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Update on the Corners Connector Trail System – We have come a long way

Peachtree Corners is fortunate to have amazing outdoor amenities we can all enjoy, such as the Chattahoochee River, parks, streams, and a wonderful Town Center. Everyone who enjoys being outside takes advantage of these areas of our community. Additionally, according to the National Association of Realtors, recent studies have confirmed living near trails and greenways will likely raise your property value an average of 3-5% and sometimes even as high as 15%.

Approximately seven years ago, the City began work on a way to connect our City through the creation of our multi-use trail system, the Corners Connector. Through various state funding sources, several locations and feasibility studies have been completed that serve as the foundation of planning for the ultimate build-out of this trail. It began in 2015 with the completion of the Peachtree Corners Livable Centers Initiative, which was funded by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). This was one of the first projects that identified the base location for the final trail system.

Over the years, several projects followed that included studies for the Winters Chapel Road & Holcomb Bridge Road corridors, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Innovation Hub Master Plan, and the Innovative District Trails Study. This planning reinforced and further developed the idea of a master trail system in Peachtree Corners. Since that time, the city has continued to construct and expand the trail network, and when complete, it will consist of over 13 miles of trails that crisscross the city and provide connections to a variety of places people live, work, and play.

Most recently, the ARC funded a study of feasibility on a specific segment and location of the Corners Connector along Crooked Creek from Spalding Drive east to Peachtree Parkway. The Corners Connector Crooked Creek project is a long-range plan that will ultimately provide nearly 3 miles of trail at a cost of approximately \$13 million. This project involves environmental permitting and procurement of easements, so the timeline is extended.

In the shorter term, the City is pursuing federal funding for a segment of the trail from Peachtree Corners Circle to Peachtree Parkway, which is approximately 7,400 feet. The hope is to obtain funding for planning, engineering, environmental permitting and construction of this segment as a first phase of the ultimate project that extends all the way to Spalding Drive.

The ultimate buildout of the Corners Connector is an exciting goal to look forward to over the coming years, but some segments of the Connector have already been completed. Corners Connector Tech Park Lake was completed in 2020 and includes over 1600 feet of trail around the lake adjacent to Technology Parkway and Technology Parkway South. This segment connects to over 4,300 feet of the Connector along Technology Parkway and Engineering Drive.

Phase II of the Corners Connector around the lake is currently under development and when constructed, will complete the circuit around the lake with an additional 2,600 feet of trail. This will provide an even greater amenity to those residents who live nearby and to the office workers who enjoy direct access.

Corners Connector Town Center is presently undergoing construction. This project is directly adjacent to the pedestrian bridge over Peachtree Parkway and the Lazy Dog Restaurant. This trail will connect those areas to the eastern most

portions of the Town Center and Town Green, along with connections to Peachtree Corners Circle and the development to the south of the stream.

Stream connections and a boardwalk along the stream's banks are included, along with a skywalk segment that will provide a bird's eye view of the stream below. It will add 2,400 feet to the Corners Connector system, and with its connection to Peachtree Corners Circle, the system will have a connection along Medlock Bridge Road and South Old Peachtree Road to existing multi-use trails in Duluth.

The Burdell Branch segment is currently under development by the planning and engineering team. This portion of the system will connect Engineering Drive south to Woodhill Drive for approximately 4,900 feet of additional trail. An existing segment of Corners Connector currently ends at Engineering Drive and Peachtree Parkway in front of the Corners Fine Wine & Spirits and RaceTrac, and this project will extend that trail infrastructure south to the Chick-fil-A area and its adjacent shopping centers.

The City is finalizing the construction of the 9,200-foot segment of the Corners Connector Riverlands segment along East Jones Bridge Road. This segment connects Jones Bridge Park east to the existing multi-use trail along Peachtree Parkway. The project is part of the Chattahoochee Riverlands project (www.chattahoocheeriverlands.com), which includes a trail system that connects Newnan to the Buford Dam along the Chattahoochee River corridor.

While the City would prefer to build each new segment in coordination with the completion of a previous segment, there are several barriers that inhibit that process. Construction, in general, comes with a variety of challenges including current construction in an area, environmental studies and assessments, archeological studies, potential right of way acquisition, and funding. The City continues to investigate multiple funding sources including federal and state grants, direct City funding, and partnerships.

For the future, the City is exploring the possibility of the construction of a pedestrian bridge that will span the Chattahoochee in or around the area of the original Jones Bridge. A project of this type requires a partnership with Johns Creek, and discussions have begun between our jurisdictions.

As you can see, exciting things are underway and already in place for Corners Connector, and we continue to work towards many more amazing additions in the future.