

**IDEA OF CHANGING TO A TWO-YEAR
URMD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS**

June 19, 2017

Idea

Consider changing the annual process that URMDAC uses to select URMD safety improvement projects to a biennial (every two years) process.

Background

URMDAC is now entering its seventh year of the URMD safety improvement project selection process. Six years of an annual selection process has resulted in a list of over 150 already identified URMD safety improvement candidates. This large list of candidates may mean an annual selection process is less needed.

Potential benefits

1. Save time. A biennial process would save considerable time, for URMDAC members, the public, and staff.
2. Efficiencies for capital project phases. A biennial process would provide the opportunity for ECS staff to more efficiently schedule projects during the various capital project phases.
3. Potentially more opportunities for larger projects. A biennial process may facilitate larger projects that cover longer segments or are generally larger, which will have more impact in completing the pedestrian network. Another benefit: larger projects are more efficient to administer.
4. Board approval efficiencies. A biennial process would reduce the need to go to the Board to get approval to start the design phase for the upcoming fiscal year's projects (as staff did in early 2017).
5. Increased grant opportunities. Identifying projects further out in a timeline may increase opportunities for seeking grants, since a condition of most grants is that the project already be identified.

How a biennial process could work

As is the case today, in a biennial selection process, URMDAC's selection of projects would remain subject to budget constraints. In the fall of 2017, URMDAC would be told how much URMD safety improvement funding is available for the two-year time period (FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20) and URMDAC would select projects for those two years. Since URMD is a stable funding source, there is low risk that funding for the second year of projects would be overcommitted. As a safety net, however, a caveat could be included that clearly states that project selection and advancement is subject to budget constraints.

What if new opportunities arise?

The Board of County Commissioners have authorized URMD funding to be spent on three areas:

1. road maintenance
2. traffic calming (through the Neighborhood Streets Program), and
3. safety improvement projects

Any new opportunities to spend URMD funding would need to fall within one of these spending areas. URMDAC will remain responsive to new opportunities that arise, within its and URMD's purview.