

June 30, 2010

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Construction to begin on Venice Avenue-Jacaranda Boulevard roundabout

Venice area residents will see preliminary work begin the week of July 6 on construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard and other related improvements. The project is expected to be completed in April 2011.

A roundabout moves traffic through an intersection without the use of traffic signals by allowing one-way traffic to flow around a circular central island. The Venice-Jacaranda roundabout will have two lanes initially, but will be built for conversion to a three-lane facility if needed to handle increased traffic volumes in the future. The two-lane roundabout is designed to accommodate all types of traffic, including large trucks.

When finished, the approach lane improvements will extend about 1,200 feet in all four directions along Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard.

Other improvements include:

- a central island
- closed drainage
- bicycle lanes
- sidewalks
- curbed medians
- pedestrian crossings
- streetlight upgrades
- stormwater facilities

Landscape improvements will be done under a separate contract following the roundabout construction.

Gator Grading and Paving LLC of Palmetto was awarded the \$3,260,220 construction contract in May. Funding for the roadway improvements is provided by gas taxes, county road impact fees and developer contributions. Funding of the utility upgrades is through rates.

For more information, go to www.scgov.net and type in key word, roundabouts, or contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or TTY 941-861-1833, and ask for information about the Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard roundabout. Weekly updates will be provided at www.venicejacarandaroundabout.com.