

Harbor Walk – Phase 1B

History

The Charlotte Harbor Walk Project is a multi-phase project that will create a waterfront destination connecting the historic neighborhood with community parks, improving the conditions of the shoreline, and enhancing public access to the water for boating, fishing, and passive enjoyment. This project was first identified in 2003 as a way to revitalize the area and stimulate private investment while connecting the two sides of US41 to provide for safe pedestrian access to the waterfront and access to connecting sidewalks for employment opportunities. Completion of this project is vital to the community and is key to the vision of connecting the two sides of the harbor. Most importantly, the CRA believes completion of the project will be a catalyst to securing private investment into the surrounding vacant or under-utilized properties in this blighted area which will benefit the local economy.

Phase 1B of the project will construct a boardwalk, that will provide pedestrian and bicycle connections between the east and west side of US41 and downtown Punta Gorda, allowing for safer access to community parks and downtown Punta Gorda. In addition, a fishing pier and a water taxi pier will also be constructed. The Harbor Walk Project will create a destination for residents and tourists while incorporating storm water improvements that will reduce runoff into Charlotte Harbor/Peace River and educate the public on the environmental practices to improve the water quality and protection of wildlife.

Improvements

Phase 1A, a \$2 million project, is currently under construction and expected to be completed in March 2016. Phase 1B, with a total cost of \$4,874,142 is 90% designed and permit applications have been submitted. The project is expected to be ready for construction in March 2016 pending securing permits and additional funding. Phase 1C, with a total cost of \$517,440 is expected to begin design in January 2016 and is fully funded by Charlotte County. Phase 2, with an estimated total project cost of \$3,753,839 is also fully funded by Charlotte County and is currently in the process of acquiring the desired land to begin design.

Request

Charlotte County is seeking \$1.8M for completion of phase 1B. Funds will be used to build a boardwalk under the US41 Bridges to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access between both sides of US41 along the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary. This includes completion of 3,970 linear feet of concrete pilings and 9,312 square feet of boardwalk.

