

# **Traffic, Road, and Greenway Update**

By Mayor Jamie Clary, May 25, 2017

## **Traffic Signal Synchronization**

Our city staff is close to issuing a request for proposals to find a company to bid on providing software to operate our traffic signals. We should have one chosen by mid-June.

That will allow the staff to take bids on a company to implement the software and do the work on our equipment.

If the total cost is at or below the cost that the state is willing to pay for the project, the work could be completed within the next year.

## **Drakes Creek Rd. and Stop Thirty Rd.**

The city recently installed a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of Drakes Creek Road and Stop Thirty Road. The next step is to create a lane that will enable through traffic to split off from vehicles turning left.

The additional lane will reduce the line of cars from the north in the morning and from the south in the afternoon.

The overall project involves widening Drakes Creek Road to four lanes with a permanent signal. The intersection will be raised several feet, and the bridge on Stop Thirty Road will be replaced.

## **Old Shackle Island/Walton Ferry Alignment**

The previous design for this project had several errors that caused delays in the project. Those errors came from the company that the Tennessee Department of Transportation hired to design the new intersection.

The errors have been fixed, causing additional expenses from engineering and land acquisition.

We are moving forward, but I have some concerns about the increased costs and the city's responsibility.

The city previously paid its 20 percent share for the engineering and the land acquisition. We should not be expected to pay more.

## **Stop Thirty Rd. and Gallatin Rd.**

Pulling onto Gallatin Road from Stop Thirty Road or from Bluegrass Commons Boulevard, is

getting more difficult due to the amount of traffic.

The state is not willing to do any work there right now even though Gallatin Road is a state highway.

The city staff is looking at some ways to slow down traffic on Gallatin Road, allowing space and time for vehicles to pull out from side roads safely.

That includes new striping, police patrols, adjusting the closest traffic signals, adding some landscaping, and placing speed display boards nearby.

### **Saundersville Rd./Vietnam Veterans Blvd./Railroad tracks**

The city hired an engineering company several months ago to determine the best way to provide access under the railroad tracks.

An older plan did not get specific enough to determine a cost or the best route from Vietnam Veterans Blvd. under the tracks to Gallatin Rd. That plan expected builders to create a parallel rail for a quarter mile to enable construction on the tunnel.

Two weeks ago the engineers presented an idea to CSX that would eliminate the need for the parallel track. It would save money and be quicker.

CSX said they are open to this idea.

This engineering work will create an estimated cost. From there, the City will seek help in paying for the project.

### **Drakes Creek Rd. and New Shackle Island Rd.**

This intersection is tricky.

It is not in the city, but several city residents live nearby. New Shackle Island Road is a state highway, but does not get much attention from the state. Drakes Creek Road at that intersection is a county road, but many houses nearby are inside the city limits.

The city is asking T-DoT to do a Road Safety Assessment, which should lead to improvements to the intersection.

### **Widening Vietnam Veterans Blvd.**

This project has been on the books to start at least 10 years from now. The governor would like to get moving within the next three years.

Governor Bill Haslam released a list of priorities last week that included planning and engineering for Vietnam Veterans Boulevard from Gallatin Road on the east of Hendersonville to I-65.

That work will be followed by environmental evaluations, acquiring property, and construction. Each step will take two years at least but will start earlier because of the governor's recent decision.

### **Sanders Ferry Greenway**

We put this project out for bid late last year, looking for a company to build it. No company offered to build the walkway at any price.

So, we changed some specifications to reduce the difficulty, and one company, only one, responded with a bid that is \$900,000 over our estimated cost. That was in January.

The state may cover that additional \$900,000. Or they may expect us to cover it. I am preparing for either possibility.

Our staff is also applying for another grant to cover a good portion of the additional \$900,000.

In the meantime, the state told us that they do not like the engineering that the City paid for several years ago. This is VERY frustrating.

To address that, city staff is looking for alternatives that will satisfy the state since they are providing a lot of the money for the project.