-in parking make the road unsafe for two-way traffic, cause blind spots at intersections, and forces pedestrians to walk into the street.
2. If City Commission chooses to cancel the project, Staff recommends major encroachments over 12 inches should be removed and head-in parking eliminated in-order to improve safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The design and construction for this project will be reimbursed 100% through an FDOT Local Area Program (LAP) grant for design/construction. However if the project is canceled the City will be responsible for \$21,310 in current expenses.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff strongly recommends the City Commission direct Staff to continue with the construction of the project and therefore decline the resolution.