



SANDY SPRINGS CONSERVANCY

CREATING, CONSERVING AND CONNECTING PARKS AND GREENSPACE IN SANDY SPRINGS

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February 3, 2015

Katelyn DiGioia
State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Traffic Operations | Safety
kdigioia@dot.ga.gov

Dear Ms. DiGioia,

The State of Georgia and Georgia Department of Transportation are investing approximately \$1.05 billion in two projects to improve the Interstate 285 and Georgia 400 interchange and collector and distributor road system serving the interchange and surrounding area (collectively the "Project"). Currently, the "Project" does not include alternative transportation options.

For the purposes of advancing quality of life, enhanced connectivity and improved economic competitiveness, **The Board of Directors of the Sandy Springs Conservancy respectfully requests the Georgia Department of Transportation incorporate alternative transportation projects**, such as a future multi-use trail, as part of the interchange project.

Governor Nathan Deal has stated the Project "is a crucial economic engine, providing valuable access to jobs, supporting business growth, and expanding Georgia's role as a major logistics hub for global commerce. When built, the reconstructed interchange will serve to preserve our quality of life by increasing mobility in the corridor. . . .".

The Project construction will directly impact our city of Sandy Springs and the entire Perimeter area, including the cities of Brookhaven and Dunwoody. The stated reason international and national corporations such as Mercedes Benz and State Farm have decided to locate to the Perimeter Area is to take advantage of the live, work and play lifestyle that includes vehicular, pedestrian and transit options.

An interchange design that allows multi-modal links can support community connectivity and enhance larger mobility goals. Experience around this region and the nation demonstrate that trails are valuable investments for mobility and economic development.



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The reasons stated for the Project improvements include congestion relief, improved traffic flow and connectivity, safety improvements, and economic benefit for the Metro-Atlanta region and the State of Georgia. We urge you to preserve the option for including trails, like the successful new PATH trail along Georgia 400. The workforce and residents in this increasingly urbanized area are anxious for transportation choices.

Designing interchange improvements with alternative modes in mind will be more cost effective and safer. And, of course, improvements designed in consultation with the public are more readily embraced. Additionally, trails offer the prospect of re-connecting sections of our City that have been split by I-285 and Georgia 400.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed design. We stand ready to participate in, and perhaps assist in, the public engagement component of this project.

Sincerely,

Steve Levetan
Chairman

The Sandy Springs Conservancy is a non-profit corporation, recognized as a charitable service organization under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (3). Donations to The Sandy Springs Conservancy are strictly used to support our operations and projects in accordance with our mission.