



Florida Department of Transportation
 District One
 2981 NE Pine Island Rd
 Cape Coral, FL 33909

construction in progress

**US 41/Cleveland Avenue from Winkler Avenue to SR 82/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
 Roadway and Utility Improvements Project with Pedestrian Enhancements**

Project History

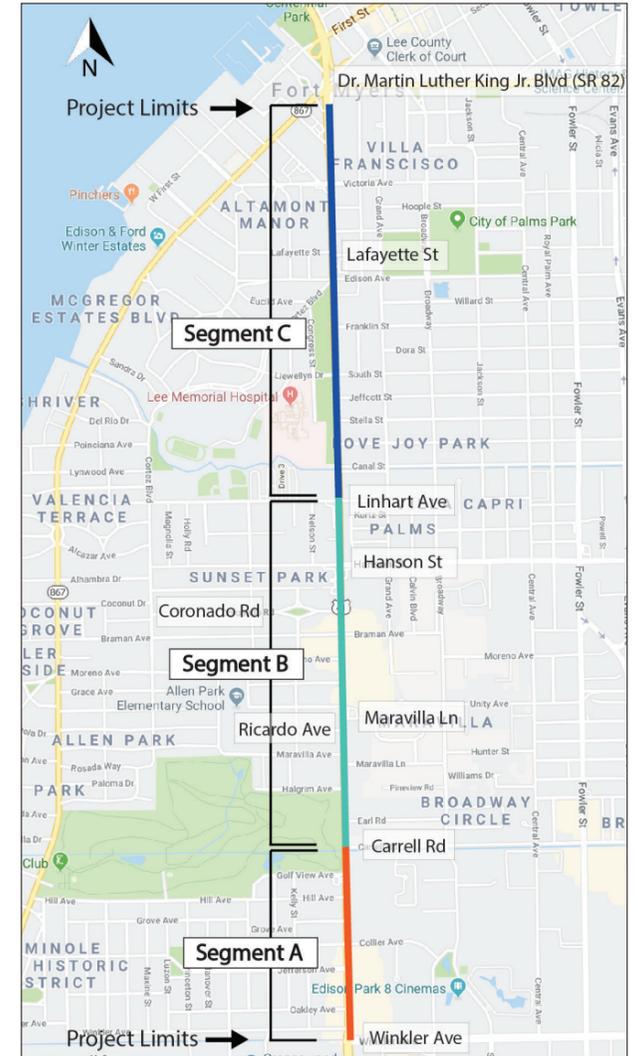
In 2017, after identifying increasing traffic and pedestrian accidents along the corridor, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began a public outreach campaign to gather input on the project which included medians, upgrading signalized intersections and adding Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB), formerly known as High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacons (HAWK), for pedestrian crossings.

At the conclusion of the outreach campaign, FDOT moved forward with the design of these improvements. The City of Fort Myers approached FDOT in efforts to form a partnership to install their utility upgrades along this vital corridor. The city had been planning to upgrade the old water main and sewer mains along US 41/Cleveland Avenue to improve their reliability and service to their customers. Constructing both planned projects simultaneously reduces the impacts to the traveling public and business owners along this congested corridor. Conducting these projects separately would have subjected local business owners, motorists, and pedestrians to significantly longer impacts along US 41/ Cleveland Avenue.

Project Facts

Construction of the joint project began in December of 2018 with significant activity occurring in early months of 2019. The construction began in Segment A Phase 1 (see map) on the west side of US 41/ Cleveland Avenue, then moved to Segment A Phase 2 on the east side of the road. During Segment A, the contractor experienced delays/issues with the City's procedure for placing the new water main into service. Also, the service connection locations depicted in the project utility plans were outdated as-builts.

After Segment A Phases 1 & 2 were completed in 2020, crews moved to Segment B Phase 1 on the west side of the road. In this Segment, an unknown sewer line was discovered at Linhart Avenue requiring redesign of the new water, sewer, and roadway drainage elements at this location. This work is now nearing completion and the Construction Engineering & Inspection team is evaluating the impacts/delays to the contractor's critical path schedule. Also, the City added two significant utility work items during Segment B to improve their utility efficiency and provide new sewer service to a business in this segment. Once Segments B Phase 1 & B Phase 2 are completed, the crews will begin building the utility improvements in Segment C.



