



SANDY SPRINGS

GEORGIA

Spalding Drive at Pitts Road Intersection Improvement Project

Project Information: 01/25/2018

Expected start date: 2nd Quarter 2019

Project area: 1 acre

Construction duration: 6 Months

Project URL: spr.gs/SpaldingPitts

Project Description

The project is intended to improve the operational efficiency and safety at the intersection of Spalding Drive and Pitts Road. Improvements are needed to alleviate traffic congestion, accommodate existing and future travel demand, and reduce crash frequency at the intersection.

Spalding Drive and Pitts Road is one of the few intersections crossing over GA 400, between Dunwoody and Sandy Springs, and is a route taken by both neighborhood residents as well as commuters to/from the Perimeter region. The current intersection utilizes a traffic signal, but the intersection has no dedicated left turns and as a result, experiences significant traffic backup during the AM and PM rush hours.

The concept design adds an eastbound right-turn lane along Pitts Road and a northbound left-turn lane along Spalding Drive to improve traffic flow.

The City is also evaluating other nearby intersections for future projects to further improve travel along this route.

The comments obtained as a result of this meeting will be reviewed by City staff as the concept is finalized. The design concept will be presented to the Sandy Springs City Council for review this spring. Based on the City Council's approval to move forward, construction could begin in 2019.

Why are turn lanes being added?

One of the main contributors to travel delay during AM and PM rush hours is that straight-travelers and turning vehicles share a single lane. The left turning traffic prevents those who want to continue straight, or right-turning traffic, from passing through the intersection. This holding pattern leads to traffic backups, requiring vehicles during peak travel times to wait through multiple traffic light cycles.

The City performed a comprehensive traffic study in developing this concept. Based on the results of that study, the traffic volumes recorded exceed the criteria set by the City for consideration of addition of left turn lanes. Adding the two turn lanes will reduce overall delay and allow more traffic to bypass through the intersection during each traffic light cycle.

Will there be utility disruptions?

There will be utility service lines that will need to be relocated before road construction will begin, with temporary outages as a result. We will coordinate with the utility companies and provide advance notice on planned outages.

How will traffic and driveway access be affected by the project?

We are not planning any complete road closures during construction. A minimum of one lane will remain open on the main routes at all times during construction. Flagmen and signage will be on site to control traffic flow. Driveway access for residents will be maintained.

Next Steps

The comments from tonight's meeting will be reviewed by City staff as the concept is finalized for presentation to the Sandy Springs City Council this spring. Following their review and approval, there are several steps leading up to actual construction, including coordination with utility companies and completing any right-of-way and easement acquisition. Once these steps are completed, a Request for Proposals is issued to select a construction partner.