



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 11, 2019

Subject: **Funding Authorization for Final Design of Phase I of the Ashford Dunwoody Commuter Trail**

BACKGROUND

The Perimeter Community Improvement District (PCID) has been previously granted \$500,000 in federal funding to design trail projects recommended in the Commuter Trail System Master Plan. After evaluating several segments and discussing the project with the affected property owners, a conceptual design was developed for a path along Ashford Dunwoody Road in front of Perimeter Mall. The conceptual plan was presented at the May 8, 2017 city council meeting and a public information meeting was held in June of 2017. Subsequently, the project was identified as a priority project for tourism development using the hotel-motel tax. Excerpts of the city council and stakeholder presentations are included with the memo.

Through the conceptual phase of the project, Dunwoody has been the local sponsor of the federal funding with the PCID providing the matching local funds. The PCID applied for grant funding for the construction phase last year but was not awarded any additional funds. Because federal money is being used to partially fund the design, the PCID is required to follow the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) plan development process. This process takes longer and costs more than if the project was funded locally. Based on GDOT's schedule construction would not begin until late 2021. Also, the PCID has historically been able to obtain easements from its members to construct improvements but federal regulations are more restrictive with regards to acceptance of right of way and easements by donation. The estimated right of way costs for this project are \$1,790,000 absent a donation by the property owner.

To accelerate the project schedule and meet the growing demand for alternative transportation infrastructure, the PCID Board of Directors has proposed to fund the remainder of the design with a 50/50 cost share between the PCID and the City. The city's hotel/motel tax, tourism development work plan already anticipated an equal cost share for the construction phase of this project. Splitting the remaining design cost would require an additional \$125,000 from the hotel/motel tax fund and the construction timeline would be accelerated by about 2 years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff requests authorization to allocate up to \$125,000 from the hotel/motel tax fund to equally share with the PCID in the remaining design costs for Ashford Dunwoody Commuter Trail Phase I. PCID will continue to manage the design consultant contract and the city will reimburse its share of the cost.

Commuter Trails Design Services Contract

(PI 0012876, DK-418)

Project Sponsor – City of Dunwoody

PCIDs Contract (Scoping Phase) -

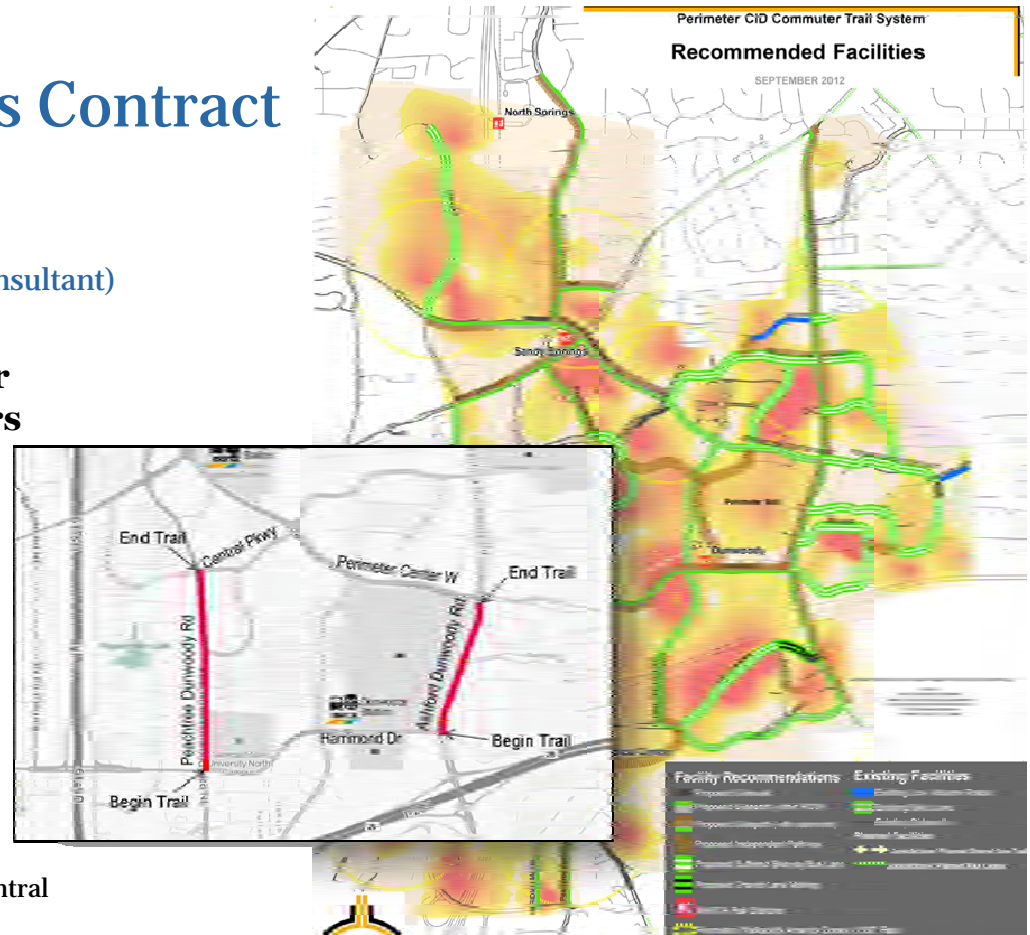
Lowe Engineers (Prime) and Sprinkle Consulting (major Subconsultant)

