



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Director of Public Works

Date: October 11, 2010

Subject: Discussion of Sidewalk Improvement Policy

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Discuss proposed changes to the sidewalk improvement policy.

BACKGROUND

The Sidewalk Improvement Policy, adopted by the Mayor and Council in April, 2010, established an objective process for prioritizing sidewalk projects. Under the policy sidewalk projects are prioritized based on specific criteria such as proximity to schools, safety, pedestrian demand and constructability with school proximity given the highest priority.

PROPOSED POLICY MODIFICATION

Since the policy was adopted Public Works has obtained mapping from the DeKalb County School System that provides the number of students within one ½, 1 and 1½ miles walking distance of each of the elementary schools within the City. In reviewing this information, Public Works has determined that some of the proposed sidewalk segments near schools are unlikely to serve many, if any, children walking to school. The best example of this is the proposed sidewalk on the north side of Womack Road between Tilly Mill Road and Oakhurst Walk. This segment is within one half mile of Dunwoody Elementary School and one mile of Kingsley Elementary School but does not currently provide an essential walking route to any students for either school.

In light of this new information, Public Works proposes that the policy be amended to give the highest priority to sidewalks that provide a walking route for a relatively high number of children. Specifically, section C.1 would be amended so that the points range from six to ten, with ten points given to sidewalks that have the potential to serve a relatively high number of children and a minimum of six for segments that will serve relatively few children.

Copies of the current policy as approved, the current prioritized list and a revised list based on the proposed modification to the policy follow this memorandum.

RELATION TO COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Currently, the city is developing a comprehensive transportation plan that will include an evaluation of existing and future pedestrian facilities. The Sidewalk Improvement Policy and the list of future sidewalk projects will be reviewed, modified as needed to be consistent with the overall transportation plan and incorporated either as part of the final plan document or by reference.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

I recommend adoption of the proposed modifications to the Sidewalk Improvement Policy.