

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 7, 2021
To: Technical Coordinating Committee
From: Benjamin H. Pingree, PLACE Director
Subject: Summary of the Minutes for the BP & OEV Budget and Orange-Meridian Place Making Project Stormwater Conveyance System

Committee Members present:

Ken Morris	Ben Pingree
Steve Shafer	Brent Pell
Cherie Bryant	Nawfal Ezzagaghi
Autumn Calder	Wayne Tedder
Jodie Cahoon	Artie White

**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.

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

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Blueprint and OEV Budget Summary
2. Orange-Meridian Place Making Project Stormwater Conveyance System

Blueprint Director, Autumn Calder began the meeting by going over the two presentations: Budget Presentation Summary and the Orange-Meridian Place Making Project Summary.

She gave a brief summary on the BP & OEV Revenue, Bonds, & Loan figures for the next 20 years. She discussed the infrastructure program for the next five years for sales tax collection, bonds, & loans to be issued along with grants anticipated. She concluded by going over the CIP infrastructure draft for FY 2022-2026 and the 5-year metrics with 31 active projects and subprojects currently.

Autumn gave the background & origin of the Orange-Meridian Placemaking project as it relates to the current budget amount. She explained that this project was prioritized by the IA Board of Directors starting back in 2018, and that it is a top ranked CCQ (Community Enhancement Connectivity & Quality of Life) project. She reviewed the three components of the project. The component that was the primary topic of this meeting was the East Ditch Stormwater Improvements. She discussed the goals of the East Ditch improvements.

Mark Llewellyn, Halff, presented the challenges, issues, and alternatives of this project from a hydrologic and hydraulic perspective. He discussed the FEMA Current Effective Model, the Duplicate Effective Model, and the process to reach the Existing Conditions Model. Within the project area, the floodplain is expanded in the Existing Condition Model versus the Duplicate Effective Model. He also identified ownership issues with the East Ditch in the project area and the need to acquire right of way.

Mark Llewellyn discussed three alternatives for the East Ditch improvements; two with box culvert enclosure of the ditch and one open conveyance alternative. Halff's overall assessment was that from the three alternatives given, they believe they can show a no rise with all three alternatives as it relates to Existing Conditions model.

Ms. Calder then said that none of the three alternatives will achieve the original 2014 goal of redevelopment in that area and then asked what can be done to reduce the flood levels in that area. Mark then went over the pros and cons of the alternatives. He said that the main issue with this project is the constriction at Adams Street and if future improvements are made at Adams Street, what will happen downstream. Because once it is open it up, the water has to go somewhere. He stated that the open conveyance option provides more flexibility for the future.

Assistant City Manager, Wayne Tedder asked for another alternative showing the ditch opened up into a pond amenity in the floodplain between Polk Drive and the shopping center. Mark said it could be done, but they have not analyzed it yet.

Jodie Cahoon, City of Tallahassee Stormwater Manager, stated that the no rise for permitting has to be done on the effective FIS. He further commented that if you create a pond instead of a channel improvement, that there would not be any noticeable impacts downstream because the pond would be relatively small compared to the volume of water in the system. The pond would have to be larger and deeper to create a community amenity with water quality benefits to be further analyzed. He also suggested that to reduce the floodplain, the conveyance and constriction at Adams Street and downstream impacts would have to be analyzed and addressed.

Mr. Tedder recommended lifting the area aesthetics up without having any negative impact on the floodplain possibly by purchasing properties in the floodplain and turning it into a shallow, treatment area as a park, but didn't agree with the alternative of a wall on one side and opening up a ditch.

Ms. Calder said that purchasing properties in the floodplain for the floodplain reduction (if possible), beautification, tree mitigation, or other ideas would be worth exploring.

Mr. Cahoon suggested that the alternatives should provide the equivalent hydraulic area as that existing at Monroe Street. Then an analysis of what would happen if you carried those same improvements through Adams Street to see what the downstream and upstream impacts are should be conducted. Then you can determine how much more storage is needed to offset the downstream impacts. Mr. Tedder agreed with Jodie's comments. Autumn agreed that it would be a step in the right direction to have the data.

Ms. Calder said that the project team will continue to refine the stormwater analysis and find ways to improve the area aesthetics and amenities.

Nawfal requested that Blueprint include the small storm events in the stormwater modeling.

Ms. Calder then went over the next steps for the project starting from July-Sept. 2021 through Fall 2022.

IV. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Webster from the PSA Management Team commented that as long as you present the alternatives as mitigation to the community for storms, then you are putting your best foot forward.

V. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:23pm.