

Winthrop Drive Petition Sidewalk Project

Responses to Comments Submitted Online

Advanced Design Public Meeting – Presentation/Plans/Mapping on the City Website

Comments received from April 6, 2020 to April 20, 2020

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

This is a petition sidewalk project that was proposed in response to a citizen request to install sidewalk to improve pedestrian safety. The increased vehicular traffic on the street and the speed of the traffic is a concern that has been expressed by more than one resident. This project addresses the need to keep pedestrians from having to walk in the roadway. Mitigating the traffic speed by having police presence, by reducing the speed limit or installing speed humps are traffic calming measures that can be put into place separate from installing sidewalk. Visit the following link for information about the City's Traffic Calming Program.

<https://raleighnc.gov/services/content/PWksTrafficEng/Articles/NeighborhoodTrafficMan.html>

SIDEWALK WIDTH AND SETBACK

The design of the sidewalk takes into consideration accommodating all pedestrian traffic, including schoolchildren, walkers with carriages, and the disabled. The width of the sidewalk is specified by the City Unified Development Ordinance approved by City Council for new sidewalk construction. Narrowing the 6' width was not utilized in this case because there is ample right of way width to construct the safest sidewalk width without encroaching permanently on private property. However, to minimize impacts to private property, a variance to reduce the setback from the back of curb from 6' offset to 2.5' was sought and granted by the Engineering Services Director. Having sidewalk on only one side of the roadway is also a variance that was justified by the amount of foot traffic on the street. In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to accommodate wheelchairs, a 4' wide sidewalk should only be used for very short distances in extreme circumstances.

LOCATION OF SIDEWALK

The petition for the sidewalk went out without having chosen which side of road would have the sidewalk, and it was successful. The east side was chosen because the side slopes there are generally flatter than those on the west side. The flatter slopes result in less impact to properties along the sidewalk. The project keeps all sidewalk within the right of way. No permanent easements were needed; therefore, no property was "taken" for this project. The project is being funded as part of the Capital Improvement Bond Fund, and property owners are not being assessed for the construction.

CONNECTIVITY

This project will provide connectivity to sidewalk on West Millbrook Road. There is also a private development project in Developments Services review, which includes sidewalk on several properties on Winthrop Dr. from Sleepy Hollow towards Rembert Dr. Both projects enhance the chance of providing future connectivity to Rembert Dr and Brookhaven Dr.