

TSPLOST 2023 Project 15 Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project Proposed Project Concept

MAYOR & COMMISSION WORK SESSION

Category 2

November 12, 2024

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Presentation Purpose and Agenda

Purpose: To present the Proposed Project Concept for the Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project and identify proposed public engagement opportunities. The intent of this project is to improve pedestrian safety on and around Sycamore Drive in Athens, Georgia.

- Project History
- Initial Project Statement
- Proposed Concept Design
- Budget Summary
- Public Engagement
- Next Steps
- Questions & Comments

History - Project 15 - Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvements

- ▶ On September 10, 2019 Transportation and Public Works staff conducted a Roadway Safety Audit for Sycamore Drive. This audit identified safety concerns along Sycamore Drive and non-capital fund improvements that could be used to address these issues. Some of the safety issues identified included: no sidewalk, pedestrians walking in the street, excessive speed by automobiles along Sycamore Drive and apparent dark areas at night from lack of or shaded street lights.
- ▶ On October 4, 2021, Athens-Clarke County Southern Off Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) presented the original project request for a multiuse path to connect the Sycamore Drive area to Beech Haven Park and adjacent greenway projects. The original project application request was \$8,940,000 for the project.
- ▶ On May 24, 2022, Athens-Clarke County voters approved the TSPLOST 2023 Program referendum, which included Project 15 - Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project with a budget of \$1,500,000.
- ▶ On July 16, 2024, the project was transferred from T&PW to Jacobs, for Project Management. Also, Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC, was selected as the on-call engineering firm to perform the professional design services for the project.
- ▶ On November 6, 2024, at a Regular Session, Mayor & Commission voted to adopt a Commission Defined Option (CDO) which recommends moving forward with GDOT's Safety Improvements along Atlanta Highway. The GDOT Project Concept includes a shared use path along the southside of Atlanta Highway where improvements at the intersection of West Broad Street and Sycamore Drive; which will be coordinated with the Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project.

TSPLOST 2023 Project 15


Initial Project Statement

Project 15, Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvements

This project will provide for capital improvements for pedestrian improvements in the general vicinity of Sycamore Drive to provide improved pedestrian connectivity to Atlanta Highway, surrounding transit stops, businesses, and/or residential areas. Depending upon actual costs and funding availability, improvements may include, but are not limited to: sidewalks, crosswalks, signage, waste receptacles, lighting, and/or other similar safety improvements. To the extent allowed by law, budgeted project funds may be used as matching funds for leveraging grant opportunities. Additionally, to the extent allowed by law, other funding sources, including, but not limited to, grants, may be utilized to offset and/or reduce the project budget. Any unspent project funds that accrue as a result of the receipt of grants or other funding sources may be assigned to other approved TSPLOST projects.

Project Area Map



 corresponds with pictures on the next slide.

Existing Conditions along Sycamore Drive



1

Sycamore Drive at dead end looking towards West Broad Street. No sidewalk, one street light and multifamily residential on both sides.

Existing Conditions along Sycamore Drive



Sycamore Drive looking towards West Broad Street. No sidewalk, one (same) street light and multifamily residential on both sides. Steep slopes on left side of Sycamore Drive at back of curb.

Existing Conditions along Sycamore Drive



3

Sycamore Drive looking towards West Broad Street. No sidewalk, one street light, no shoulder on left side of road and condominium complex on right side.

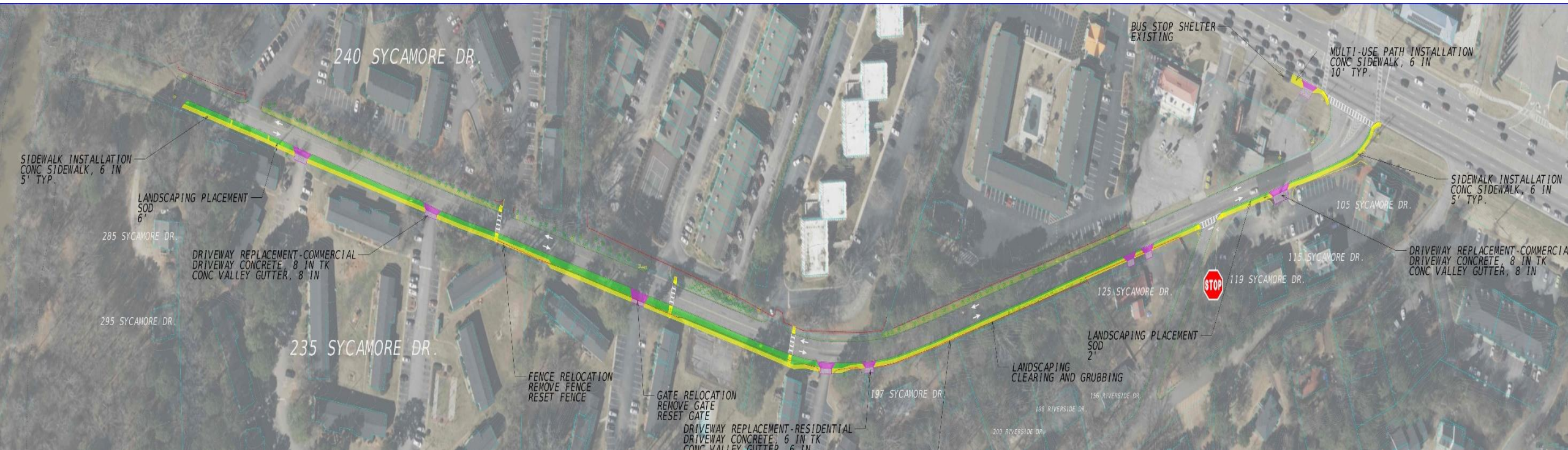
Existing Conditions along Sycamore Drive



