

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Invocation – David H. Ingram, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

II. Public Works

A. 2021-162 TSPLOST II Follow-Up

William H. Martin Jr., Public Works Director presented the TSPLOST II Follow-up discussion. The current forecasted collection for Fulton County's TSPLOST II program is \$545M, April 2022 – March 2027. The City of Sandy Springs is projected to collect up to \$99,722,533 (100% of the City's projected collections) which will support projects in Tier One and Tier Two categories. Should the City receive 85% of its projected collections (\$84,764,153), then projects identified in Tier One will be completed. Should the City exceed collections up to 115% (114,680,913), then projects identified in Tier Three will be completed. The City's TSPLOST II public outreach activities included a series of public meetings and surveys for the Transportation Master Plan. The City also facilitated a public input period for the TSPLOST II proposed projects, April 26 – May 9, 2021, which included virtual public information sessions, live informational booths at the Sandy Springs Farmer's Market, and mailers to apartment complexes and local businesses.

TSPLOST II Recommended Projects

Project Name/Title	TSPLOST Budget
TIER ONE	
Bridge Program	\$6,160,000
Intelligent Transportation System Program	\$2,365,000
Sidewalk Program	\$12,100,000
Johnson Ferry Rd at Peachtree Dunwoody Improvements	\$3,300,000
Hammond Drive Widening	\$38,500,000
Roswell Road North Boulevard Project	\$9,680,000
SR 400 Multi-Use Trail	\$4,400,000
Glenridge Dr., Hammond to south of Wellington Trace	\$2,750,000
Boylston Drive Sidepath & Realignment	\$2,980,000
Tier 2 Sidepath / Walk Design	\$2,525,000
	\$84,760,000
TIER TWO	
Roberts Drive Sidepath, Roswell Rd to Dunwoody Pl	\$10,950,000
Johnson Ferry Rd. Sidepath, Glenridge Dr. to Peachtree Dunwoody Rd	\$3,510,000
Lake Forrest Sidewalk	\$500,000
	\$14,960,000
TIER THREE	
Powers Ferry Sidepath, City Limits to Dupree	\$4,960,000
Roadway Maintenance and Paving	\$10,000,000
	\$14,960,000
TOTAL ALL TIERS	\$114,680,000

The **Bridge Program** is comprised of two bridge improvement projects: the upgrade of the Riverside Drive bridge over the Chattahoochee River tributary and bicycle and pedestrian facilities and aesthetic enhancements for the Mount Vernon Highway bridge over I-285 that will be replaced as part of the GDOT Top End 285 Managed Lanes Project. The **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Program** will provide redundant fiber communications to all traffic signals, CCTV cameras, and ITS devices. TSPLOST funds will also be used for public safety fiber upgrades at Fire Station 1. The **Sidewalk Program** will improve pedestrian access and safety by completing sidewalk gaps throughout Sandy Springs. Public comment received suggests that the City needs to solidify its Sidewalk Program list. Staff recommends to Council that between June 2021 and the end of the year, Staff review sidewalk program scoring and call for any donated donations. The **Johnson Ferry Road at Peachtree Dunwoody Improvements** project consists of safety and operational improvements at the Johnson Ferry Road and Peachtree Dunwoody Road intersection. The Medical District Safety Analysis estimated there are \$17M - \$20M worth of improvements

