

Stakeholder Advisory Committee – Meeting #3

November 6, 2017 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Forsyth County Public Library – Cumming Branch

585 Dahlonega Hwy, Cumming, GA 30040

Attendees

Pam Bowman, Smart Growth Forsyth

Robert Charles, Post Road Community for Proper Development

Steve Dabbs, Commission District 5 Appointee

Greg Dolezal, Commission District 3 Appointee

Jason May, Rotary Club of Lanier-Forsyth

Tim Merritt, Forsyth County Government

Sreeram Royyala, Commission District 2 Appointee

Carter Patterson, Commission District 1 Appointee

Seth Thomas, Commission District 4 Appointee

Summary

Michael Kray, Consultant Team Project Manager kicked off the meeting. He explained that the focus of the third and final Committee meeting is to present findings of the Needs Assessment and to talk about the projects that have been identified to address those needs. The Committee's input is needed to make sure the Consultant Team has not missed anything and to determine if some projects are not feasible or highly controversial. He also mentioned that the Team will go back out to the public beginning next week in each Commission District to start to finalize the recommendations.

Needs Assessment Overview

Mr. Kray reviewed the findings of the needs assessment in the areas of Congestion, Intersections, Safety, Bridges, Roadway Connectivity, Population and Employment Growth Areas, Active transportation (ped/bike), and Access Management. Input offered is summarized by assessment area as follows:

Congestion

- Heard that there are plans to close Buford Dam Road at the Gwinnett County line. Limited information was provided by the ACOE

Intersections

- Consider adding the intersection of Bagley at Mathis Airport to the project list.

Bridges

The county's bridges are in relatively good shape with only two functionally obsolete bridges. It is important to note that structurally obsolete bridges do not present issues of sufficiency or of the structural rating of the bridge. Many projects are currently addressing bridge issues. There are only two bridges that need to be addressed: Majors Road at Big Creek and SR 9 at Settingdown Creek.

Roadway Connectivity

- SR 20 needs to be widened, but the issue is that doing so will attract additional vehicles who were not using SR 20 previously. County needs to think about away to discourage additional truck traffic. We want to enhance mobility for existing motorists. Trucks on Bethelview will destroy the area with more congestion. Don't want the SR 20 widening to backfire.
 - Though state routes are default truck routes, a solution could depend up on how you structure the route.

Population and Employment Growth Areas

- Are people who work from home reflected in growth projections?
- At Hwy 369 and Mt Taber Road, there are two tracts of land on both sides of 369 that will be developed with a school, commercial, office space in the future. It's been zoned since 2003.

Active Transportation (ped/bike)

Most pedestrian projects have been pulled from the recently adopted 2015 Bike and Pedestrian plan. The Team has identified some sidewalk projects in addition to the plan recommendations. The Needs Assessment also looked at a walking propensity analysis and a sidewalk gap analysis. The analysis shows that intersections within close proximity to one another (shorter blocks as in downtown Cumming) will encourage more walking. The plan also looks at existing land use and school/park zones.

For bicycle needs, the Team considered factors that would prevent people from cycling. Corridors with high speeds and traffic are where bicycle facilities are being focused for accommodating riders. These may not be on road facilities. The Team is looking at some multi use trails to accommodate cyclists off road.

Access Management

Access management includes accommodating access to businesses while preserving mobility on the roadway. The Team identified the most important roads in terms of Access Management.

Draft Project List Review & Feedback

Committee members reviewed the Roadway and Bike/Pedestrian Draft Project Lists and offered feedback on project priorities. Input was recorded on individual worksheets and submitted to the project team for review.

Roadway Projects

Project ID	Project Name	# Votes
FTP-34	McGinnis Ferry Road (Segment 1) Widening	4
FTP-54	GA 400 Widening Segment 1	3
FTP-18	Bethelview Road Widening	2
FTP-203	Cumming Bypass	2
FTP-6	SR 369 (Browns Bridge Road)	1
FTP-9	SR 20 (Canton Highway) Widening	1
FTP-11	SR 9 (Atlanta Highway) Segment 2 Widening	1
FTP-12	SR 9 (Atlanta Highway) Segment 3 Widening	1
FTP-13	SR 9 (Atlanta Highway) Segment 1 Widening	1
FTP-14	SR 371 (Post Road) Widening	1
FTP-24	Ronald Reagan Extension (Segment 2) - New Alignment	1
FTP-25	Ronald Reagan Extension (Segment 3) - New Alignment	1
FTP-35	SR 369 (Browns Bridge Road) Widening	1
FTP-39	Dr. Bramblett Road	1
FTP-44	SR 141 (Peachtree Parkway) Widening Segment 2	1
FTP-46	McFarland Parkway Widening Segment 2	1
FTP-48	James Burgess Road Operational Improvements	1
FTP-55	GA 400 Widening Segment 2	1
FTP-200	Bannister Road Realignment	1
FTP-202	Sawnee Dr Extension	1

Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects

Project ID	Project Name	# Votes
FTP-75	Old Atlanta Road Multi-Use Trail (Segment 2)	3
FTP-192	Big Creek Greenway Phase 5	2
FTP-71	Sharon Road Multi-Use Trail and Sidewalk	2
FTP-86	SR 141 (Peachtree Parkway) Sidewalk	2
FTP-70	SR 371 (Post Road) Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-72	Old Atlanta Road Multi-Use Trail (Segment 1)	1
FTP-74	Ronald Reagan Boulevard Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-76	Old Atlanta Road Multi-Use Trail (Segment 3)	1

Project ID	Project Name	# Votes
FTP-102	Pilgrim Mill Road Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-104	Bagley Road Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-106	Stoney Point Road Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-115	Shiloh Road Sidewalk	1
FTP-117	James Burgess Road Sidewalk	1
FTP-119	Nuckolls Road Sidewalk	1
FTP-121	Haw Creek Road Sidewalk	1
FTP-130	Old Alpharetta Road Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-131	Pine Grove Road Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-133	Shiloh Road Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-147	Castleberry Road	1
FTP-153	McFarland Parkway Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-194	Etowah Greenway	1

Additional Feedback

- Need to reconsider and rethink the way the intersections look, are designed, and maintained.
- Ensure consistency and uniformity re: the installation of how/where yield signs on state routes.
- Remember to keep design and aesthetics in mind when adding capacity. Can have a 6 lane road and maintain some character. Some sections of 141 have design elements.
- Consider a connection from some of the parks to the Greenway to include Coal Mountain and points east.
- The Expansion of Hwy 369 at Hammonds and Hwy 9 (Multi Use path) could be rolled into the Hwy 369 widening project
- Consider widening Hwy 306 up to Hwy 369.
- Autonomous vehicles should be up for consideration
- County should examine the feasibility of using golf carts along the Greenway/trail system in special areas (e.g., along the Greenway; at the pending Halcion property to Shiloh Farms). This should be a policy recommendation/consideration.

Discussion of Next Steps

Public Open House Meetings begin next week and end the first week of December. The Team will post an online feedback survey as a follow up. The plan will become final at the end of the year, however, the Forsyth County Commission approval process will conclude in 2018.