4

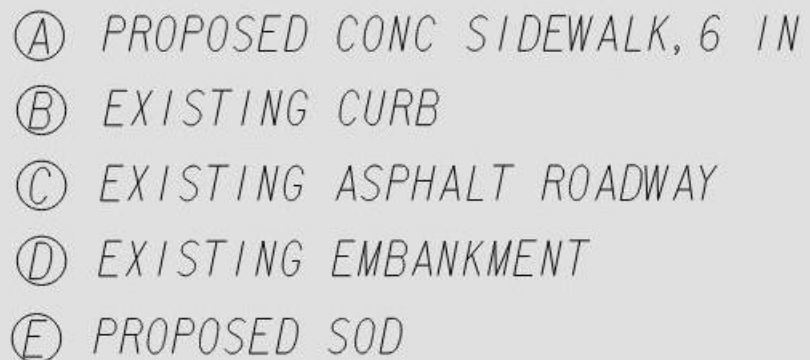
Sycamore Drive looking towards West Broad Street. No sidewalk, no street light, multiple road and parking lot entrances and no cross walks.

Proposed Project Concept Map



Concept Layout based on GIS information.
Will be refined based on field run survey.

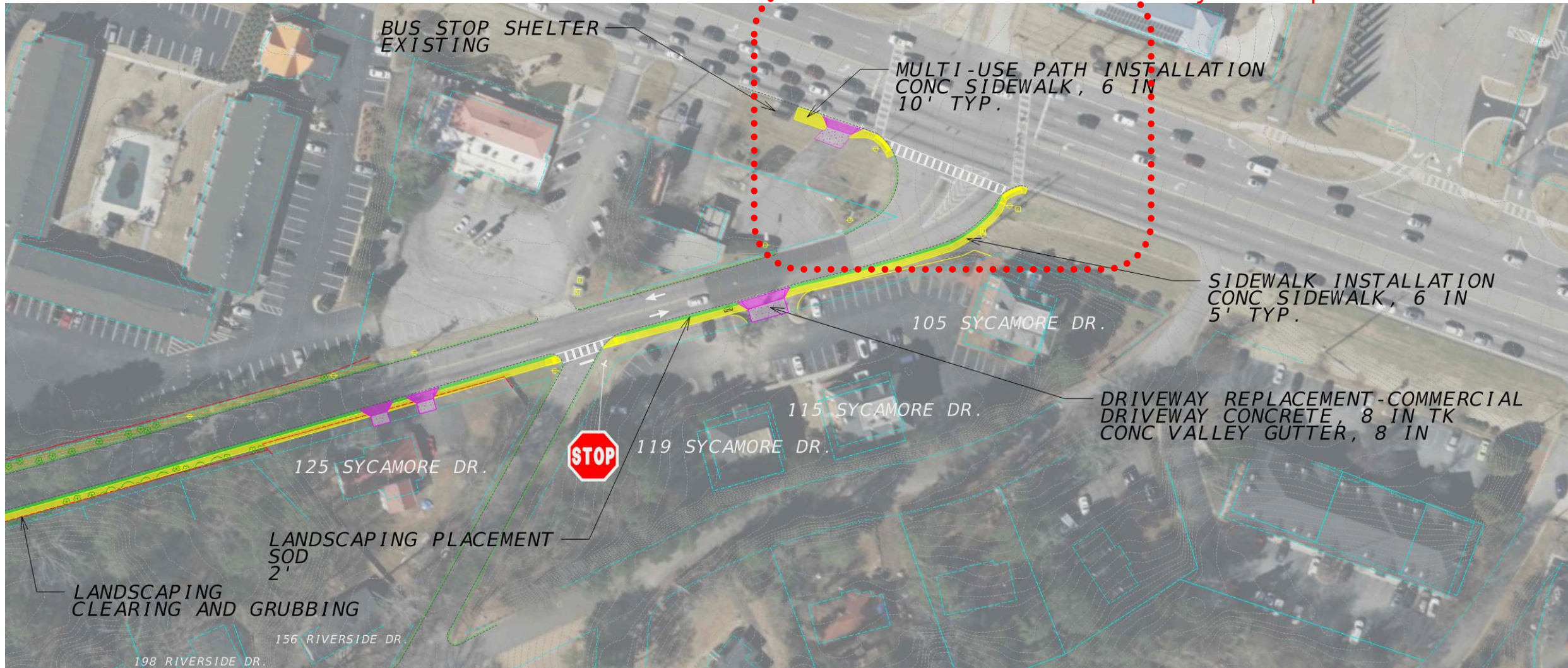
(looking towards W. Broad Street)