Construction in Progress, Phase 2 Segment B
 on the east side of US 41/Cleveland Avenue

The US 41/Cleveland Avenue from Winkler Avenue to SR 82/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Roadway and Utility Improvements Project with Pedestrian Enhancements is underway. The following improvements will be made:

- Relocation and installation of new utilities
- New medians and drainage structures
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons
- ADA Improvements
- Upgraded signals and lighting
- Resurfacing existing roadway

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If you have questions about the project, please contact:

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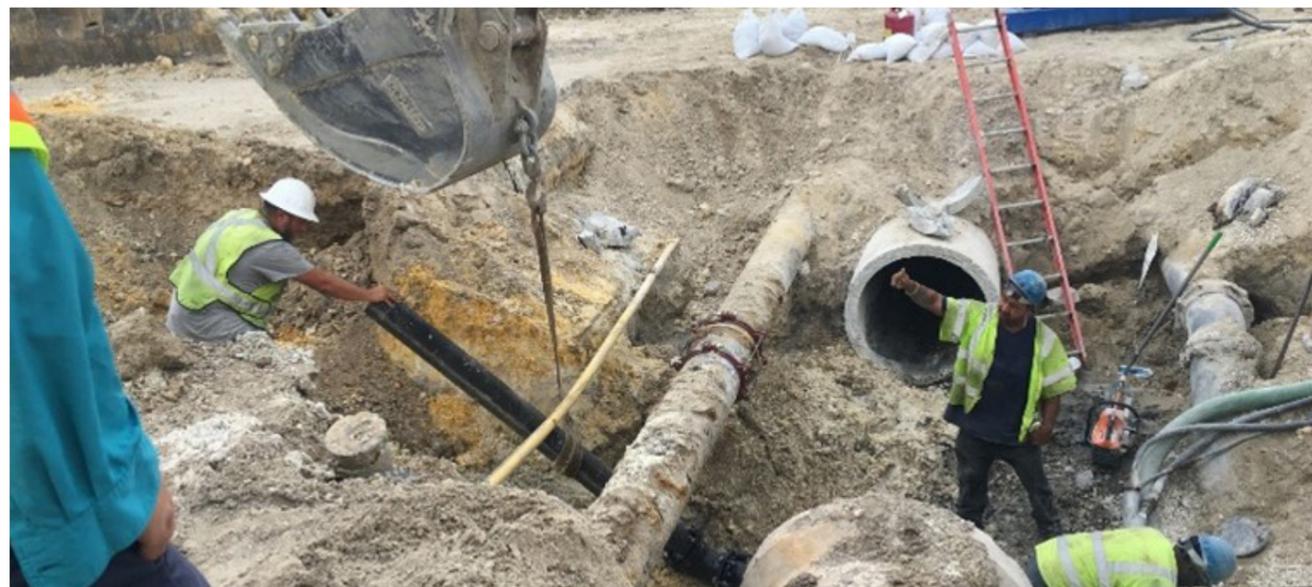
Fast Facts

Construction Start Date: December 2018
 Estimated Completion: Mid-2023
 Project Cost: \$21 million



Below are the linear feet of new utilities installed and linear feet of new utilities remaining to be installed.

Utility Lines Installed and Remaining			
		Linear Feet(LF) Installed	Linear Feet(LF) Remaining
Storm Drainage pipe	TOTAL	333 LF	294 LF
Water/Sewer lines	TOTAL	17,805 LF	7,152 LF



Another key issue impacting the construction project completion schedule is the City's ability to provide potable water when placing the new water mains into service. Conditions affecting this situation are increased demand from customers and reduced raw water supply by the below average rainfall to recharge wells.

To lessen the impacts from unforeseen utility delays, the project team has modified traffic patterns in efforts to reduce impacts to the traveling public and business owners when possible. Also, extra consideration has been taken to maintain access to business entrances with placement of blue business access signs identifying business entrance locations. The completion of the project has been pushed to mid-2023.

How they build it

There are many steps in the construction process.

- Install pipes
- Fill trench with base rock and compact
- Pave with asphalt
- Move to next section

Challenges

Constructing underground utilities in an urban area is always a challenge due to unforeseen conditions such as rock and buried objects, and unknown utilities. Some of the utilities in this area are over 50 years old. Crews have discovered numerous abandoned utilities, some of which were unknown, requiring the contractor to either remove them if possible or have the engineer redesign the location of the new utilities.

Many of the underground utilities require installation in deep trenches some up to 14-feet-deep. Most often the trench needs to be dewatered due to the high water table in the area. In addition, there were areas where contaminated soil needed to be removed.



Community Access

The project is being constructed in phases as opposed to closing one whole side of the entire project all at one time. The contractor has made every effort to keep driveways open and maintain the blue business access signs. When a property has only one driveway, the contractor has conducted construction operations at night.

Community Outreach

Three neighborhood meetings and a public hearing were held during the design phase. A preconstruction public meeting was held in December 2018. Four newsletters were mailed to property owners and tenants for each phase of construction. Flyers were hand delivered to each business to provide details on what to expect during construction. In addition, driveway closure notices, boil water notices and road closure notices are hand delivered to the affected businesses. Six media interviews were conducted over the life of the project. Weekly RoadWatch updates are sent to the media and to local businesses.



What is next

Construction of Segment C will begin early next year. Segment C is where the most complex utility installation work will occur. This segment is where gravity sewer must be installed. The proposed installation locations are very congested with both public and private utilities which pose unknown challenges during the installation. The project team has been trying to identify these challenges early in efforts to minimize future delays to the project schedule.

Median construction begins in early 2022, starting with Segment A from Winkler Avenue to Carrell Road and will move to Segment B.

