



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 25, 2017 Agenda Item #5

Voting Session

Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Contract for Services to Augment the Traffic Study for the Takoma Junction Redevelopment

Recommended Council Action

Approve Ordinance

Context with Key Issues

The Takoma Junction redevelopment project provides the Council with an opportunity to mitigate long standing traffic concerns at the intersection of Carroll, Ethan Allen and Sycamore Avenues. Though temporary measures have been taken since the traffic light at the intersection of Ethan Allen and Sycamore Avenue was installed to reduce delays experienced by drivers traveling through the intersection, further study is needed to evaluate the potential impact of the planned development on traffic patterns.

Acknowledging that engineering studies have been commissioned by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) which identify options for addressing delays at the intersection and that Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) will be required to conduct a traffic study to advance the Takoma Junction Redevelopment project, the Council budgeted funds to undertake a traffic study to augment these efforts.

The proposed study will include: 1) a determination of the level of cut-through traffic occurring along Columbia Avenue, from Sycamore Avenue to Carroll Avenue; 2) an intersection capacity analysis for Ethan Allen and Jackson Avenue, Ethan Allen and Sycamore Avenue, and Carroll and Columbia Avenue; and 3) a review of the feasibility of incorporating bike improvements and improving pedestrian safety measures along Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenues, from Jackson Avenue to Columbia Avenue.

NDC will be required to analyze the impact of its proposed development on traffic at the following intersections according to Montgomery County Planning Department staff; Carroll, Ethan Allen, and Sycamore Avenue; Carroll and Grant Avenue; and Carroll and Philadelphia Avenues.

Proposals for these professional services were solicited from the following firms in accordance with Takoma Park Code Chapter 7.08.070(B): Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RKK), The Traffic Group, Inc., and Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA). The Traffic Group, Inc. submitted the lowest cost proposal (\$21,000).

Council Priority

Advance Economic Development Efforts: Takoma Junction Development

Prepared by: Sara Anne Daines, HCD Director Posted 2017/10/23

Approved by: Suzanne R. Ludlow, City Manager

Environmental Impact of Action

An anticipated benefit of the proposed traffic study and the implementation of identified mitigation measures is a reduction in carbon emissions from idling vehicles.

Fiscal Impact of Action

FY18 Capital Improvement Budget includes a total of \$75,000 for the undertaking of the proposed traffic study. The proposal submitted by The Traffic Group, Inc. is for the sum of \$21,000.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

We do not believe this Council action will adversely affect or disproportionately impact any particular group.

Attachments and Links

- Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Contract for Services to Augment the Traffic Study for the Takoma Junction Redevelopment
- ["MD 410 at MD 195 Montgomery County, MD Intersection Study: Phase II" \(A. Morton Thomas and Associates, November 17, 2016\)](#)
- ["MD 410 at MD 195 Montgomery County, MD Intersection Study" \(A. Morton Thomas and Associates, August 18, 2015\)](#)
- ["MD 410 at MD 195 Montgomery County, MD Intersection Study – Supplemental Diagrams" \(A. Morton Thomas and Associates, August 18, 2015\)](#)

Introduced by: Councilmember

Single Reading:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES
TO AUGMENT THE TRAFFIC STUDY FOR THE
TAKOMA JUNCTION REDEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project provides the City Council with an opportunity to further evaluate long standing traffic concerns at the intersection of Carroll, Ethan Allen and Sycamore Avenues and the potential impact of the planned project on traffic patterns, and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has, as recently as November 2016, commissioned engineering studies to identify options for mitigating delays at this intersection and that the Montgomery County development review process will require Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) to complete a traffic study to evaluate the specific impact of its project on vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, the scope of services for the planned traffic study includes: 1) a determination of the level of cut through traffic occurring along Columbia Avenue, from Sycamore Avenue to Carroll Avenue; 2) an intersection capacity analysis for Ethan Allen and Jackson Avenues, Ethan Allen and Sycamore Avenues, and Carroll and Columbia Avenues; and 3) a review of the feasibility of incorporating bike improvements and improving pedestrian safety measures along Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues, from Jackson Avenue to Columbia Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Department solicited proposals for professional services required to undertake this analysis from three engineering firms in accordance with Takoma Park Code Chapter 7.08.070(B); and

WHEREAS, the scope of services to be provided by The Traffic Group, Inc. under this contract meet the identified needs of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes a variety of infrastructure projects, including the undertaking of the described traffic study; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the City's FY18 budget to cover the anticipated cost of services to be provided by The Traffic Group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with The Traffic Group,

Inc. for services required to complete the described traffic study.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of October, 2017 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: