

Golden BEACH MAGAZINE

Issue 58

December 2021

INSIDE

The year in review

The Only Official Magazine for the Town of Golden Beach

CONTENTS



3 LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

4 POLICE BEAT

7 AROUND TOWN



15 PROJECT UPDATE

16 CODE NEWS

18 GOLDEN BEACH HALLOWEEN



22 LOOKING BACK AT 2021

TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

MAYOR
Glenn Singer

VICE MAYOR
Judy Lusskin

COUNCILMEMBERS
Kenneth Bernstein, Esq.
Bernard Einstein, Esq.
Jaime Mendal

TOWN MANAGER
Alexander Diaz

TOWN CLERK/ HR. MANAGER/
EXEC. ASST. TO THE TOWN MANAGER
Lissette Perez

CHIEF OF POLICE
Rudy Herbello

TOWN ATTORNEY
Stephen Helfman, Esq.

BUILDING OFFICIAL
Dario Gonzalez

BUILDING DEPT. DIRECTOR
Linda Epperson

FINANCE DIRECTOR
Maria D. Camacho

DIRECTOR OF RESIDENT SERVICES
Michael Clidden

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
Kirk McKoy

FACILITIES & GENERAL
MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR
Ken Jones

GOLDEN BEACH MAGAZINE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Michael Clidden

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Islander Media Group / AJ Fiegler

LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

AS 2021 COMES TO A CLOSE, I'd like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. We've seen some changes over the past 12 months and I'd like to thank the Town Manager Alexander Diaz and his staff for continuing to provide superlative services to our residents, despite the challenges we've faced.

There has been an increased dissatisfaction with the quality of internet service we have been receiving here in Golden Beach. As a result we have contracted with Hotwire Communications to install fiber optic technology to improve the quality of Wi-Fi available. We have conducted workshops and meetings over the past several months to inform our residents of what was being offered, what the costs would be, and what the advantages are. Hotwire is available to conduct in-home consultations to customize the need of each household. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the Golden Beach designated number at (954) 302-8539 to speak to a launch team specialist.

Our new Civic Center is slowly taking shape. The foundation has been poured and you can see the beams rising. It is an exciting time as the outer shell of the structure is well underway. We are pleased with the progress we're making and we anticipate completion within the next 18 months.

The Town is looking at how we can expand our green space adjacent to the new Civic Center. The preliminary plans include a new wellness center along with a basketball court, tennis courts and a pickle board court. We are including a new tot lot and new dog parks. This is a very exciting phase for our community.



I am very excited about the coming New Year and what 2022 will bring to Golden Beach. I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year and Happy, Happy Holidays.

