



MEDIA ADVISORY

Department of Communications and External Affairs

Media Contact:

Gary Leftwich, Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-825-1950 (cell) - gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

Facebook – COSF17 / Twitter – #COSFGA / Instagram – cosfga

City of South Fulton Government

Sidewalk and Lighting Projects Will Improve Safety on Old National and Other Corridors

(City of South Fulton, GA – Aug. 2, 2021) – With pedestrian safety as a top priority, City of South Fulton officials are forging ahead on several projects to make walking through heavier-populated areas of the city easier and safer.

At the top of the list is an effort to build sidewalks along a section of Old National Highway where no pedestrian infrastructure exists. Other projects approved just this week by city council members include sidewalk enhancements and improved lighting at major intersections.

“Since day one, we’ve worked to make it safer for residents to walk from their homes to shop, go to school and complete other daily tasks,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards. “Being able to walk without fear of an accident is a right we all should enjoy.”

Last year, the city’s Public Works Department and Georgia Tech launched a study of sidewalks throughout the city. Funded by Georgia Smart Communities, the project includes a list and map of current pedestrian paths, an assessment of their connectivity and a review of their condition.

“The transportation landscape has changed dramatically,” said South Fulton Public Works Director Antonio Valenzuela. “The city needed a comprehensive inventory of where sidewalks exist and where they are needed. That allows us to assess sidewalk flow and accessibility and establish funding and construction priorities.”

With that assessment complete, the city partnered with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) this past May on a half-million-dollar effort to acquire right-of-way along Old National Highway.

“We’re now in the second phase of the Old National project, which stretches from Flat Shoals Road to Jonesboro Road,” Valenzuela said. “This is the most-concentrated residential area along the highway, yet there are no sidewalks. We are working to fix that and provide those living in that area with a safe option for walking.”

-MORE-

Pedestrian Safety Improvements...Page Two

Plans call for 5-to 6-foot sidewalks along both sides of the 2.6-mile stretch of highway, along with landscaping and signal upgrades at several intersections. Construction is set to start in 2023 with a price tag of about \$3.5 million, which will be covered by local and federal funding.

Work continues on sidewalk development in other areas of the city as well. This week, city officials approved a plan to apply for GDOT's 2022 Transportation Alternatives Program funds to build 8-foot-wide sidewalks and install pedestrian lighting along Boat Rock Road between Campbellton Road and Fulton Industrial Boulevard.

Through a joint venture with the Atlanta Regional Commission, the city is completing a year-long study to improve pedestrian safety and walkability along Washington Road between Roosevelt Highway and North Commerce Drive.

"The most requested improvements along the corridor are continuous sidewalks on both sides of the road, benches and shelters at all bus stops and improved lighting for pedestrians," said Shayla Reed, director of the City of South Fulton's Department of Community Development and Regulatory Affairs. "These opportunities will further extend walkability and pedestrian safety in the area."

As it works to build sidewalks, the city also is developing plans to ensure those paths are well-lit. In July 2020, officials hired a consultant to develop a master plan, which includes an inventory of the existing streetlights and an assessment of where additional lights are needed.

The consultant then will develop a list of recommended options for meeting those needs as well as a plan for building out the city's streetlight network. The process will highlight the various types of controls technologies the city can put in place to enhance streetlight use at city parks, pedestrian crossings, bus shelters and residential districts. Officials also hope to determine how enhanced lighting can help in the fight against crime and illegal dumping.

This week, city council members approved additional streetlight projects, including an agreement with Georgia Power to install 83 post tops along Danforth Road from Cascade Road to Rehoboth Circle. The effort is a part of separate sidewalk project along Danforth.

Also adopted were projects to install lighting at the roundabout at Campbellton Boat Rock roads and at the intersection of Camp Creek Parkway and Enon Road.

###

About the City of South Fulton

Home to more than 100,000 residents, the City of South Fulton is Georgia's fifth-largest city. It covers more than 85 square miles and features both urban and rural landscapes with the most undeveloped land on metro Atlanta's southern side. Incorporated on May 1, 2017, South Fulton

is among Georgia's youngest and fast-growing cities – on the rise and recognized as the place you want to be. Learn more, download our smartphone app and connect with us on social media at cityofsouthfultonga.gov.