

MEMORANDUM

Subject:	Conceptual Design for Peeler Road Path from Winters Chapel Road to Lakeside Drive
Date:	June 12, 2023
From:	Michael Smith, Public Works Director
То:	Mayor and City Council

ACTION

Discuss the conceptual design for the proposed shared-use path on Peeler Road between Winters Chapel Road and Lakeside Drive.

SUMMARY

The proposed bicycle and pedestrian path on Peeler Road will connect residents in the area to Windwood Hollow Park at the west end of the project and to the commercial area on Winters Chapel Road at the east end of the project. The project is recommended in the city's comprehensive transportation plan and is identified as project P16 in the recently adopted PATH plan. The path will eventually become a segment in a trail system that will connect to Brook Run Park and to the path currently under construction on Winters Chapel Road. The project is being funded through the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

DETAILS

<u>Concept</u>

The proposed design consists of a 12-foot wide, concrete path for cyclists and pedestrians on the north side of Peeler Road between the existing short section of path on Winters Chapel Road and Windwood Hollow Park. The path will be separated from the roadway by a landscape buffer that varies from the required minimum width of 3 feet, where right of way space is limited, up to as much as 15 feet where there is room for the path to go behind utility poles. The path crosses 2 side streets, 2 residential driveways and 1 commercial driveway in this 1/2 –mile long section. The final design will include trees and pedestrian lighting along the trail. The goal will be to place trees and lighting between the road and the path wherever space and utilities allow.

Right of Way and Utility Impacts

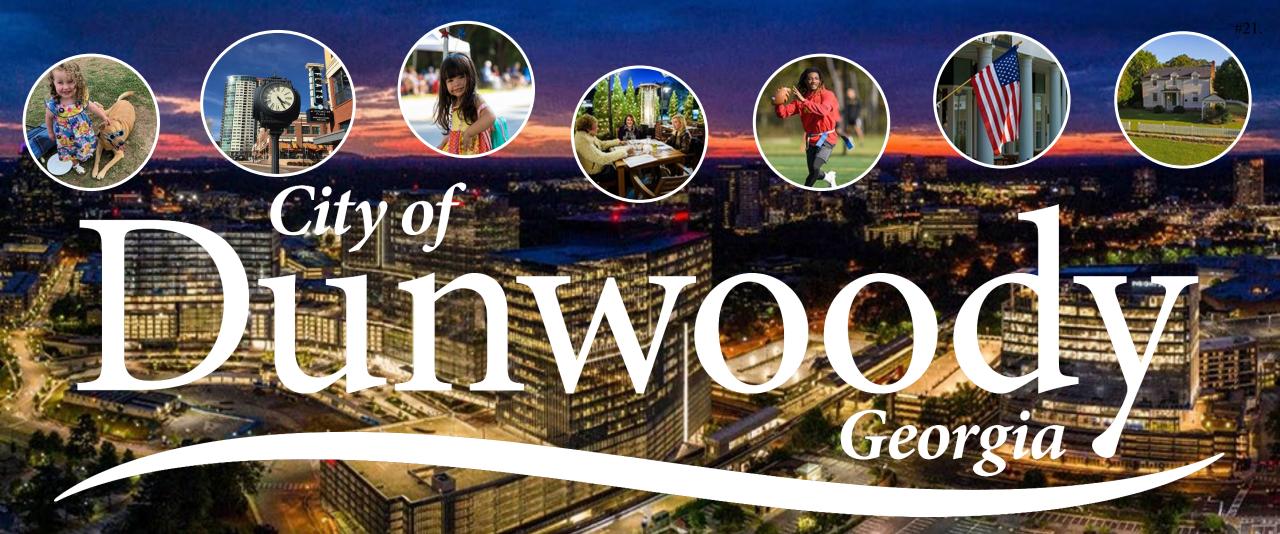
Much of the project can be constructed within the existing right of way. A sliver of additional right of way will be required from one residential property and one commercial property at Glaze Drive. Temporary construction easements will also be needed on these properties as well as 2 other residential properties near Glaze Drive. A permanent drainage easement will be needed for the stormwater outlet to be located on DeKalb County's water transmission main property. The path is being designed to avoid most existing utility poles and limit the need for utility relocation as much as possible.