Your Mayor,

Glenn Singer

POLICE BEAT



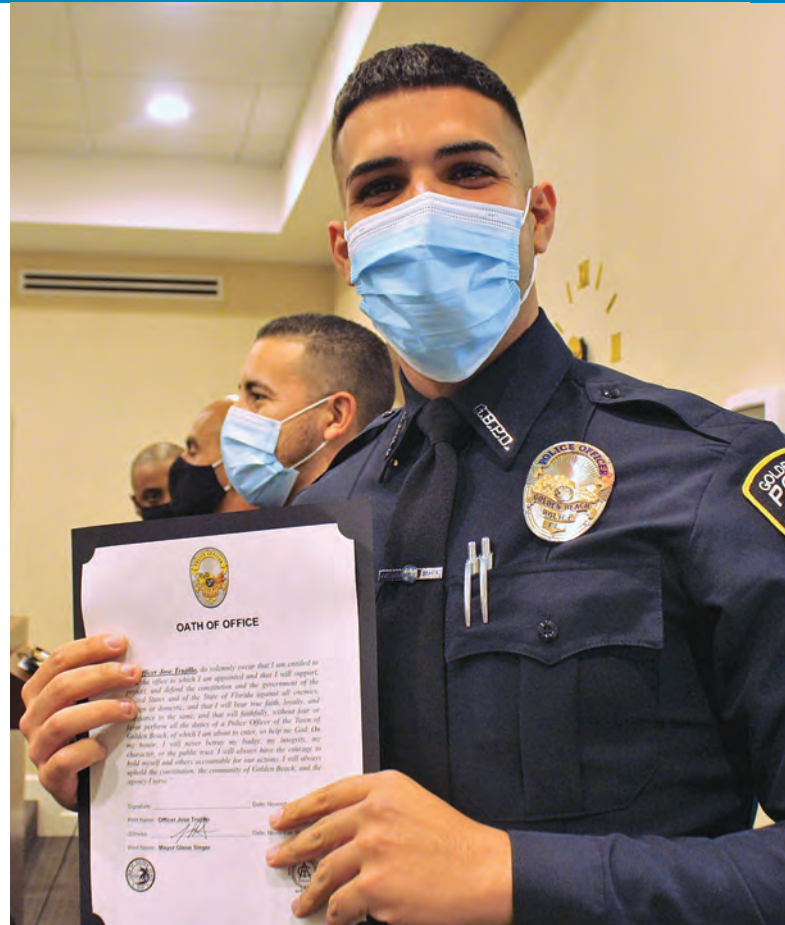
AS WE REFLECT BACK ON 2021, and as we head towards the holidays, it is incredible how quickly this year went by. Even though the COVID-19 restrictions have lessened, the pandemic is still present in everyone's mind.

We can all breathe a collective

sigh of relief in one respect, the end of the year means that the 2021 Hurricane season is officially behind us.

With the holiday season upon us, the Golden Beach Police Department remains vigilant to keep you safe. This year we said goodbye to two very proactive officers who left Golden Beach for other Law Enforcement agencies, but we hired three new officers who are navigating through the Town's stringent probationary period; they are showing good potential and I am confident they will become very successful Golden Beach Police Officers. The Golden Beach Police Department takes pride in preparing and training our officers for a successful Law Enforcement career. We have trained officers that have transferred to other agencies and have risen to supervisory positions, including one Lieutenant with the City of Miami Police Department, one Sergeant with the Miami Gardens Police Department and another one with the Doral Police Department. Our department is engaged with the community at large and with all the neighboring police agencies as well.

As part of our service to the community, the GBPD hosted the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in Town. Approximately 30 residents and family members were able to conveniently renew their licenses as part of this collaboration. GBPD also coordinated a Concealed Firearm Training course where 19 residents participated and received their Concealed



Firearm Permit. These are just two of the many benefits that have been offered to Residents by the Town of Golden Beach.

Now as we are heading into the holidays, we need to take a few important precautions to avoid injuries. Below are some tips to keep your holiday season safer.

Be Safe when Celebrating

1. Watch Out for Potential Fire-Starters: Candles and Fireplaces

Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year, and 12% of home candle fires occur in December, the National Fire Protection

Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle
- Keep candles out of reach of children
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items
- Never burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year

2. Don't Give the Gift of Food Poisoning

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides some holiday food safety tips. Here are a few:

- Do not rinse raw meat and poultry before cooking in order to avoid spreading bacteria to areas around the sink and countertops.
- Use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature.
- Refrigerate leftover food within two hours.
- Thanksgiving leftovers are safe for four days in the refrigerator.

- Bring sauces, soups and gravies to a rolling boil when reheating.
- Wash your hands frequently when handling food.



3. Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

Many people choose to travel during the holidays by automobile, which has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation. According to "Injury Facts Report", alcohol-impaired fatalities represented 31% of the totals.

- Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol, over-the-counter or illegal drugs all cause impairment.
- Consider potential weather conditions and plan accordingly.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance is that is being traveled.
- Put the cell phone away; distracted driving cause's one-quarter of all crashes.
- Properly maintain your vehicle and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Be prepared for heavy traffic.
- Remember, when guests are staying in your home, make sure areas have night lights or easy-to-reach lamps in case they need to get up during the night. And, whether you are visiting someone else's home or you have guests in your home, make sure all medications are kept up and away and out of sight from young children.



