

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Public Works Director

Date: March 09, 2015

Subject: **Resolution to Support the Westside Connector Project Application for the TIP Project Solicitation**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Resolution to Support the Westside Connector Project Application for the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Solicitation

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the City Council expressed support for the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs) 10-year update of its Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Plan. One of the stated goals of the plan is "to create well connected pedestrian, bike, shuttle, transit modes to and between various uses, nodes and neighborhoods". The plan identifies improved connectivity as the biggest challenge for the Perimeter in the coming decade. As future redevelopment occurs, the plan recommends additional roadway connections to fill in the street grid and reduce block sizes to a maximum of 250 feet to 500 feet. These recommendations are captured by project T-7 (New Multi-Modal Connections to be selected as opportunities develop, coordinated with private landowners) in the LCI Work Program.

Just such an opportunity is presented with the potential redevelopment of the former Goldkist building located at the end of Goldkist Drive. The owner is interested in allowing for an extension of Goldkist Drive eastward with connections to I-285 and potentially Hammond Drive (See attached conceptual drawing). Staff has reviewed the concept and is of the opinion that this proposed roadway is consistent with the recommendations of the Perimeter LCI plan and can provide congestion relief for Hammond Drive and Ashford Dunwoody Road. A parallel multi-use path is also proposed which will provide a direct connection between Ravinia and the existing commercial area on Hammond Drive, provide improved access to the Dunwoody MARTA station and link to existing bicycle lanes on Perimeter Center Parkway.

The Atlanta Regional Commission is currently accepting applications for federal funding for projects under the Surface Transportation Program and Transportation Alternatives Program for fiscal years 2016-2019. The proposed Westside Connector project meets the eligibility requirements of both of these programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends approval of a resolution in support of an application for a project feasibility study for the Westside Connector. The study is expected to cost approximately \$200,000 with a \$40,000 match required by the city. These funds are not in the current annual budget but are not likely to be needed until 2016.

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE WESTSIDE CONNECTOR PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION’S TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECT SOLICITATION

WHEREAS, the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs) completed a 10-year update of its Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Plan in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the LCI plan identifies improved connectivity as the biggest challenge for the Perimeter Center area in the coming decade; and

WHEREAS, the LCI plan recommends additional roadway connections to fill in the street grid and reduce block sizes to a maximum of 250 feet to 500 feet as future redevelopment occurs; and

WHEREAS, the potential development of property on Goldkist drive presents an opportunity to make an additional roadway that aligns with the recommendations of the LCI plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project could provide congestion relief at the Ashford Dunwoody and I-285 interchange as well as provide a non-motorized connection between the Dunwoody MARTA station and office and residential properties on the east side of Ashford Dunwoody Road.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dunwoody hereby support the application for the Atlanta Regional Commission’s TIP Project Solicitation and hereby authorize the City Manager and staff to execute all appropriate documents in pursuit thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLEVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dunwoody agree that the City of Dunwoody will provide the required 20% local match for any federal funds received.

SO RESOVLED AND EFFECTIVE this 9th day of March, 2015.

CITY OF DUNWOODY

Michael G. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

Figure 2: Alternative 1

