



*January 23, 2012*

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 A**

# **MONROE STREET ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND LAKE ELLA IMPLEMENTATION STUDY**

**REQUESTED BY:** CRTPA Staff

**TYPE OF ITEM:** Information

### **STATEMENT OF ISSUE**

Consultant staff will kick off the Monroe Street Access Management and Lake Ella Implementation Study. The study will assess the Monroe Street corridor from John Knox Street to south of Magnolia Drive to identify corridor strategies to implement medians. Additionally, the study will initiate the first phase of the planned median project for the N. Monroe/Lake Ella segment.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

For Board Information.

### **HISTORY AND ANALYSIS**

The identification of improvements to the Monroe Street corridor in Tallahassee has been an agency focus of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) for several years. This focus includes:

- Tallahassee-Leon Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan adopted by the agency in 2004, identifying North Monroe Street at Lake Ella as a pedestrian emphasis intersection;
- CRTPA Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Priority Projects List designation in 2009 & 2010 of pedestrian safety improvements on N. Monroe at Lake Ella as the agency's number one TSM priority (funding for the installation of medians, scheduled to be constructed in 2015, was ultimately identified in 2010 and is part of the study associated with this agenda item);
- North Monroe Street Design and Safety Study, accepted by the CRTPA in September 2010, was developed for the agency by Florida State University Department of Urban and Regional Planning Master's students and provides recommendations for the North Monroe corridor;
- E. Sixth Avenue Sidewalk Project, identified for funding in 2010, this project was included in the agency's Regional Mobility Plan and will improve pedestrian connectivity between Monroe Street and Thomasville Road (scheduled to be constructed in 2016).

In addition to the CRTPA, other transportation partners and agencies have projects and initiatives in the Monroe Street corridor, these include:

- Sense of Place initiatives (Midtown and Monroe-Adams) initiated in 2010 and 2011 by the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department include the Monroe corridor and identify support for improvements to facilitate increased pedestrian safety and economic development.
- Frenchtown/Southside Redevelopment Area and Downtown Redevelopment Area are both located along part of the Monroe corridor. The community redevelopment areas have funded improvements in the corridor including facade, streetscape and sidewalk improvements.
- Downtown Tallahassee Pedestrian Connectivity Plan was prepared for the Downtown Improvement Authority and completed in 2005. The plan identifies proposed improvements in downtown Tallahassee, including proposed medians for a portion Monroe Street in downtown Tallahassee where right-of-way is sufficient.

The Monroe Street Access Management and Lake Ella Implementation Study will build upon the above Monroe corridor efforts through development of a comprehensive assessment to address vehicular and pedestrian safety. As the study's name implies, the Monroe Street Access Management and Lake Ella Implementation Study contains two components.

- The first component involves a study of the entire Monroe Street corridor from John Knox Road (in the north) to just south of Magnolia Drive. The purpose of the study is to develop an access management strategy for the corridor that will include a strategy for the ultimate installation of medians.
- The second project ("Lake Ella Implementation Study") will focus on the Lake Ella portion of North Monroe Street (Tharpe Street to E. Seventh Avenue). As members will recall, funding for the installation of medians along this segment of the roadway is identified in the CRTPA's FY 2012 – FY 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This portion of the study will result in the completion of the TIP project's first funded phase ("Planning Study") and will provide detailed access recommendations from which the funded project can proceed to its next phase (design).

***Attachment 1*** contains a map of the project.

Benefits of access management, which include the installation of medians, include:

- Safety – Improved pedestrian safety due to reduced automobile/pedestrian conflicts; improved automobile safety (fewer and less severe accidents) as a result of reduced vehicular conflicts;
- Efficiency – Higher corridor level of service for automobiles; less stop and go traffic;
- Aesthetics – Access management results in less asphalt and more attractive corridors. The installation of medians allows for the addition of increased landscaping along the corridor. With regards to Monroe Street, a more attractive corridor is consistent with furthering the redevelopment efforts of businesses currently occurring.

A key aspect of the study will involve public involvement. Three public meetings associated with the project are scheduled to be conducted and CRTPA Board members will be notified about upcoming meetings. Furthermore, the Monroe Street Access Management and Lake Ella Study will be guided by a project team that will include the agency's transportation partners and corridor stakeholders.

Ultimately, the study will result in development of a corridor action plan that will include strategies and opportunities for proceeding forward with access management recommendations for the Monroe Street corridor. With regards to the Lake Ella portion of the study, as noted before, the foundation to proceed forward with the next funded phase (design) of the median implementation project will be developed including the development of detailed access recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

For Board Information.

### **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1: Project Map



# Monroe Street Access Management and Lake Ella Implementation Study Project Location Map

