

**SARASOTA / MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**US 41 VENICE BYPASS PEER REVIEW**  
**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

**INTRODUCTION**

At its April 25, 2011 meeting, the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board requested that MPO staff seek technical consulting support to conduct a peer review of the analysis and recommendations to assess the feasibility of one or more roundabouts for the US 41 Bypass in the City of Venice and Sarasota County from Albee Farm Road to Center Road, and whether a four-lane Bypass with intersection capacity modifications is sufficient to meet the future needs of the corridor. The peer review is needed to assist the MPO in providing guidance to the Florida Department of Transportation regarding desired improvements for the Bypass, based on the adopted 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The evaluation will present the MPO and its partners with information on the assumptions, factors and trade-offs to be considered in developing a recommendation of feasibility.

Stakeholder concerns include a wide range of procedural and technical elements. The procedural concerns are primarily related to the incorporation of recent guidance on highway planning and analysis from the Federal Highway Administration and Transportation Research Board. The technical concerns are related primarily to assumptions that are well documented in a 2009 report on the roundabout at the US 41 Venice Bypass and Venice Avenue, prepared by Wade Trim for the Florida Department of Transportation.

This scope of services identifies the work to be performed by the MPO's selected consultant, Renaissance Planning Group. The Consultant will conduct the work through the MPO's General Planning Consultant contract currently in effect. The Consultant will present the results of the peer review to the MPO Board.

**TASK 1: SETTING CONTEXT FOR THE PEER REVIEW**

Based on discussion by the MPO Board and recent correspondence related to this issue, we anticipate that the peer review will need to address the following questions:

- *What would be the effect of revising the recommendation for US 41 Bypass (SR 45A) to be widened to six lanes on forecast volumes at Venice Avenue?*
- *Would updating the analyses to reflect current federal policy and guidelines materially change the answers in the Wade Trim report?*
- *How sensitive are the conclusions in the Wade Trim report to different assumptions about traffic forecasts or facility design details?*
- *Would either the roundabout or signalized intersection alternative facilitate, or preclude, delivery of additional projects in the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan?*

For this initial task, the Consultant will review background materials and assemble available data from various sources to provide a comprehensive perspective of the US 41 Bypass study area. The background document review will include the following

- 2009 Wade Trim report on the SR 45 (US 41) roundabout evaluation at Venice Avenue, prepared for the Florida Department of Transportation District 1;
- Available traffic counts and readily available data (no new data will be collected)
- The MPO adopted 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and project priority list, and
- City of Venice and Sarasota County Comprehensive Plans/Thoroughfare Plans.

Following this initial document review, the Consultant will conduct a field review of the study corridor to observe conditions and assess potential options. While this will not occur during peak season, the field review will help understand overall traffic patterns, conflicts and right-of-way characteristics. In addition, the Consultant will schedule meetings with the City of Venice, Sarasota County, MPO and FDOT staff to discuss the issues, background and objectives for the study area.

Stakeholders are concerned that the comparison of roundabout and signalized intersection design does not reflect appropriate policy guidance regarding both facility design and funding. The Consultant will evaluate the extent to which any of the following concerns would suggest the Wade Trim report would likely reach a materially different conclusion:

- Treatment of MPO Policy #2002-04 and the degree to which comprehensive application of roundabouts along the US 41 Bypass might influence operational findings at Venice Avenue.
- Policy changes since the FDOT 2007 PD&E Study, including the 2010 Highway Capacity Manual and NCHRP Report 672 "Roundabouts, An Informational Guide."

At the conclusion of this task, the Consultant will prepare a briefing memo on the assessment of background materials for review by MPO, city, county and FDOT staff. This memo will highlight key issues/assumptions in the report and policy considerations that could materially affect the outcome, and identify specific additional data to be collected, if necessary, to carry out the peer analysis. The MPO staff will assemble any review comments on the memo and, if necessary, schedule a conference call with the Consultant.

*Task 1 Work Products:*

*Briefing memo on review of background materials, to be submitted electronically.*

**TASK 2 – ASSESS FOUR-LANE ALTERNATIVE AND TRAFFIC SENSITIVITY**

The MPO has expressed interest in revisiting the full six-lane widening for the US 41 Venice Bypass, and the adopted 2035 LRTP maintains the southern segment of the roadway as a four-lane section with intersection

improvements. The Consultant will test the removal of the six-lane section and provide a sensitivity analysis of percentage changes for link volume average daily traffic on the US 41, the Venice Bypass and Venice Avenue based on the Sarasota/Manatee/Charlotte travel demand model analyses for both four-lane and six-lane alternatives, compared to the forecast ADT developed in 2005 for use in the Wade Trim report. The analysis will examine the effects of traffic with and without the 6-lane segment on area roadways for the base year and 2035 condition.

*Task 2 Work Products:*

*Comparison of model forecasts for 4- and 6-lane alternatives for the Bypass with the data used in the Wade Trim report.*

### **TASK 3 – REVIEW ROUNDABOUT AND INTERSECTION ANALYSIS AND DESIGN**

The Consultant will review the available designs for both roundabouts and signalized intersection treatments to determine whether minor changes to either design would likely result in materially different conclusions regarding traffic operations, safety or capital costs. The review will include a focus on pedestrian and bicyclist accommodation and effects on transit services. If additional data collection is needed per the background materials review and recommendations in Task 1, the Consultant will obtain necessary data and perform the traffic analysis to evaluate design options for the intersections at a planning level of analysis.

The Consultant will conduct a sensitivity analysis to determine the extent to which alternative assumptions for developing and evaluating long-range forecast design hourly volumes (DHVs) would materially change the findings presented in the Wade Trim report.

*Task 3 Work Product:*

*Analysis of traffic operations feasibility and functionality of the roundabout alternative relative to findings in the Wade Trim report.*

### **TASK 4: CONSIDER EFFECTS ON FUNDING AND FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY**

Based upon the results of the prior tasks, The Consultant will evaluate stakeholder comments that the roundabout design could substantially reduce project costs and create financial capacity for delivery of additional projects, considering either the four-lane or six-lane bypass options. This analysis will use relevant cost factors developed by FDOT and local agencies, as well as appropriate national sources, in combination with engineering judgment to evaluate both capital and maintenance costs, and will include considerations of right-of-way needs based on the anticipated dimensions of the roundabout(s).

*Task 4 Work Product:*

*Cost comparison of the alternatives, including potential right-of-way implications.*

### **TASK 5 – DELIVER FINAL REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS**

The Consultant will document findings in a draft final report for review by MPO staff and the MPO's Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees. The Consultant will present the findings to the TAC and CAC, and will make any necessary revisions to the report based on review comments. The Consultant will submit a

final report to the MPO staff and will present the findings at the September 2011 meeting of the MPO Board. MPO staff will be responsible for making copies of the report as necessary for the agenda packets. The Consultant will produce a final clean original report for the MPO's future reference.

*Task 5 Work Product:*

*Draft and Final Report, both submitted electronically, and presentations to the TAC, CAC and MPO Board.*

### **SCHEDULE AND COST ESTIMATE**

Renaissance will perform the tasks identified in this Scope of Services by September 30, 2011. This Task Work Order will be conducted for a lump sum amount indicated on attached Fee Schedule and invoiced on a percent complete basis each month. The estimated work effort by task is shown on the Fee Schedule.