

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 6:00 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

Pastor Christian Van, North Spring United Methodist Church, offered the invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

1. 18-349 TS192 - Mt. Vernon Highway Corridor Project

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

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked how long the project will take until completion.

TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson stated about three years. There will be a year of design work and two years to acquire right-of-way.

Council Member John Paulson stated a public information meeting was held on October 4th. He received several emails from citizens regarding the meeting. He has not seen a summary of all that was discussed.

TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson stated the public comments were due yesterday. Staff wanted to give everyone plenty of time to submit them. He can give an overview of the comments that were received, since they were compiled this morning. In total, there were fifty-four comments. There were some individuals that voted for, against, or conditionally against the project. About ten percent, or five people, voted for the project as is; seventeen people were against it; and twenty-eight people were conditionally for the project.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the comments he received dealt with the multi-use path. These are preliminary concepts and are not plans as of yet. The concepts will be refined as the design process begins. He asked what the thoughts were for the sidewalk on the north side and the multi-use path on the south side.

TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson stated the main reason the multi-use path is being put on the south side is because that is where the neighborhood is located and most of the people who would use it. The path would be adjacent to the users and single family homes. The path ties into the T-011 multi-use path on the west. Even if the path is moved to the north side, it would be the same width and would shift the project south.

Mayor Paul stated the six foot sidewalk and the ten foot multi-use path will take up the same amount of right-of-way.

TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson stated that is correct. The path will be ten to twelve feet in width, which still keeps it to City standards. There will be a six foot buffer between the sidewalk or the multi-use path and the road on both sides. We can do some adaptations in that area or add walls to avoid any right-of-way impact. This would keep a continuous multi-use path. There is the possibility of moving the path to the north, but everyone would have to cross over Mount Vernon to get to it. There were safety concerns

for students going from the lower school to the upper school. It is preferred to keep the multi-use path through the lower school intersection, if the path is moved to the north.

Council Member Paulson stated when we first looked at this project in November 2017, there was a big debate about the footprint of the project. It looks like this proposal is under seventy-five feet. Hopefully the width is such that the amount of right-of-way that is needed from the neighbors is minimized.

TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson stated a small amount of right-of-way may be needed in the turn lane areas. Staff will work to minimize the impact to the surrounding properties. One challenge is the cemetery.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated the majority of the comments he has received are from the residents in Registry Glen. Their concern is if a twelve foot wide path is installed on the south side of the road, it will impact an area that is currently nicely landscaped. It seems the path would go all the way up to the existing brick wall. He asked if it will take away any of the brick wall. If that plan is chosen, what can the City do about replacing any landscaping that might be disturbed? He asked if it is impractical to look at moving the twelve foot path to the north side of the road starting at Glenridge and going west towards the bridge, because of the south side path between City Springs and Glenridge.

TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson stated staff can review all options. The information before Council this evening is a concept plan to show the multi-use path. Staff will have more information available once we get into the profile and details. We should be able to avoid doing anything to the wall. There will be space with the buffer between the road and multi-use path. As we get to the final design phase, we can look at the different options. In regards to landscaping, the City will take care of whatever landscaping is disturbed and replace it.

Council Member Burnett stated in regards to the path on the north side, there are driveways to homes on the north side of Mount Vernon and the major entrance way to Mount Vernon school. If pedestrians, bicyclists, and strollers are on the north side of that section, it seems there will be a lot more traffic. Beyond Glenridge there is the Baptist church and the synagogue. During the week there is probably little traffic from those two parking lots. It goes back to the question of how important it is to run a continuous ten to twelve feet for the entire path length. That is something staff should review as part of the design.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked if the City has any examples of multi-use paths to view as a point of reference. There is one path near Chastain Park by the horse park.

TSPLOST Program Manager Johnson stated one other project staff is working on is Path 400. This path is from Wieuca south to Loridan. The path we are discussing will be smaller than the Path 400. There are some areas in Cobb County that tie into this trail. He will find a trail to compare with what is being proposed and get that location to Council.

There was a consensus of Council for staff to move this project forward to the next phase.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Date Approved: November 6, 2018


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Michael D. Casey, City Clerk