Goals:

1. **Implement Concept Design / Scoping for several of the “commuter” trail corridors with the most opportunity for partnership**
 1. Provide transportation options and improve bicycle and pedestrian access to MARTA
 2. Offer mobility for non-motorized users within Perimeter
 3. Decrease the number of commuter car trips by increasing the utility of MARTA for Perimeter workers and residents

The commuter trail corridor project in the City of Sandy Springs is along Peachtree Dunwoody Road between Hammond Drive and Crestline / Central Parkway.

Funding: \$500,000 total (\$400k Federal, \$100k PCID)



ASHFORD DUNWOODY MULTI-USE TRAILS - PHASES I & II

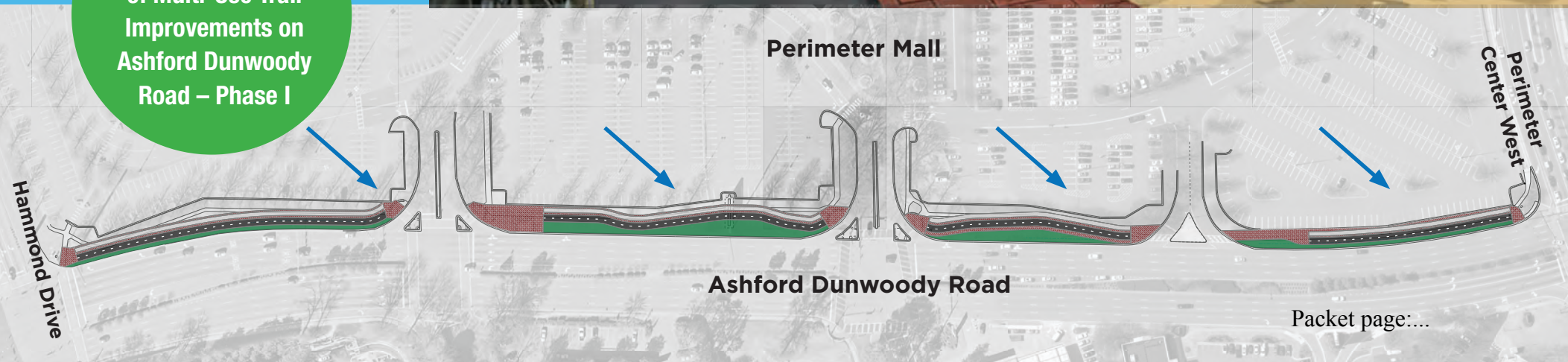
The busiest road in Dunwoody will become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly with the proposed development of the Ashford Dunwoody Road Multi-Use Trails on the western shoulders of the road.

