



## **Downtown Infrastructure Improvements – Fact Sheet**

### **Background and Location**

Athens-Clarke County has contracted with T.Y. Lin International to conduct a comprehensive infrastructure improvement in parts of downtown Athens. The Mayor and Commission has designated the East Clayton Street (including Wall Street) and North Jackson Street corridors as the priority.

The infrastructure improvements include critical underground work (water, sewer, storm drains, lighting, private utilities) and secondary above grade improvements such as roadway improvements (pavement and curb construction, crosswalks, and signage) and streetscape improvements (pedestrian walkways, streetscape lighting, improved accessibility, pedestrian amenities). Funding for the \$7.1 million project comes from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) revenues approved by voters.

### **Process and Priorities**

After hosting public open houses in December 2012 and February 2013 and individual meetings with property owners and business owners, the following priorities were identified:

- Eliminate odors and smells
- Improve pedestrian access
- Eliminate trip hazards
- Provide and designate trash and recycling areas for businesses and public
- Improve drainage and eliminate stagnant water
- Time construction to minimize impact on businesses



The Athens-Clarke Mayor and Commission reviewed preliminary plans in their Work Session on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

The public will also have the opportunity to review the plans and offer feedback at a drop-in format public input session from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Dougherty St. Government Building at 120 West Dougherty Street. T.Y. Lin and the Athens-Clarke SPLOST office are hosting the meeting, or by reviewing the plans online at [www.athensclarkecounty.com/splost](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/splost).

If the commission approves the preliminary plans, plans call for construction documents to be developed in early 2014; water, sewer and utility construction in 2014; and remaining construction beginning in 2015.

\*East Clayton Street: Lumpkin St. to Thomas St.

\* Wall Street: Clayton St. to Broad St.

\*North Jackson Street: Washington St. to Broad St.

[www.athensclarkecounty.com/splost](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/splost)  
[downtownstreetscape@gmail.com](mailto:downtownstreetscape@gmail.com)

## Plan Summary

Preliminary plans include the following design elements:

- Storm drain improvements to properly handle runoff and eliminate odor and standing water
- Replacement of existing water system due to age and capacity
- Sanitary sewer replacement, as well as manhole inspection and repair
- Increased capacity and upgraded capabilities for private utilities
- Pavement improvements to allow proper drainage
- Accessible locations for business owners to properly dispose of trash and recycling material
- Wider and improved sidewalks that address trip hazards
- A mix of colored sidewalks with engraved granite and brick elements
- Dedicated bicycle, scooter and motorcycle parking areas
- New large trees more appropriate for urban environments. Tree replacement is necessary due to underground improvements, as well as the fact that the current trees are not well-suited or well-planted for urban use.
- Improved street lighting



## Contact and Further Information

Feedback and questions may also be offered via email at [downtownstreetscape@gmail.com](mailto:downtownstreetscape@gmail.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AthensDowntownStreetscape](https://www.facebook.com/AthensDowntownStreetscape). Plans are available for review online at [www.athensclarkecounty.com/splost](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/splost). Beginning Sept. 16, plan boards will be available for inspection at 125 W. Washington Street, Suite 775. To offer feedback over the phone, please call 706-354-0470 and ask for Elizabeth Jones-McManus.

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