



Main-Concord Intersection Update

To: Davidson Board of Commissioners
From: Doug Wright, Public Works Director
Date: June 12, 2018
Re: Main-Concord Intersection Update

1. OVERVIEW

Main-Concord intersection has been identified by NC DOT staff as the highest priority opportunity to improve traffic congestion in Davidson. Southbound traffic on Main Street in the a.m. and p.m. peak periods backup significantly. The town has previously studied considering adding a southbound left turn lane from Main Street onto Concord Road but the town board elected not to move forward with the project at that time.

Public Works has evaluated extending a left-turn queue for southbound traffic on Main Street at the intersection with Concord Road. Since this is a state road, the town has worked with the NC Department of Transportation and engineer Kimley Horn to review the benefits of potentially removing 10 parking spaces along the northeast side of Main Street and adding a left-turn lane to improve traffic flow. The northbound right-hand turn lane from Main onto Concord Road would be removed in order to accommodate the correct angles for safety purposes with installing the southbound left turn lane. The projected total cost at this conceptual phase is approximately \$220,000. Both Main Street and Concord Road are state roads therefore NC DOT must approve any improvements considered for the intersection. NC DOT works collaboratively with the town on any changes.

The town board had identified this intersection improvement as an item to address in the early months of the town strategic plan. With the proposed FY19 budget, it had been planned to ask the board to allocate \$50,000 from fund balance to go towards this project.

This item was discussed at the May 22 board work session and the board asked that it be placed on the June 12 agenda for further consideration.

2. RELATED TOWN GOALS

Core values:

Davidson's historic mix of people in all income levels and ages is fundamental to our community, so town government will encourage opportunities, services, and infrastructure that allow people of all means to live and work here.

Citizens need to move easily throughout the town and region, so government will provide a variety of options, such as sidewalks, bike paths, greenways, connected streets, and transit.

Davidson exists in proximity to and is interdependent with other jurisdictions, so we strive for local, regional, state and federal cooperation.

Strategic Plan:

Goal 7 Mobility/Transportation - The Town of Davidson will enable citizens to move freely throughout town via transit, car, bicycle, and on foot.

Strategic Plan action item 1C. Turn lane from Main to Concord.

Constituent served:

All citizens.

Visitors passing through town.

Downtown merchants.

Davidson College and Davidson College Presbyterian Church.

3. OPTIONS/PROS & CONS

There are 3 options:

Option 1:

Do nothing.

Option 2:

Approve the proposed changes.

Option 3:

Consider further study of the improvements and evaluate any other options.

Here are the pros and cons of option 2 as previously communicated:

Pros:

Would improve downtown congestion for southbound traffic on Main Street back to the north.

“Low Hanging Fruit” for improving downtown congestion.

Utilizes the existing right away available.

Does not lengthen the pedestrian crossings at the Main and Concord intersection.

Cons:

Loss of 10 parking spaces at that location.

Impact on Davidson College Presbyterian Church operations.

Lengthens the pedestrian crossing on Main Street at Depot Street.

Loss of northbound right-hand turn lane on Main Street onto Concord Road.

Would not fully alleviate downtown congestion for southbound traffic on Main Street back to the north.

4. FYI or RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider selecting one of the 3 options listed above.

5. NEXT STEPS

Next steps for option 2 would include continued engineering and planning for the project along with developing final cost estimates. A budget amendment would be needed for any town funds to expend towards the project.

Next steps for option 3 could be engaging NC DOT and the engineers on a scope of work to provide further study. A budget amendment would be needed for any town funds to spend towards study work.