- COVID-19 is still here. When traveling be sure to consider all COVID-19 provisions and guidelines. Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the most up-to-date information on Activities, Gatherings and Holidays.

Keep things secure during the Holiday Season

Don't let your holiday spirit be dampened by crimes of opportunity. Use these tips to keep your home and belongings safe.

- **Lock everything:** This seems obvious, but more often than you would expect a burglar gets into a house just because something was left open or unlocked, especially with house guests visiting who may not have keys.
- **Secure valuables:** Never leave anything of value out in plain sight. If you have not already done so, now may be a good time to consider placing any jewelry, extra cash or other valuables in a safety deposit box or even a secure hidden safe within the house. Nothing should ever be visible from any window and the master bedroom is the first room any intruder will check for valuables.
- **Control your social status:** Though you might be tempted to broadcast to the world about how excited you are for your holiday travels or shopping sprees, resist the urge to tip off possible burglars that you are not going to be home. Many people cannot seem to wait to let everyone on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram know that they are about to leave and this is a dangerous thing to share.
- **Leave the light on:** Not the most eco-friendly advice, but the more it looks like someone is home, the less likely a break-in will occur. Keep the lights on, the holiday lights lit, and the television on. Anything to signify to



potential robbers that someone is home. Many security systems offer smartphone interactive management tools that allow for you to turn lights on and off throughout the day and night to keep up appearances that someone is home.

- **Activate your alarm system:** Again, while it may seem obvious, your mind is distracted and you could be in a rush to get out the door. Don't forget to arm your security system - this simple step will go a long way to protect your home.

When in doubt, think like a robber. How would they get in? Does it look like someone is home? Where are your valuables? Use common sense and remember these easy home security tips to ensure your possessions will be safe while you are out enjoying holiday shopping, traveling and festivities.

Thank You

Rudy Herbello
Chief of Police
Golden Beach Police Department

Big Things Coming

2022 has some noteworthy projects already in the works; we're looking forward to continuing to serve our Residents in even bigger and better ways! Here are just a few things on the not-so-distant horizon.

Hotwire Fiber Internet Project: Whether you're working from home while on a Zoom call or downloading your favorite TV shows to binge watch afterwards, faster more efficient internet speeds will make all sorts of tasks easier! Construction on the project is already underway, stay tuned for updates.

Reaccreditation of the Police Department: GBPD prides itself on being a "gold standard" organization when it comes to Law Enforcement and service to Residents. The accreditation assessment is required by the Commission for Florida Law Inc. (CFA). The continuous process strengthens departments and helps standardize the best policies and procedures that are accepted by law enforcement agencies across the country.

Parks Redesign: From Pickleball to Playgrounds, and everything in between the Town will explore how we can improve our parks experience for Residents and their guests.

New Software in the Finance Department: The Town continues to protect your financial investments by implementing new and improved software.

A Wall on Massini Avenue: For additional security and peace of mind, particularly on the north end, the Town will begin the eagerly anticipated Massini Wall project.

Veterans Memorial at The Strand Boat Dock: Work continues on this new feature which will commemorate the brave men and women who have served our Nation as part of the Armed Forces. The Town also recognizes Veterans on plaques hung at Town Hall. Anyone interested in having their name added please send an email to Marie Talley at mtalley@goldenbeach.us with the subject line "Veterans Plaque." Be sure to include the full name, address, area of Service and years of Service.

Hey Sharpshooter!

Golden Beach Resident Dr. Julie Friedman captured this stunning sunrise peeking through the lifeguard stand at the Beach Pavilion. Are you a sharpshooter too? Let's see your Golden Beach snapshots and you too could be featured in Golden Beach Magazine. Send your photos to mglidden@goldenbeach.us.

