

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency Members  
Beach Stewardship Committee Members  
Beautification Committee Members  
Treasure Island Civic Leaders Group

**FROM:** Ralph Stone, City Manager  
Lynn Rosetti, City Planner

**DATE:** September 7, 2006

**RE:** Treasure Island's Beach Trail

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### BACKGROUND

In August 1993, an oil spill occurred in Tampa Bay, which led to a settlement which funded a program of restoration projects intended to address the lost access and use of Tampa Bay area beaches and waterways. On August 14, 2001, the City of Treasure Island entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to fund two separate projects from the "oil spill" funding. The first of the projects was the Sunset Vista Trailhead Park. The second project is the "Treasure Island Walkway Extension", more commonly called the Beach Trail extension. This project is intended to expand the current Beach Trail north approximately 3800 feet from 119<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 127<sup>th</sup> Avenue and to the south approximately 4000 feet from 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 97<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The southern end would connect up to the Sunset Vista Trailhead Park. Funding in the amount of \$380,000 has been earmarked for this project. In addition, it is anticipated that City of Treasure Island will be funding portions of the Beach Trail extension and separately funding a project to improve the current Beach Trail.

At the February 8, 2005 meeting, the City Commission approved a request for landscape architecture services. When this selection was completed in March 2005, two assignments were initiated related to the Beach Trail. The first was to develop proposed improvements to the existing trail. The second was to develop the "footprint" for the extension of the trail both north and south so that the NOAA funding can be utilized for the construction of this extension. The landscape architectural firm selected was Phil Graham & Company, P.A.

During this time, the City Manager and Public Works Director met with NOAA and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to review and coordinate the conclusion of the Sunset Vista project and the Beach Trail extension project.

Also during this time, the Treasure Island Civic Leaders Group held several meetings to discuss the beach trail extension and improvement. In April, 2005, a list of the Civic Leaders recommendations was presented to the City Commission for their review and consideration.

Therefore, in July 2005, the City Commission approved the development of the Master Plan for the Beach Trail extension as well as the upgrade of the existing portion of the Beach Trail. A total of \$100,000 was appropriated for this project.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL TIMELINE**

Staff began working with Phil Graham & Company in September and October and after several meetings, a public Beach Trail Kickoff meeting was held on October 26, 2005. In addition to the Civic Leaders Group, the members of the Planning and Zoning Board, Beach Stewardship Committee, and Beautification Committee were invited to attend. Following this initial community meeting, staff held two meetings with the consultant in November, 2005, and then conducted a trail walk with the consultant on December 8, 2005.

During the last week in January, 2006, staff and the consultant held two meetings with the stakeholders (all owners of property west of Gulf Boulevard from the John's Pass Bridge to the Sunset Vista Trailhead Park) to discuss the idea of the trail upgrades and extension and to get important feedback as well.

In April, 2006, staff and the consultant participated in a Beach Trail Regulatory Agency meeting at the NOAA offices in downtown St. Petersburg to discuss the regulatory issues relating to both the upgrading of the trail and its expansion. Then in May, 2006, staff, the consultant, and several regulatory agency representatives met and conducted a field reconnaissance of the entire length of the existing trail as well as the the proposed options for the trail expansion.

## **BEACH TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

Attached for your review and consideration is the product of these efforts. Staff is asking that each group review and provide comments to the City Commission during the month of September. Following this, the City Commission is scheduled to hold a workshop on the Beach Trail Master Plan on October 3, 2006. The regular Commission meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2006, for the discussion of this project.