

CITY OF DAWSONVILLE PRESS RELEASE

PROPOSALS FOR THE EXTENSION OF PERIMETER ROAD

June 2019

The Dawsonville City Council would like to take this opportunity to address the concerns expressed by its residents as they relate to the proposals for the extension of Perimeter Road as presented by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) at the public input session conducted on June 4, 2019. These concerns have been raised in person, via social media, emails, text messages, and phone calls. The City Council encourages its residents to make known their concerns and welcomes the opportunity to address them. The purpose of this announcement is to ease the concerns expressed and to share not only historic information but also the position of the current City Council on this important topic.

Discussion of this proposed project began in the late nineties. The purpose then as is now, is to remove commercial truck traffic, especially 18-wheelers, from the downtown area. The proposed project would enable the City to achieve a more appealing, walkable, and safe downtown area by eliminating commercial truck traffic. Additionally, it would improve the vital east-west commercial traffic route as trucks would no longer have to traverse the bottleneck created by the current route through downtown and around the historic courthouse.

In June of 2018, City and County officials were invited by GDOT to a meeting at its District Office in Gainesville, GA. At that time GDOT had identified and presented four potential routes for the proposed project. Attendees were told no final route had been determined and once a determination is made, property acquisition would not begin until fiscal year 2028.

In March of 2019, at the request of Mayor Eason, two GDOT representatives along with two representatives from the engineering firm conducting the study, Jacobs Engineering, met with the Mayor and two representatives of the City to discuss the proposed project. At that time, three proposed routes were presented to the City, (Alternates A, B, and C), which are the same as were presented to the public on June 4th by GDOT. The City's representatives reviewed the proposed routes and shared their familiarity of the topography, property ownership, existing and planned developments along with other pros and cons potentially impacting each of the proposed routes. The City's representatives were told Route C, historically GDOT's preferred route, had been ruled out due to budgetary concerns and because it went through a neighborhood. At no time did the City's representatives demand any route. Mayor Eason did ask if engineering had considered moving Route C south from J. C. Burt Road's right-of-way instead of using the road's centerline. Doing so would reduce the loss of homes in the impacted neighborhood. Mayor Eason also asked if the other proposed routes which included two round-a-bouts could be revised to eliminate one or both round-a-bouts. Mayor Eason expressed concern the round-a-bouts could discourage truck use of the proposed routes.

Regardless of the route ultimately selected by GDOT, the City has for some time requested improvements be made to the intersection of State Route 9 and Perimeter Road/J. C. Burt Road. The City has and continues to receive complaints about the dangers of the intersection to both vehicles and pedestrians due to the limited sight distance and the speed of traffic on State Route 9.

It is important to understand regardless of the route determined by GDOT, there will be a negative impact upon some property owners. The City Council seeks to reduce the negative impact of the proposed project to affect the fewest number of residents as is possible. To date, the City Council has not taken any official action to establish a preferred route for the proposed project. The City Council has and will continue to encourage public participation as the proposed project progresses.

GDOT's meeting on June 4th was the first of many opportunities the public will have to express their thoughts and concerns on the proposed project. Should anyone desire to meet personally with the Mayor or any member of the City Council, they may be reached through either the City's website (www.dawsonville-ga.gov) or by telephone at (706) 265-3256.