Photo by - Dr Julie Friedman MD



Updates Continue Along Ocean Boulevard

The latest installment of upgrades to the Town's main thoroughfare are underway. You may have noticed the new bus stop structures dotted along the Town's busiest stretch, but Golden Beach also has some additional changes in the pipeline. In an effort to make sidewalks safer for pedestrians, the Town is surveying for trees and shrubs that encroach into sidewalks. When possible, the Town will trim back any foliage that restricts sidewalk usage; landscaping that cannot be shaped to allow complete access of sidewalks may be removed and replaced. Any plants that obscure traffic signage or block streetlights may also be subject to review. The goal of the project is to limit potential liabilities against the Town while also protecting property values through added curb appeal.



COVID-19 Resources

The Town of Golden Beach continues to help Residents as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. We have currently transitioned from hosting COVID-19 testing and vaccine events in Town, to providing concierge service testing and vaccination to Residents homes. COVID-19 related services will be provided by One Milo, Inc., a third-party medical service company that the Town has partnered with for our past COVID-19 related events. Want to schedule an appointment? Contact Marie Talley at Town Hall at (305) 932-0744 to reserve a spot.

COVID-19 self-test Rapid Test kits are also available through Town Hall. To request a kit, please call Town Hall at (305) 932-0744. Town Hall will arrange a drop-off to your home.

Do not visit Town Hall if you feel you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Prefer to visit a testing/vaccination facility?

Find a COVID-19 vaccination site near you at:

<https://www.miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/vaccine/vaccine-locator.page>

Find a COVID-19 testing site near you at:

<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/testing-sites>

OR

https://mdc.nomihealth.com/easy_registration/12/onsite



Don't Find Yourself in the Doghouse: Pick Up After Your Pet

By Michael Clidden

A bouquet of flowers, a platter of fresh baked cookies, or even finally returning that weed-whacker you borrowed last summer: These are all nice surprises you can give to your neighbor. There is another surprise that has been spotted around town that has neighbors steaming. This "gift" is usually left behind by one of the four-legged members of the family and can ruin anyone's stride across the lawn to pick up the morning paper. Let's just say being a good neighbor includes picking up after yourself, especially if Fido leaves something behind on your walk. It's not just a courtesy, it's also the law. Aside from being stinky and altogether unpleasant, pet waste transmits disease. That can be disease spread from animal to animal, or even animal to human. Pet waste can also be washed into drains and that contaminated water can make it into our waterways, causing bacteria levels to rise and creating dangerous conditions. Golden Beach provides stations with plastic bags for picking up waste throughout Town and we ask for pet-owners to respect our shared spaces.

That said, the Town has a zero tolerance policy on pet owners or pet handlers who do not clean up after their pets. Pet owners/handlers who do not clean up after their pets are **committing a criminal misdemeanor which is prosecutable by the State Attorney's Office.** This means, residents, their staff and/or guests who walk their pets on public or private property and do not pick up the pet's waste will be cited without warning or exception. Non-compliant pet owners/handlers are subject to a **\$150.00 fine** without warning for each offense. Residents, please inform your staff, that the State of Florida has enacted a **mandatory hold policy** on undocumented individuals; a seemingly small

infraction could have major consequences. Please be aware that the Town is using **surveillance**, including undercover Police Officers, to identify offending pet owners/handlers and will act immediately on anyone who is not in compliance. **Pet waste bag stations and trash cans are available throughout Town for your convenience. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TOWN'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP PET WASTE.**

So whether you're taking your animal for a spin around town or playing in the Town's dog park, be mindful and please make sure not to leave any "surprises" for those who come after. Avoid citations, be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your animals. Help us keep Golden Beach clean!



South Gate Access: A response from the Town Manager

Residents have voiced questions regarding the use of the South Gate for vehicular access to enter Town. The Town of Golden Beach is bound by a legal settlement agreement with Golden Gate Estates that does not allow for Golden Beach Residents to use the South Gate for everyday traffic.



Through conversations with the Golden Gate Estates community, we have been able to flex the agreement to allow vehicular traffic to **exit** through the South Gate for transponder-equipped Residents and staff; HOWEVER, the current agreement **does not allow for Residents to enter into Town** through the South Gate. As part of our declaration, Town Employees are permitted to use the South Gate for entrance and exit if needed.

