

PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Chairman and
Members of the Board of
County Commissioners

DATE: 7/21/08 FILE: PMA08-176

THRU: Bipin Parikh, P.E.
Assistant County Administrator
(Development Services)

SUBJECT: Task Order No. EDO08-009,
Johnson Engineering, Inc. -
Blanton Road and Lake Lola Road
Intersection Improvements Report,
Route Study/Alignment Selection

FROM: James C. Widman, P.E.
Engineering Services Director/
County Engineer

REFERENCES: Work Order No. C-0757.00;
Comm. Dist. 1

It is recommended that the data herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

On January 22, 2008, the BCC approved Task Order No. EDO08-009 for Johnson Engineering, Inc., to produce a study evaluating potential improvements to the intersection of Blanton Road and Lake Lola Road.

Three build alternatives and a no-build alternative were evaluated in the study. The study analyzed five factors as they related to each of the alternatives; i.e., long-range planning, safety, environmental concerns, right-of-way acquisition, and costs.

All build alternatives will widen the three legs of the intersection from two lanes to three lanes. The additional lanes will consist of: a southbound, left-turn lane; a northbound, right-turn lane; and a westbound, left-turn lane. The alternatives are further summarized as follows:

Alternative I

This build alternative realigns Blanton Road by eliminating the curve and increasing the tangent distance to 900 feet prior to the intersection. It reduces the existing westbound, right-turn radius from 320 feet to 130 feet. These features result in a more right-angled ("T") intersection with the westbound, right-turn lane under yield control. This alternative creates a smaller intersection, which improves the sight distance for approaching and turning traffic. It will also allow for better traffic control now and in the future. Proposed traffic control includes a flashing yellow signal for the southbound traffic and flashing red signals for the northbound and westbound, left-turn lanes. A yield sign will be posted for the westbound, right-turn lanes.

Alternative II

This build alternative shifts the intersection 38 feet north of the existing intersection. This will reduce the skew of the intersection and improve sight distance. However, a curve will remain on Blanton Road and the westbound, right-turn lane will still have a 320-foot radius. Although this alternative will create a more right-angled ("T") intersection, it will not improve potential future traffic control. Proposed traffic control includes a flashing yellow signal for the southbound traffic and flashing red signals for the northbound and westbound, left-turn lanes. A yield sign will be posted for the westbound, right-turn lanes.

Alternative III

This build alternative realigns Blanton Road by eliminating the curve and increasing the tangent distance prior to the intersection. However, the westbound, right-turn lane will still have a 320-foot radius. Although this alternative will create a more right-angled ("T") intersection, it will not improve potential future traffic control. Proposed traffic control includes a flashing yellow signal for the southbound traffic and flashing red signals for the northbound and westbound, left-turn lanes. A yield sign will be posted for the westbound, right-turn lanes.

On May 20, 2008, a public workshop was held. The Draft Intersection Improvements Report, including the three build alternatives and the no-build alternative, was presented and discussed with the attendees. Comments have been received from the public as of this date and are included as part of the report. The recommended alternative is Alternative I. The Intersection Improvements Report has been completed and is now presented for BCC consideration.

ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS:

1. Approve Build Alternative I as the recommended alternative and approve the implementation of the intersection improvements study.
2. Deny Build Alternative I and select another alternative.
3. Direct staff as to other action desired by the BCC.

RECOMMENDATION AND FUNDING:

It is the recommendation of the Engineering Services Department that the BCC approve Alternative 1.

No additional funding is required at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Final Intersection Improvements Report for Blanton Road and Lake Lola Road (One Original)
2. Location Map


JCW/JC/ASR/RT/PH/public/pm/en/blantonrdpma08176