

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Public Works Director

Date: June 9, 2014

Subject: **Discussion of Pedestrian Safety Action Plan**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Councilman Heneghan has requested a discussion of the findings and recommendations of the recently completed Pedestrian Safety Action Plan which can be found under the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan heading within Public Works on the city's website at:

<http://www.dunwoodyga.gov/Departments/Public Works/Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.aspx>

DISCUSSION

In mid-2013 the City Council funded a pedestrian safety study. The objective of the study was to evaluate pedestrian safety on elementary school walking routes and at unprotected crosswalk locations (crosswalks not controlled by a red light or stop sign) within Dunwoody. The city and its consultant, Kimley-Horn, reviewed conditions including vehicle and pedestrian traffic counts at 20 existing crosswalk locations and 3 potential future locations. Meetings were also held with Safe Routes to School parent volunteers at each elementary school.

The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan summarizes the findings and conclusions from these efforts. The data collected is summarized in Table 2 from the report which is attached to this memo. The report includes general recommendations and a prioritized list of capital projects to improve pedestrian safety (Tables 3 and 4 attached).

Some of the recommendations are relatively low cost improvements to signage and visibility at crossing locations that Public Works can begin to implement immediately through its maintenance budget. Capital improvements were identified at 19 locations with costs ranging from under \$1,000 to over \$50,000 at each location. The total cost of all the recommended improvements is estimated to be between \$400,000 and \$450,000 plus associated design costs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends immediate implementation of the low cost improvements to signage and visibility. Capital improvements can be funded and implemented as funding allows through the annual budgeting process.

Table 2
Pedestrian Crossing Analysis

| Location Number | Location | Number of Lanes | Speed Limit (mph) | Median (Y/N) | ADT | Conflicting AM Peak Hour Vehicular | Conflicting PM Peak Hour Vehicular | Conflicting AM Peak Hour Pedestrian | Conflicting PM Peak Hour Pedestrian | 7-9 AM Pedestrian Volumes | 2-4 PM Pedestrian Volumes | 4-6 PM Pedestrian Volumes | Saturday/Sunday Six-Hour Volumes | Crossing Distance (ft) | Pedestrian Crash History | Special Consideration | FHWA Score |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------|
| 1 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Redfield Rd | 3 | 35 | N | 9447 | 681 | 544 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | N/A | N/A | 51 | 0 | Near Redfield Swim and Tennis Club | P |
| 2 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Dunwoody Rd | 2 | 35 | N | 9447 | 413 | 278 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | N/A | N/A | 30 | 0 | Near Redfield Swim and Tennis Club | C |
| 3 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Kings Down Rd | 3 | 35 | N | 8906 | 1404 | 1196 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | 38 | 0 | Near Church; Near volume threshold | C |