It is important to note that use of the South Gate as an exit point of Town is still currently classified as a pilot program, which may be subject to change or discontinuation. Special circumstances may apply. Only during an official Declaration of an Emergency from my office would Golden Beach Residents be permitted to enter through the South Gate. The Town will provide notice to Residents in the event of such occasion.

Thank you,
Alexander Diaz
Town Manager
Town of Golden Beach

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2021

Tuesday, December 14 - Building Advisory Board Meeting - 6:00PM*

Friday, December 24 - Town Hall Closed
(Beach Pavilion Beach Attendant Hours 8:00AM-4:00PM). (Please Note: Construction is not allowed on Christmas Eve).

Saturday, December 25 - Town Hall Closed
(Beach Pavilion Beach Attendant Hours 10:00AM-4:00PM). (Please Note: Construction is not allowed on Christmas Day).

Week of Monday, December 27 - Town Hall will have Limited staff working. Town Hall building will be closed to public. Phone calls will be answered on the 28th and 29th of December only. Garbage Collection will not be affected by Holiday hours.

Tuesday, December 28 - Bulky Waste Pickup

Friday, December 31 - Town Hall Closed
(Beach Pavilion Beach Attendant Hours 8:00AM-4:00PM). (Please Note: Construction is not allowed on New Year's Eve nor New Year's Day).

Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve Party, Beach Pavilion, 9PM-1AM**

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to health and safety concerns as a result of the ongoing pandemic, The Town has made adjustments to how meetings are presented. The Town STRONGLY encourages Residents to continue to participate via the ZOOM virtual platform. Meeting log-in information will be posted at www.goldenbeach.us.*

***Limited Availability RSVP only event, visit website for details*

Fiber Internet Services: Be Informed

The Town is excited that our new Fiber Internet project with Hotwire Communications is well underway. We urge Residents to complete their surveys with the Hotwire team as soon as possible to help expedite the rollout process.

The Town strongly encourages Residents to make informed decisions about any additional services they may elect to add. The Town's agreed package already includes a robust 1 Gig upload/download speed; most current devices do not support speeds greater than that. The Town encourages Residents to identify their needs before agreeing to pay for services or speeds they do not currently need. The Town of Golden Beach



does not endorse speculative or "future proofing" services/speeds and suggests that Residents only enroll in features that they will be able to utilize currently.

The details of the Town's agreed package are included below:

Thank you!

The Town of Golden Beach

Need to schedule your site survey? Please call
(954) 302-8539

Tennis Updates

Pardon our dust (literally).

The Town is continuing to work to keep our Tennis Courts open and functional while construction progresses on the adjacent Civic Center complex. Due to proximity of work being done, the Town has already closed our Pickleball court. We hope to keep both Tennis Courts open and available for play at least until the 1st of January, 2022, at which point the Town will close the eastern Tennis Court for the duration of the Civic Center build.

Please note, because of their proximity to an active construction site, at times the Tennis courts may be covered with sand and/or dust. While the Town will make every effort to maintain the courts, Residents are urged to exercise caution while using the tennis courts. Should conditions deteriorate, the Town may elect to close the court closest to the construction site.

Tennis Committee

Interested in helping plan the new Tennis facilities for the Town? We want your input in designing our Tennis offerings as part of the Civic Center project. In the first quarter of 2022, Town Administration will assign a Resident Committee to provide input and guidance for the design criteria of the Tweddle Park redesign. If you would like to participate in this committee, please send an email to Resident Services Director Michael Glidden at mglidden@goldenbeach.us, with the subject line "Tennis Committee," and include your name and contact information.

Tennis Reservations

Weekend tennis reservations must be made by 12:00 noon the Friday before in order to be approved. Reservations made after this time will not be honored and court availability will be on a first come, first served basis. The Town is researching options to add additional features to the Tennis Reservation process, including cancellation options. Stay tuned for updates.

