

Submitted By: Five Points Intersection Safety User Group and Friends of Five Points Neighborhood Organization
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Project Type: Streets/Roads/Bridges related projects - Transportation & Public Works Department

Previously submitted but not selected: No

Continuation Project: Yes - TSPLOST 2023; 27-Five Points Intersection Safety Improvements

Executive Summary: The Five Points intersection in Athens is a key gateway and transportation hub for local residents and the broader Northeast Georgia region. This project will enhance safety and accessibility through potential upgrades such as traffic flow adjustments, curb radii changes, improved pedestrian crossings, signals, signage, and a possible "peanut" roundabout. These improvements aim to create a safer, more efficient intersection for drivers, buses, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Project Total Cost: \$ 9,771,000

Total Operating Cost: \$ 93,000

Does this Project require the acquisition of any land? Yes

What means of land acquisition will be required? Rights of Way

Project/Program Description: The Five Points intersection is a vital hub of transportation and commerce in Athens, serving local residents, neighboring counties, and visitors. It serves as a key connection point for the University of Georgia, downtown Athens, and the Athens Perimeter, linking them through major roads such as South Milledge Avenue, Lumpkin Street, and Milledge Circle. Situated within a vibrant and walkable residential community, Five Points is one of the most active and heavily utilized areas in the region. However, the intersection's safety and functionality have become major concerns for all types of users.

The intersection faces significant challenges due to its complex geometry and high levels of vehicular and pedestrian activity. Long crosswalks, irregular property shapes, and heavy traffic from cars, transit vehicles, and cyclists create a hazardous environment for users. These conditions demand a bold and transformative approach to improve safety, accessibility, and efficiency for all who pass through the area. Although \$1.5 million was allocated through the 2023 TSPLOST program to address these issues, the User Group, in collaboration with ACC staff, has determined that this funding is insufficient to deliver the comprehensive improvements required.

This project aims to address these challenges with a forward-thinking approach that includes funding for critical design, feasibility studies, and implementation of transformative solutions. Potential improvements may include - but not be limited to - grading changes, adjustments to traffic flow and curb radii, a "peanut" roundabout, enhanced pedestrian crossings, and updated signals and signage. These measures will not only reduce conflict points and improve traffic flow but will also create a safer, more accessible, and more inclusive intersection for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users alike.

The ACC Department of Transportation and Public Works has already identified Five Points as a high-priority safety concern and has begun implementing interim solutions, such as signal timing adjustments, to address immediate needs. This project builds upon these initial efforts by focusing on long-term, impactful improvements that align with the broader goals outlined in Envision Athens, Athens in Motion, and the ACC Comprehensive Plan.

Transforming Five Points into a safer, more efficient, and visually appealing intersection will benefit thousands of daily users, enhance the quality of life for local residents, and support sustainable transit for Athens-Clarke County residents and regional commuters and visitors.

[Five Points - Google Maps](#)

Staff Comments:

1. *This project is proposed as and could be done as a totally separate individual project. However, if Project 39 was fully funded this work would ultimately be part of that Project 39. Similarly, if Project 34 was funded at \$50,482,000 this project would ultimately be part of that Project 39.*
2. *The proposed improvements at the intersection will require land acquisition and will to involve significant existing underground utility accommodation work such as relocations of sewer mains, water mains, fire hydrants, gas mains, stormwater, and services. This may also involve securing additional utility easements.*
3. *This is a GDOT (state) owned roadway (ROW) and any modifications to lane configuration must be approved by the state. Also, all existing signals will need to be evaluated and dedicated turn lanes may be required adding more cost to the project. If GDOT is not in favor of reducing the roadway to 2 lanes (from 3-lanes), there will be a need to purchase “expensive” ROW.*

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

How will the Project meet the stated Program Goals in the Mayor & Commission Strategic Plan to provide long-term, ongoing contributions to the Sustainable Transportation needs of the Athens-Clarke County?

