



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

Honorable Mayor Jason Lary, Sr.

Council Member Jimmy Clanton, Jr. – District 1

Council Member Rob Turner- District 2

Council Member Jazzmin Cobble – District 3

Council Member George Turner- District 4

Council Member Tammy Grimes – District 5

SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING

December 6, 2021 6:00 P.M.

Citizen Access: [Stonecrest YouTube Live Channel](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem, George Turner

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, Deputy City Clerk

III. AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Panola Road Improvements – *Tom Udell, Chris Kingsbury, David Pelton*

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(when an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate)

V. ADJOURNMENT



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Panola Road Discussion

AGENDA SECTION: *(check all that apply)*

☒ **PRESENTATION** ☐ **PUBLIC HEARING** ☐ **CONSENT AGENDA** ☐ **OLD BUSINESS**
☐ **NEW BUSINESS** ☐ **OTHER, PLEASE STATE:** Click or tap here to enter text.

CATEGORY: *(check all that apply)*

☐ **ORDINANCE** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☐ **CONTRACT** ☐ **POLICY** ☒ **STATUS REPORT**
☐ **OTHER, PLEASE STATE:** Click or tap here to enter text.

ACTION REQUESTED: ☐ **DECISION** ☒ **DISCUSSION**, ☐ **REVIEW**, or ☐ **UPDATE ONLY**

Previously Heard Date(s): 11/8/21 & Click or tap here to enter text.

Current Work Session: Monday, December 6, 2021

Current Council Meeting: Click or tap to enter a date.

SUBMITTED BY: Tom Udell, City Engineer

PRESENTER: Tom Udell, Chris Kingsbury, David Pelton

PURPOSE: Discuss a joint study between the city and county to improve Panola Road from Browns Mill Road to Fairington Road.

FACTS: The Panola Road improvement project started as a County project in 2016. It was listed in the Atlanta Regional Commission's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with Dekalb as sponsor. The project was initially a two to four-lane widening but was reduced in scope to a three lane (one lane in each direction and a center turn lane. The project also included bike lanes, sidewalks, and intersection upgrades. Preliminary plans were developed by the county and approved by the Georgia DOT but the project was dropped before the right-of-way phase could be started. Once the project became inactive, the outside funding shown in the TIP was pulled and is now shown as locally funded. Due to the length of inactivity on the project, the concept studies (traffic analysis, environmental, etc.) will need to be redone and reapproved as well as right-of-way plans to be updated.

OPTIONS: Discussion only Click or tap here to enter text.