Hotwire Groundbreaking Event

October 28, 2021, South Park – The Town kicked off the next phase of its new Fiber internet project. The Mayor, Town Council and Town Administration joined Officials from Hotwire Communications to break ground on this first-of-its-kind project. The Town of Golden Beach will be the first municipality to offer lightning fast, reliable 1gig upload/download speed capabilities to all Residents at a bulk-rate value. At press time construction was already underway and Hotwire was performing site visits with Residents. Haven't had your walkthrough yet? Have questions about the process? Contact the Hotwire team directly at (561) 509-5429.



NO MATTER YOUR VICE, JOIN US UNDER THE NEON LIGHTS.



Statement earrings, Corvettes and Ray Bans. A little bit retro but a whole lot of glam. Join us for Golden Beach Vice, our New Year's Event inspired by Miami Vice.

The Town is excited to welcome Residents back to our annual tradition as we ring in the New Year. The event will be held at the Beach Pavilion starting at 9:00PM on December 31st. Join us for a very special night of food and fun as we welcome 2022!

Keep in Mind....

- New Year's Eve Event Invitations will go out to all homes and RSVP is required no later than December 21, 2021.
- **Due to Increased Demand RSVP and wristbands are required to attend this event. RSVP & WRISTBANDS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER.**
- **"Kosher Options Available: To ensure we have adequate Kosher quantities, anyone needing a Kosher option MUST inform staff in advance when RSVPing."**
- Wristbands will be available for pick up at Town Hall in the weeks leading up to the event **until Thursday, December 23rd**. Wristbands will also be available at will-call at the event for those who have RSVP'd before the deadline. Town Hall will be closed to the public the week of December 27th.
- Dress Attire Suggestion: The Town encourages attendees to dress to impress, with a Miami 1980's twist.
- COVID-19 advisory: The Town urges Residents to take appropriate actions to protect themselves. Visit www.CDC.gov for information.

Streetlights

The Town is working with FPL to service malfunctioning and non-functioning streetlights. Faulty photocells may cause lights to flicker or power down. Please note that any light post with a yellow band affixed to it has been reported to FPL, and is in the process of being repaired. If you see a streetlight that is malfunctioning that does not have a yellow band affixed, please report the location to Mr. Fix-It at <https://www.goldenbeach.us/mr-fixit/>

The Mr. Fix-It button at www.goldenbeach.us may be utilized to report maintenance issues in public areas of Town. If you see something, say something.

Civic Center Building

The construction of the civic center building has 'gone vertical'. As the shell of the structure is well underway; staff is busy working with the design team to include special architectural enhancements. The Town is excited to be entering into this new phase. We aspire to create interior spaces that are in-line with our elegant vision for the Civic Center.

Center Island Pump Station

Currently, we are coordinating efforts with FPL to expedite the installation of a new power supply cabinet. Due to global demand restraints, we have been waiting for materials to furnish permanent power to the pump. We anticipate that this work will be complete in the next 30-60 days. In the meantime, we are near completion of the new monuments that will honor our Towns Veterans and Marine Patrol.

Fiber Optic Technology

Hotwire crews have begun construction along A1A and Golden Beach Drive. The conduit going to the individual homes is also being done simultaneously. Crews are being extra cautious when trenching through parkways and lawns. We anticipate that this phase of the project will continue through the New Year. Hotwire has been conducting in-home consultations to customize the individual needs of every resident. If you have not yet been contacted and would like to schedule your consultation, call the Golden Beach dedicated number (954) 302-8539 to speak to a launch team specialist.

Wall on Massini Avenue

The Town has completed exploratory work required for the construction of a structural privacy wall. We have received multiple price proposals for competitive bidding. As we work towards funding the project and coordinating with our neighbors to the North, we hope to deliver this project in 2022.

Bus Shelters on A1A at Ravenna & Palermo Avenues

The construction of the bus shelters, installation of fencing and pedestrian gate, landscape and irrigation is complete.

Resiliency Update

Tweddle Park is near the top of our list in terms of flood threat to the Town. As we rethink the 'masterplan' of our park, it is our hope that in the future, the gravity system can be replaced with a mechanical pump system. We have engaged with our town engineers to conduct a vulnerability assessment to provide possible locations for feasibility and cost proposals.

