

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

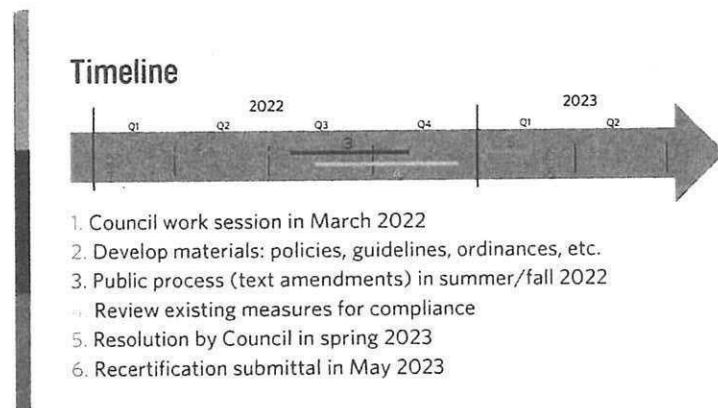
I. Staff Discussion Items

A. 2022-48 Discussion of Green Communities Recertification

Catherine Mercier-Baggett, Sustainability Manager, facilitated the discussion of the City's Green Communities recertification. The City of Sandy Springs has participated in the Green Communities Certification program since 2010, and the City was first recognized at the Bronze Level certificate. Most recently, the City was recognized at the Gold Level. In 2023, the City Staff is seeking a Platinum certificate.

Current measures in place at the City of Sandy Springs include: incentives for green buildings, conducting energy audits, replacing inefficient appliances, the electrification of fleet, the demonstration of green infrastructure, Tree City USA accreditation, and an environmentally preferable purchasing policy. The City can make gains in sustainability, renewable energy and education, and specifically, Staff seeks guidance on LEED certification for new City buildings, Energy Star/Earth Craft certification for new City buildings, Energy Star certification or LEED guidelines for City building renovation, demonstration of renewable energy project, and becoming an EPA Green Power Partner.

Project Timeline



Councilmember John Paulson asked can the City reuse the solar panels removed from Fire Station #2? It is intriguing that a return on an investments can be earned in 10 years. Finally, the City should not get a LEED certification for the sake of having the certificate, as the City is following many of the policies required for the certification, without a specific designation. Staff should continue seeking Green Communities certification.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio remarked when City Hall was designed, the City did look at LEED Certification and at the time, the City was informed it would cost \$250K. Does the City have an extra \$250K laying around? The City already hires designers who consider modern energy, recycling, etc... What is most concerning to the Council is that the building works and there is no energy waste and no water waste.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked how the City Staff identified the presented items. Do any of the incentives incentivize charging stations?

Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett replied City Staff can look at all 28 measures for certification, but some are larger cost items that require guidance from the City Council. There is a measure that speaks to being EV Ready, and in the City's development code, the City already requires the wiring for charging stations in all the parking decks and any new construction within particular districts.

Mayor Rusty Paul advised there is legislation being considered by the Georgia General Assembly that promotes the establishment of electric vehicle charging stations around the state. The City will need to see if the bill moves before setting a policy requiring charging stations.

Eden Freeman, City Manager, noted the City has electric vehicle charging stations in various City facilities, and Staff will share usage information with the City Council.

B. 2022-49 Discussion of Taking the National Wildlife Fund's Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Catherine Mercier-Baggett, Sustainability Manager, presented information about the National Wildlife Fund's Mayor's Monarch Pledge Program. There are 600 participating governments throughout the nation, though the City of Chamblee is the only metro-Atlanta participant. There is no cost to participate. The Monarch butterfly populations are rapidly declining, and the loss of habitat is a major cause. Active remediation efforts will benefit other pollinators. The requirements of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Program overlap those of the Bee City USA program. City Staff recommends seeking the "Leadership Circle" level of participation, which requires at least eight of the 24 menu actions within the categories of (1) communications and engagement; (2) habitat protection and creation; and (3) landscaping practices. One example of action is to remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances. Milkweed is important in the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly. The monarch caterpillar exclusively feeds on the milkweed species. Generally, milkweed is the host plant for the caterpillar. Milkweed is not found often because it is often found in open, fringe environments, such as roadsides or the edge of a forest, and there are many disturbances in those environments. Also, it does not have a great germination rate.

City Council Consensus: move forward.

II. Public Works Items

C. 2022-50 Roswell Rd/SR 9 at Fulton County Government Center Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (HAWK) Crossing

Mayor Rusty Paul recognized Mr. Robb Dillon, incoming president and chief executive officer to the Sandy Springs Perimeter Chamber.

Christine Shultz, TSPLOST Project Manager, presented the HAWK at North Fulton Government Annex Center. The pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) is a traffic control device designed to help pedestrians safely cross higher-speed roadways at midblock crossings and uncontrolled intersections. A HAWK (High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk Beacon) is officially known as a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the North Fulton Government Center has been a concern since 2010. In 2010 a signal warrant analysis of the driveways in the area was performed and it was determined that

at that time, a signal was not warranted in the area. In coordination with GDOT, a traffic engineering study was performed in 2019 as a follow-up to the 2010 signal warrant analysis. During this study, pedestrian and traffic volume counts, signal warrant analysis and pedestrian hybrid beacon warrant analysis were investigated. The conclusions of the 2019 study reiterated that none of the driveways met the warrants for a signal. However, based on the warrant analysis for a pedestrian hybrid beacon, a pedestrian hybrid beacon may be installed. The City of Sandy Springs contracted with Pond and Company in 2021 to study crossing locations and develop a concept plan for the crossing. The primary intention of the project is to provide safe access to the Fulton County Government Services Center for pedestrians on the west side of SR 9/Roswell Road. Under existing conditions, the nearest traffic signal providing pedestrian crossings is over a thousand feet from the facility.