Public Input



In early 2022, the city solicited public input on the project through a 30-day comment period on the city's website and received 69 comment forms with the majority expressing support for the project. There were nearly twice as many responses in support of the project as there were responses opposed to the project. Most respondents that opposed the project expressed that the project was not necessary since there was already a nice sidewalk along the reservoir on the opposite side of the road. Tree and privacy impacts were other concerns.

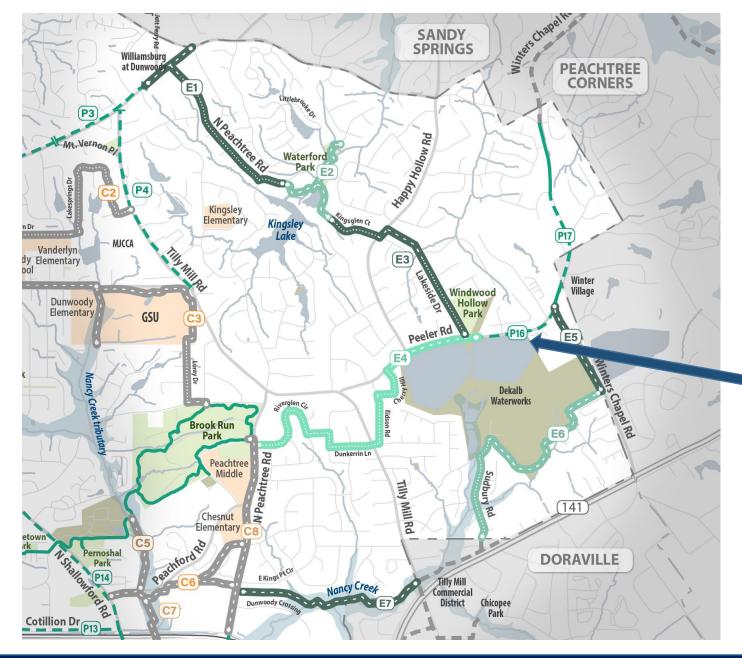
City staff also presented the concept design and answered questions at a meeting with Four Oaks neighborhood residents and at a Dunwoody Homeowners Association meeting. The project was also presented for public comment as part of the Dunwoody Trail Master Plan that was recently adopted.



Conceptual Design for Peeler Road Path from Winters Chapel Road to Windwood Hollow Park

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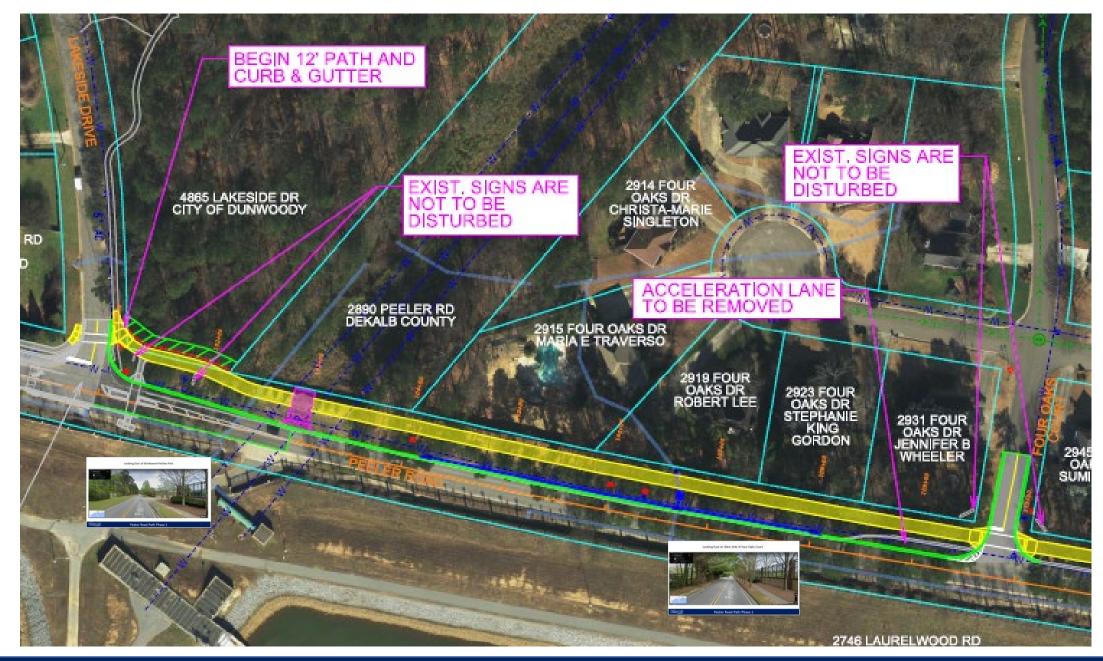
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Dunwoody Trail Master Plan Project P16- Peeler Road Path Winters Chapel Road to Lakeside Dr.









