



Office of the
City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: Lee D. Garrity, City Manager
FROM: Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager
DATE: August 15, 2017
SUBJECT: Update on Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System Bond Project Proposed Improvements to Northwest Boulevard

In November 2016, voters approved a bond referendum to fund improvements for safety and capacity of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System (WSFCS). The referendum included \$5,500,000 for site improvements at several schools to address traffic flow and pedestrian safety. Wiley Middle School and RJ Reynolds High Schools are among those projects.

Wiley Middle and RJ Reynolds High Schools are separated by Northwest Boulevard, a major thoroughfare that carries approximately 8,800 vehicles per day. Students cross this road during the morning and afternoon arrival and dismissal times and throughout the day as well since RJ Reynolds has buildings on both sides of the street. There is a tunnel under the street for RJ Reynolds student traffic, but not everyone uses it. Students cross the Northwest Boulevard at random locations stepping out into traffic between vehicles. This is a significant safety concern. WSFCS has allocated approximately \$2.5 million from the referendum to address safety issues in the area.

WSFCS contracted with the engineering firm, Davenport, to study vehicular and pedestrian traffic and parking patterns along Northwest Boulevard between Reynolda Road to Hawthorne Road. Davenport has developed traffic improvement alternatives to address pedestrian safety issues. WSFCS and Davenport will be at the Public Works Committee in August to present their concept to City Council.

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City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity