



4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road  
 Dunwoody, Georgia 30338  
 dunwoodyga.gov | 678.382.6700

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Michael Smith, Public Works Director

**Date:** August 23, 2021

**Subject:** **Approval of a Resolution of Support for the North Shallowford Road Path Project Application for the Atlanta Regional Commission's Livable Centers Initiative Project Solicitation**

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### **BACKGROUND**

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has issued a call to local governments for transportation projects identified in locally adopted Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) plans. ARC will select eligible projects, through a competitive process, to receive federal funding for the design phase of the project. The project evaluation criteria will place emphasis on the following questions:

- Are affordable housing ordinances, mixed-use zoning districts or multi-family housing permitted? Are walkable community regulations in place for the LCI area?
- Does the project promote walkability by providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and incorporating safety features?
- Does the project include green infrastructure and/or smart design elements (e.g. native plants, energy efficient lighting, WIFI/5G and connected vehicle technology)?
- Does the project provide access to transit or support transit-oriented development?
- Is the project located in a census tract with a high concentration of racial and ethnic minorities and low-income populations, or which serves residents of public or subsidized housing?

Dunwoody has three areas with adopted LCI plans: Dunwoody Village, Georgetown/North Shallowford and Perimeter Center. There are projects in all three areas that would address the first 4 areas of emphasis but, when considering the question of equity, Georgetown has a higher concentration of minorities and low-income workers than the other two areas based on census tract data published by ARC. Considering all of the areas of emphasis, staff is recommending the North Shallowford Road Path Project for potential ARC funding.

This project is referred to in the Georgetown Master Plan as North Shallowford Road Multi-Modal Improvements consisting of sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaped buffers, pedestrian crossing improvements and lighting. Bike lanes were added on North Shallowford Road by narrowing the vehicle lanes when the road was repaved in 2011, but several gaps in the sidewalk still exist. Subsequent to the addition of the bike lanes as a low-cost retrofit, the city's



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vision for bicycle accommodations has evolved to prioritize bicycle lanes/paths that are physically separated from vehicle traffic to encourage a wider range of riders.

The updated vision for North Shallowford Road is a shared-use path that will connect to the Georgetown Path, the path currently under construction on Chamblee Dunwoody and the path planned along Cotillion Drive. It is anticipated that the path can be constructed mostly within the existing right of way by narrowing the roadway. Design funding for this project was added during the mid-year budget adjustment for 2021 but the city has not yet contracted with a design consultant. The proposed 5-year capital budget currently does not include construction funding. If the city were awarded federal funds for this project, the funding that the city has already budgeted for design could be used as matching funds. With federal funding, the project would be added to the regional Transportation Improvement Plan which would allow the city to then seek additional funding for construction, with a goal of constructing the project in the 2024-2025 timeframe.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff recommends adoption of the resolution in support of the North Shallowford Road Path Project application for federal funding through the ARC's LCI program.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NORTH SHALLOWFORD ROAD PATH PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION’S LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE (LCI) PROJECT SOLICITATION**

**WHEREAS,** the Atlanta Regional Commission accepted the Georgetown/North Shallowford Area Master Plan as having been completed in accordance with LCI standards and as adequately reflecting the goals and intent of an LCI study; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Dunwoody is committed to the implementation of this Master Plan and has completed 10 of the projects recommended in the plan with several additional projects underway; and

**WHEREAS,** the highest priority project still to be fully implemented in the Master Plan is North Shallowford Road Multi-Modal Improvements from Cotillion Drive to Peeler Road, now referred to as the North Shallowford Path Project; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Dunwoody has completed a feasibility study for the path project which included concept development and an initial cost estimate; and

**WHEREAS,** the City recognizes the importance of the public realm, made up of street improvements, bicycle and pedestrian amenities, and aesthetic treatments in the fostering of a vibrant and livable community; and

**WHEREAS,** the construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Chamblee Dunwoody Road will extend the existing network and is an integral element in creating the community envisioned by the LCI area plan.

**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 LCI Project Solicitation and hereby authorize the City Manager and staff to execute all appropriate documents in pursuit thereof.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021.

**CITY OF DUNWOODY**

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Lynn P. Deutsch, Mayor

Attest:

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Sharon Lowery, City Clerk