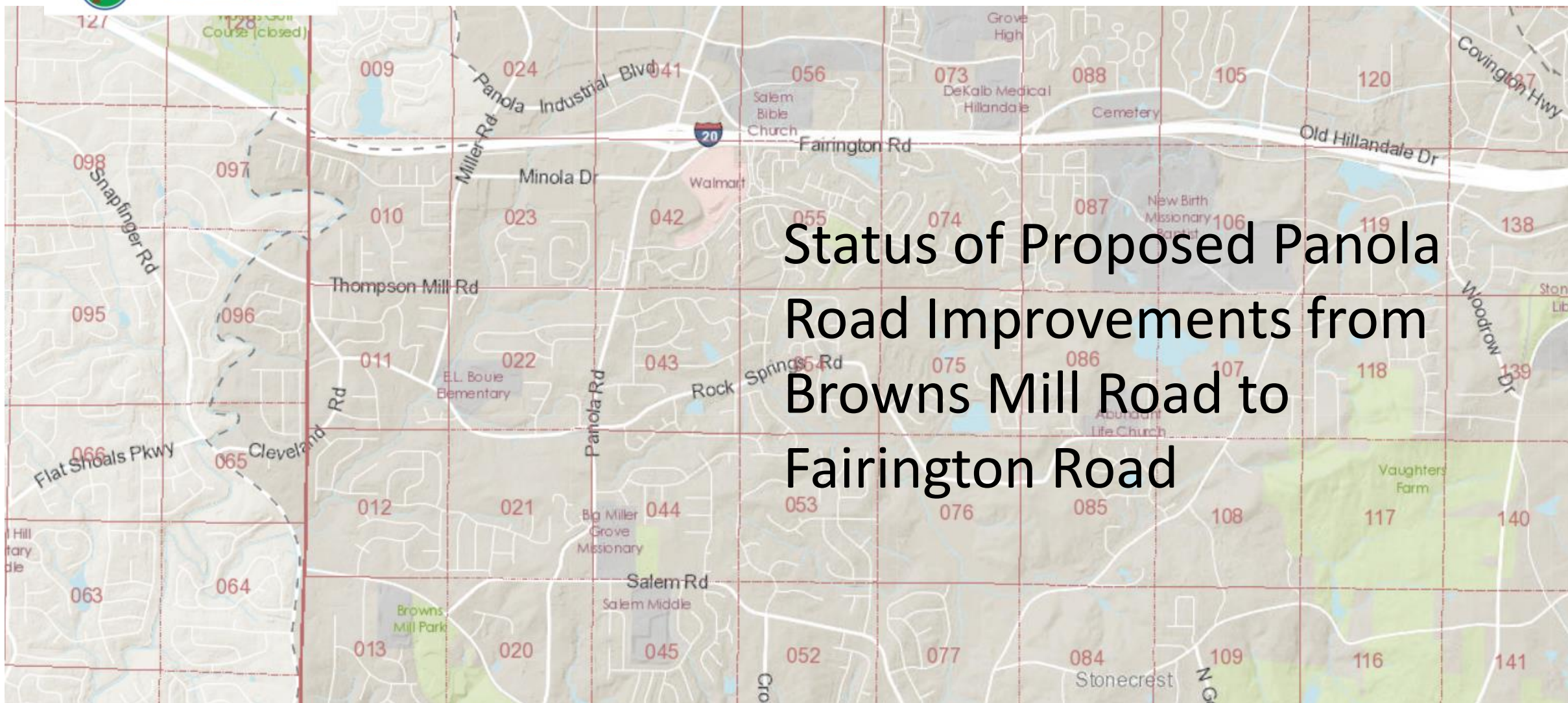


CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Click or tap here to enter text.

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Attachment 1 - County SPLOST presentation
- (2) Attachment 2 - Click or tap here to enter text.
- (3) Attachment 3 - Click or tap here to enter text.
- (4) Attachment 4 - Click or tap here to enter text.
- (5) Attachment 5 - Click or tap here to enter text.





Where we are today

- DeKalb County remains the sponsor in current ARC TIP for Project DK-065B
- Project Originally was programmed with Federal Aid as GDOT PI NO. 0006879
- ROW plans were approved by GDOT April 4, 2017, based on NEPA document approved February 19, 2017 and Revised Concept Report dated April 18, 2016
- GDOT sent county ROW Agreement on March 18, 2019 and DeKalb BOC approved sending an IGA to City of Stonecrest on May 28, 2019 proposing that county would retain sponsorship and city would reimburse county local match for right of way acquisition
- ARC and GDOT removed federal funds August 4, 2020
- Project costs shown in the TIP for ROW, Utilities and Construction total \$30.5M



Proposed Next Steps

- County and City staff are proposing the two governments use local funds to start a new scoping phase. This is because of the age of the plans and environmental document; as well as allowing for the development of alternatives that may be more consistent with the City's new Transportation Master Plan. For example, the City's plan envisions a traffic circle at the Browns Mill Intersection which is not in the current project's plans.
- This would allow traffic projections based on current and future land uses to be updated from the original work done in 2015; as well as new public involvement opportunities. A new scoping effort will also consider prioritization and phasing of improvements to reduce budget impacts.
- The estimated cost of the scoping study is \$400,000 to be split evenly between City and County.
- DeKalb County, in close coordination with the City, would manage the work using a current on-call consultant. This firm is the original design team that produced the current Concept Report and ROW plans; the processes and deliverables would adhere to GDOT standards.
- The Stonecrest City Council and DeKalb County Board of Commissioners would jointly adopt an Intergovernmental Agreement detailing the work flow and review process.
- This approach 'jumps starts' the design process by four to six months by not having to wait for the ARC TIP to be amended.
- While there are no guarantees this effort will result in future funding through ARC, working together s enhances the chances of federal aid being programmed.



Detailed Project History

Initial concept work for improvements to Panola Road from Covington Highway to Snapfinger Road started in 2006.

The corridor was subsequently broken up into five phases with DeKalb County moving forward with designing the phase from Fairington Road to Browns Mill Road.

Planned improvements included adding one travel lane each way and installing a raised median, bike lanes, and sidewalks.

The scope of the project was scaled back in 2016 to add turn lanes at intersections and add raised median to the portion of the project that is already four lanes. Bike lanes and sidewalks were still included.

Residents in the area voted in the November 2016 General Election to approve the creation of the City of Stonecrest. In March 2017, elections were held to elect representatives for five city council districts as well as mayor.

April 2017, right-of-way plans were approved by GDOT.



History Continued...

On Nov. 7, 2017, DeKalb County voters approved a one-cent special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) to address transportation needs and other capital improvements. Proceeds distributed to each city and BOC based on population data from US Census.

Right-of-way acquisition had been delayed due to lack of funding; but the passage of the SPLOST resolved that issue.

To reduce the right-of-way cost to the county, GDOT reimbursable funding was sought for the right-of-way phase. Following the programming of \$4.8 million in federal funds for right of- way, a right-of-way agreement was sent to DeKalb County by GDOT in March 2019.

This prompted a discussion with the City of Stonecrest on how to provide matching funds for the right-of-way phase and eventually the construction phase now that the project was entirely within the new city.

On May 28, 2019, the Board of Commissioners approved offering an intergovernmental agreement to the City of Stonecrest which called for the county to continue being the local sponsor of the project and for the city to reimburse the county for up to \$2 million of right-of-way acquisition costs.