This project consists of the installation of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Crossing along SR 9/Roswell Road between the Fulton County Government Services Center southern parking lot driveway and the 7750 SR 9/Roswell Road (Dunwoody Square) driveway. The location was selected to provide adequate sight distance and for its close proximity to MARTA bus stop locations along the east and west sides of SR 9/Roswell Road. Design elements to be installed include:

- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (inclusive of mast arm assemblies, pedestrian signal heads, push button assemblies, etc.)
- Associated pavement markings (i.e. crosswalk, stop bars, hatching, etc.) and signage
- Landscaped raised median (for pedestrian refuge area and channelization of traffic)
- Pedestrian/intersection lighting
- Curb bulb-out along east side of SR 9/Roswell Road (to shorten the distance pedestrians have to cross travel lanes)
- Relocation of "Sandy Springs Big Trees Forest Preserve" sign to improve sight distance

Concept Plan



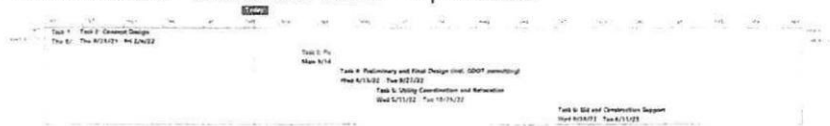
The engineer's estimate at the concept level is within the current budget for this project. The project has

enough budget to be funded at the City level, but we are working with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to seek additional funding. The GDOT Quick Response Project Program encompasses operational projects such as restriping, intersection improvements, turn lane additions and extensions that can be implemented in a short period of time and for under \$200K. City Staff has identified \$170K in signal/signing & marking items that can be broken out for this funding.

City Staff is talking with Fulton County and GDOT for their input on this concept plan. Additionally, March 7 - 13, 2022 the City will have virtual info available through social pinpoint using the URL <https://spr.gs/ped>.

Next Steps

- Present to Council - March 2022
- Virtual Info and Feedback - March 7-13 2022
 - Input from Fulton County and GDOT
 - Social Pinpoint: spr.gs/ped
- Final Design/Permitting - April 2022 - October 2022
- ROW Acquisition - N/A
- Utility Coordination/Relocation - May 2022 - November 2022
- Construction - December 2022 - April 2023



Councilmember Jody Reichel asked has the City confirmed that Fulton is keeping the building?

TSPLOST Program Manager Schultz replied Fulton County has not stated that they are moving out.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked has the City asked Fulton County if they will participate in the construction of the project.

Eden Freeman, City Manager, advised the City has not discussed money and the County's contribution, but the City has presented the initial concept to the County.

Councilmember Kelley Moody asked has Staff already began to promote the virtual information sessions.

City Manager Freeman stated the link is live, but the City has not yet promoted. Staff wanted to first receive feedback from Council.

Councilmember John Paulson stated Fulton County should participate in some capacity.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the City will have initial conversations with Fulton commissioners and the county manager.

III. City Council Discussion Items

D. 2022-51 Discussion of Art Concepts for Veterans Park

Councilmember John Paulson presented the Art Concepts for Veterans Park, including a number of examples of veteran memorials throughout the nation and world. The Sandy Springs Veterans Park should include imagery of a soldier, in some capacity. The memorial should be meaningful, respectful, and honor all veterans for their service. The community needs to decide what is wanted, and with community input, the City Council will make the final decision. The City is paying for the park, and some money has already been set aside for a monument, statue, or figure. But the art should not have a \$1M price tag.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated that Ms. Cheri Morris' February, 2022, informational presentation was to provide a range of cost options and it was not intended to advocate for a certain type of piece. The City should let Art Sandy Springs receive input from the Council regarding the costs and what is generally desired. Then Art Sandy Springs should return to the Council with some recommendations based on the input they received from the Council and other groups, such as the American Legion. Mr. George Bushey is ideal to lead the effort.

Councilmember Andy Bauman asked is there not an area east of the library that is reserved for the veterans' tribute, and then there was to be an additional art piece not specific to the veterans, over to the west, towards the potential fountain. Art Sandy Springs was charged with sharing recommendations for a significant art piece that can be seen from Roswell Road.

Mayor Paul stated that is correct. In the park's masterplan there is a spot in the center of the triangle for a significant art piece, as identified by the landscape architect.

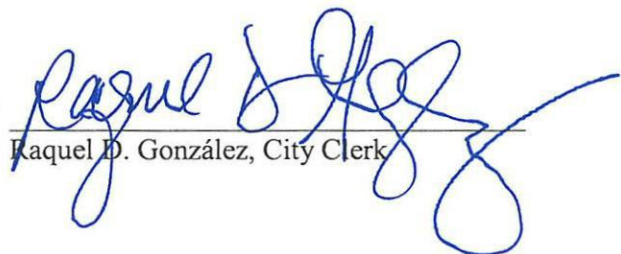
Councilmember Jody Reichel requested to meet with Art Sandy Springs again. The Council should review one rendering with the fountains and another without them.

Mayor Paul requested that Art Sandy Springs include Councilmember DeJulio and Councilmember Paulson in their planning discussions, as well as other military veterans in Sandy Springs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Approved: March 15, 2022


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Raquel D. González, City Clerk

