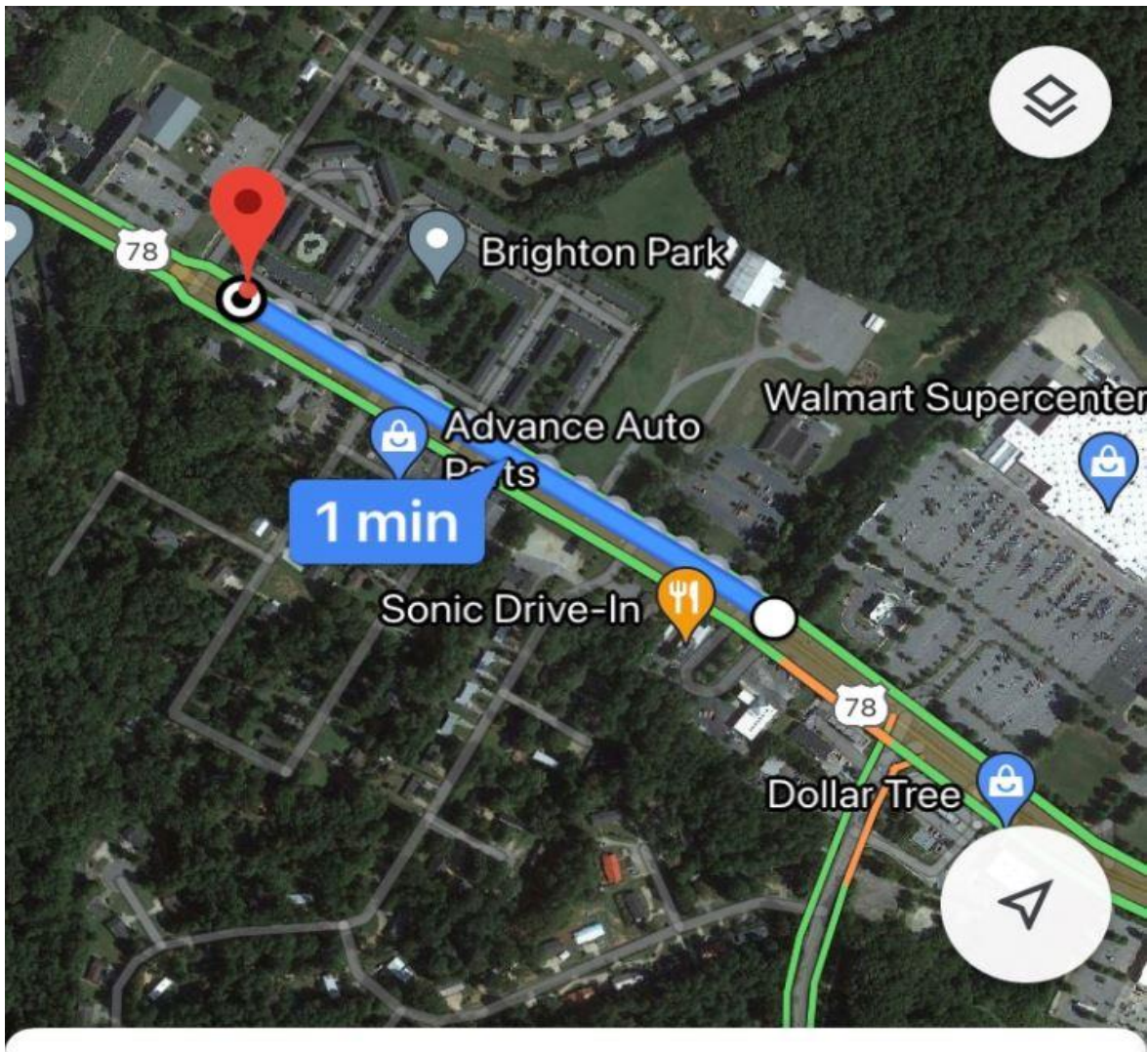


LEXINGTON ROAD SIDEWALK GAP

I (Dave) submitted this project on behalf of my sister-in-law, Josie, who lives in Brighton Park apartments and walks to her job at the eastside Walmart.

Josie – along with many others in Brighton Park and Deer Park – does not drive. Therefore, she usually walks along the north side of Lexington Road to and from her nightshift position. While walking along “Lexington Speedway” is truly unnerving, she doesn't want to stray too far from the roadside in the dark.

This proposed sidewalk connection would be 0.3 of a mile long. It would connect two existing sidewalk segments along the north /side of Lexington Road, running from the bus stop in front of Brighton Park to the edge of the Walmart / East Athens Marketplace property (as shown below).



1 min (0.3 mi)

If walking along a busy highway isn't dangerous enough, pedestrians must navigate an added hazard along this stretch of road. Many years ago, Athens-Clarke County placed "temporary" concrete barriers in front of Brighton Park to block access. While these barriers solved a car-centric safety problem, they now force pedestrians to walk further out into the roadway (as shown below).



This proposed sidewalk project would give Athens-Clarke County the bonus opportunity to design and construct a permanent, pedestrian safe solution. The new plan could include moving the current bus stop to this location to take advantage of the direct access into Brighton Park and the former right turn lane that could be repurposed as a dedicated bus stop lane (as shown below).



The 2018 TSPLOST program contained a project that included a multi-use trail for this side and section of Lexington Road. However, bridging this 0.3-mile **sidewalk** gap on the **north** side of Lexington Road was not proposed. For TSPLOST 2023, this should be a standalone project with its own specific scope (smaller), cost estimate (lower) and timeline (sooner).

This project literally closes the equity gap by connecting a residential area dependent upon pedestrian infrastructure to a commercial and employment hub. Furthermore, it checks EVERY box of the Mayor and Commission approved Strategic Commitments and Project Selection Criteria. Lastly, this project positively impacts the local community's economic and social well being by providing a safe, carbon combating walkway between work, commerce and home – thus delivering the "Triple Bottom Line."