

**MINUTES
DEEP CREEK STREET & DRAINAGE
MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT (MSBU)**

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026**

**10:01 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
Harold Avenue Recreation Center
23400 Harold Avenue, Port Charlotte, Florida**

Members Present: Drew Rossi, Chair
Art Seymour, Vice Chair
Richard Beierle
Diane Dupont
Stephen Rabinowitz

Members Absent: None

County Staff: Erica Hayes, Community Liaison
Lisa Eby, Executive Assistant

Guests: None

Call to Order / Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Changes to the Agenda / Motion to Approve Changes:

None

Approval of Minutes:

The January 29, 2026, minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Citizen Input on Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit):

None

Unfinished Business:

- a. Update: Rampart Boulevard Sidewalk Project: Staff provided an update on the Rampart Boulevard sidewalk project. Staff advised that the project continues progressing through the design phase; however, an additional supplemental work agreement will be required due to new Florida Department of Transportation structural review requirements associated with the overpass section. Staff explained that FDOT now requires additional concrete and structural engineering analysis to verify the bridge can support the proposed sidewalk improvements. While the MSBU-funded portions of the project continue moving forward, the FDOT portion will require additional design work and funding authorization before advancing further. Board members expressed frustration that the structural review was not anticipated earlier in the process but acknowledged the project was still advancing.
- b. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Drainage infrastructure concerns were also discussed, including ongoing pipe rehabilitation and large culvert replacement projects within the district. Members requested status updates regarding the major pipe project near Nuremberg Boulevard and Lake Bengal, including anticipated construction timelines and procurement status. Staff explained that the project remains under budget review and is

expected to move forward during the dry season due to operational and construction constraints. Board members emphasized the importance of public communication once construction begins because overnight curing operations may create significant impacts to nearby residents.

- c. Drainage Concerns: No concerns were raised at this time.
- d. Future Sidewalk Projects: The Board conducted an extensive discussion regarding future sidewalk planning and funding scenarios. Staff reviewed multiple financial scenarios prepared by Fiscal Services showing proposed design and construction schedules for several sidewalk segments, including Rio de Janeiro to Seasons Drive, Rio de Janeiro to Navigator Road, and Seasons Drive to Paramarlbo Street. Staff explained that the original proposal would place all design work in FY26 and most construction in FY27, but one scenario would reduce reserves below the required 10% minimum threshold. Board members questioned the County's budgeting methodology, expressing concern that reserve balances consistently exceed projections and that projects continue being delayed despite substantial available funds. Members noted that actual reserve balances appear significantly higher than previously estimated, creating concern that projects are being unnecessarily postponed while funds remain unused. Fiscal staff joined the meeting remotely to clarify that scenarios are based on programmed budget estimates and anticipated expenditures rather than actual year-end balances. The discussion focused heavily on balancing reserve requirements with the Board's desire to accelerate sidewalk construction timelines due to the lengthy procurement and design process associated with County infrastructure projects. Following discussion, the Board agreed that the most practical approach would be to move portions of construction into FY28 while still initiating design work as early as possible. Staff clarified that combining certain sidewalk segments into a single capital improvement project would simplify administration while still allowing construction sequencing to occur over multiple fiscal years. A motion was then made by Mr. Rabinowitz and seconded to approve the funding scenario that maintained reserve balances above the required 10% threshold while still advancing the additional sidewalk projects. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Striping, Signage, and Roadway Improvements: Discussion ensued regarding roadway striping, signage, and traffic improvements throughout the district. Staff advised that updates had not yet been received from Transportation Engineering staff but committed to following up and providing additional information after the meeting. Board members reiterated concerns regarding increasing traffic volumes, particularly near Luther Road and Rampart Boulevard, due to continued residential and apartment development in the area. Members emphasized the need for future roadway and turn-lane improvements to address growing congestion and limited ingress and egress concerns.

New Business

- a. Financial Reports: The board reviewed the FY26 quarter two expenditure and monthly funding report (formerly known as the Maintenance Activity Report).
- b. Concrete Flatwork: The Board briefly discussed recent concrete flatwork pricing included in the meeting packet. Staff explained that the pricing reflected awarded unit costs from the County's existing contract and that while the costs appeared high, they were the competitive bid rates currently available in the market. No formal action was taken regarding concrete flatwork.

Citizen Input on MSBU items (3 Minute Limit):

None

Advisory Board Open Discussion:

None

Schedule Meetings / Items for Next Agenda:

Future meetings are tentatively scheduled at 10:00 a.m., at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center as follows:

- Wednesday, August 26, 2026
- Wednesday, November 5, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Submitted by Erica Hayes
Public Works Department


Chair Signature

8-26-26
Date

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