to this intersection. Improvement elements associated with the TSPLOST II funds will address low hanging fruit items, and allow for the coordination with the medical offices in the area. The **Hammond Drive Widening** project will improve safety, mobility and pedestrian/bicycle access along Hammond drive from Boylston Drive to Glenridge Road. Phase 2 will include final design, required right-of-way acquisition and construction. Traffic studies show a critical need for a regional connector on along this segment. The east and west end of the project will be completed at a later phase. The **Roswell Road North Boulevard Project** consists of landscaped median, multi-use side path, landscape buffer, ADA compliant curb ramps, including lighting and landscaping. TSPLOST II funds will also be used for safety and operational improvements at the Roswell Road and Dunwoody Place intersection. The **SR 400 Multi-Use Trail** will extend the existing 5.1-mile path from Loring Drive north to the GA 400/I-285 Interchange. The TSPLOST funds will be used as the local match to leverage state and federal grant opportunities. **Boylston Drive Sidepath and Realignment** will realign the intersection of Boylston Drive and Hammond Drive. Improvements will also include adding a multi-use sidepath on Boylston Drive. The **Roberts Drive Sidepath, Roswell Road to Dunwoody Place** project is the construction of a multi-use side path along Roberts Drive from Roswell Road/SR 9 to Dunwoody Place. Construction can begin later summer of next 2022. **Johnson Ferry Road Sidepath, Glenridge Drive to Peachtree Dunwoody Road** is the construction of a multi-use side path along Johnson Ferry Road, from Glenridge Drive to Peachtree Dunwoody Road, to tie the path to the high density areas within the district and bring users much closer to the MARTA station. The **Lake Forrest Sidewalk** project is proposed as a stand-alone given the uncertain timing of the Lake Forrest Dam complete replacement/repair. The project will add sidewalk to Lake Forrest Drive from Forrest Lake Drive to the south city limit. Only a portion of the larger \$10M project, the TSPLOST II funded portion will provide some certainty that when the dam is fixed, there are some funds available to provide the shoulder improvements in conjunction with the dam, at least to the city limits. Ultimately working in partnership with City of Atlanta to complete connectivity down to Chastain Park back up to Forrest Lake. The **Roadway Maintenance and Paving** project will provide for paving and roadway maintenance throughout the City. And, the **Glenridge Drive, Hammond to South of Wellington Trace** project will support the construction of a multi-use side path along Glenridge Drive, from Hammond Drive to the existing path, just south of Wellington Trace, completing a north-south side path system from Johnson Ferry to Hammond. Based on collection projects, it is recommended that **Design for Tier Two Sidepath / Walk Projects** be added to Tier One and add the **Powers Ferry Sidepath, City Limits to Dupree** project to Tier Three, thereby reducing the amount of funds originally allocated to the Roadway Maintenance and Paving Project to support the addition. The City's Transportation Master Plan recognizes the need to further study the project. The City should proceed with the study to prepare for a project should the TSPLOST collections allow. At the June 15, 2021 City Council Meeting, staff will recommend the City Council approve the project list. Once approved, the City's project list will be submitted to Fulton County. After executing an intergovernmental agreement with the City, in August 2021 Fulton County will put the TSPLOST II question on the November 2, 2021 ballot.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated each project only received an average of 49 public responses. How many mailers did the City send to the public?

Dan Coffer, Community Relations Managers stated Staff sent bilingual mailers, in Spanish and English, to apartment complexes, local businesses, homeowner associations, through Facebook, and ads were ran in the Neighbor and the Sandy Springs Reporter. Many of the responses related to the projects that had been previously publicly vetted, such as Hammond and Path 400 and those projects in the Transportation Master Plan. This probably explains the reason why the City did not receive as many comments as normal.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked what flexibility is there to make later adjustments between tier categories or within a tier category.

Public Work Director Martin replied it is Staff's understanding that as long as projects and any changes are publicly vetted, adjustments can be made, which is the same model used for the TSPLOST I program. Some of the projects proposed in TSPLOST II may become candidates for federal funding, which could free up TSPLOST funding.

Council Member Bauman stated while there are good projects, the list as presented is unbalanced and unfair to the south side of the city. The Lake Forrest Sidewalk \$500K allocation will do the first segment, but will not take the project to Mount Paran or Burdette, completing the loop that is transformative to the south side. For that reason, I oppose this. The City of Atlanta has said they will do their section. It should be a Tier One project. There needs to be another \$1M allocated, or whatever is reasonable, to complete the big square with West Wieuca on the south, Powers Ferry on the west, Mount Paran on the north, and Lake Forrest on the east. Altogether, with what is being done on the west side of Roswell Road, this will create connectivity for walkers safely into Chastain Park.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated Staff should work with Council Member Bauman to work something out.

III. City Council Discussion Items

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned **6:18 p.m.**

Approved: June 15, 2021.

Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Raquel D. González, City Clerk