

**Agenda Item:** 1.g

**Meeting Date:** September 15, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Commission

**Date:** 2022-08-01

**From:** Robert C. Ironsmith, Dir. of Economic & Housing Dev./CRA

**Subject:** Skinner Blvd. Complete Streets Project: Schedule and Review of Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities

**Presenter(s):** Robert C. Ironsmith, Dir. of Economic & Housing Dev./CRA

**Recommend:** Staff recommends discussing Skinner Blvd. Complete Streets revised FDOT schedule and findings to underground utilities in conjunction with the project.

**Epic Goal(s):** Create a visual sense of place throughout Dunedin

**Boards & Committees:** CRAAC

**Budget Impact:** None

**Past Action:** None

**Next Action:** None

**Attachments:** [A. Undergrounding Options & Costs.pdf](#), [B. Dunedin\\_Skiner\\_Bldv\\_Non\\_binding\\_07082022.pdf](#), [C. Skinner Full Conversion.pdf](#), [D. Skinner Crossings Only Conversion.pdf](#),

**Background:** The SR 580/Skiner Blvd. Complete Streets Project is an urban corridor improvement initiative consisting of proposed roundabouts, lane reductions, mast arm signalization, pedestrian and bicycle lanes and other roadway components. Project limits are from US Alt. 19 (Broadway) to Bass Blvd./Main Street. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has

hired engineering consultant, TY-Lin International, for the design. Funding for design is being provided by the City of Dunedin (\$600,000) in partnership with Forward Pinellas (\$704,684). Construction is budgeted at \$6.5 million. FDOT has recently provided a revised schedule for design which reflects an approximately three (3) month delay. However, field survey has begun. Bidding is planned for late 2024.

At the City Commission Work Session of August 17, 2021, Commission received a presentation on the SR 580/Skinner Blvd. Complete Streets Project. At said meeting, staff indicated that they would look into the cost of undergrounding the overhead utilities within the corridor as a desirable element of the project. As outlined in the attached memorandum dated July 21, 2022, preliminary pricing from Duke Energy appears to be cost prohibitive. Specifically, initial pricing (third-party cable companies have not provided their pricing as of this date) for undergrounding all overhead infrastructure would exceed \$2 million dollars (30% of overall project cost which is currently unbudgeted). Undergrounding of the aerial crossings would be more affordable. However, the unanticipated consequences of doing such would create a visual blight at the intersection of Skinner Blvd. and Highland Avenue by the addition of nine (9) new power poles in close proximity to each other. It is believed that the existing aerial crossings are less intrusive against the skyline than what is anticipated with the wooden power poles at eye-level.

Staff does not support the undergrounding of overhead utilities for Skinner Blvd. for both cost and aesthetic considerations.