



June 19, 2017

AGENDA ITEM 6 D

MIDTOWN AREA TRANSPORTATION PLAN

TYPE OF ITEM: No Action Required

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Staff will provide an update on the Midtown Area Transportation Plan recently initiated by Kimley-Horn and Associates (CRTPA General Planning Consultant) which provides a technical analysis of potential transportation improvements.

HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

Background

Transportation improvements to the Midtown area of Tallahassee have been discussed and documented for a number of years. Recent efforts include:

- The CRTPA's Connections 2040 Regional Mobility Plan" (adopted on November 16, 2015) which identifies the Thomasville Road/Meridian Road/Seventh Avenue intersection for improvement. This project has been included on the agency's RMP Roadways Priority Project List (and is on the most recent Roadway PPL scheduled for adoption at today's meeting).
- Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Community Enhancement project ("Midtown Placemaking (Thomasville and Monroe Roads)") that identifies improvements at the five-points intersection of Meridian Road/Thomasville Road/Seventh Avenue as well as streetscaping improvements to Monroe Street (Thomasville Road to Tharpe Street) and Thomasville Road (Monroe Street to Post Road). This project was included in the November 2014 passage of the Leon County Penny Sales Tax Extension.
- FDOT safety study ("Thomasville Road (Midtown) Safety Study") was conducted by the FDOT on Thomasville Road (Monroe Street to Betton Road) based upon a request by the CRTPA to evaluation bicycle and pedestrian safety along the corridor. The study, presented to the CRTPA on September 19, 2016, identified potential pedestrian safety improvements along the corridor (some of which are included on the agency's Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Priority Project List for funding).

Midtown Area Transportation Plan

Building upon and coordinating the above efforts, the Midtown Area Transportation Plan was recently initiated by Kimley-Horn and Associates, a CRTPA General Planning Consultant. The study will identify and review potential changes to the transportation network and, pursuant to the project's scope, "gain a better understanding of the travel patterns in and around the Midtown area of Tallahassee and identify deficiencies within the existing transportation network." The study will evaluate the existing conditions and recommend potential improvements to the area that addresses the needs of vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists in the Midtown area.

The plan includes a review of previous studies in the area including the Midtown Action Plan. Data collection efforts associated with the study will include the use of Bluetooth detection technology to determine traffic patterns throughout the Midtown area. Additionally, intersection and roadway segments will be evaluated to complete a traffic operations analysis.

Potential operational and safety improvements will be considered and evaluated for feasibility, including:

- Roundabouts
- Complete Street concepts
- One-way streets
- Two-way streets
- Re-routing/signing
- Traffic calming measures
- Speed limit modifications
- Street lighting
- Bicycle, pedestrian, and transit options

Identified operational improvements ("alternatives") will be evaluated for feasibility and ability to address identified issues in the Midtown area, including right-of-way impacts.

Workshops are scheduled to be conducted with the Board and committees to discuss the plan's evaluation and recommended alternatives from which to proceed and the plan is anticipated to be completed in six (6) months.

NEXT STEPS

Consistent with Board direction, additional phases of the project may include public outreach, refined analysis of identified alternatives and phasing and implementation strategies.