Goal Area 1; Section D: Drive community transformation with a focus on creating spaces that are respectful and welcoming: This project will create a safe, welcoming "sense of arrival" at the Five Points intersection, a key gateway to Athens. By enhancing pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure and transforming the area into a safer, more attractive space, it will foster community pride and inclusivity. These improvements will provide a functional space for residents while offering visitors a positive first impression, setting the tone for their experience in Athens.

Goal Area 1; Section E: Support & promote healthy lifestyle: moving, eating, forming healthy relationships, physical and psychological care: This project enhances safety and accessibility for walking, biking, and active transportation at a critical intersection. By reducing conflicts between cars, pedestrians, and cyclists, it encourages active, healthy transit options. Improved safety and usability will foster more community interaction and support healthy relationships by creating inviting public spaces that prioritize physical and psychological well-being for all users.

Goal Area 5; Section E: Enhance safety for all modes of transportation: The project enhances safety for all modes of transportation by addressing the Five Points intersection's challenges. With redesigns that could include reducing conflict points, updating curb radii, or a roundabout-style solution, the project will improve driver, pedestrian, cyclist, and transit user safety. Grading changes and updated signals and signage will help minimize risks and make the intersection more accessible for everyone, ensuring a safer environment for all modes of transport.

Project Costs

Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from TSPLOST 2026 only):

Project Costs (round to thousand)	Amount
1. Land Acquisition / ROW / Easement:	\$ 900,000
2. Design Fees: (Min.12% of New Const.; 14% of reno.; 16% for LEED proj.)	\$ 660,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Min. Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.	\$ 550,000
4. Construction:	\$ 5,500,000
5. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$ 550,000
6. Testing:	\$ 165,000
7. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 333,000
8. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 866,000
9. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$ 55,000
10. Other 1:	\$
11. Other 2:	\$
Project Subtotal:	\$ 9,579,000
14. Program Management (2% of Project Subtotal):	\$ 192,000
TSPLOST 2026 Project Total:	\$ 9,771,000

Operating Cost

Total Annual Net Operating Costs when Project is complete:

Only identify additional or net operating costs to be paid by ACCGov as a result of this Project. Identify the additional or net costs needed, above ACCGov's current operating budget, to operate the requested project; as well as any additional Project related revenues that would be generated. Provide budget costs for each identified category below.

Operating Costs (round to thousand)	Estimated Impact for Annual Operating Expenditures
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES FROM PROJECT	
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	
1. Personnel Costs: from Appendix A	
2. Annual Utilities:	
• Natural Gas:	
• Electrical:	
• Water:	
• Sewer:	
• Phone:	
• Solid Waste Collection:	
• Other:	
3. Operating Supplies:	
4. Equipment Maintenance:	
5. Facility Maintenance:	
6. Other: Public Art Maintenance	1,000
7. Other: Annual Maintenance	32,000
8. Other: Life Cycle Replacement	60,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
NET OPERATING COSTS OF PROJECT:	\$ 93,000

Project Financing

Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than TSPLOST 2026? Yes

Total Capital Financing for Project:

If the proposed Project is to receive funding other than TSPLOST 2026, provide a listing of amounts from each of the categories listed below. Please round all dollar amounts to the nearest \$1,000.

Project Sources (round to thousand)	Amount
1. TSPLOST 2026 ¹ :	\$ 9,771,000
OTHER SOURCES	
2. ACCGov General Fund:	\$
3. ACCGov Enterprise Fund:	\$
4. State Grant:	\$
5. Federal Grant:	\$
6. Previous SPLOST:	\$ 1,500,000
7. Other (describe):	\$
8. Other (describe):	\$
TOTAL SOURCES:	\$ 11,271,000

¹ If any additional sources of funding other than TSPLOST 2026 are indicated above, please provide information related to the source here. Be specific and be prepared to provide all necessary written approvals. (For example: Roadway projects that have approval for Federal Aid and will utilize TSPLOST 2026 funding for matching funds, you would need to provide specific written approval by GDOT)

Describe the current commitments for the other sources funding this project: This project has secured \$1.5M funding from the TSPLOST 2023 program. The net request is \$9,771,000.