Citizens Design Review - Drop-In Session

Thursday, August 8, 2013, 4-7 p.m.

Cary Town Hall, Council Executive Conference Room
316 N Academy Street

Thanks to everyone who came to the first public workshop in April. Your input was great and has helped us develop the design options presented in this newsletter.

Now we want to hear your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions on the draft design. Stop by Town Hall to talk with the Town’s project manager and the consultants. We will provide design maps with aerial photography so you can take a close look at details in the design. Hard copies of the design studies will be available for review as well.

Anyone interested in the project should plan to drop by at his or her convenience on August 8 between 4 and 7 p.m. No formal presentation will be made; however, Town of Cary representatives will be available to discuss the project on a one-to-one basis throughout the session.

The review session is being held to provide the public an open opportunity to participate in the planning process and provide updates on the project. Comments and public input will be used in conjunction with comments provided by environmental review and regulatory agencies to help shape the project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The following outlines the project schedule as it is currently planned. These milestones may change based on numerous factors out of the Town’s control. The current efforts are for planning and design only and will help inform the Town as we look to fund and budget future capital projects.

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

Spring 2013 – COMPLETED
- Technical field studies
  - Traffic reports
  - Environmental analysis
- Roadway Safety Audit
- Citizen Public Workshop

Summer 2013 – IN REVIEW
- Draft Functional Design
- Draft Environmental Document
- Citizen Feedback

Fall 2013
- Town Council Public Hearing to approve the functional design and contract for final design

FINAL DESIGN

Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
- Final design plans developed
- Town Staff begins process to determine funding and construction schedule

PROJECT WEBSITE

To review the draft design or get more information and project updates, search “Reedy Creek Design” at www.townofcary.org.

The Town’s Engineering staff and their consultants have been hard at work studying and designing the future improvements on Reedy Creek Road from NC 54 / NE Maynard Road to N Harrison Avenue. The Town’s Comprehensive Transportation Plan proposes widening the roadway to a 3-lane section with a center left-turn lane, curb & gutter, sidewalks, and bike lanes.

At the public meeting held in April, two primary issues of concern were speeding and cut-through traffic along the corridor. The Town has developed design options to address those concerns.

The project team has made considerable progress on the project since the meeting, as outlined in the following items:

Traffic Studies – The project consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates, has performed traffic counts, developed a traffic forecast study, and prepared a capacity analysis report based on that forecast. The two documents have been reviewed and accepted by the Town and the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

The capacity analysis shows that all but one intersection along Reedy Creek Road will operate at acceptable levels-of-service in the future with the proposed design. The intersection at Wyatt’s Pond Lane and the Reedy Creek Schools driveway experiences long delays in future 2035 AM peak conditions.

Kimley-Horn also completed a roadway safety audit and provided intersection-specific recommendations to improve safety and reduce crashes along the corridor. All three reports can be found on the project website.

Environmental Studies – Environmental investigations found that the project would have little to no impact on natural resources in the area.

Community Impacts – A community impact assessment was completed and determined the project will primarily be beneficial to the area due to the addition of pedestrian and bicycle facilities that link the neighborhoods to the Reedy Creek Schools and other amenities.

Roadway Designs – The proposed design has been completed and submitted to NCDOT for review. The segment from Wyatt’s Pond Lane to Fallen Elm Avenue is shown inside this newsletter. Presented with the design are three road design options. The design options we developed based on concerns heard at the public meeting and intersection operation at Wyatt’s Pond Lane. Please take time to consider the options and provide us feedback.

To review the complete design, download the plan in PDF format from the project website.
The proposed design widens Reedy Creek Road to a three-lane section, with one travel lane in each direction and a center left-turn lane. The roadway is currently designed for a 35-mph speed limit.

**Pedestrian/Bike Accommodations:** The cross-section includes 4-foot bike lanes and a 5-foot sidewalk on each side of the road, as well as curb and gutter. Crosswalks are shown at the main intersections, and pedestrian push buttons will be installed for crosswalk at the signalized intersections of N Harrison Avenue and NE Maynard Road. ADA ramps are also provided throughout the corridor.

**Right-of-Way Impacts:** The proposed design has minimal right-of-way impacts that are anticipated to be continuous along all the properties on Reedy Creek Road. The widening and improvements would typically require four to seven feet of additional right-of-way on both sides on the road (11 feet total). If the project moves forward to construction in the future, Town has real estate staff to work with property owners to determine just compensation for property impacts.

*To review the entire corridor draft design, search “Reedy Creek Design” at www.townofcary.org.*

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**Option #2: Dynasty Drive / Electra Drive Roundabout**

Because of the relatively low side street traffic operations at this intersection remain at acceptable levels through the 2035 Design Year with the widening. The intersection is unlikely to warrant a traffic signal in the future.

To address concerns on increased traffic speeds and safe pedestrian crossings, a roundabout could be constructed at the intersection. The design shows a small 90-foot diameter roundabout, minimizing impacts to adjacent properties.

The roundabout may also help reduce travel speeds along the corridor and discourage cut-through and truck traffic, particularly if implemented in coordination with the Dynasty/Electra roundabout and additional streetscape elements.

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**Option #3: Short Landscaped Medians**

There are no residential driveways on Reedy Creek Road from Dynasty and Electra Drives to Fallen Elm Avenue. The segment is also the area where many run-off-the-road crashes have occurred due to the curvilinear alignment and higher travel speeds.

Therefore, an option is to construct two short landscaped medians in lieu of the center turn lane from Dynasty/Electra Drs. to Smokehouse Lane and then to Fallen Elm Avenue. The medians would include breaks or short turn bays for access to and from the side streets. These center islands would narrow the travelway in each direction and help reduce speeding.

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**Option #1: Wyatt’s Pond Lane Roundabout**

Operations at this intersection fail in the 2035 AM peak hour due to traffic related to the school. Because this short time period is the only time in the day the intersection will fail, it is unlikely to warrant a traffic signal based on traffic-related issues.

As an alternative, a roundabout could be constructed at the intersection to handle the morning traffic issue. The design would be advantageous by creating shorter and safer pedestrian crossings as well. Right-of-way impacts would be primarily to the school property.

The roundabout may also help reduce travel speeds along the corridor and discourage cut-through and truck traffic, particularly if implemented in coordination with the Wyatt’s Pond roundabout and various streetscape elements.

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Typical Cross-Section for Reedy Creek Road Improvements