



**SUSTAINABLE
NEWTON**
PO Box 146, Oxford, GA 30054
www.sustainablenewton.org

October 26, 2023

TurnerLakeWidening@CityofCovington.org

RE: Turner Lake Widening SPLOST project

I am writing on behalf of the Board and members of Sustainable Newton to express our thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed widening of Turner Lake Road. We believe that by addressing the following points, we can enhance the safety and overall quality of this road for all residents and visitors.

Reduced Speed Limit for Safety: We strongly recommend designing the road for 35 mph speed limit instead of 45 mph. This change will significantly enhance the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists alike. Slower speeds encourage cars to travel more closely together, which can help reduce congestion and improve overall traffic flow. It's a vital step in ensuring the well-being of everyone who uses Turner Lake Road. Studies by AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety support that lower speed limits saves lives.

Multi-Use Path: To promote connectivity and accessibility, we propose the construction of a 10' multi-use path on one side of the road. This path will cater to bicyclists, pedestrians and those reliant on mobility devices for transportation facilitating movement between residential developments, the Cricket Frog Trail, Turner Lake Park, and the various shopping centers on the north end.

Pedestrian Crossings: Installing a designated pedestrian crossing at the north end of Turner Lake Road is essential for the safety and convenience of pedestrians trying to cross between shopping centers. This addition will reduce the risk of accidents and encourage foot traffic, ultimately benefiting local businesses.

Tree Planting Strip: To create a safe and visually appealing environment, we recommend incorporating a tree planting strip between the gutter and the sidewalk. This strip will provide an extra layer of separation between pedestrians and the cars speeding by, enhancing safety while also beautifying the road.

Narrower Travel Lanes: We suggest reducing the travel lane width from 12' to 11'. This change is not only adequate for a 35 mph speed limit but also discourages speeding. Wider lanes tend to encourage higher speeds, which is why a narrower design can help in maintaining safer driving speeds.

Large Shade Trees: Planting large shade trees in the median and the tree planting strips, with a preference for oak trees due to their longevity and resilience in our climate, will offer much-needed shade for pedestrians and drivers. Furthermore, it will improve the aesthetics of the road, making it a more attractive and pleasant place for all.

We believe that these recommendations will not only improve the safety of Turner Lake Road but also enhance its overall functionality and appeal to the community. We kindly request considering these suggestions when planning the road widening project.

We believe that the lower speed limit of 35 mph will provide a safer driving experience. Thank you for your time and attention to these concerns. We look forward to a safer and more pedestrian-friendly Turner Lake Road that benefits all residents and visitors to our wonderful city. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Board and members of Sustainable Newton if you have any questions or need clarification regarding our concerns.

Best regards,
Nancy Schulz
President, Sustainable Newton
info@sustainablenewton.org
770.337.7562