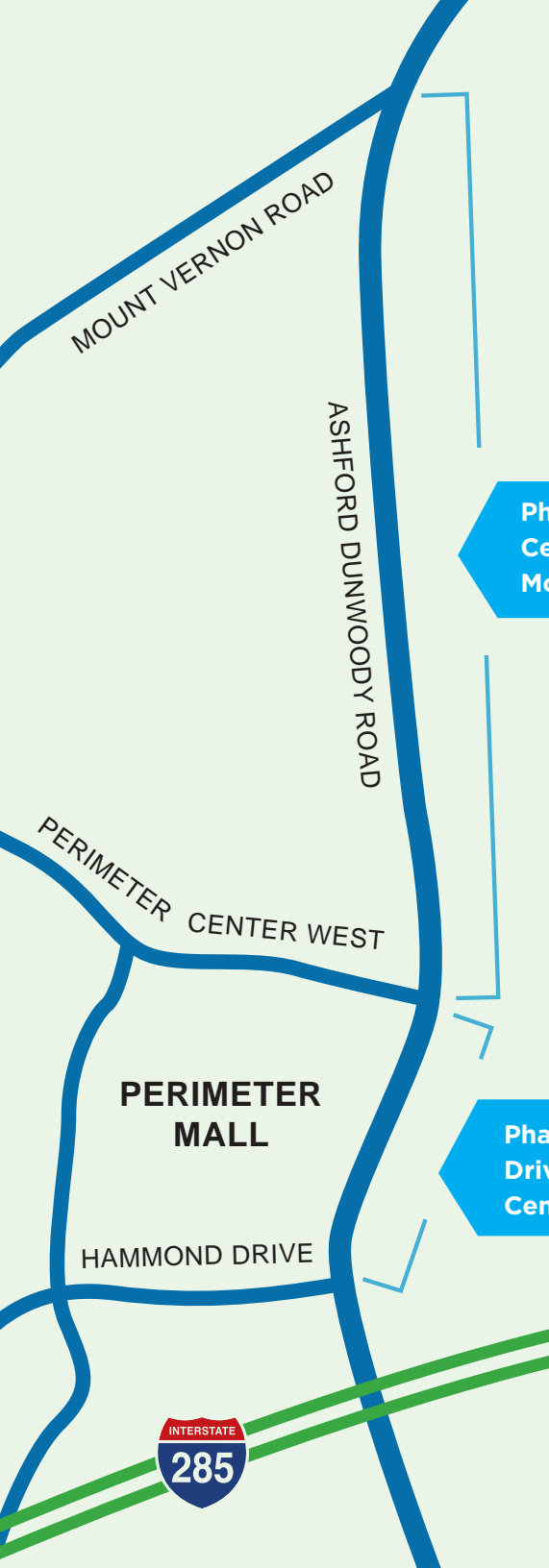
Graphic
Illustration of Design
of Multi-Use Trail
Improvements on
Ashford Dunwoody
Road – Phase I



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Proposed Plan for
Ashford Dunwoody Road
Multi-Use Trails

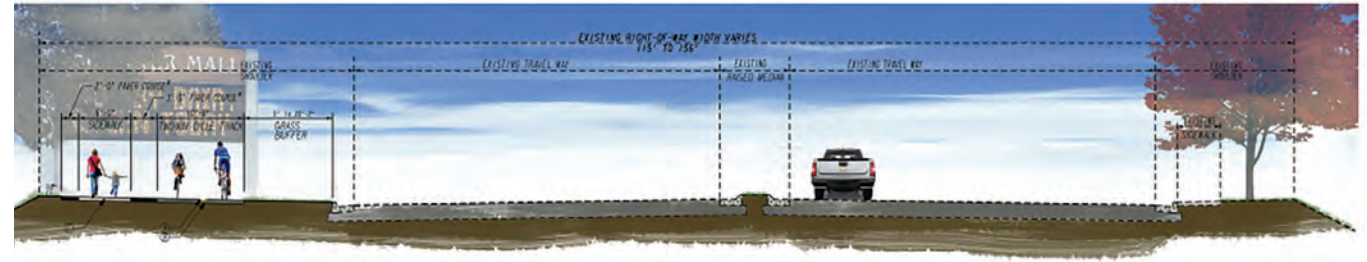




Phase II - Perimeter Center West to Mount Vernon Road



Phase I - Hammond Drive to Perimeter Center West



Typical Section - Ashford Dunwoody Road

Landscaped Bicycle & Pedestrian Friendly Trails for Safety and Accessibility

The planned bicycle and pedestrian (multi-use) pathways along Ashford Dunwoody Road will connect Hammond Drive to Perimeter Center West in Phase I and Perimeter Center West to Mount Vernon Road in Phase II. Walking or biking along this busy road in its current state is nearly impossible. These improvements will safely connect more pedestrians and cyclists to Perimeter Mall and reduce the amount of commuter traffic in this corridor.

The multi-use trails will reconstruct the western shoulders of Ashford Dunwoody Road with a 10-foot wide, two-way bicycle track, a minimum of five feet from the back of the curb. An adjoining, parallel, wide pedestrian walkway is proposed outside of the two-way cycle track, outlined by brick pavers to provide a division between the pedestrian way and bicycle track.

Phase I of the corridor includes approximately 2,000 feet of non-motorized improvements along Ashford Dunwoody Road. Phase II

of the corridor extends the trail another 4,000 feet up Ashford Dunwoody.

