



Estero Boulevard Improvements Project Segment 1 Final Design Underway Crescent Street to Lovers Lane



Newsletter 2

September 2014

Since 2007, the Lee County Department of Transportation has been working with the Town of Fort Myers Beach to develop plans for the reconstruction of Estero Boulevard from Crescent Street to Big Carlos Pass. Earlier this year, preliminary design plans for six miles of Estero Boulevard were completed and presented to Town Council. Town Council agreed with Lee County to begin preparing final design plans for the first segment of the project beginning at Crescent Street and continuing approximately one mile south toward Lovers Lane. In June, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners approved a final design contract for this segment. Future phases of the project will reconstruct Estero Boulevard in approximately one-mile segments continuing to the south as funding becomes available. Construction of the first segment is expected to begin in early 2015.

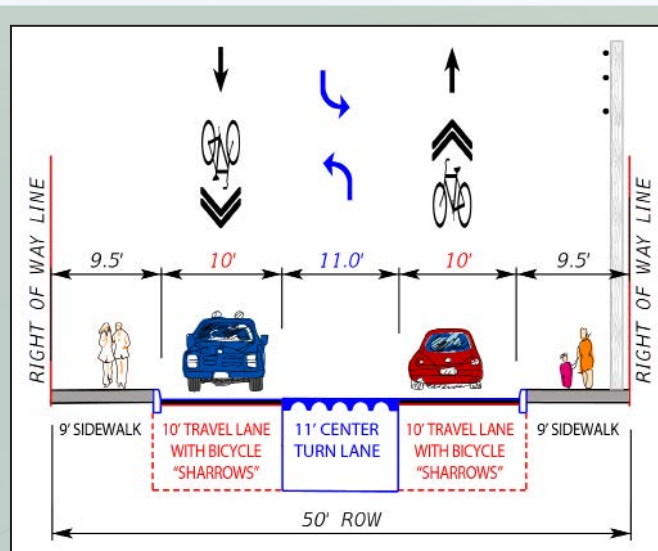


Estero Boulevard - North End

Two major goals of this project include improving safety for all users (motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians), and improving the drainage on Estero Boulevard. To achieve these goals, proposed improvements to the first segment of Estero Boulevard will require use of all existing 50-foot right-of-way. Florida Power & Light will move all utility poles and overhead power lines to the edge of the right-of-way as part of an ongoing planned project. This will maximize the sidewalk width available for pedestrians and for bicyclists that choose not to ride in the roadway.

The first segment of reconstructed Estero Boulevard from Crescent Street to Lovers Lane will provide:

- 10-foot travel lanes in each direction marked with bicycle “sharrows” for shared use by bicyclists and motorists
- 11-foot center turn lane
- 9-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of road



Design of Estero Boulevard
from Crescent Street to Lovers Lane

Lee County is working with LeeTran to improve trolley stop and crosswalk locations. At some trolley stops, design plans incorporate travel lane shifts that allow vehicles to continue past stopped trolleys. Street lighting at crosswalks will be improved. Landscaping opportunities in the first segment will be limited due to the narrow right-of-way, but will be included where space is available. Improvements to storm drainage are included as part of this project. New underground water and sewer lines will also be installed in coordination with the road work.

Although this project is not designed to ease seasonal vehicular traffic congestion, improvements will help travelers safely shift to alternative transportation modes such as bicycling, walking or using the trolley.

Questions?

Please contact Lee County’s public information consultant for the project:
Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc. at 239-337-1071, (toll-free) 877-496-1076
or via email to kmolnar@cella.cc.

Visit www.leegov.com/gov/dept/dot then click on Estero Boulevard under Highlighted Projects.

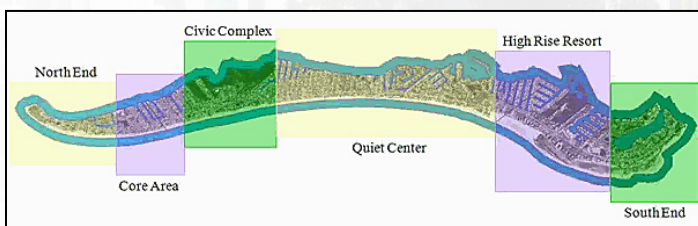
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Project History

A Streetscape Master Plan which outlines the Town's vision for Estero Boulevard was approved by the Fort Myers Beach Town Council in 2000. The Streetscape Master Plan divides the island into six segments:

- North End
- Civic Complex
- High Rise Resort
- Core Area
- Quiet Center
- South End



Six different segments of Estero Boulevard

Conceptual designs were developed for each section based on the specific area and on the available right-of-way.

In 2007, Lee County began the Estero Boulevard Project to analyze, design and evaluate the segments. Lee County held a public workshop in 2008 and another in 2013 to gain public input. Comments were compiled by Lee County and were presented to the Town of Fort Myers Beach. Town Council provided direction on the project by requesting specific elements be included in the design for the entire corridor. Those elements are included in the design where possible.

What's Next?

Lee County is in the process of selecting a Construction Manager to manage construction of the first section of Estero Boulevard. In some areas along Estero Boulevard, private signs, structures, parking, and landscaping extend into the right-of-way and may need to be modified or removed prior to construction. The right-of-way along Estero Boulevard from Crescent Street to Lovers Lane will be marked and the project team will reach out to individuals that may need to adjust items that extend into the right-of-way.

The goal of both Lee County and the Town of Fort Myers Beach is to minimize interruptions during tourist season as much as possible; however, construction of this project will be year-round. Lee County and the Town will hold a meeting prior to construction for the public to view plans and discuss construction activities with the project team. Look for more information about the meeting via flyers, advertisements, local media and variable message boards later this year!

