

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: May 22, 2023

Subject: Amendment to Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Agreement

for Grant Funding Awarded to the Westside Connector Project

ACTION

Authorize the Mayor, City Manager, or designee to approve an amendment to the agreement with the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) for grant funding awarded to the Westside Connector project through the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB).

SUMMARY

The proposed third amendment to the GTIB agreement for the Westside Connector project allocates the remaining \$190,939 of grant funds to construct crosswalk improvements at Hammond Drive and Ashford Dunwoody Road and extends the completion date to June 30, 2024. The planned improvements include enlarging the median pedestrian island on the north side of the intersection, pavement resurfacing and adding the Perimeter Community Improvement District (PCID) style red marking to all of the crosswalks at this intersection. The median island will be widened by removing one of the southbound left turn lanes which will also slightly improve the efficiency of the traffic signal.

DETAILS

The \$500,000 GTIB grant was awarded to Dunwoody for preliminary engineering on the Westside Connector project. The Westside Connector project was conceived to improve traffic flow on Ashford Dunwoody Road between I-285 and Hammond Drive by providing a direct connection between the westbound I-285 off ramp and Perimeter Center Parkway, where mixed-use developments are becoming concentrated around the Dunwoody MARTA station.

As the Westside Connector plans were refined and coordinated with the Top End Managed Lane design, the additional right of way needed for the project became cost prohibitive and the city and PCID began to explore other alternatives to alleviate traffic congestion at the interchange. In October 2021, the City Council approved the second amendment to the \$500,000 GTIB grant. That amendment allocated \$105,000 of the remaining grant funds to identify a project that would improve congestion and benefit Ashford Dunwoody Road. The concept identified with this funding and presented to the City Council in April 2022 involves widening the Ashford Dunwoody Road bridge over I-285 by one lane in each direction and adding a parallel bicycle and pedestrian bridge. The Georgia Department of Transportation has now taken the lead on that project and will complete their own planning study.

The second amendment also shifted the final \$190,939 of GTIB grant funds for construction of a short-term improvement. The project that has been identified for construction involves



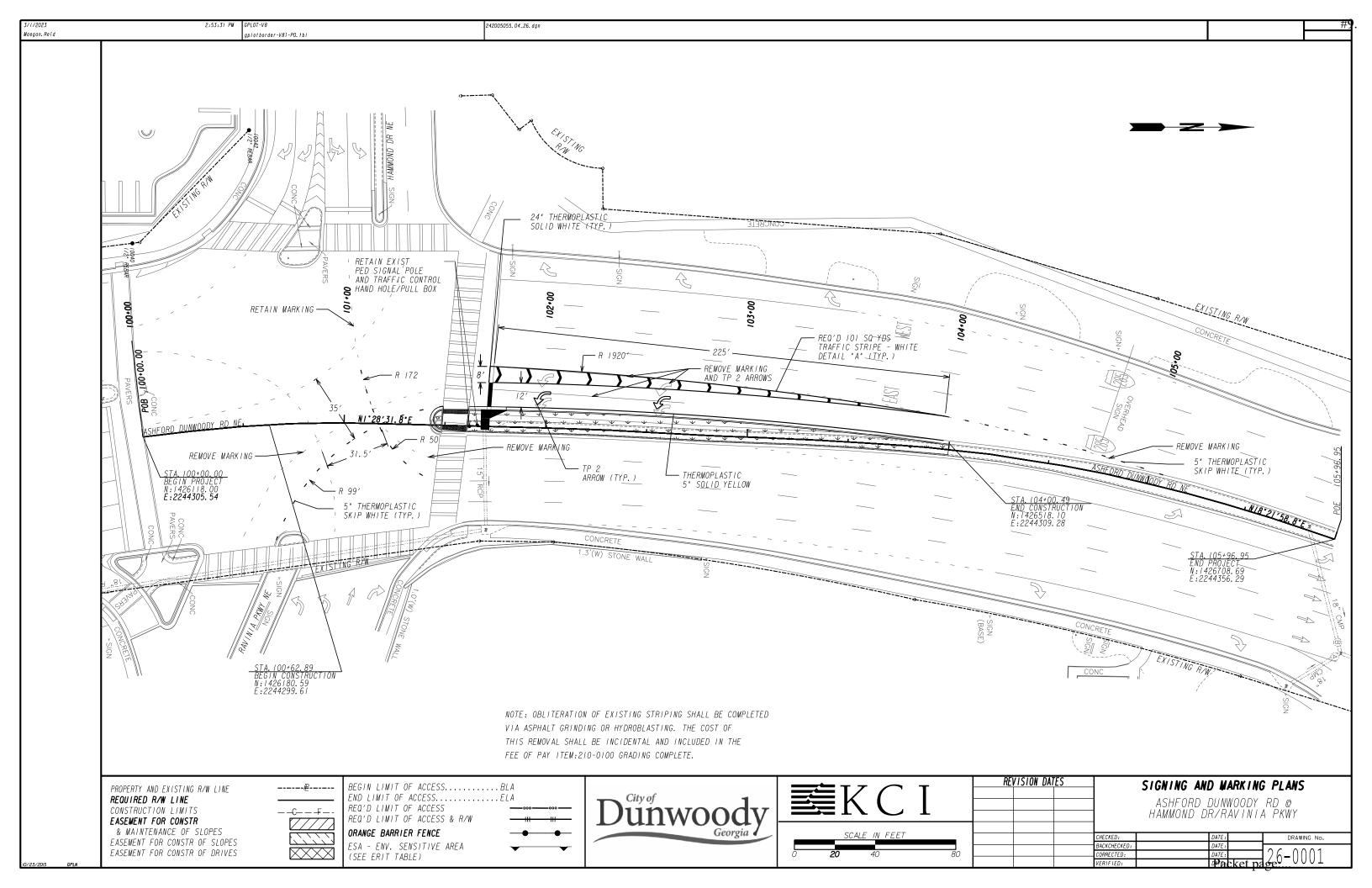
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removing one of the two southbound left turn lanes so that the pedestrian median island on the north side of the intersection can be enlarged. Pedestrians cross Ashford Dunwoody in 2 stages, stopping in the middle because of the high traffic volume and road widths at the intersection. The island will be widened from approximately 5 feet wide to 10 feet wide to provide more space for pedestrians as they wait for the walk signal for the second phase of the crossing. The southbound turning volume into Ravinia is not high enough to warrant two turn lanes so removal of one of the lanes will not have a negative impact on traffic flow. Also shifting the remaining turn lane will allow the northbound and southbound left turns to have concurrent green arrows which will slightly improve the efficiency of the intersection.

