

March 8, 2012

Re: Intersection of North Peachtree Road and Tilly
Mill Road Safety and Operational Improvements

Dear Citizen,

Thank you for your interest in the referenced project. All written and recorded comments have been reviewed and will be taken into consideration as we continue the design process. These comments and the responses will be made part of the public record for this project.

The public information open house (PIOH) meeting on the project was held on January 19, 2012 at Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church within the project area. From those attending, 29 comment forms were received. An additional six comments were received during the ten day comment period following the PIOH, for a total of 35 comments. Of these comments, 17 were in favor of the project, two stated their support was conditional, nine were uncommitted, and seven were opposed to the project.

The following comments (in bold) were received at the meeting and during the ten day comment period following the meeting. The City of Dunwoody response follows each comment.

Comment: Concerned about Georgia Perimeter College campus and the traffic it generates. The campus needs better access that does not congest local roads.

The purpose of this project is to reduce crash rates, improve traffic operations, and improve bike and pedestrian movements within the project area. The improvements are anticipated to benefit all users of the intersection. The City of Dunwoody's Comprehensive Transportation Plan includes other suggested improvements at the College that would improve traffic operations in the vicinity of the Georgia Perimeter College campus.

Comment: Approve of the bicycle lanes and sidewalks, but concerned about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

The addition of bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway is anticipated to improve pedestrian and bicycle operations within the project.

Comment: How much will it cost and how will it be paid for?

The estimated cost of the project is \$1,600,000. The project is anticipated to be funded from the City of Dunwoody's annual budget.

Comment: Proposed improvement makes it easier for "outside traffic" and not local traffic.

The purpose of the project is to reduce crash rates, improve traffic operations, and improve bike and pedestrian movements to benefit all users of the intersection.

Comment: Was a roundabout / traffic circle intersection considered?

A roundabout was indeed considered at the intersection of Tilly Mill Road and North Peachtree Road. The traffic analysis indicated that the roundabout would need to have dual lanes to accommodate the high number of turning vehicles and there was concern that this would be confusing to drivers and require more right of way. The nearby intersection with Peeler Road on North Peachtree Road created conflicting traffic movements that would further interfere with the operation of a dual lane roundabout.

Comment: Where will the proposed construction stop on Peeler Road?

It is anticipated that the limit of construction on Peeler Road will be about 355 feet from North Peachtree Road and will not extend to Cherring Lane.

Comment: Concerned about timing of the two traffic signals. Who will be responsible for coordinating the new traffic signal at North Peachtree Road and Peeler Road.

The traffic signals would be timed together, maintained and coordinated by the City of Dunwoody.

Comment: Do not add more lanes.

Turn lanes are necessary for the efficient operation of traffic signals for the intersections of Tilly Mill Road, North Peachtree Road and Peeler Road. No additional through lanes will be added to any of the three roadways by this project.

Comment: Approve of traffic signal at the Peeler Road intersection with North Peachtree Road.

A traffic signal is anticipated to improve the operation of this intersection.

Comment: Turn lanes are needed.

Turn lanes are necessary for the efficient operation of the traffic signals.

Comment: The intersection at Tilly Mill Road and Peeler Road (East) should also be considered in this project.

Coordination of the signal at Tilly Mill and Peeler (East) will be considered as part of this project.

Comment: Concerned about adequate compensation from right-of-way acquisitions for project.

Land acquisition for transportation purposes is strictly governed by numerous state and federal laws and regulations. Since it is not appropriate to discuss individual impacts and compensation in this format, and without appraiser inspections and reports having been performed, the City of Dunwoody will contact property owners during the right of way negotiation phase of the project.

Comment: Allow for buses to make right turns from Tilly Mill Road east onto North Peachtree Road going south without veering into the oncoming lane.

The radius along the edge of pavement for the right turn lane will be 75 feet which will accommodate a turning bus without it having to swing out into an opposing lane.

Comment: Acquire vacant lot at southwest corner of Tilly Mill Road and North Peachtree Road for construction and landscaping.

The purchase of this entire property tract would significantly increase the project cost and is not needed to improve the operation of vehicular, pedestrian or bicycle traffic within the project. However, your comment will be considered in the planning for future projects by the City of Dunwoody.

Comment: Reduce Volume.

It is anticipated that the project will reduce congestion and improve operations of the intersection.

Comment: Have a dedicated right turn lane from Tilly Mill Road going east to North Peachtree Road going south and have a curb island.

A right turn lane from Tilly Mill Road to North Peachtree Road is proposed for this project. A raised island was investigated at this corner, but such a configuration would shorten the distance in the right turn lanes

along North Peachtree Road between Tilly Mill Road and Peeler Road. This would create conflicting weaving movements in and out of the right turn lanes that could hamper traffic operations.

Comment: Consider Park and Ride at the Baptist Church at Cotillion Road and North Peachtree Road and/or at the shopping center at Peachtree Industrial Blvd. and Tilly Mill Road to reduce the college traffic and congestion.

These suggestions are beyond the limits of this proposed project. However, the City will continue to have discussions with the college about ways to reduce congestion.

Comment: There is no need for a sidewalk on the west side of North Peachtree Road north of Tilly Mill Road. Reduce some of the double sidewalks.

A sidewalk on just one side of a roadway would create more pedestrian crossings which would potentially have these pedestrians be more susceptible to conflicts with vehicular traffic.

Comment: Against bike lanes as bikes do not stay in lanes thus increasing traffic congestion.

