



# TSPL0ST 2026 Project 60: Five Points Intersection Safety Improvements

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*Submitted by the TSPL0ST 2023 Five Points Intersection Safety User Group and  
the Friends of Five Points neighborhood organization, April 2025*

# Project Goal

To enhance the safety, accessibility, and functionality of the Five Points intersection for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists.





# Why Focus on This Intersection?

- Five Points is one of Athens' most critical transportation and commercial hubs, serving not only ACC residents but commuters and visitors from the region.
- It is one of Athens' most walkable and multimodal hubs, serving a dynamic mix of drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders.
- Serves as a key gateway that connects Athenians and visitors to local businesses, downtown, and the university.

# Key Challenges



- **High safety concerns** – Frequent accidents, near-misses, a nearby public schools and close proximity to UGA, and high UGA student driver volume.
- **Problematic intersection geometry** – Extra-long crosswalks, irregular property layouts, and driveways/curb cuts inside the intersection contribute to congestion and confusion.
- **Multimodal conflicts** – The current design does not adequately support safe, efficient movement for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

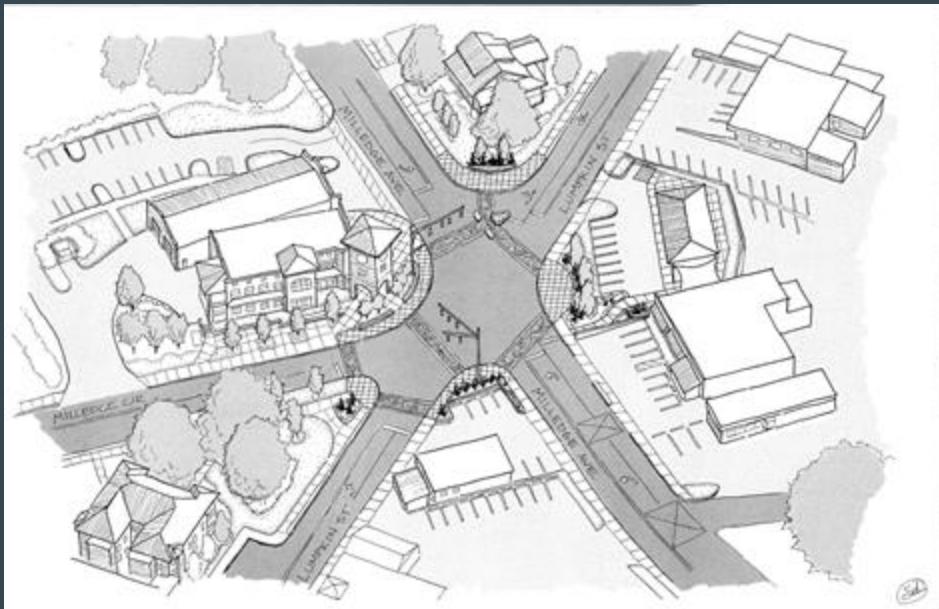
# Why Additional Funding Is Needed



- The project received \$1.5 million from TSPLOST 2023, but an in-depth evaluation by the TSPLOST User Group determined that truly transformative safety improvements require additional funding.
- Rather than implementing temporary fixes, this proposal seeks to deliver long-term, high-impact improvements that fully address safety and mobility concerns.
- We are requesting \$9.7M in additional funding to move beyond 'band-aid' solutions. **While we welcome any additional support, securing significant funding is critical to making a real impact.**