| 4 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Dunwoody Knoll Dr | 2 | 35 | N | 7680 | 713 | 606 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | 31 | 0 | Austin SRTS Meeting stated heavy use and safety issues | C |
| 5 | Dunwoody Club Dr at Dunwoody Club Creek | 2 | 35 | N | 4548 | 398 | 278 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | 31 | 0 | Bike Lanes planned | C |
| 6 | Mt. Vernon Rd at All Saints Catholic Church | 3 | 35 | N | 13705* | 1033 | 1177 | 55** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 94 | 34 | 0 | Near busy intersection, mixed-use, and queue at signal could interfere | P |
| 7 | Mt. Vernon Rd at Stratham Dr | 2 | 35 | N | 18930 | 1319 | 1608 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | N/A | 40 | 0 | Being considered for improvements by Dunwoody; Wide location | P |
| 8 | Mt. Vernon Rd (between Ridgeview Rd & Trailbridge Dr) | 2 | 35 | N | 21909 | N/A | N/A | 7 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 5 | N/A | 33 | 1 | Flashing Beacons currently in operation; Highest ADT | P |
| 9 | N Peachtree Rd at Brookhurst Dr | 2 | 35 | N | 15378 | 1241 | 1398 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 12 | N/A | 35 | 0 | MARTA Bus Stop and SRTS meeting | P |
| 10 | N Peachtree Rd (between Peachford Rd and Brookhurst Dr) | 3 | 35 | N | 15378 | 1202 | 1312 | 66 | 21 | 67 | 61 | 22 | N/A | 38 | 0 | High pedestrian volume across driveway | N |
| 11 | N Peachtree Rd at Peachford Rd***** | 2 | 35 | N | 15378 | 1119 | 1294 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | N/A | 41 | 1 | High pedestrian volume across Peachford Road | P |
| 12 | Peeler Rd at Lakeside Dr | 2 | 35 | N | 7670 | 655 | 631 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | N/A | 27 | 0 | | C |
| 13 | Peeler Rd at Windwood Dr | 2 | 35 | N | 7670 | 662 | 609 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 27 | 0 | | C |
| 14 | Peeler Rd at Happy Hollow Rd | 2 | 35 | N | 6270 | 756 | 1028 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | N/A | 35 | 0 | | C |
| 15 | Tilly Mill Rd at Dunwoody Glen** | 3 | 35 | N | 9458 | 462 | 906 | 61*** | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | N/A | 38 | 0 | | P |
| 16 | Tilly Mill Rd at Andover Dr | 3 | 35 | N | 5128 | 1026 | 1294 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 8 | N/A | 37 | 0 | | C |
| 17 | Vermack Rd at Parliament Dr | 2 | 35 | N | 5228 | 659 | 634 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 5 | N/A | 41 | 0 | | C |
| 18 | Womack Rd at Lakeland Woods Ct | 4 | 35 | N | 7068 | 826 | 546 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | N/A | N/A | 62 | 1 | 4-lanes of traffic, high speeds, school zone | C |
| 19 | Womack Rd at Dunwoody Elementary School | 2 | 35 | N | 7068 | 816 | 216 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | N/A | N/A | 34 | 1 | | C |
| 20 | Womack Rd at Mill Stream Ct | 3 | 35 | N | 7833 | 894 | 1010 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 3 | N/A | 35 | 0 | | C |
| 21 | Vanderlyn Dr at Hensley Dr | 2 | 25 | N | 3883 | 521 | 268 | 6 | 24 | 8 | 35 | 33 | N/A | 35 | 0 | | C |
| 21A | Hensley Dr mid-block | 2 | 25 | N | N/A | 131 | 16 | 6 | 24 | 9 | 35 | 33 | N/A | 24 | 0 | | C |
| 22 | Happy Hollow Rd at Fontainebleau Dr**** | 2 | 35 | N | 3223 | 1490 | 305 | 16*** | 5*** | 3 | 2 | 11 | N/A | 37 | 0 | | C |
| 23 | N Peachtree Rd at Brook Run Ave***** | 2 | 35 | N | 11799 | 1305 | 852 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | N/A | 31 | 0 | Sight distance, laneage, and park sets up safety concerns: near volume threshold | P |

