Staff and the design consultant will present the recommended design and construction cost estimates to the City Commission for the Downtown Plaza at the September 11, 2018 Work Session. The City Commission gave consensus to advance the West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District (WBD-CRD) Plan Downtown Plaza Enhancement project at the September 13, 2016 Work Session. The project funding was added to the 2017-2021 CIP and the CRA Board adopted the project in the CRA budget for $65,000 for the design phase and $435,000 for construction. In April 2018, the Community Development Department retained the services of the landscape architect consultant, Booth Design Group, to work with staff and stakeholders to design the plaza to include a signature landmark feature, hardscape and landscaping that align with the design components of the WBD CRD Plan. Construction is programmed in Fiscal Year 2019.

The project site is located in the eastern portion of the WBD CRD at the southwest corner of West Bay Drive and Seminole Boulevard. It is intended to be a landmark feature to further establish the identity of Downtown by creating a sense of place and reflecting the overall brand elements of the City and will visually tie together the public spaces along the corridor between Largo Central Park and the West Bay Trail Head Project.

Staff and the design consultant presented three preliminary concepts, the preliminary range of estimated costs and received direction from the City Commission on the design at the July 10, 2018 Work Session. In addition, staff has sought input from key stakeholders including the Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board (CRAAB), Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB); Recreation Parks and Arts Advocacy Board, the Chamber of Commerce, Largo Area Historical Society, and the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation. Additionally, staff conducted public outreach online via LoveLargo.com and public exhibits at the Library, Community Center and City Hall to receive input on preliminary concepts. The CRAAB and CDAB voted in favor of the project at the June 25, 2018 joint meeting.