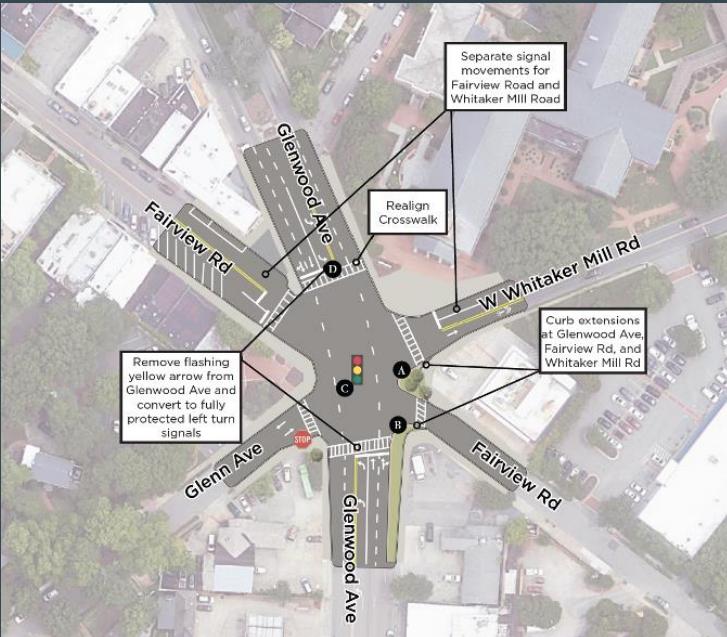
# Possible design solutions

- Intersection redesign options (potential roundabout-style elements TBD).
- Relocation of crosswalks to improve pedestrian walk times and safety.
- Conversion of strain poles to mast arms for improved visibility.
- Upgraded pedestrian and wheelchair ramps to meet accessibility standards.
- Pedestrian refuge areas for safer crossing at key locations.
- Adjusted curb radii to improve turning movements and reduce pedestrian-vehicle conflicts.
- Updated signal control and timing to better manage traffic flow.



# The Bigger Picture

- **A National Challenge** – "Five-pointed" intersections are notoriously complex across the country. While full-scale redesigns can be challenging due to existing infrastructure, there are proven strategies to improve safety, traffic flow, and multimodal access through thoughtful design and targeted improvements.
- **ACC Government Commitment** – The ACC Department of Transportation and Public Works has identified Five Points as a priority safety concern and has already made minor adjustments, such as signal timing changes. This project builds on those efforts.
- **Alignment with the Athens in Motion Plan** – The proposed improvements directly support key goals of Athens' long-term transportation strategy, including better connectivity, enhanced safety, and increased use of alternative transportation.



Raleigh, NC Example



# How This Project Meets TSPILOT Goals

## Supporting & Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

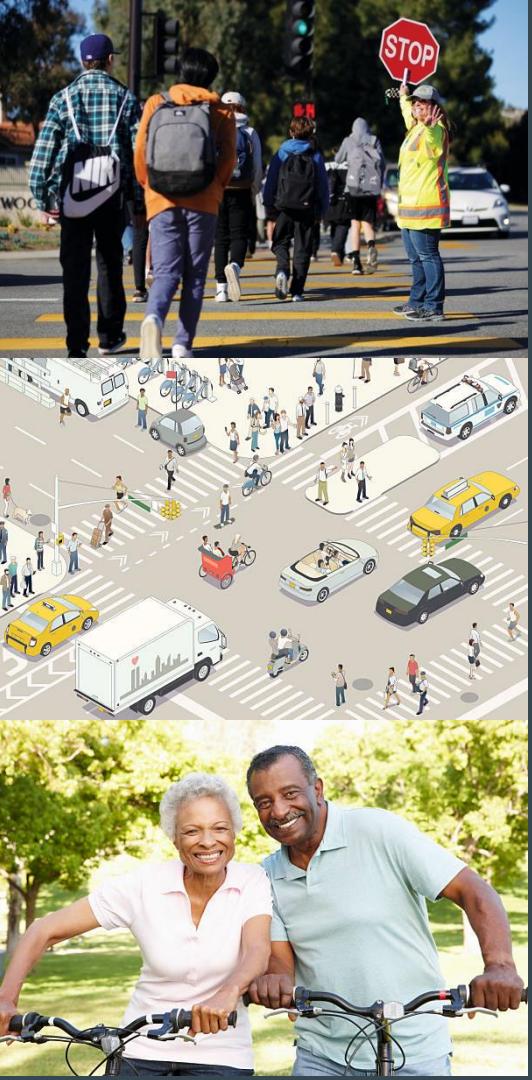
- Enhances walking, biking, and active transportation safety at a key intersection.
- Reduces car, pedestrian, and cyclist conflicts, making active transit a safer and more attractive option.
- Creates inviting public spaces that encourage social interaction and support physical and psychological well-being.

## Driving Community Transformation

- Establishes a safe, welcoming “sense of arrival” at a major Athens gateway.
- Enhances aesthetic appeal and pedestrian-friendly design, fostering a stronger community identity.
- Creates an inclusive and accessible environment for residents, visitors, and commuters.

## Improves Safety Across All Transportation Modes

- Ensures a safer, more efficient, and multimodal-friendly intersection for all users.



# Conclusion

A safer, more vibrant, and accessible Five Points intersection will enhance the daily experience for everyone who lives, works, and travels through Athens.

By investing in long-term safety improvements, this project supports Athens' shared vision of:

- Stronger neighborhoods
- Increased public safety
- Equitable transportation access
- Healthier, more active lifestyles
- Expanded transportation options

Five Points is a vital community node, and this investment will ensure it serves Athens well for decades to come.