Looking East at Windwood Hollow Park

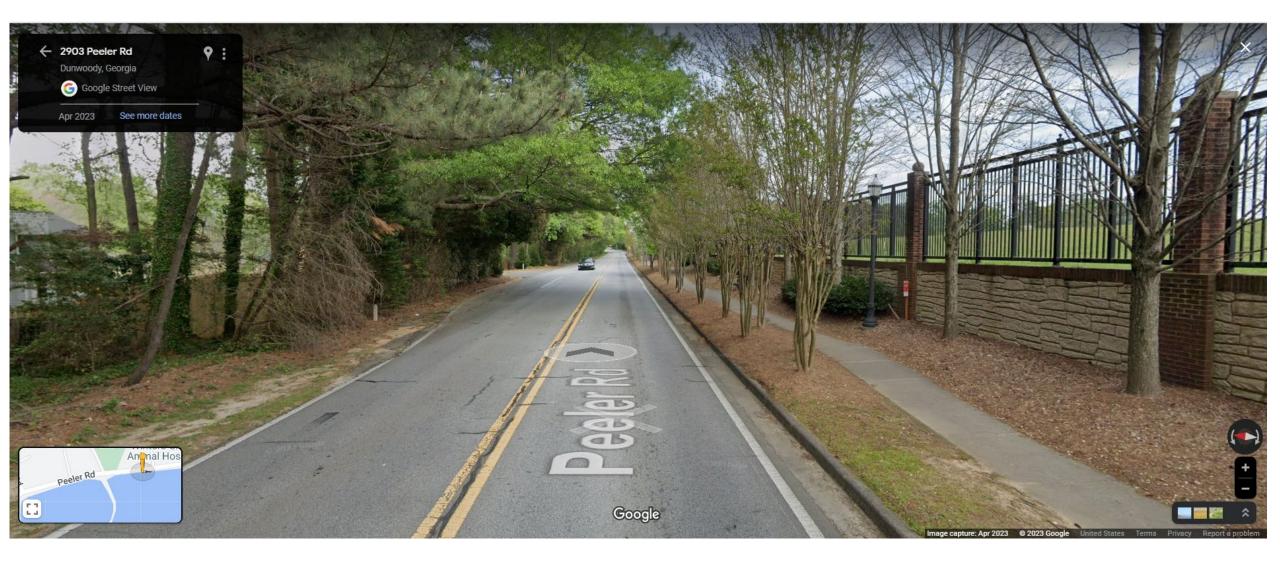




Peeler Road Path Phase 1

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Looking East on West Side of Four Oaks Court