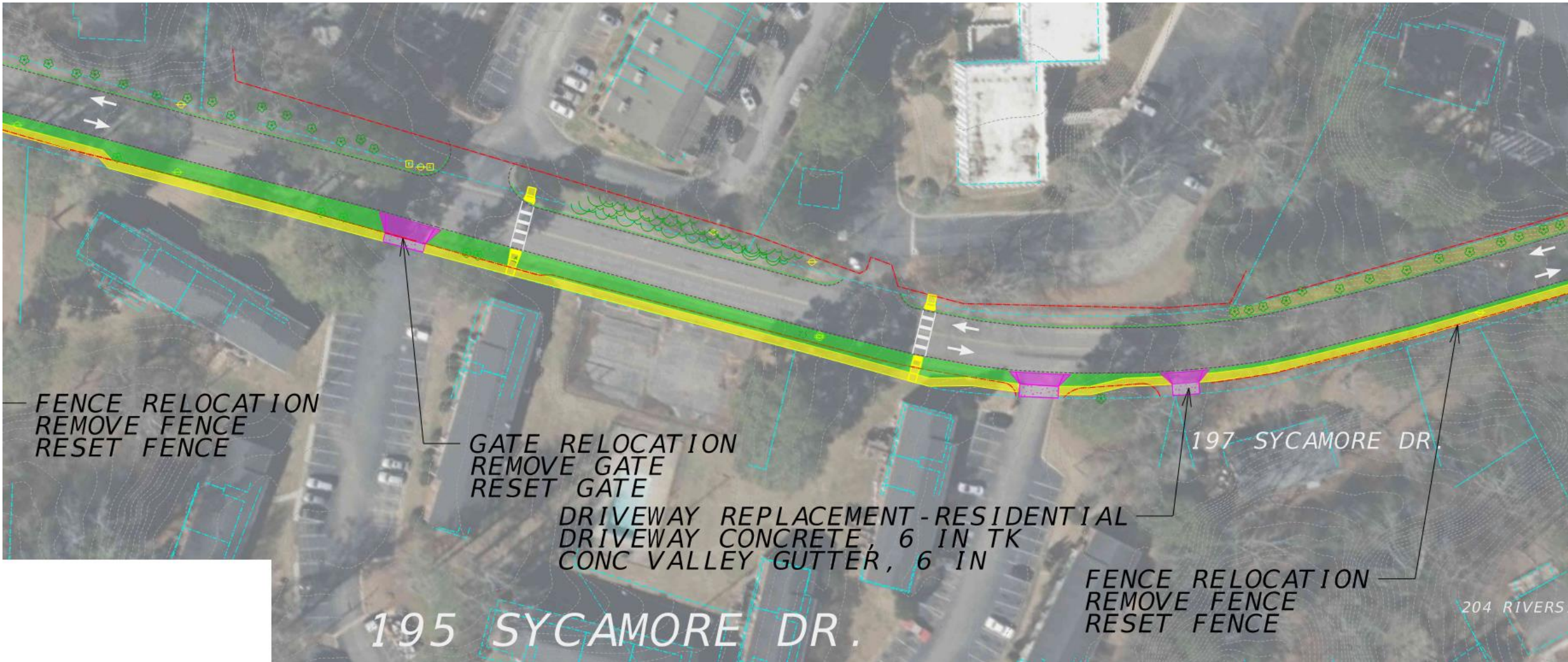
- Typical section based on GIS information. Will be refined based on field run survey.
- Based on GIS information it appears that the work will be able to be completed in the existing ROW.
- Utilities located in shoulder section will be identified during the field run survey and relocated or the design modified to accommodate.

