

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Public Works Director

Date: August 24, 2015

Subject: **Approval of a Grant Application for the Westside Connector**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Approval of a grant application to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank for the Westside Connector project

BACKGROUND

In March 2015 the City Council approved a resolution to apply for federal funding through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for the Westside Connector project. This project would provide a direct connection between I-285 at Ashford Dunwoody Road and Perimeter Center Parkway at the current location of Goldkist Drive (see attached concept plan). The project is consistent with the Perimeter Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Plan and would provide an alternative to Hammond Drive for east-west traffic. The traffic analysis being developed by the engineers working for Sandy Springs and Dunwoody on the Hammond Drive Corridor study indicates that the proposed Westside Connector could provide significant traffic benefits. A parallel multi-use path is also proposed to provide improved access between Ravinia and the Dunwoody MARTA station and connection to existing bicycle lanes on Perimeter Center Parkway.

ARC is deferring decisions on future federal funding until a new federal transportation funding bill is enacted which may not occur until 2016. In the interim city staff has continued to work to advance the project. There is currently an opportunity to seek funding through the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) which is administered by the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA). The city has previously been awarded GTIB funding for the Tilly Mill Road/North Peachtree Road intersection project.

Though the grant does not require a financial commitment from the City, a high percentage of matching funds makes for a more competitive application. Staff is proposing a request of \$500,000 from the GTIB with a \$500,000 match from the city to fund the design for the project. Staff has included \$200,000 in the 2016 budget request. It is anticipated that the grant funding will not be awarded until early 2016. If the city receives funding the balance of the city's commitment could be included in a future budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of the attached Resolution in support of a \$500,000 grant request to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank. A \$250 non-refundable application fee is required with the grant application.

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY**

RESOLUTION 2015-08-

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION FOR GEORGIA
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BANK GRANT PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS,** the City seeks to improve and enhance its infrastructure for all users of the transportation system; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Dunwoody Comprehensive Land Use Plan states that the Perimeter Center Area vision is "[t]o create a 'livable' regional center with first-class office, retail and high-end restaurants in a pedestrian and bicycle-oriented environment that serves as a regional example of high quality design standards."; and
- WHEREAS,** the Westside Connector project is consistent with the Perimeter Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) plan to fill in the street grid and provide additional connectivity; and
- WHEREAS,** a project justification report has been developed which demonstrates that the Westside Connector has tremendous potential to provide congestion relief for existing and future development underway in the Perimeter Center market; and
- WHEREAS,** the City is committing \$500,000 for engineering design and anticipates a combination of public and private investment for right of way acquisition and construction funding; and
- WHEREAS,** the City has worked successfully with the State Road and Tollway Authority to implement transportation improvements and appreciates the opportunity to advance another project that adds transportation and economic value for the state; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dunwoody, that the City of Dunwoody supports the application for the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank grant for the Westside Connector project and hereby authorizes the City Manager and staff to execute all appropriate documents in pursuit thereof.

SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE this 24th day of August 2015.

Approved:

Michael G. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

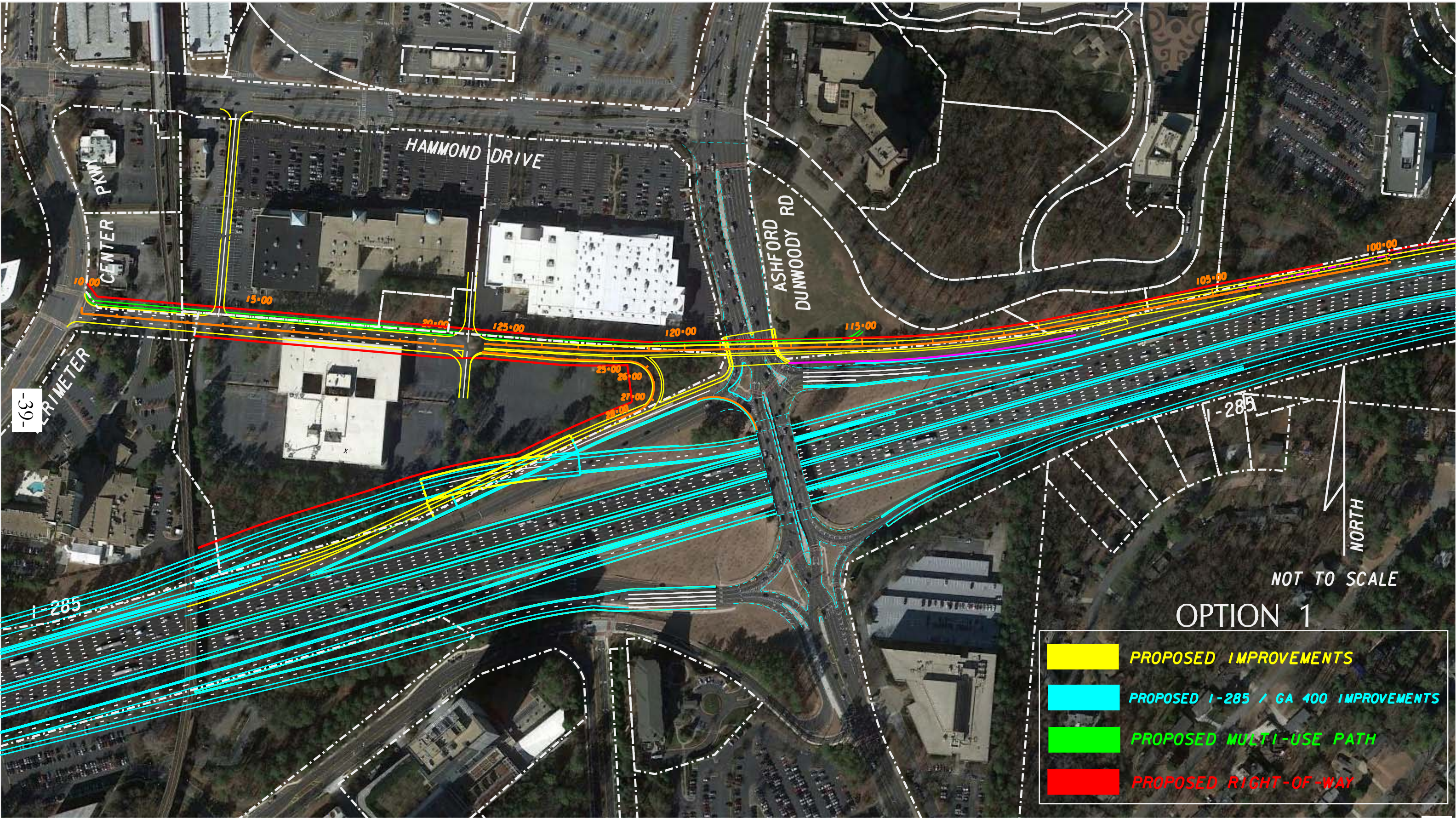
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Dunwoody SmartMap
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