



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: February 14, 2022
Subject: **Conceptual Design for a Path on Vermack Road between Womack Road and Vanderlyn Drive**

ACTION

Provide feedback on the conceptual design for a path on Vermack Road between Womack Road and Vanderlyn Drive.

SUMMARY

The City Council reviewed and discussed the conceptual design for the Vermack Road Path adjacent to Dunwoody High School at the January 24th Council meeting. The design as proposed replaced the existing sidewalk, which does not meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements, with a 12-foot wide concrete path separated from the roadway by a 3-foot buffer. The Council generally expressed support for the path but also wanted to know what the cost/benefit would be to convert the existing on-street parking to angled parking with a 5-foot sidewalk instead of a path.

Cost estimates for the various alternatives assuming no additional lighting is added are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
12-foot path with existing on-street parallel parking	\$575,000
12-foot path with angled, on-street parking	\$1,100,000
5-foot sidewalk with angled, on-street parking	\$825,000

More land area is needed for the angled parking options which means that the bike lane would need to be removed and additional right of way and easements would be required from the school system. Unless the school system agreed to donate the land for the benefit of the school having more parking, the added land costs would push the cost of each additional parking space to between \$30,000 and \$50,000 depending on the sidewalk/path width. By comparison, parking decks construction costs are generally estimated at around \$20,000 to \$25,000 per space.



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DETAILS

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.

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 cost of \$575,000 assumes that the existing lighting will be maintained. The cost to add decorative pedestrian lighting along the path would be an additional \$300,000.

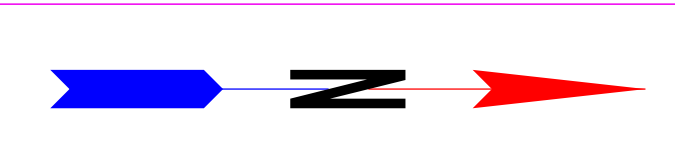
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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.

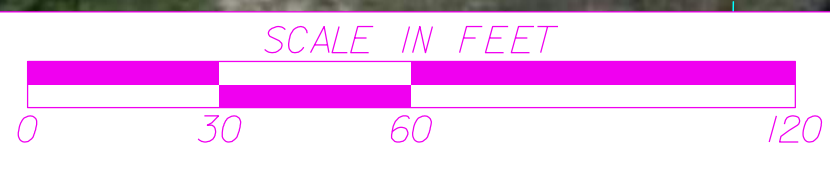
Public Works staff also met with the Principal's Advisory Committee for the high school. The primary concern of the committee was whether the path would encroach on school property and the timing of construction. The committee asked for the project to be scheduled for summer and also asked whether the on-street parking could be reconfigured to angled parking to add more spaces.

NEXT STEPS

The next phase of the project would be to complete the final design and construction documents based on the City Council's direction.



VERMACK ROAD PATH INSTALLATION AT DUNWOODY HIGH SCHOOL





City of
Dunwoody
Georgia

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

VERMACK ROAD PATH-WOMACK ROAD TO VANDERLYN DRIVE



VERMACK ROAD PATH-WOMACK ROAD TO VANDERLYN DRIVE

