



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor & City Council

DATE: April 30, 2014

FROM: John McDonough, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Cobb Braves Stadium Evaluation and Sandy Springs Projects

MEETING DATE: For Submission onto the May 6, 2014, City Council Work Session Agenda

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (Attach additional pages if necessary)

See attached:

Memorandum

APPROVAL BY CITY MANAGER: JTM APPROVED

PLACED ON AGENDA FOR: 5/6/2014

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL REQUIRED: () YES () NO

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL: _____

REMARKS:



TO: John McDonough, City Manager

FROM: Garrin M. Coleman, P.E., Public Works Director

DATE: April 24, 2014 for submission onto the Agenda of the May 6, 2014 City Council Work Session

ITEM: Update on Cobb Braves Stadium Evaluation and Sandy Springs Projects

Background

The Atlanta Braves announced it was moving from the City of Atlanta to Cobb County in November 2013, and the Braves franchise indicates it plans to open the 2017 season at its new stadium. City of Sandy Springs management and staff have participated in informational meetings about the proposed stadium and associated development and Development of Regional Impact (DRI) discussions since early 2014 (January 10, February 26, and March 25).

The 57-acre proposed development is located in the Cobb Cumberland area north of Circle 75 Parkway and south of Windy Ridge Parkway. The applicant is seeking rezoning from Cobb County to Regional Retail Commercial (RRC). The proposed development includes a 44,676 capacity baseball stadium complemented with a mixed-use development comprised of 450 apartment units, 450 hotel rooms, 450,000 square feet of retail and 975,000 square feet of office space. Direct access to the site is proposed from Circle 75 Parkway, Windy Ridge Parkway, and Cobb Parkway. The development triggers a DRI review with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). The DRI case number is 2381 Cobb Braves Stadium.

The DRI requires a comprehensive transportation analysis to estimate impacts to the future roadway network. For the traffic analysis, GRTA has approved a study network of 36 intersection plus site driveways for weekdays and 15 intersections plus site driveways for Saturdays. The full build out condition is assumed for the year 2019. Included in the weekday study network are eight intersections within Sandy Springs:

1. Powers Ferry Rd at Interstate N Pkwy (DRI intersection #29)
2. I-285 WB Ramp at New Northside Dr (#30)
3. I-285 WB Ramp at Northside Dr (#31)
4. New Northside Dr/Riveredge Lane at Northside Dr (#32)
5. I-285 EB Ramp at Northside Dr (#33)
6. I-285 EB Ramp at New Northside Dr (#34)
7. Powers Ferry Rd at Northside Dr (#35)
8. New Northside Dr at Powers Ferry Rd (#36)

City staff has provided input to GRTA on traffic evaluation assumptions for the transportation analysis. GRTA estimates the schedule for DRI completion is submittal of the review package

by the applicant in early May and for GRTA to complete the review by the end of June.

Discussion

Sandy Springs management and staff will continue to participate in the GRTA DRI review and other information meetings, as scheduled. Within a potential area of impact, Public Works has identified the following improvements to address transportation needs in the vicinity of the Cobb/Cumberland area:

Intersection Improvements proposed for FY15 design and construction:

- Interstate North Parkway at Riveredge Parkway
- Powers Ferry Road at Dupree Drive (Heards Ferry Elementary School Relocation)
- Powers Ferry Road at Raider Drive (Heards Ferry Elementary School Relocation)
- Heards Ferry Road at Raider Drive (Heards Ferry Elementary School Relocation)

Programmed intersection signal and pedestrian facilities upgrades under design and proposed for FY15 construction:

- Powers Ferry Road and Northside Drive
- Powers Ferry Road and New Northside Drive

Improvements will include signal replacement of the box spans with mast arms, pedestrian facilities upgrade and the addition of a thru lane eastbound on Powers Ferry between Northside Drive and New Northside Drive.

The ATMS FY14 Program expanded the adaptive signal control system at ten intersections on Johnson Ferry Road west of Roswell Road and along Riverside Drive. This project is currently under construction. The ATMS system will be expanded under the FY15 program to include the seven existing intersections at the Powers Ferry Road node. Staff also prepared a study of the pedestrian facilities around the Powers Ferry node and has identified future improvements beyond those recently executed by the CIP Sidewalk Program. Some possible future projects would include bicycle and pedestrian connections along Interstate North Parkway and enhanced sidewalks.

Financial Impact

The estimated financial impact for identified intersection projects for design or construction is \$3,025,000 for consideration in the FY15 budget. A current unknown financial impact is that associated with improvement projects included in the GRTA Notice of Decision (NOD), which is pending the conclusion of the traffic analysis of DRI 2381 Cobb Braves Stadium.

Recommendation

Staff recommends funding of identified intersection improvements for FY15.