



City of **Dunwoody** *Georgia*

Bonds – The Way Forward

August 2022

History and Today's Purpose

- City Council held a retreat March 21-22.
- Discussion at the retreat focused on various financial topics including the operating millage rate and bonding capital projects.
- The discussion led to the creation of a Capital Committee which held hearings, along with that topic being addressed at other town halls and City Council meetings.

History and Today's Purpose

- Twelve different public meetings were held on capital and/or bonds on the following dates:
 - **April 11** – Council Meeting (Short Term Capital)
 - **April 25** – Council Meeting (Creation of Capital Committee)
 - **May 6** – Capital Committee
 - **May 17** – Town Hall
 - **May 23** – Council Meeting (Millage and Bond Rates)
 - **May 24** – Town Hall
 - **May 25** – Town Hall
 - **June 10** – Capital Committee
 - **June 23** – Council Meeting (Feedback from Town Halls)
 - **July 11** – Council Meeting (Capital Project List Discussion)
 - **July 15** – Capital Committee
 - **July 25** – Council Meeting (Report of Capital Committee)

History and Today's Purpose

- In the end, these meetings gave focused guidance for staff to work on a bondable project list for future Council discussion.
- What staff heard... (Emphasis that this is what was heard, but not yet at a consensus.)
 - A focus on parks.
 - A focus on trails.
 - These two might be mutually exclusive.
 - Maybe land acquisition.
 - Maybe transportation.

History and Today's Purpose

- The need for a creation of a citizen committee was brought up.
- This could be of any form, but staff recommends looking at one citizen appointee per council member.
- The directive to the committee will be to review the staff recommendations that follow in this proposal and report back to the full council.

Staff Initial Recommendation

- Staff recommends that Council explore:
 - One bond of approximately \$30 million to develop the Austin Park site, Vermack Park site, along with some improvements to Brook Run Park though not full fledge completion of the next phase.
 - To accomplish this, Council will need to approve the current master plan drafts for Austin and Vermack development or approve modified versions of those plans; along with designating some projects within Brook Run Park as having priority in a bond issuance.

Staff Initial Recommendation

- Staff recommends that Council explore:
 - One bond of approximately \$30 million to develop a citywide trail system.
 - To accomplish this, staff recommends that Council (a) adopt the core trail system plan as asked for at the March 2022 Council retreat to be used for (b) a full citywide trail plan to be developed this winter and approve by Council by the 2023 retreat.
 - Options for transportation could be up to \$20 million for finishing all planned sidewalk construction along with major intersection work which could not be handled under SPLOST.

Staff Initial Recommendation

- Staff Recommends that Council explore:
 - Determining if there is a need for the issuance of \$10 million for land acquisition along with what the intent of future acquisition will encompass.

Staff Initial Recommendation

- Staff Recommends that Council explore:
 - Determining if there is a need for the issuance of a transportation bond, knowing that SPLOST will be on the ballot in 2023 and the city, while advocating for a broader use of SPLOST, can keep it for transportation, public safety and repair.

Deliverables Needs

- The timeline over the next few slides needs these deliverables approved by council in order to go forward.
 - Core Trail System Plan
 - Citywide Trail System Plan
 - Austin Master Plan
 - Vermack Master Plan
 - Brook Run – Improvement List

Proposed Time Line

September 19

- Presentation of Core Trail Plan requested at retreat.
- Approval of citywide trail plan. (PATH)

October 10

- Presentation of Austin and Vermack master plans; presentation of Brook Run priorities.
- Approval of Core Trail Plan requested at retreat.

October 24

- Approval of Austin and Vermack master plans; approval of Brook Run priorities.

Proposed Time Line

February 2023

- Presentation of early draft of citywide trail system.

March 2023

- Updated draft of citywide trail system at Council Retreat.

March 2023

- Discussion of bond options and SPLOST renewal at Council Retreat.

May 2023

- Approval of citywide trail system. (PATH)
- Council vote on bond resolution.

November 2023

- Potential citizen vote on bonds and SPLOST.