

Palmetto Roadway and Drainage Improvements



Uniquely situated between Clearwater and Largo on the intercoastal waterway, The Town of Belleair, Florida is a small, mostly residential community of Pinellas County. In spite of its size, the Town of Belleair is a full-service community directly providing municipal services to its 4,100 residents. These services include its own utilities such as water generation and distribution, storm-water and solid waste; a full service police department; a parks and recreation department which also services residents of the surrounding communities of Belleair Bluffs, Largo and Clearwater; community development, building permitting and inspection services; and a streets department which builds and maintains *all* of the 44 curbed miles of roadways and bridges within its boundaries. Belleair is somewhat unique in that all but three-quarter of a mile of its roadway infrastructure is solely the responsibility of the town as there are no federal, state or county roads or bridges with its jurisdiction

Belleair's Capital Improvement Plan needs inventory includes 10 years worth of infrastructure and roadway projects totaling in excess of \$30 million dollars. As previously mentioned, Belleair is fairly unique in that it does not receive any assistance in maintenance or capital construction from Pinellas County, the State of Florida Highway System or the Federal Highway System. One of the highest priorities among these projects is a failing roadway, Palmetto Road.

Given the town's resources, only small segments of roadway can be reconstructed at a time. This results in a backlog of projects being completed and never being able to meet some critical needs. For years, the town has only been able to afford temporary repairs and filling of



cracks. The road has now reached a point of degradation which results in roadway and drainage failure, resulting in flooding, structural compromise, and safety issues. The Town of Belleair has identified through a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) study that the roadway and drainage system has been severely degraded. In addition to this, the residents of the town have come forward many times in community forums and commission meetings in order to discuss their concerns with this road and demanding reconstruction. A large majority of the town's population has identified that this road is at a point of critical failure. The town needs your help.

The Town of Belleair plans to completely reconstruct the roadway in 2019. This includes the removal of all compromised infrastructure, from the sub-base of the road to the top asphalt layer and drainage routes. By reconstructing Palmetto Road, the town would improve transportation conditions drastically by reducing the amount of flooding, as well as producing a stable road that has not been degraded. Additionally, the outstanding Florida water body would be improved, as this project would reduce the amount of pollutants and contaminants that would be able to reach the body. Future levels of pollutants would be far lower than if the road remains in the current state. This project would allow the town to complete the other half of Palmetto Road so can be reconstructed at once. Additionally, by completely reconstructing Palmetto Road, the Town of Belleair would be able to maintain, or even improve, current levels of revenue from the large property values tied to the surrounding neighborhoods.

For more information, including technical details, please contact JP Murphy, Town Manager, at (727)647-7483 or at jmurphy@townofbelleair.net. Thank you for your consideration.

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