

Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Alf Coleman Road is Open as Work Continues

- Alf Coleman Road is now open to thru-traffic, including pedestrians. The Contractor is continuing to raise the road while adding safety improvements through summer 2024.
- The particular area just completed required a full closure due to surrounding wetlands, retaining wall construction, existing utility relocation and cross drain culvert replacement.
- The area from Cabana Blvd. to Hutchison Blvd. will now be raised using an asphalt overbuild technique, to not disrupt access to the surrounding subdivisions. The roadside swales are jurisdictional wetlands and cannot be impacted, so the road will be worked under traffic using single lane closures, to raise it to the required height. Sidewalks will also be completed and connected so that they are continuous on both sides of the road.
- This work is significantly mitigating roadway flooding and adding additional pedestrian safety, including upgraded sidewalks and lighting. These improvements are exciting and much needed for all who utilize Alf Coleman Road, especially for students who walk to access Arnold Highschool.
- As progress continues, drivers should expect the road to be intermittently reduced to one-lane at times, with flaggers present to direct them. Temporary lane closures will be publicly noticed through signage, the CRA email list, and the PCB Government social media sites.









Road raised ~18 inches, improved drainage, upgraded sidewalks and fresh pavement/striping.

Upgraded culverts and sidewalks iust north of Cabana Boulevard.

Segment 3 Updates

- Segment 3 runs from the intersection of State Road 79 (Arnold Road) and Panama City Beach Parkway south to Front Beach Road, and also includes Front Beach Road from Cabana Cay Circle east to Lullwater Drive.
- Utility conflicts with *Comcast WOW! Networks* cleared their interference earlier this month are impacting moving forward with work on the east part of this segment on Front Beach Road. Once those utilities are cleared and relocated, there will be a better idea of the work scope in that area. See page 2 for an FAQ about utilities.
- The Contractor completed paving the northbound lanes of Arnold Road between the roundabout and PCB Parkway. New drainage on the north side of Front Beach Road, crossing Carmen Street, has been placed. Pavement striping in front of Winn-Dixie was also updated, including a left-turn lane from Cabana Cay Circle east bound on Front Beach Road along with a bicycle lane for westbound traffic.



Striping in front of Winn-Dixie has been updated to improve safety and clarify vehicle movement when turning in and out of Cabana Cay Circle.





Fresh pavement on south Arnold Road! The Contractor anticipates shifting vehicle traffic to these lanes in early spring.



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Segments 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3

Segment 4.1 includes the section of Front Beach Road from Lullwater Drive, where Segment 3 ends, to east of Hills Road and includes Powell Adams Road. Plans are 100% complete. **Segment 4.2** includes the section of Front Beach Road from east of Hills Road, where Segment 4.1 ends, to west of Lantana Street. The City utility design is underway, and 90% plans are anticipated late spring 2024. There will be a public meeting to review these plans once received. **Segment 4.3** includes the section of Front Beach Road from Hutchison Boulevard to west of Richard Jackson Boulevard. The City utility design is underway, and 90% plans are being finalized. Due to the extensive right of way acquisition process, the project is projected to go to bid in late 2024. All of these projects will consist of roadway upgrades such as updated stormwater retention and medians, along with improved pedestrian safety with new lighting and sidewalks.

Frequently Asked Questions about Utilities:

- 1. What are common utilities in Panama City Beach (PCB)?
 - a. The public right of way is available per state statute for the use of any provider of public services. Examples of such services include but are not limited to potable water, reclaimed water, sanitary sewer, electric power, telecommunications (including wireless, fiber optic, and legacy copper cable infrastructure), and natural gas pipelines.
 - b. Within the City limits, the City of PCB is the primary provider of water, sewer, and reclaimed water services and infrastructure. Florida Power and Light (FPL, formerly Gulf Power Corp) is the primary provider of electricity within the City. Telecommunications (both voice and video services) are provided by several providers, including but not limited to Verizon (cellular infrastructure only) AT&T, Comcast, WOW! Networks, and Uniti Fiber. Natural gas service is provided by TECO/People's Gas.
- 2. What utilities are being undergrounded throughout the Front Beach Road CRA corridor?
 - a. The primary existing utility infrastructure being placed underground is *FPL*. As a consequence of having other existing utility providers attached to this existing *FPL* infrastructure, utilities such as *AT&T*, *Comcast*, *WOW! Networks* and *Uniti Fiber* will also need to be placed underground.
- 3. What benefit does undergrounding utilities serve?
 - a. The undergrounding of existing power infrastructure provides aesthetic benefits via the elimination of unsightly overhead utility lines and also improved resilience to extreme weather events such as tropical storms or hurricanes. Undergrounding infrastructure also helps first responders and utility providers quickly restore services in the event of a major storm.
- 4. If a utility needs to be cleared or converted for construction to continue, who is responsible for doing that/what are the steps to get that completed?
 - a. The utility coordination process begins early in the design phase of a project, with notices sent to all existing utility providers with a request to mark and locate their existing facilities. The process continues with "green line" markups provided by all utility providers for further coordination with the proposed project. As the design process continues, conflicts between proposed work and existing facilities are reviewed and a conflict matrix is prepared. By state statute, any utility provider located in the public right of way by permit must move their facilities if requested to do so by the right of way owner. The practicality of moving such vast amounts of existing infrastructure promptly to accommodate significant new stormwater, roadway, lighting, and landscape infrastructure by the public agency that controls the right of way is a significant, costly, and time-consuming challenge that can often result in project delays if the utilities do not respond to requests from the right of way owner in a timely manner. The effort to maintain vital utility services is ongoing during construction and requires a partnership between the public agency and the right-of-way users.

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