

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:02 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Council Members present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Steve Soteres, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Jody Reichel, Council Member Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andy Bauman.

INVOCATION

Reverend Sara Webb Phillips, North Springs United Methodist Church, offered the invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

1. 19-001 T-SPLOST Review - TS192 Mt. Vernon Highway Corridor

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Allen Johnson gave the T-SPLOST City Council Review TS192-Mt. Vernon Highway Corridor Project PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member John Paulson stated if we chose the south side option, there is a retaining wall that is in front of those homes east of Glenridge. He asked if the retaining wall will remain intact.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated it will. If the wall is affected, it will be included as part of the project.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked if there was any consideration given to the large number of residents in Mount Vernon Towers and whether the usability of the trail will increase. If the trail is located on the north side, those residents could safely use the path without having to cross Mount Vernon.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated in this case, the south side of the multi-use path stays on the south and it then crosses at the Mount Vernon upper school. The north side multi-use path ends at the Johnson Ferry project and then it reduces to a sidewalk. For continuity purposes, the north side multi-use path does not begin until the upper school.

Council Member Burnett asked if under either plan it would go as far west as Mount Vernon Towers on the north side.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson responded no.

Council Member Jody Reichel asked if there will be several ways for someone to cross from the south to the north side.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson responded yes. At the location of the upper school there is a crosswalk, there are crosswalks at Glenridge, and crosswalks at Barfield Road.

Council Member Reichel stated she knows that the parents whose children attend Cumberland Academy were concerned about their children being able to cross the street. She asked if something will be done at that intersection.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated staff can look at that. Right now people will cross the street at Glenridge to reach the Cumberland Academy. This will be for either a sidewalk or a multi-use path. The path has bicycle capabilities. There will be pedestrian capability on both sides.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked if the traffic light at Glenridge and Mount Vernon will remain.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson responded yes. There will be upgraded pedestrian access crossings.

Council Member DeJulio asked if there are any traffic lights that will be added along that route.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson responded no. Protected left turn lanes will be added and left turn traffic signals will be updated.

Council Member Burnett stated one concern we have heard from the neighbors on the south side of the road is the loss of existing fencing and walls. These items are buffers for their neighborhoods from Mount Vernon. He asked how much of those existing walls or fences would be lost.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated the plan is to keep the walls and fences as much as possible. Some areas may be impacted, but they will be replaced at the intersection where right turn lanes will be added. The buffer allows us to adjust and potentially reduce any impacts. The plan is to keep the walls throughout the project as much as possible, except where there are turn lanes.

Council Member Burnett stated he believes it is the Registry Glen neighborhood that has a nice brick wall. Right now there is a nice landscape buffer between the sidewalk and that wall. He asked if the path will remove the landscape buffer.

TSPLOST Program Coordinator Johnson stated some of the buffer may be removed, but it will be replaced in kind or even improved. Landscape architects are working with the City to help develop the landscaping along this corridor.

Council Member Burnett stated he has heard a fair amount from neighbors along the south side and it has almost all been negative. He has not heard from neighbors on the north side. Those on the south are concerned about how it will potentially disrupt their backyards. If we can figure out a way to landscape the area well, so they do not lose the beauty that is there now, hopefully they will be more receptive. A key to this is having landscaping, tree buffers, crepe myrtles, and those type of things. That is a beautiful corridor and he would hate to lose that because of the path. He wants the City to commit to the landscape dollars if the path is completed on the south side or the north side.

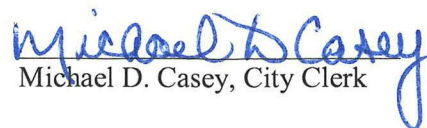
Mayor Rusty Paul stated he thinks staff has done a more than admirable job in minimizing the impacts to the corridor.

There was a consensus of Council for staff to move forward with the south side option for the multi-use trail.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Date Approved: February 5, 2019


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Michael D. Casey, City Clerk