Dedicated bike lanes are anticipated to keep bicyclists outside of the vehicle travel lanes which will improve both vehicle and bicycle operations. Tilly Mill Road, North Peachtree Road, and Peeler Road are designated bicycle routes in the City's transportation plan and it is preferred practice to have bicycle lanes on signed bicycle routes where feasible.

Comment: Against traffic light at North Peachtree and Peeler Road as it will lead to a massive problem with traffic flow.

The City of Dunwoody will coordinate the traffic signal timings between both intersections to allow traffic to flow efficiently along North Peachtree Road between Tilly Mill Road and Peeler Road.

Comment: Side streets off of Peeler Road should share in the over all burden of college traffic on North Peachtree Road.

The side streets in the immediate vicinity of the intersection are local neighborhood streets which are not designed to carry high traffic volumes.

Comment: Remove our name from the poster. Concerned the project will kill the trees, will take away our visual & sound barrier, difficult to make left hand turn from our reduced size driveway. Concerned about losing our yard from a sound and safety standpoint. Would like proposed plans to show power poles and wires that will remain.

It is normal practice at public meetings with such agencies as Georgia DOT and other local transportation agencies to show property owner names, which are public record, on displays. Many people at such meetings find the names helpful to locate their property. However, the City of Dunwoody will consider removing any property names from future project displays. The project has been designed to improve the operation of the complex confluence of roadways while minimizing impacts to adjacent land owners. Utility poles and lines are owned by the respective utility companies. The City of Dunwoody will coordinate with utility companies in the design portion of the project.

Comment: Will this project be as efficient as the new five-way intersection at Dunwoody Club Drive and Roberts Road?

While the two improvements are similar, there are some differences between the two that will allow the North Peachtree intersections to operate more efficiently. First there is more space between intersections which will allow for queue storage between intersections. Second, both North Peachtree Road and Peeler Road have additional right turn lanes that should allow more efficient traffic flow for right turn movements at that intersection. Third, the traffic volumes on Peeler Road are lower than Dunwoody Club Drive.

Comment: Concerned about traffic flow.

The improvements were developed to accommodate existing and future traffic flows and reduce delay at both intersections.

Comment: Concerned about landscaping to soften the project. The two foot buffer between the sidewalk and bike lane should be turf or low ground cover . Would like gateway type landscaping at key areas due to right-of-way takes. Is the multi-use path shown in the CTP being considered during this concept development phase?

The project is in the conceptual stage so a detailed landscaping plan has yet to be developed. The 2 ft wide buffer is used to minimize the impact of the project and not obscure pedestrians to motorists. Wider buffers for landscaping may be investigated at select locations if it does not create additional property impacts. The multi-use trail shown in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is intended to be built at a later time on right of way that is separated from the roadways in this vicinity. However, the intersection will be designed with the future path in mind.

Comment: Happy with the project. Looks great.

Thank you!

Comment: Concerned about increased speeds.

This project adds a traffic signal, sidewalks, bike lanes and turn lanes in select locations. It does not increase the number of through lanes or encourage motorists to speed through the intersections.

Comment: Would like to see sidewalk opposite existing sidewalk on Tilly Mill Road. Also, would like pedestrian signal for easy access to Brook Run Park.

Sidewalks will be placed on both sides of Tilly Mill Road within the project limits. The other suggested improvements are outside the scope of this project, but will be considered in the planning for future projects by the City of Dunwoody.

Comment: Should consider reducing lane widths to minimize right-of-way encroachment.

11 ft widths for the through travel lanes (as opposed to the existing 12 ft width) are being considered to reduce project footprint.

Comment: Is a phased plan an option or is it all or nothing?

Both proposed intersection improvements will need to be built all at once to achieve the best traffic operations.

Comment: Redirect Perimeter CID traffic to Ashford-Dunwoody Road and Peachtree Dunwoody Road to I-285. Cap enrollment at Georgia Perimeter College.

These external items are beyond the scope of the project. However, the City will continue to have discussions with the college about ways to reduce congestion.

Comment: Safety at intersections

It is anticipated that this project will improve the operations of bicyclist, motorist and pedestrians through the intersections in this project and potentially reduce the number of crashes.

Comment: Why was opening Cherring Drive to traffic for easy access from Tilly Mill Road to Peeler Road not considered?

Tilly Mill Road, North Peachtree Road and Peeler Road are all through, collector roadways that are posted for a 35 mph speed . By contrast, the other roadways in the immediate vicinity of this project are low speed, local streets that serve solely the neighborhoods.

Comment: Would like to see a roundabout at Vermack Road and Womack Road intersection

This will be a separate project by the City of Dunwoody and a roundabout will be investigated.

Comment: Was there a traffic destination study done?

No traffic destination study was performed as part of the concept development. These types of studies are not typically undertaken for intersection improvements due to the high cost of collecting and processing data.

Comment: Would like to see underground utilities

Burying the utilities would significantly increase the cost of the project and would require the homes along the project to install underground electrical service.

Comment: Make a longer right turn lane on Peeler Road

The length of the right turn lane on Peeler Road, at the intersection with North Peachtree Road, is determined by traffic analysis of the intersection assuming a traffic signal will be installed.

Comment: Can you start building soon? How long will it take to build?

The project schedule is dependent on future funding. It is anticipated that right of way acquisition could be completed in 2013. Construction could be completed by the end of 2013 or in 2014.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Smith, P.E.
Public Works Director

MS/ gs&p

cc: General files/reading file/project file