



From the Mayor's Desk

January 2017

Making Pedestrian Safety a Priority

When Peachtree Corners first began to develop in the 1970s, the automobile was king and little thought was given to providing even the basic amenities – sidewalks and dedicated crosswalks -- for pedestrians. Even our city's early subdivisions often lacked sidewalks.

We've seen that trend begin to swing in the opposite direction: Now homebuyers often make their choice of which home to buy based on the community's pedestrian-friendly amenities such as sidewalks, hiking trails, multi-use trails and safe pedestrian crossings.

Since the city incorporated just four and a half years ago, we've made considerable strides in improving pedestrian safety for our citizens. Along with the city's plans for an 11-mile multi-use trail (the first phase to be complete by late summer), over 20,000 feet of sidewalks have been added to the following streets:

- Buford Highway
- Crooked Creek Road
- Jay Bird Alley
- Technology Parkway
- Winters Chapel Road

And future plans include 11 additional sidewalk projects. When complete, the projects will add nearly 32,000 feet of sidewalks to our streets.

The planned projects for 2017 and beyond:

- Corners Parkway
- Crooked Creek Road
- Frank Neely Road
- Holcomb Bridge Road
- Jay Bird Alley
- Peachtree Corners Circle multi-use trail
- Peachtree Corners Circle
- Spalding Drive
- Technology Parkway
- Technology Parkway South
- Winters Chapel Road

In addition to installing sidewalks, two pedestrian crosswalks with rapid flashing beacons are planned for 2017. Safety crosswalks will be installed on Winters Chapel Road near Winterbrook Court and East Jones Bridge Road near Rebel Ridge Court. The city also is adding streetlights to many of the main thoroughfares as I mentioned in my December column. The streetlight project is expected to be complete within 24 months.

One of the biggest challenges is ensuring our residents are safely able to cross major thoroughfares such as Holcomb Bridge Road and Peachtree Parkway. The need to provide a safe way to cross Peachtree Parkway, in particular, will be even greater once the Town Center is complete. This major road currently carries over 40,000 vehicles a day and that number will only increase in the coming years.

But the city's pedestrian safety efforts can only go so far. All of us who drive a vehicle need to be aware of joggers, walkers, and children walking to school. Many pedestrian crashes are the result of unsafe motor vehicle driver and pedestrian behavior.

Remember, it's everyone's responsibility to ensure our neighborhoods are pedestrian safe.

Drivers, keep these important tips in mind:

1. Always yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
2. Be careful at intersections when making right turns on red.
3. Use caution when driving where people gather.
4. Come to a complete stop at stop signs.

Although much has been done in our 4 ½ years, much remains to ensure pedestrian safety for everyone. We're determined to continue improving walkability throughout the city. If you have any suggestions, please share your ideas.

Have a safe and happy 2017.

Mayor Mike Mason