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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Richard Meehan, Director of Public Works

**Date:** May 26, 2009

**Subject:** **School Traffic Update**

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As requested, I am providing an update to the Public Works efforts to address school traffic issues with the opening of the new Dunwoody Elementary School in August and to address some issues at other schools:

### Dunwoody Elementary

I have been coordinating the improvements the city is going to do at the new school with Tom Lambert who heads the transportation committee for the new school and with Robin Burch of DHA. The items we are planning on doing are:

1. Restriping of Womak Rd to add left turn lanes at the new school. This will also include the addition of a left turn lane for Ga Perimeter at the old OEC location which they are going to be using as a 2nd entrance and additional parking. Womack Road is wide enough here that we do not need to do any widening.
2. Striping of the crosswalk across Womak Rd at the new school at entrance opposite Lakeland Woods. This will also include the installation of the in pavement "State Law Stop for Pedestrian" sign like the ones on Mt Vernon along with the standard roadside warning signs.
3. Construction of some additional sidewalk and ADA Ramps along Womak. There is continuous sidewalk on Womak on the opposite side from the school from Lakeland Woods to Chamblee Dunwoody Rd and on the same side of the school from Vermack Road to Tilly Mill so no major sidewalk installation is planned. The school is responsible for constructing the sidewalk along their frontage.
4. Installation of the School Zone Flashers.

The initial cost estimate for these items is about \$18,000

As far as traffic flow at the new school, I have talked with Tom and his committee and they are being proactive about developing a traffic flow plan for parent drop off's at the new school. While we can help advise them, this is something that they need to develop and enforce. Having a good plan and having the parents follow it will help alleviate much of the problems.

### **Vanderlyn Elementary**

I have met with Principal Maloof and discussed options for traffic flow at the school. He is working with his parents committee to revise their drop off/pick up traffic flow. In addition, I have also discussed the delineation of parking spaces on the south (school) side of Vanderlyn Drive and the signing and enforcement of No Parking on the north side of the road.

### **Kingsley Elementary**

The Safe Routes to School Application was not selected by GDOT to receive funding. They selected only the top scoring project in each congressional district and the award for District 6 went to the City of Milton. I am working on scheduling a debrief with GDOT on our submittal. We will be reviewing this area to see what items we can install (Pedestrian Signs, additional striping) to help improve the walking situation here.

### **Other Schools**

For the pedestrian crossings for the other schools, I am having our staff review the condition of the crosswalk striping to see if they need to be refreshed and are looking at installing the in pavement "State Law Stop for Pedestrian" signs at each location. The one we installed on Mt Vernon at Statham Drive has been well received by the parents of walkers and from their reports has also been effective in getting vehicles to stop. This is a low cost item (about \$150 each for initial installation) that has shown to be effective. We are also looking at the use of the Radar Signs at schools, but the cost of a permanent installation is about \$4000 per sign.

### **Long Term Issues**

In addition to the above short term items which we are planning on completing before school opens this August, we are also compiling a list of long term projects, primarily intersection and signal improvements, that are aimed to improve traffic flow around schools, mostly in the Womack Rd/Tilly Mill Road area. Some of the locations we are looking at are:

- Mt Vernon at Vermak Rd: Add Left Turn Lanes and Upgrade Signal
- Mt Vernon at Tilly Mill Rd: Add Left Turn Lanes and Upgrade Signal
- Mt Vernon Road Signal Upgrades and Coordination
- Tilly Mill Rd at North Peachtree Road
- Tilly Mill Rd at Womak Road
- Womak Rd at Vermack Road

Because of the need for roadway widening and upgraded traffic signals, these projects are expected to have costs of at least \$100,000 each so by their nature will need to be looked at as a multi year

implementation. These projects will also need to be prioritized with other capital projects (sidewalks/streetscape, resurfacing, other intersections) as we begin development of the comprehensive transportation plan later this year.