

Technical Advisory Committee – Meeting #3

November 6, 2017 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Forsyth County Public Library – Cumming Branch

585 Dahlonega Hwy, Cumming, GA 30040

Attendees

Tim Allen, Forsyth County

Tim Amerson, Forsyth County Schools

Gerald Blackburn, City of Cumming

David Haynes, Atlanta Regional Commission

Phil Higgins, City of Cumming

Scott Morgan, City of Cumming

Lt. Eric Silveus, Forsyth County Sheriff's Department

Megan Wentz, Georgia DOT

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

- Buford Dam Rd – what is being proposed here?
 - This is an issue of the Army Core of Engineers. They will be looking at some fixes.
 - Some of the traffic on Buford Dam Road will be relieved once SR 20 is improved.
 - Recommendation: Widen on east side out of Gwinnett into Forsyth. This could give local traffic some relief. The Core property will create some difficulties, but on segments on either side, it could help local traffic make those connections.

- Not sure that widening every road is the solution. Buford Dam to Samples as a 3 or 4 lane would be good
- Union Hill – this road just recently widened and in the AM/PM peak it is still congested
- McFarland Rd. to access Union Hill – Never ending cycle when it comes to traffic congestion.

Safety

- Any problem locations that we're missing?
 - Major intersections 141 at the Collections
 - SR 20 at R. Reagan
 - Hwy 9 at SR 20
 - Downtown Cumming/courthouse square.
 - R. Regan at Market place
 - R. Regan at Hwy 141
 - Hwy 141 at Johns Creek (at the QT)
 - Post Rd at Kelly Mill
 - Sherriff's Department will submit specific problem locations in County
- Hwy 20 needs a bypass around the city

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.

Population and Employment Growth Areas

- With the projected growth, the County needs a connection from Hwy 9/Banister to Hwy 369 to SR 20 to Bethelview/Post Road to GA 400
 - Connections needed for relief due to auto accidents. If something happens on Hwy 369, it restricts north/south movement and creates significant delays.
 - Also need a connection from Browns Bridge to Hwy 306 to GA 400 for the same issue. If an accident occurs, the County's roads become severely gridlocked.

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.

Other Projects to Consider

- GA 20 bypass – the issue is how it flows into Cumming
- Hwy 9 at Castleberry – anyone ever looked at a pedestrian bridge? Pedestrians have to physically cross the intersection at Fowler Park – extremely dangerous.
 - Improvements are being planned in this area. What is currently in place is a temporary solution. DOT is working on first phase.

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 20	SR 9	3
FTP 202	Sawnee Dr. Extension	2
FTP 203	Cumming Bypass	2
FTP 9	SR 20 (Canton Hwy) Widening	2
FTP 1	Shiloh/Majors Road at Hwy 9	1
FTP 8	SR 20 (Canton Hwy) Widening	1
FTP 11	SR 9 (Atlanta Hwy) Segment 2 Widening	1
FTP 12	SR 9 (Atlanta Hwy) Segment 3 Widening	1
FTP 13	SR 9 (Atlanta Hwy) Segment 1 Widening	1
FTP 15	Post Road	1
FTP 16	SR 9 (Atlanta Hwy) Segment 4 Widening	1
FTP 34	McGinnis from McFarland to Brookwood	1
FTP 42	SR 28 (Buford Hwy) Widening Segment 2	1
W 1	Post Road Improvements	1
W 8	SR 9 (Dahlonega Hwy) Widening Segment 7	1

Additional Projects to Consider

- Hwy 9 north from SR 20 to SR 306 (4 lanes)

Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects

Project ID	Project Name	# Votes
FTP-192	Big Creek Greenway Phase 5	2
FTP-70	SR 371 (Post Road) Multi-Use Trail	2
FTP-101	Bettis Tribble Gap Road MU Trail	1
FTP-102	Pilgrim Mill Road Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-134	Campground Road	1
FTP-141	Sanders Rd Sidewalks	1
FTP-146	James Road/Martin Drive Sidewalks	1
FTP-147	Castleberry Road	1
FTP-150	Kelly Mill Rd Sidewalks	1
FTP-179	Old Atlanta Road	1
FTP-180	SR 20 (Buford Highway) Multi-Use Trail	1
FTP-182	Pilgrim Mill Road Multit-Use Trial	1
FTP-189	Castleberry Road Multi Use Trail	1
FTP-193	Sawnee Mountain, Settingdown Creek Greenway	1
FTP-77	SR 20 (Canton Hwy) MU Trail	1
FTP-78	SR 9 (Dahlongega Hwy) Multi Use Trail	1
FTP-90	Echols Road South side	1

Additional Projects to Consider

- Combine FTP-70 & FTP-87: Post Road w/connection at Majors Road and Greenway

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.