

Keith Golden, P.E., Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone: (404) 631-1000

September 25, 2014
P.I. No. 0010333, Spalding County
North Hill St.; Solomon St. & 5th St. in Downtown Griffin - LCI

Mr. Kenny L. Smith
Griffin City Manager
100 South Hill Street
Griffin, GA 30223

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is in response to the meeting held on 8/6/2014 on the above referenced project and the email sent to Deputy Commissioner Todd Long. The project is a Livable Center Initiative (LCI) project which entails bicycle and pedestrian improvements in downtown Griffin.

The City of Griffin has requested a bicycle lane as part of the project. In order to accommodate the space required for a bicycle lane, it was proposed that the travel lanes on North Hill Street (State Route 155) be reduced from two lanes to one lane, also known as a road diet. When a road diet reduces the number of lanes on a roadway, it is necessary to accommodate turning traffic with adequate turn lanes or a two-way left turn lane so that the turning vehicles do not block through-moving vehicles and cause extreme or excessive delays. In order to accommodate turning lanes, the median and downtown parking would be impacted.

District Traffic Operations has conducted a VISSIM analysis of the intersections within the project corridor. VISSIM is a multi-modal traffic simulation software that is GDOT approved. Based on this model, additional turn lane modifications will be needed along the corridor in the future. Understanding that ARC will not fund the turn lanes or other improvements for this LCI project, GDOT has agreed to program a separate project to add a signal at the intersection of N. Hill St. and Broadway to mitigate some of the increases in traffic delays that will be caused by the proposed road diet. In the future, if traffic increases as expected and modifications are needed, the Department may pursue the extension/addition of turn lanes to improve the level of service along the corridor.

In summary, the City has a couple of options: 1) Pursue the LCI project without the road diet and use existing roadway footprint to construct a shared lane for vehicles and bicycles, 2) Pursue the road diet with the understanding that the Department may install turn lanes in the future or other modifications if traffic demands cause the level of service on the corridor to deteriorate beyond an acceptable level to GDOT. If the city wishes to pursue option 2 (road diet), a Public Meeting (PIOH) would need to be held to inform the traveling public about the potential traffic delays.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact the Project Manager, Justin Banks at 404-631-1153 or the District 3 Program Manager, Krystal Stovall-Dixon at 404-631-1572.

P.I. No. 0010333, Spalding County
North Hill St.; Solomon St. & 5th St. in Downtown Griffin – LCI
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,



Albert V. Shelby, III
State Program Delivery Engineer

^{KESD}
AVS:BWS:KESD:JAB

Cc: Todd Long, Deputy Commissioner
Russell McMurry, Chief Engineer
Joe Carpenter, Director P3/Program Delivery
Thomas Howell, District 3 Engineer
Dan Pass, District 3 Preconstruction Engineer
Michael Presley, District 3 Traffic Engineer
Paul DeNard, State Traffic Operations Manager