Once the amendment is approved by SRTA, a construction contract will be presented to the City Council for approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the Mayor, City Manager, or designee to approve an amendment to the agreement with the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) for grant funding awarded to the Westside Connector project through the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB).



THIRD AMENDMENT

To

Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Agreement for Grant Program Between

Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank,
By And Through The State Road And Tollway Authority
And

City of Dunwoody (Westside Connector Project)

This Third Amendment ("Third Amendment") to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Agreement for Grant Program is effective as of May 5, 2023 ("Third Amendment Effective Date"), and is by and between the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank, by and through the State Road and Tollway Authority ("SRTA") and the City of Dunwoody. SRTA and the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank shall be collectively referred to as the "GTIB." The City of Dunwoody shall be referred to as the "Recipient." The GTIB and Recipient may be collectively referred to as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, the GTIB and Recipient entered into a Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Agreement for Grant Program, dated November 21, 2016 (the "Agreement"), wherein the GTIB agreed to award a Grant in the Grant Amount to Recipient pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Parties would like to amend the Agreement as set forth in this Third Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

- 1. Any capitalized term not specifically defined in this Third Amendment will have the same meaning assigned in the Agreement to that term.
- 2. The Project spend down Expiration Date is hereby extended by one (1) year until November 21, 2024.
- 3. Exhibit B of the Agreement shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following as set forth in Attachment 1 to this Third Amendment
- 4. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement, as may have been previously amended and which are not expressly modified by this Third Amendment, shall be given full force and effect.

The Parties have signed, sealed, and delivered this Third Amendment as of the Third Amendment Effective Date.

State Road and Tollway Authority	Attest:	
By:		
Jannine Miller	Merryl S. Mandus	
Executive Director	General Counsel	
City of Dunwoody (SEAL)		
By:		
Name:Mayor Lynn P. Deutsch	Name:	
Title:	Title:	
GTIB Round 4: City of Dunwoody		Westside Connector Project
		Third Amendment
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Attachment 1

EXHIBIT B PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	Westside Connector Project
Project Location:	City of Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia
Project Scope:	Effective September 21, 2021, SRTA processed the second amendment to the City of Dunwoody's Westside Connector Project which allowed the City to study the Ashford Dunwoody/I-285 interchange area utilizing a portion of remaining GTIB funds then identify a project to implement utilizing GTIB funds. This was done in lieu of the original Westside Connector Project, which was no longer feasible due to the 285 Managed Lane Project.
	As a result of the study the City has proposed the elimination of the second southbound left turn lane from Ashford Dunwoody to Ravina Drive. The City temporarily closed this lane and found no degradation in level of service but did find it allows room for the northbound left turn lane from Ashford Dunwoody to Hammond Drive to operate at the same time as the remaining single southbound left turn lane to Ravina Drive, resulting in operational efficiencies at the intersection. This information has been shared with GDOT and no objections to the improvement have been raised.
Grant Amount:	Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$500,000)
Grant Purpose:	To fund a portion of preliminary engineering and construction cost for the project.
Project Completion Date:	June 30, 2024
Project Budget:	Six Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars and No Cents (\$635,955)

A breakdown of the Project Budget is as follows:

ITEM	TOTAL	GTIB FUNDS
Preliminary Engineering	\$435,955	\$309,060.76
Right-of-Way	N/A	N/A
Construction	\$200,000	\$190,939.24
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$635,955	\$500,000

GTIB: City of Dunwoody - Westside Connector Project - Amendment 3

Background:

• Effective Date: 11/21/16

Current Spend Down Date: 11/21/23

Total Award: \$500,000 (grant)

Draw Downs to Date: 4 draws processed; balance remaining - CST \$190,939.24

Amendment Requested by Awardee:

City of Dunwoody requests a Scope Change and 1-year extension to the spend down date (aka contract expiration date). The new spend down date would be November 21, 2024.

Rationale for Amendment:

Effective September 21, 2021, SRTA processed the second amendment to the City of Dunwoody's Westside Connector project which allowed the City to study the Ashford Dunwoody/I-285 interchange area utilizing a portion of remaining GTIB funds then identify a project to implement utilizing GTIB funds. This was done in lieu of the original Westside Connector project, which was no longer feasible due to the 285 Managed Lane project.

As a result of the study the City has proposed the elimination of the second southbound left turn lane from Ashford Dunwoody to Ravina Drive. The City temporarily closed this lane and found no degradation in level of service but did find it allows room for the northbound left turn lane from Ashford Dunwoody to Hammond Drive to operate at the same time as the remaining single southbound left turn lane to Ravina Drive, resulting in operational efficiencies at the intersection. This information has been shared with GDOT and no objections to the improvement have been raised.

Staff finds that the proposed project is consistent with the scope of the second amendment as it identifies a project for implementation in the area of the Ashford Dunwoody/I-285 interchange.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of this amendment at the Executive Director's earliest convenience.