Concept Map Segment #1

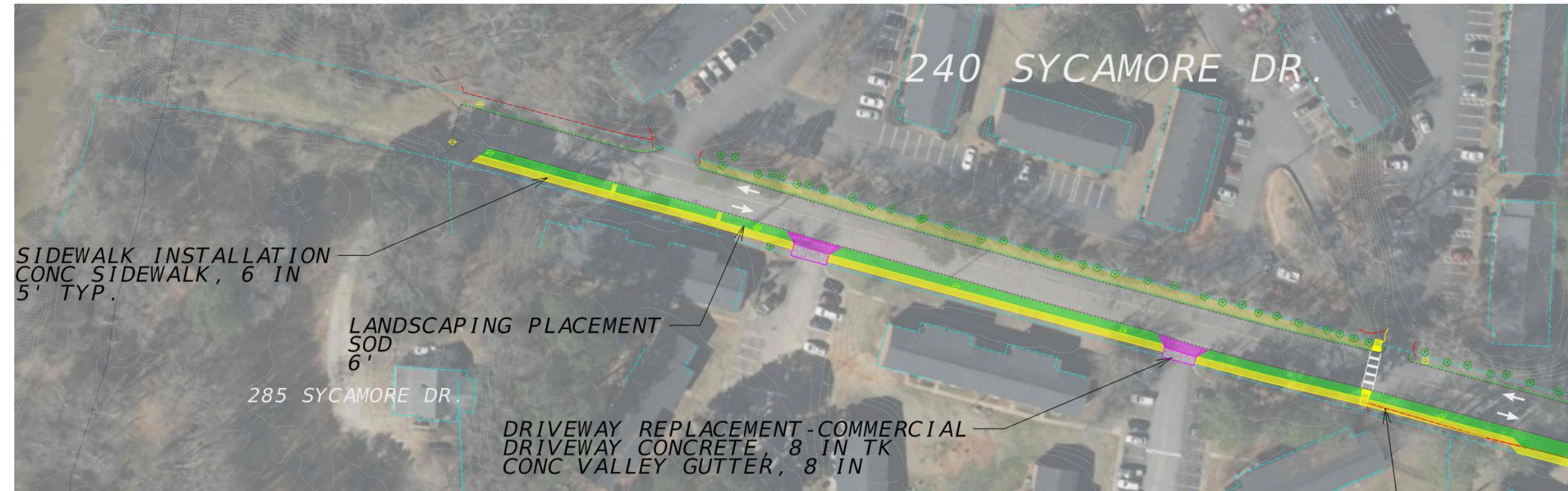
To be coordinated
with GDOT Proposed
Project Concept



Concept Map Segment #2



Concept Map Segment #3



Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvement Project - Proposed Concept Design Budget

REVENUES:

\$ 1,470,000 TSPLOST 2023 Project 15 – All Tiers

EXPENSES:

\$	96,150	Expensed or Encumbered
\$	50,000	Designated Land/Easement Acquisition
\$	140,670	Designated for Remaining Design
\$	165,181	Designated Testing/Misc./PM Fee
\$	168,000	Designated for Design and Construction Contingency
\$	8,400	Designated for Public Art
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\$	841,600	Available for Construction of Sycamore Drive Pedestrian Improvements

Designer’s estimated cost for complete scope of sidewalks, utility relocations, land, etc. = \$952,000. This estimate exceeds budget by \$100,400. Preliminary Design will include funding options and potential phasing plan.

Upcoming Proposed Public Engagement

- Online information and survey seeking public input and comments
- Postcards sent to property owners and residents along Sycamore Drive
- Yard signs in community linking to online project information & survey
- Coordinate with Family-Connection Community Leaders
- Public Information meeting scheduled for December 12, 2024, at the ACC Library

Next Steps & Project Schedule

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| ➤ TSPLOST Oversight Committee | November 2024 |
| ➤ Public Engagement | Nov./Dec. 2024 |
| ➤ Concept Design Approval for M&C Consideration | February 2025 |
| ➤ Preliminary Design & Proposed Phasing Approval for M&C Consideration | May 2025 |
| ➤ Final Design, Permitting & Land Acquisition | June 2025 |
| ➤ Bidding and Contractor Award | July 2025 |
| ➤ Start Project Construction Phase | August 2025 |
| ➤ Construction Completion | Spring 2026 |

Questions?