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* GDOT reports 19,819 vehicles per day
 ** AM volumes are based on Saturday/Sunday Church counts
 *** Includes pedestrians crossing without crosswalk on north leg
 **** Assumes Happy Hollow Rd crossing is on south leg
 ***** Assumes N Peachtree Rd crossing is on north leg
 ***** Peachford Road crossing has high pedestrian volumes

= Study Location located in School Zone

Table 3
Treatment Recommendations by Study Location

| Priority Level | Location Number | Location | FHWA Score | Treatment Recommendation |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|------------|---|
| 1 | 10 | N Peachtree Rd (between Peachford Rd and Brookhurst Dr) | N | Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons; Move Crosswalk to South Chesnut School Driveway; Stop Bars; Widen Pedestrian Sidewalk Pad |
| 2 | 6 | Mt. Vernon Rd at All Saints Catholic Church | P | Pedestrian Refuge Islands; Remove Existing Crosswalk; Install New Crosswalk; Add Lighting |
| 3 | 7 | Mt. Vernon Rd at Stratham Dr | P | Pedestrian Refuge Island; Remove Existing Crosswalk; Install New Sidewalk; Add Lighting |
| 4 | 1 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Redfield Rd | P | Pedestrian Refuge Island; Add Striping; Install New Sidewalks; Add Lighting |
| 5 | 23 | N Peachtree Rd at Brook Run Ave | P | Pedestrian Refuge Island; Install New Crosswalks |
| 6 | 15 | Tilly Mill Rd at Dunwoody Glen | P | Restripe Crosswalk; ADA Standards; Install In-Road Sign |
| 7 | 18 | Womack Rd at Lakeland Woods Ct | C | Pedestrian Refuge Island; Remove Existing Left-Turn Lane; ADA Standards; Add Lighting |
| 8 | 3 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Kings Down Rd | C | Pedestrian Refuge Island; Reconstruct Curb; Install New Sidewalk |
| 9 | 11 | N Peachtree Rd at Peachford Rd | P | Overhead Warning Signs; Crossing Guard |
| 10 | 22 | Happy Hollow Rd at Fontainebleau Dr | C | Install New Crosswalks |
| 11 | 21A | Hensley Dr mid-block | C | Install New Sidewalks; Install New Crosswalk; Install In-Road Sign; Add Lighting |
| 12 | 21 | Vanderlyn Dr at Hensley Dr | C | Add Pedestrian and Advanced Warning Signs |
| 13 | 9 | N Peachtree Rd at Brookhurst Dr | P | Remove Crosswalk |
| 14 | 20 | Womack Rd at Mill Stream Ct | C | Combine Dunwoody Elementary and Dunwoody High School school zones; Add Lighting |
| 15 | 19 | Womack Rd at Dunwoody Elementary School | C | Remove Crosswalk |
| 16 | 5 | Dunwoody Club Dr at Dunwoody Club Creek | C | Remove Crosswalk; Complete Sidewalk on North Side |
| 17 | 17 | Vermack Rd at Parliament Dr | C | Enforce On-Street Parking; Restripe Crosswalks |
| 18 | 4 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Dunwoody Knoll Dr | C | Add Pedestrian Signs; Trim Vegetation; Add Lighting |
| 19 | 2 | Chamblee Dunwoody Rd at Dunwoody Rd | C | Trim Vegetation |
| No Priority Order | 8 | Mt. Vernon Rd (between Ridgeview Rd & Trailbridge Dr) | P | Improvements Already Made |
| | 12 | Peeler Rd at Lakeside Dr | C | No Action |
| | 13 | Peeler Rd at Windwood Dr | C | No Action |
| | 14 | Peeler Rd at Happy Hollow Rd | C | No Action |
| | 15 | Tilly Mill Rd at Andover Dr | C | No Action |

| Table 4 Opinion of Probable Cost | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---|----------------------|
| Priority | Location # | Location | Range (\$) |
| 1 | 10 | N Peachtree Road (between Peachford Road and Brookhurst Drive) | \$40,000 - \$60,000 |
| 2 | 6 | Mt. Vernon Road at All Saints Catholic Church Driveway | \$42,000 - \$58,000* |
| 3 | 7 | Mt. Vernon Road at Stratham Drive | \$32,000 - \$48,000 |
| 4 | 1 | Chamblee Dunwoody Road at Redfield Road | \$32,000 - \$48,000 |
| 5 | 23 | N Peachtree Road at Brook Run Avenue | \$16,000 - \$24,000 |
| 6 | 15 | Tilly Mill Road at Dunwoody Glen | \$8,000 - \$12,000 |
| 7 | 18 | Womack Road at Lakeland Woods Court | \$16,000 - \$24,000 |
| 8 | 3 | Chamblee Dunwoody Road at Kings Down Road** | \$34,000 - \$46,000* |
| 9 | 11 | N Peachtree Road at Peachford Road | \$800 - \$1,200 |
| 10 | 22 | Happy Hollow Road at Fontainebleau Drive | \$16,000 - \$24,000 |
| 11 | 21A | Hensley Drive mid-block | \$16,000 - \$24,000 |
| 12 | 21 | Vanderlyn Drive at Hensley Drive | \$800 - \$1,200 |
| 13 | 9 | N Peachtree Road at Brookhurst Drive | \$2,000 - \$3,000 |
| 14 | 20 | Womack Road at Mill Stream Court | \$4,000 - \$6,000 |
| 15 | 19 | Womack Road at Dunwoody Elementary School | \$2,000 - \$3,000 |
| 16 | 5 | Dunwoody Club Drive at Dunwoody Club Creek | \$38,000 - \$56,000 |
| 17 | 17 | Vermack Road at Parliament Drive | \$600 - \$800 |
| 18 | 4 | Chamblee Dunwoody Road at Dunwoody Knoll Drive | \$4,000 - \$7,000 |
| 19 | 2 | Chamblee Dunwoody Road at Dunwoody Road | \$800 - \$1,200 |

* Include \$10,000 allowance for side street median improvements to provide pedestrian refuge

** Does not include planned bicycle facility project

Next Steps / Conclusion

After identifying the existing conditions of the study crosswalk locations, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. recommends that the City of Dunwoody set a goal of completing improvements at the nine priority pedestrian locations in the future. The next step in initial pedestrian facility enhancements is to select the top priority locations of the nine and move forward into design and implementation. The proposed pedestrian facility enhancements will provide for safer routes to schools, parks, neighborhoods, and commercial areas and will make the City of Dunwoody a friendlier place for families and walkability-seeking residents to live.