

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Public Works Director

Date: June 13, 2022

Subject: **Tilly Mill Road Path from Mount Vernon Road to Womack Road-
Conceptual Design Discussion**

ACTION

Discuss the conceptual design for the proposed shared-use path on Tilly Mill Road between Mount Vernon Road and Womack Road.

SUMMARY

The proposed bicycle and pedestrian path on Tilly Mill Road connects the path being planned for Mount Vernon Road with existing sidewalks and bike lanes south of Womack Road. The project area is adjacent to several large neighborhoods, the Marcus Jewish Community Center (MJCC), Congregation Ariel and the Georgia State University Dunwoody Campus. The project is recommended in the city's comprehensive transportation plan and is currently being funded through the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

DETAILS

The proposed design consists of a 12-foot wide, walking and bicycle path with a landscaped buffer between the path and the roadway. Two alternatives have been developed with Alternative 1 placing the path on the west side of Tilly Mill Road and Alternative 2 placing the path on the east side of the road. Both alternatives include adding pedestrian refuge island crossings in the vicinity of Mount Vernon Place and the MJCC and adding pedestrian lighting. For either alternative, most of the project can be constructed within the existing right of way with narrow slivers of additional right of way or temporary construction easements required in some locations. The east side alternative is estimated to cost about 25% more than the west side with a significant portion of the additional cost going towards filling the gap in the sidewalk on the west side of the road. In the west side alternative the path fills the gap in the sidewalk. Additional details and drawings of each alternative are included in the attached presentation.

Public Comments

During the 30-day comment period hosted on the city's website, 49 comments were submitted with most respondents expressing support for a path on Tilly Mill Road. There was stronger support in the comments for placing the path on the east side of the road.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It appears feasible to construct a path on either side of Tilly Mill Road based on the preliminary concept work completed to date. Staff recommends moving forward with the east side alternative (Alternative 2) based on the following factors:

- Safety- Although the number of driveway and road crossings are comparable in both alternatives, the estimated number of vehicles entering and existing those crossings is lower on the east side which means there is less opportunity for conflicting movements between bicycles and vehicles.
- Accessibility- There are more residences on the east side of Tilly Mill Road that will be able to access the path without crossing a major roadway.