

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 6:57 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Councilmembers present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Ken Dishman, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Gabriel Sterling, and Council Member Tibby DeJulio.

Council Member Andy Bauman was absent.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Management

1. **17-100** Fencing Rules for Outdoor Cafes
(Presented by Jim Tolbert, Assistant City Manager)

Assistant City Manager Jim Tolbert presented the Fencing Rules for Outdoor Cafes PowerPoint presentation. Staff proposes to remove the fencing requirement related to patio/open areas from the City Code.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling stated this is an undue burden to have on many of the small businesses, and this proposal is a rational thing to do, since it is not a state code. Cobb removed this from their code, and the City of Roswell has not had this requirement for several years. This is a common sense thing, and we need to do it.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked if the fencing requirement was related to dogs being present in the outdoor seating.

Assistant City Manager Tolbert stated this code is not related to whether or not dogs are allowed to sit in the outdoor seating area. There does not seem to be an issue with that occurring, but staff will verify that.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with this proposal.

Public Works

2. **17-101** Consideration of Approval of Last Mile Connectivity Study
(Presented by Kristen Wescott, Transportation Planner)

Transportation Planner Kristen Wescott introduced the Gresham, Smith and Partners consultants, who have worked on the Last Mile Connectivity Study since July 2016. The City of Sandy Springs led the management of the study, but it was in direct coordination with the City of Dunwoody, the City of Brookhaven, and the Perimeter CIDs. After this evening's presentation, the project team will come back before Council for approval of the study.

Project Manager Megha Young presented the Last Mile Connectivity PowerPoint presentation, and discussed new bicycle and pedestrian facility recommendations to enhance last mile connectivity.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling asked how the study would coordinate its proposed priority short-term project of sidewalk gap fills on the south side of Abernathy Road, from the Ga 400 entrance ramp to Peachtree Dunwoody Road, with the Georgia Department of Transportation's planned diverging diamond in the same area.

Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole replied the Georgia Department of Transportation is working with the City, and at a minimum, the sidewalks will be incorporated. In a diverging diamond interchange, the sidewalk crosses into the middle of the interchange, just as the traffic does. The sidewalk pads are separated from traffic by a barrier.

Council Member John Paulson asked if the City would pay for the MARTA Station Area Improvement priority short-term projects.

Project Manager Young replied the City would coordinate with MARTA.

Council Member Sterling asked how long the bridge would be for a multi-use path from the MARTA station to Glenlake Parkway.

Project Manager Nithin Gomez replied the team would research the distance, and follow up with Council at a later time.

Project Manager Maggie Maddox discussed transit recommendations to enhance last mile connectivity.

Council Member Sterling asked how much are cities paying for ride-share partnership programs.

Council Member John Paulson stated that several years ago, the City of Denver, Colorado provided a ridership subsidy of up to \$5 per ride.

Project Manager Young stated that the Last Mile Connectivity Study presentation is being presented to city councils and boards within the study area. At a future City Council meeting, Council will be asked to adopt the study along with short, mid, and long term recommendations. The adoption will allow City staff to prioritize the projects, as well as create project and implementation plans.

Council Member Paulson asked if there is a ride-share company that has reviewed the study.

Project Manager Young replied not to her knowledge, though the PCID is very interested in creating a ride-share program within the study area.

Council Member Sterling asked if it would be sensible to use electric bicycles, because there are many hills in Sandy Springs. Also, is there enough population density to make ride-share and bicycle programs viable.

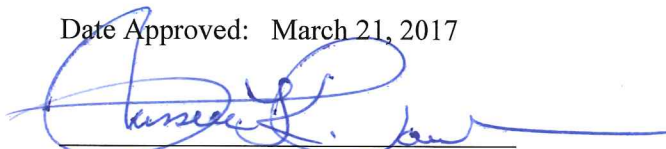
Project Manager Young replied that there are areas within the Perimeter that are denser than others. PCID is spearheading efforts to have safer, separated cycle tracts on roads, hoping a bike-share program will attract users.

Council Member Sterling asked if protective facilities are more effective than side-paths for a bike-share initiative.

Project Manager Young replied that there are different opinions. The PCIDs prefer cycle tracts. They are choosing to separate the cyclists and pedestrians in higher activity areas. The study looked at how to match various facility types in the different jurisdictions.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Date Approved: March 21, 2017



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Michael D. Casey, City Clerk