



March 19, 2019

## AGENDA ITEM 6B

### MIDTOWN AREA TRANSPORTATION PLAN PHASE II

TYPE OF ITEM: Discussion

#### STATEMENT OF ISSUE

This item provides an update on the recent initiation of Phase II of the Midtown Area Transportation Plan. Phase II will provide a focus on obtaining input on the transportation needs in Midtown through a series of meetings, surveys, workshops and an Open House with stakeholders and the public. A map of the study area is provided as **Attachment 1**.

#### HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

##### **The Latest**

Phase II of the Midtown Area Transportation Plan has recently been initiated. Through a focus on community input, the phase will include a more detailed analysis on Midtown's bicycles, pedestrians and transit users. Specifically, this phase builds upon the options identified and evaluated in Phase I (provided as **Attachment 2**) through conducting stakeholder meetings, surveys, general public workshops, and an Open House. Upon receiving public input, the study's alternatives will be further refined.

As a background, Phase I of the Midtown Area Transportation Plan provided a traffic operations study that evaluated nine (9) transportation options (many of which are not stand alone and may be implemented in coordination with other identified options). Specifically, the following options were identified:

- **Beard St and North Gadsden St Realignment** - Realignment of Beard Street within existing right-of-way to improve connectivity at this location has been identified.
- **Sidewalk Connectivity** - Missing gaps in the Midtown area are identified (including key missing gaps at N. Gadsden, discussed below).
- **North Gadsden St corridor improvements from 6<sup>th</sup> Ave to Thomasville Rd** - Identifies construction of missing key sidewalk gaps and road diet in this key location of Midtown.

- **Midtown Boulevard/Complete Street** - by definition, complete streets are streets designed for all users (pedestrian, bicyclists, transit users as well as motorized transportation). Many of the proposed alternatives evaluated can be implemented in a manner that to improve the Midtown area for all users.
- **One-way southbound option of Thomasville Rd from N Gadsden St to N Monroe St** - This alternative improves roadway level of service and could be constructed to use existing right-of-way for complete street improvements. Potential negatives with proposal include reduced access to businesses.
- **One-way southbound option of Thomasville Rd from N Gadsden St to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave** - This alternative improves roadway level of service and could be constructed to use existing right-of-way for complete street improvements. Potential negatives with proposal include reduced access to businesses.
- **Thomasville, Meridian and N Gadsden Roundabout (includes all existing movements)** - Analysis identifies that this option does not operationally work and will have constructability issues. Additionally, a roundabout at this location creates pedestrian challenges. Study recommendation – Consider not moving forward with further exploration of this option.
- **Thomasville, Meridian and N Gadsden Roundabout (No Gadsden to Meridian movement)** - Analysis identifies constructability issues. Additionally, a roundabout at this location creates pedestrian challenges. Study recommendation – Consider not moving forward with further exploration of this option.
- **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave Bi-Directional Roadways** - Convert the existing one-way pairs into two-way roadways. Analysis identifies that this change would reduce level-of-service and create additional conflict points at intersections. Study recommendation: Do not move forward with further exploration.

On February 20, 2018, the CRTPA approved Phase 1 of the plan and eliminated the 3 options identified above in blue from further study.

### Midtown Area Transportation Plan Background

Building on the recent efforts identified for the Midtown area of Tallahassee, the Midtown Area Transportation Plan was initiated at the June 19, 2017 CRTPA meeting. The plan is being developed in two parts (Phase I and Phase II).

Such recent efforts identified in the Midtown area 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

