



July 2010

Please share this information with neighbors and other interested parties.

Construction of Venice Avenue/Jacaranda Boulevard roundabout and other improvements to begin in July

Construction is expected to start in July and to be completed by spring 2011, weather permitting.

Background and project details

On May 11, the Sarasota County Commission awarded a \$3,260,220 contract for construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard in Venice and other improvements. The contractor is Gator Grading and Paving LLC of Palmetto.

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 Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard 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 traffic, including large trucks.

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.

Funding for the roadway improvements is provided by gas taxes, county road impact fees and developer contributions. Funding of the utility upgrades is through customer rates.

Why build a roundabout instead of a signalized intersection?

- A roundabout will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.
- A signalized intersection would be sufficient for two or three years but then congestion would begin again. The roundabout is expected to manage the traffic flow for an estimated 20 years.

Reasons to like roundabouts:

- A 37 percent total reduction in crashes compared to signalized intersections
- A 75 percent reduction in injury crashes compared to signalized intersections
- Improved pedestrian safety and reduced pedestrian delay compared to signalized intersections
- Elimination of traditional left turns and the associated dangers of right-angle crashes

For updates and more information:

- Facts and explanations about roundabouts, including a video description concerning how to drive in a roundabout, is available at <http://www.scgov.net/PublicWorks/Roundabouts>
- Project information is available at www.scgov.net; click on the "Projects in My Neighborhood" map located on the bottom left, and then click on the Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard intersection.
- Check for weekly updates at www.venicejacarandaroundabout.com
- 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.

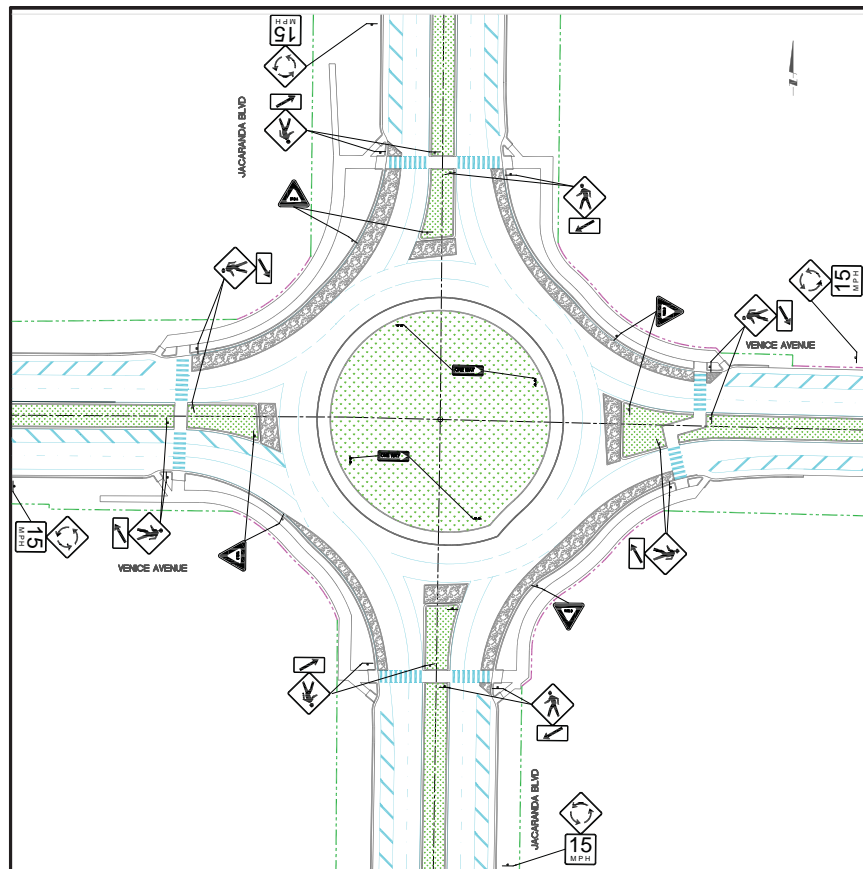
Venice Avenue and Jacaranda Boulevard Roundabout



Map showing project location



Artist's rendering of the roundabout with landscaping



Design plan of the roundabout