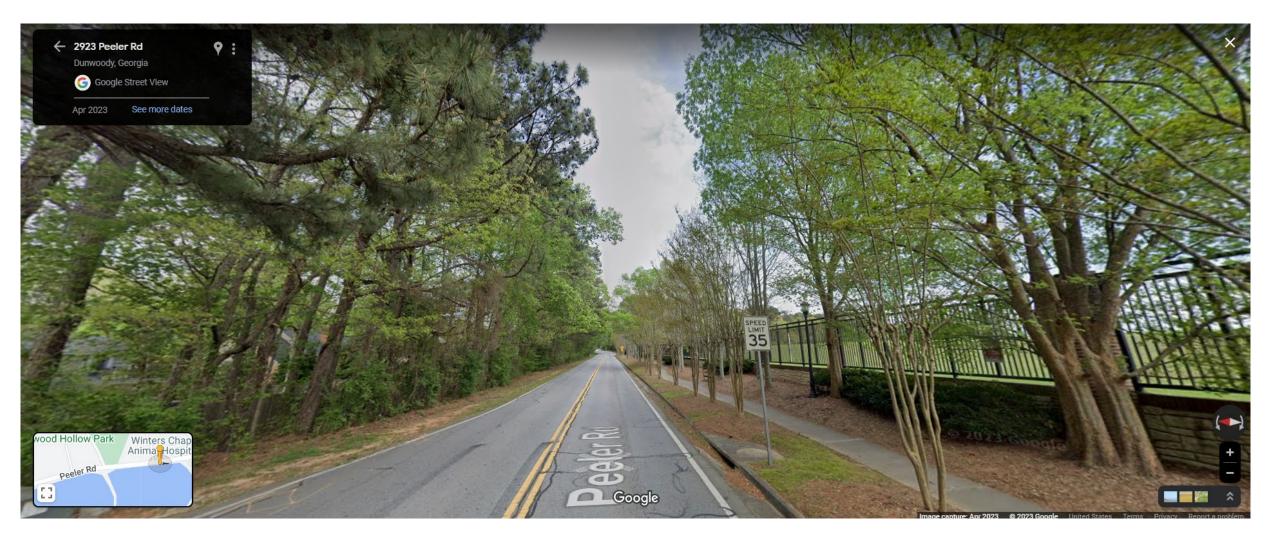








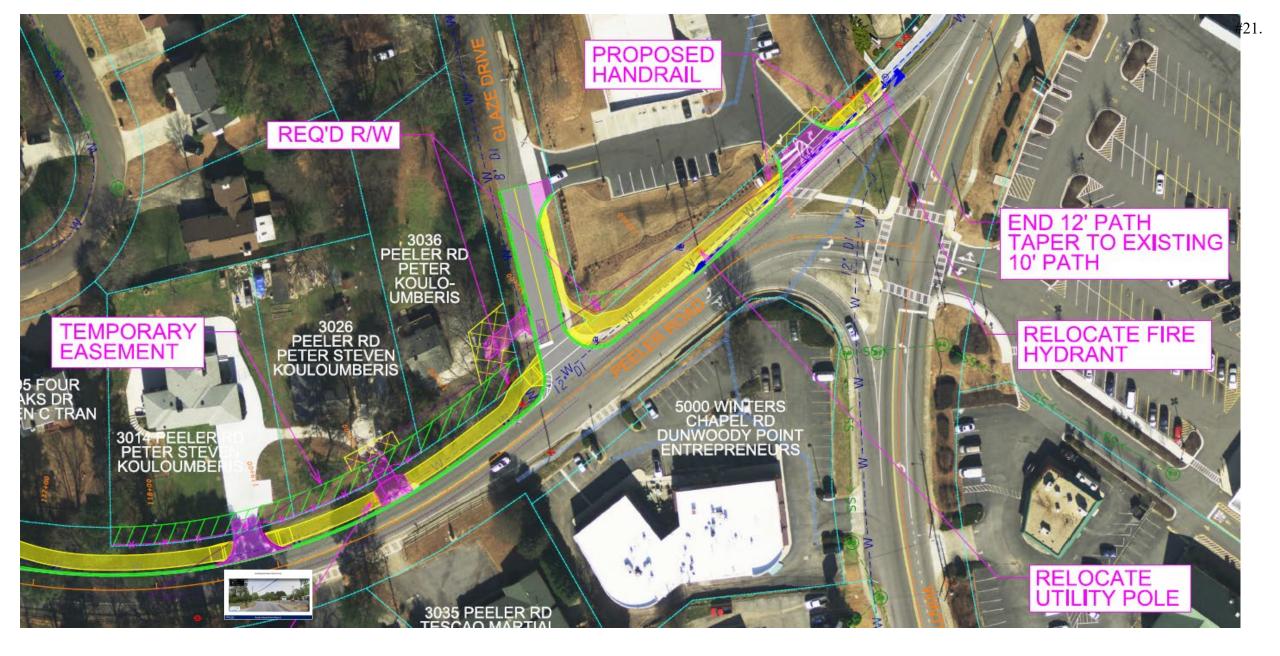
Looking East Near Four Oaks Court





Peeler Road Path Phase 1

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Looking East Near Glaze Drive





Public Input

Project Page on City Website



- 69 comments submitted
- Majority of respondents in favor of project
- Less than 1/3 opposed to project
- Responses in support of the project outnumbered responses against the project by nearly 2 to 1
- Most of those opposed commented that the path is not needed since there is a nice sidewalk on the reservoir side of Peeler
- Other concerns: trees, privacy

Neighborhood Meeting with Four Oaks

June 2022- DHA Meeting

