



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: January 24, 2022

Subject: **Presentation of Conceptual Design for a Path on Vermack Road between Womack Road and Vanderlyn Drive**

BACKGROUND

In 2021 the city allocated funds for pedestrian improvements on Vermack Road in front of Dunwoody High School after receiving a complaint about the utility poles being located in the middle of the sidewalk (pictures attached). The 5½-foot wide sidewalk is effectively reduced to a three to four foot wide sidewalk at five pole locations. The minimum width to meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements is four feet. There are also five curb ramps on this section of Vermack Road that don't meet current ADA requirements. Three of the five poles carry higher voltage power transmission lines that typically cost \$100,000 or more per pole to relocate.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN DISCUSSION

A minimal approach to addressing the ADA issues would be to meander the sidewalk around the utility poles and replace the curb ramps. Considering the foot traffic to the schools in the area and the on-street parking access, Public Works has developed a concept that replaces the existing sidewalk with a wider pathway that can also accommodate bicycles.

The conceptual plan (see attached) keeps the on-street parking and curb line as is. Beginning at the curb and moving away from the roadway, the design would consist of a 3-foot buffer and a 12-foot wide concrete path. Adjacent to parking, the buffer would be paved to connect the parking to the path. Elsewhere the buffer would be grassed. Low retaining walls have been incorporated to minimize the easement area needed to construct the path. Additional stormwater pipe is planned to manage the flow from the increased impervious area. The estimated construction cost including temporary easements and contingencies is \$490,000.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The City presented the conceptual design on-line for public input, (<https://www.dunwoodyga.gov/government/projects/public-works/dunwoody-high-school-path>) and received 32 comments. Fifteen responses expressed support for the concept plan, eleven did not support the plan and six did not indicate a preference. Those who did not support the plan expressed concerns for the lack of parking, tree loss and a desire to focus resources on other priorities. As noted above the existing parking will not be impacted by the project.



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

Public Works staff also met with the Principal's Advisory Committee for the high school. The primary concern of the committee was whether the path would encroach on school property and the timing of construction. The committee asked for the project to be scheduled for summer and also asked whether the on-street parking could be reconfigured to angled parking to add more spaces. An evaluation of angled parking found that it would double the cost of the project, require right of way from the school and would only add 12 parking spaces.

NEXT STEPS

Based on direction from the City Council, the next phase of the project would be to complete the final design and construction documents with the goal of beginning construction this summer provided that the temporary easements can be obtained from the school system in the next few months.



City of
Dunwoody
Georgia

**VERMACK ROAD PATH-WOMACK
ROAD TO VANDERLYN DRIVE**

VERMACK ROAD PATH-WOMACK ROAD TO VANDERLYN DRIVE

City of
Dunwoody
Georgia

#12.



VERMACK ROAD PATH-WOMACK ROAD TO VANDERLYN DRIVE



