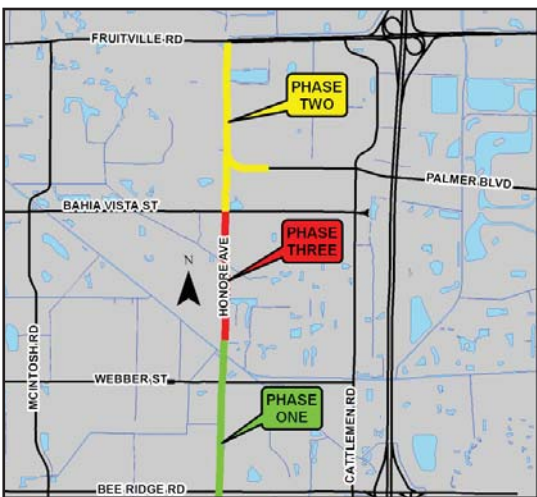


July 16, 2009

Honore Avenue Improvements from Bee Ridge Road to Fruitville Road



Phase One: Summer 2009 – Summer 2010

Phase Two: Spring 2010 – Fall 2010

Phase Three: Summer 2010 – Spring 2011

What is the project?

It is the extension of Honore Avenue from Bee Ridge Road north to Fruitville Road, a distance of about 2.7 miles. This will be a two-lane divided road. Construction will be done in three phases.

Phase One: Summer 2009 – Summer 2010, from Bee Ridge Road to Colonial Oaks Boulevard.

Phase Two: Spring 2010 – Fall 2010, from Bahia Vista Street to Fruitville Road.

Phase Three: Summer 2010 – Spring 2011, from Colonial Oaks Boulevard to Bahia Vista Street.
(See map at left.)

What will be the speed limit?

The speed limit through residential subdivisions from Bee Ridge Road to Bahia Vista Street will be no more than 35 mph.

Will there be lighting?

There will be decorative lighting in the medians. The need for pedestrian lighting and the costs associated with it are being considered.

Will there be privacy walls similar to those on Bahia Vista Street?

Privacy walls are not being proposed as part of the project. The community requested that the number of travel lanes be decreased from four to two. That has been done in this new design, not only to save construction costs but to preserve the large trees and green space. This will enhance the neighborhood character with a friendly, park-like setting to encourage pedestrians of all ages to be able to safely and enjoyably stroll along Honore Avenue. Vegetative buffers are being used rather than hard walls.

Will there be sidewalks and will they be on both sides of Honore Avenue?

Because the goal is to make the area inviting for pedestrians, sidewalks are planned on both sides. There will be lush vegetative buffers with meandering sidewalks set away from the road where possible.

Will there be bike lanes?

Yes, on each side of the road.

What about stormwater treatment and storage?

This project will have bioswales, rain gardens and ponds to hold and filter stormwater. This will help filter water flowing into Phillippi Creek and then to Sarasota Bay. The drainage will be permitted by both Sarasota County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The design will not have any adverse impacts to adjacent properties.

What is a bioswale and a rain garden?

A bioswale, or vegetated swale, is a form of bioretention used to improve water quality, increase groundwater recharge, attenuate flooding potential and add a visually appealing feature to the landscape.

Rain gardens are also used for stormwater but are isolated landscape depressions with a “spillway” for extreme rainfall events. Rain gardens typically hold a couple of inches of water for a short period of time. They are planted with native plants and trees and provide an attractive landscape feature.

I've heard that roundabouts are confusing and difficult to drive. Why are they being planned for this road?

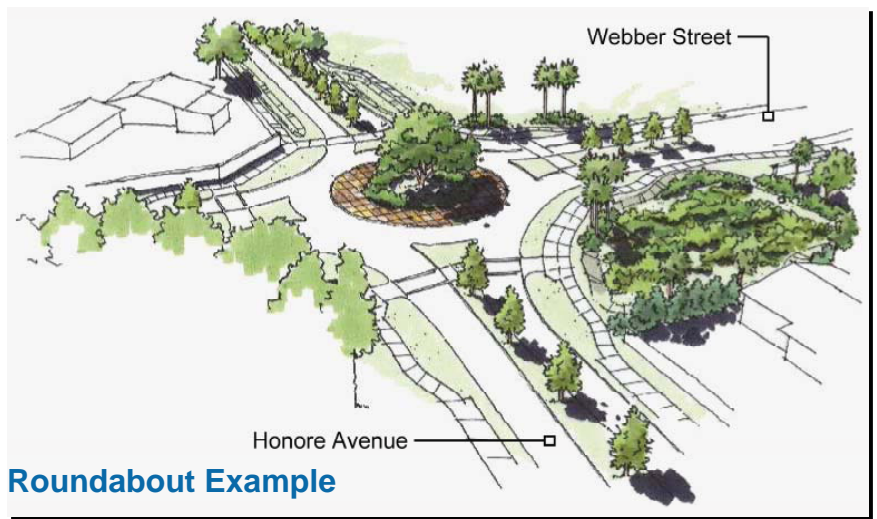
Many people confuse modern roundabouts with traditional traffic circles or rotaries, such as those

(continued on back)

found in the Northeast. A roundabout is different than a traffic circle. (See the rendering to the right.)

Roundabouts are planned for the intersections of Webber Street, Colonial Oaks Boulevard, Sawgrass Road, Brookmeade Road and Palmer Boulevard.

Several residents have pointed out that roundabouts will prevent the road from becoming a speedway and keep the area safe for bikers and pedestrians.



Roundabout Example

There are many reasons to prefer roundabouts:

- A 37 percent total reduction in crashes compared to signalized intersections.
- A 75 percent reduction in injury crashes compared to signalized intersections.
- A 90 percent reduction in traffic fatalities compare to signalized intersections.
- Improved pedestrian safety and reduced pedestrian delay compared to signalized intersections.

What plantings are expected for the roundabouts?

A large signature tree will be provided in the center of the roundabout surrounded by smaller plantings of differing species in the outer circle.

Where will the staging of supplies and equipment be located during construction?

- Bridge construction: proposed to be south of the bridge by the county ponds
- Phase 1: proposed near the corner of Bee Ridge Road and Honore Avenue
- Phase 2: proposed at Palmer Boulevard
- Phase 3: proposed north of Bahia Vista Street

What about construction when Fruitville Elementary and Sarasota Christian schools are in session?

The safety of students at schools is of primary concern. Access to driveways will be maintained at all times. Flagmen will be present when necessary.

Weather permitting, the majority of the work in the area of the schools will be done during the summer recess to avoid most of the school traffic.

Will large canopy trees be preserved?

Every effort is being made to preserve and enhance the existing environment. An estimated 114 out of 140 significant trees are expected to be preserved during construction. Florida-friendly landscaping will be used. Meandering sidewalks, boardwalks and curvilinear bioswales will be provided to save the significant trees.

What is the funding?

This \$16 million improvement project is part of the Sarasota Economic Stimulus Program of fast-track, capital-improvement projects. Funding for this project is provided by the penny surtax (1-cent sales tax).

Where can I find additional information?

Contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for information about the Honore Road Improvements Project. You also can log on to scgov.net and click on "Projects in my Neighborhood."

Meandering Sidewalks

