

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 29, 2022
To: Technical Coordinating Committee
From: Benjamin H. Pingree, PLACE Director
Subject: Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Review of the Orange-Meridian East Ditch Stormwater System Concept

Committee Members present:

Ken Morris	Ben Pingree
Wayne Tedder	Brent Pell
Artie White	Bill Adams
Autumn Calder	Nawfal Ezzagaghi
Chris Muehlemann	
Jodie Cahoon	

**substitute*

I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

II. CONSENT

The TCC is a non-voting committee serving to provide professional advice and technical expertise on Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency projects.

Jodie Cahoon wanted to re-listen to the previous meeting and verify the minutes. He felt that some sections on Capital Cascade Trail Segment 4 may be confusing as worded. Director Autumn Calder encouraged Mr. Cahoon to reach out to the project team if needed.

ACTION TAKEN: There were no other objections to the presented Consent items or staff recommendations.

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Blueprint Director, Autumn Calder began the meeting by going over the capital budget of the Capital Improvement Plan. She gave an overview on revenue for Blueprint and Office of Economic Vitality projected over the next seventeen years and bonds projected for the next three years. There are nineteen (19) total projects funded for the five-year CIP.

Blueprint Principal Planner, Mike Alfano went over the five-year CIP metric information. He said that the metrics are updated on a quarterly basis and that we have 32 total current projects.

Director Calder closed the presentation on the budget by announcing the Public Hearing process for the Blueprint Budget.

2. Presentation of the Review of the Orange-Meridian East Ditch Stormwater System Concept

Blueprint Director, Autumn Calder discussed the project team efforts related to the preliminary stormwater modeling effort and said that with the TCC concurrence, Blueprint hopes to start improvements on the East Ditch next year [2023].

Blueprint Design & Construction Manager, Dan Scheer stated that the East Ditch is the 2nd phase of this project. He then went over the improvements of this project with the East Ditch, including reminding the TCC that in September 2021, the TCC agreed that enclosing the East Ditch was not feasible.

Jim Sullivan of HALFF Associates then went over the East Ditch component of the placemaking projects, including providing pedestrian connectivity. He said that it was not feasible to implement a closed stormwater conveyance, but possibly an open conveyance option is possible. Randy Deuck of HALFF Associates, speaking remotely, went over the extended stormwater model that was requested by the TCC in September 2021 to establish a more detailed existing conditions model including an explanation of the results at what the 100-year floodplain would look like. Jim said that the parcels required for the proposed improvement are primarily owned by a single entity. Dan then asked Blueprint Right-of-Way Manager, Derrick Brown to give an update on the parcel status and Derrick said that he is currently working with the owner to acquire some of the property needed for the proposed project.

Jim then mentioned that the plan is to slow down the water by modifying the water flow direction and ditch width in this area. Director Calder mentioned that the property required is unimproved and there are no residential property impacts. Dan then stated that this current model shown is a very preliminary model only and not a refined model yet, but the preliminary results do show a public benefit for the project. Randy then discussed the floodplain excavation concept.

Autumn presented two options/scenarios:

- What happens to the floodplain if only the East Ditch improvement is completed?
- What if the Adams Street constriction was removed?

Autumn then stated that if we move forward with the East Ditch only, we would get a benefit out of it, which is what Blueprint is leaning towards, while the greater community discussion continues with the potential for an Adams Street improvement.

Nawfal Ezzagghi mentioned that a cost-benefit \$ per amount of floodplain area reduced, and/or floodplain elevation reduction analysis may be helpful in quantifying the overall benefit.

Assistant City Manager, Wayne Tedder discussed that we are currently going through a planning process dealing with flooding on the south side that is part of the Southside Action Plan. He stated that this project and the benefit offered is consistent with what our leaders are looking for with the goal of making a difference on the south side. Wayne said that he agrees/appreciates the direction we are going on this project.

Leon County Public Works Staff Member, Anna Padilla asked a couple questions as it relates to cost and nuisance flooding improvements.

Director of PLACE, Ben Pingree, stressed that the compelling points from the committee need to be reflected in future agenda materials for the IA Board.

Wayne said he wants to see what happens downstream. He said that as long as downstream discharge is not increased, we are going in the right direction.

Autumn noted that the preliminary modeling with the Adam Street constriction removed, did not reduce upstream flooding as much as expected.

Autumn put on everyone's 'radar' the opportunity to modify the FEMA maps relating to this project and the right timing to implement that.

City Stormwater Manager, Jodie Cahoon expressed that we should go with this current effective model to see what the benefits are with the Blueprint suggested benefit. Randy (Halff) then replied that this model is a revised existing conditions model. Anna asked if the team was suggesting updating the FEMA map to current conditions and then making revisions of the FEMA map for future improvements.

Jodie stated that the reduction in the floodway is the biggest challenge of this project. He said that a reduction in floodway is what will be the real benefit to the community. Property outside the floodway has development potential (with compensating volume).

Ben then asked if there is a benefit to the floodplain south of Orange Avenue? Randy said no and if there is, it would be very miniscule.

City Growth Management Program Engineer, Craig Barkve brought up that this area may be considered unaltered floodplain and the code protects that – the NFI will help with further details. Wayne indicated that any consideration for a Linear Infrastructure Variance be presented in the agenda materials to the IA Board.

Jodie said the floodway and floodplain are about the same, which indicates there is a problem with conveyance of stormwater, not storage of stormwater. He wants to look at the effective model before making any decisions. Jodie wants to see more engineering before he can get 'comfortable' with the proposed concept. Jodie also stressed that 'wide' ditches are tough to maintain.

Autumn said that we will take the modeling to the Stormwater Working Group to get consensus on the modeling, but conceptually we have a good concept that is something worth pursuing – we can provide an update at the next TCC meeting in November 2022.

Ben said that there are two things to look at: 1. The pressure for this project towards completion and 2. Providing value to the community. He agreed with Autumn on giving an update at the next TCC Meeting in November.

When Dan asked the committee if there is value in continuing this project, the committee agreed.

Autumn asked if anyone had any questions. No one replied.

3. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

4. **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 1:47pm.

Next meeting is set for Monday, November 14, 2022.