



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Public Information Meeting scheduled, website launched for
Edgewater Drive Phase 2 Improvements project**

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Jan. 6, 2015) – A public information meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex at 4500 Harbor Blvd. to give residents and motorists an opportunity to learn more about the 26-month Edgewater Drive Phase 2 (EP2) Improvements project, scheduled to begin this month.

Representatives of the Charlotte County Public Works - Engineering Department, Charlotte County Utilities and the construction team, including Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. and Southwest Engineering & Design, will be available to answer questions about the project. The construction schedule and maps of the affected areas will be available for review. For this event, no parking fees will be charged.

EP2 includes expanding two miles of Edgewater Drive from two lanes to a divided four lanes from Harbor Boulevard to Midway Boulevard and replacing utilities. The Sunrise Waterway, East Spring Lake and West Spring Lake Bridges will also be replaced. Roundabouts will be added at Midway Boulevard, Lakeview Boulevard, W. Tarpon Boulevard and Port Charlotte Boulevard, and a new traffic signal will be installed at Harbor Boulevard. A grass median, landscaping, decorative lighting and sidewalks will be added.

The www.GoEP2.com website has launched to provide up-to-date information about construction schedules, traffic detours, and boating and park impacts. The site also includes detour and project maps and FAQs. Visitors to the site can register to receive project updates by email and text.

In planning road improvements, Charlotte County Public Works' goal is to improve safety and mobility for the traveling public, including drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians; preserve and enhance the economic, historic, scenic and natural qualities of the roadway system; enhance mobility for local residents for day-to-day activities; and improve a critical corridor that provides a hurricane evacuation route from coastal areas to inland areas.

EP2 is funded by the local option sales tax. The one-cent sales tax was first approved by Charlotte County citizens in 1994 and was extended in 2008 with voter approval. The Edgewater Drive Phase 2 Improvements are budgeted at \$28.2 million.

In addition to the road improvements, Charlotte County Utilities will be installing a new water and sanitary sewer main, along with an irrigation main. These efforts are being coordinated so all construction within the project limits is performed at one time to reduce the impact to residents and to create cost-efficiencies in construction.

Questions can be directed to Info@GoEP2.com or by calling 941-62-GO-EP2 (941-624-6372).

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Editor's Note: A map of affected area is available at <http://goep2.com/detour-map>.

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