


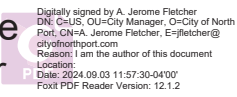


MEMORANDUM

City Manager's Office

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Commission

FROM: Valerie Malingowski, Grant Division Manager 

THROUGH: A. Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, MPA, City Manager **A. Jerome Fletcher** 

CC: Chuck Speake, Public Works Director
Kimberly Williams, Finance Director

DATE: September 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Ponce De Leon Boulevard Sidewalk Extension Project Community Development Block Grant Funding Update

It has come to the City's attention that the Ponce De Leon Boulevard sidewalk extension project is no longer eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. An agreement in the amount of \$325,000 was previously executed between the City Commission and the Sarasota County Commission. Currently, City staff is working with Sarasota County to reallocate these funds to another eligible project.

To qualify for CDBG funding, projects must meet one of the following National Objectives:

1. Benefit to low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons;
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
3. Address an urgent need.

For the Ponce De Leon Boulevard sidewalk extension project, the only applicable National Objective is the benefit to LMI persons. Initially, when City staff submitted this project for consideration, the City of Sarasota raised no objections to the LMI benefit based on the census tracts provided. However, since Sarasota County assumed administration of the CDBG funds, issues have arisen. When Sarasota County staff entered the relevant census tracts into the HUD system for project tracking, it was found that the tracts did not meet the required minimum LMI threshold of 48%, rendering the project ineligible.

It remains unclear whether changes in census data between 2022 and now have contributed to this issue. Regardless, the project is no longer eligible for CDBG funding.

City staff is actively working with Sarasota County and other City Departments to identify a suitable replacement project. A new contract will be brought before the Commission once a replacement project is determined. Please note that it may take several months to finalize a new contract, as the County will need to revise its Action Plan with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.