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[Community Redevelopment Agency](#)

CRA to recommend traffic upgrades

By Denise L. Scott

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The Downtown Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Agency board will make a final decision tonight on traffic improvements that will be recommended to City Council.

CRA Executive Director Suzanne Kuehn said the CRA and the consultant hired by the city to conduct the traffic study have two conflicting philosophies.

"The traffic engineer is tasked to get the traffic from point A to point B as fast as possible," she said. "We're tasked with saving downtown. We're not a highway to drive through."

Kuehn said all of the study's recommendations are meant to get people to the Cape Coral Bridge faster.

"If you still have a two-lane bridge, what's the point?" she said. "The whole point is to get people downtown, not send people to Fort Myers."

The board will also hear a progress report from Colin Baenzler & Associates on the search for a new executive director, who will take over when Kuehn retires Jan. 16.

"They've got eight people they're going to report on," she said. "They want to pare it down."

The board will also hear a request from Cape Coral Police for \$400 to mail surveys to residents and business owners in the CRA in December for the department's "Weed & Seed" program in the southern part of the city.

Cape Coral Police Captain David Newlan said the department has applied for a Department of Justice grant of \$1 million, spread out over five years. The decision

IF YOU GO

- What: Downtown Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Agency regular board meeting
- When: 5:30 p.m. today
- Where: City Council Chambers at City Hall, 1015 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral

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should be made on the grant within the year.

"It's a two-prong approach," he said. "It's weeding out criminal activity and seeding, or providing social services and economic revitalization."

The grant application required the creation of a steering committee represented by the CRA, business community, police and residents.

Newlan said the group has met twice to define problems in the area. He said a goal is to create a safe haven for children that would include tutoring, sports activities, parent counseling and more.

"We're looking at what needs to be addressed," he said. "We're setting goals and prioritizing them. Whether you get funding or not, you're still working together."

In other business, the board will:

- Review and approve the cost of construction — after-the-fact — of the walkway installed northeast of Club Square at S.E. 11th Place.

"We're concerned that city staff took money out of our account without approval," Kuehn said, noting the project totaled more than \$20,000.

- Hear a Storm Water Master Plan Report from TKW.
- Hear a code enforcement report from Code Compliance Division Director Frank Cassidy.

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