



March 29, 2018

Mr. Eric Duff
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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Catherine Spillman

Dear Mr. Duff

The Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy's mission is to restore, enhance, and preserve Atlanta Memorial Park, making it a beautiful, connected, and sustainable urban greenspace for the enjoyment of all. In support of these goals, AMPC submits the following comments regarding GDOT Project #0007174 (replace Northside Drive bridge).

1. **Sidewalk Barrier.** The sidewalk on the west side of the bridge should have a substantial barrier between the sidewalk and the roadway. This is consistent with the current bridge, and is essential to ensure the safety of pedestrians. While the pedestrian bridge will handle foot traffic on the east side, it is noted that the west side of the bridge also receives high pedestrian volume due to the popularity of walking around the park on the west side of Northside Drive.
2. **Work Schedule.** The duration of the bridge closure should be minimized to reduce the impact of the project. The bridge closure will create significant traffic and detour challenges; shortening the period of bridge closure would provide some relief. AMPC supports a 24/7 work schedule subject to consent by those neighbors most impacted by construction.
3. **Underpass.** Providing an underpass beneath the bridge will improve safety, reduce pedestrian crossings on Northside, and generally improve safety and quality of life. The area already enjoys substantial foot traffic; with additional paths, trails, and sidewalks coming online, this will continue to increase. The underpass is essential for safe crossing of Northside Drive.
4. **Traffic Zone.** The area has a large population of young children (note the proximity to Morris Brandon Elementary and E Rivers Elementary), and three parks with playgrounds. To help ensure the safety of the children, and to generally maintain quality of life for local residents, the AMPC proposes the creation of a **local-only traffic zone**. While this zone would be created and administered by the City of Atlanta, we ask that GDOT cooperate with such a zone, and/or other such traffic measures. AMPC will provide the proposal for the traffic zone in a separate communication for GDOT's reference.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation as we all work to see that this project is completed efficiently, ensures the safety of children, and promotes safety and quality of life for all.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. Spillman
Executive Director
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