

Intersection Improvement Analysis Overview

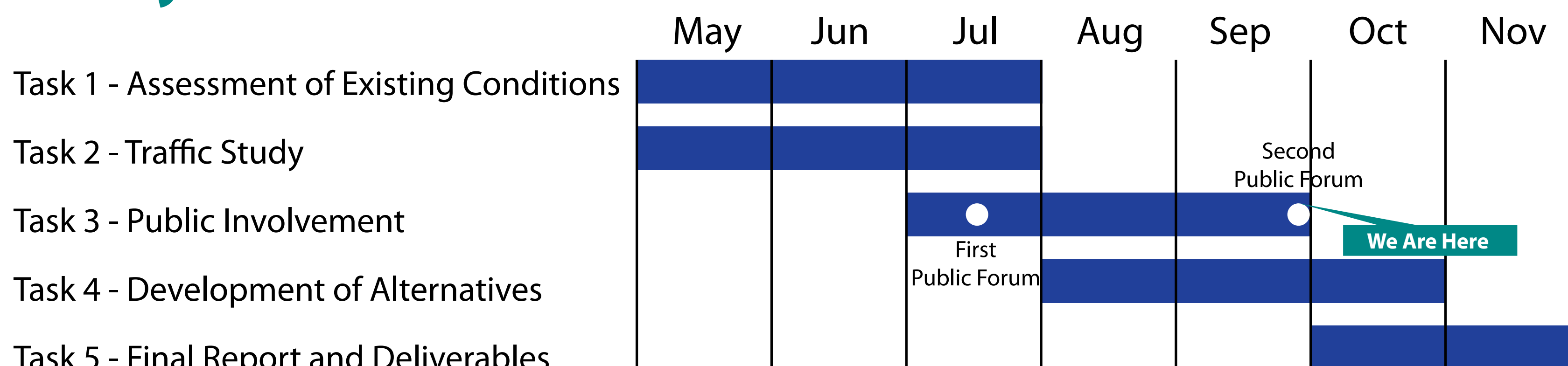
Context and Relation to Other Plans and Studies

In early 2021, the City of Brookhaven initiated an evaluation of three intersections along Dresden Drive, based on recommendations from the City's 2020 Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update. That plan recommended a safety and operations analysis to identify specific improvements to reduce crashes and injuries and to improve operations at the intersections of Dresden Drive and Apple Valley Road, Ellijay Drive/Caldwell Road, and Clairmont Road.

Part of the reason for conducting this study is the high level of pedestrian activity along parts of Dresden Drive, especially in the western portion of the corridor, around Village Place at Brookhaven and closer to the MARTA Station near Apple Valley Road. The intersections at Apple Valley Road and Ellijay Drive/Caldwell Road both fall within the boundaries of the Peachtree Road Overlay (PRO) district and within the study area for the ongoing City Centre Master Plan. Recommendations for these intersections should align with PRO requirements as well as findings and recommendations of the Master Plan, as appropriate.

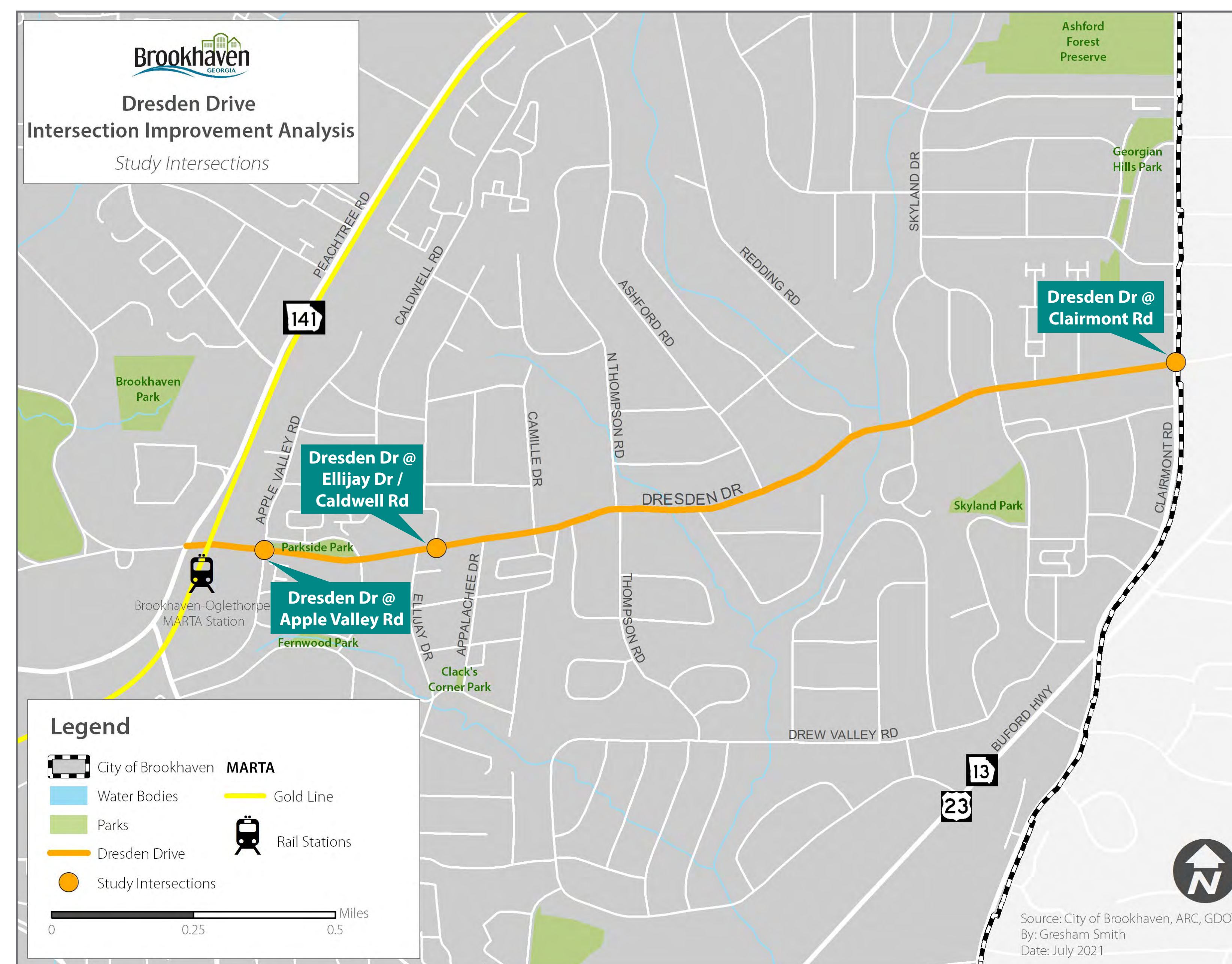
Dresden Drive is the primary east-west corridor connecting Peachtree Road (SR 141) and Clairmont Road. In addition to evaluating safety and operations at each of the intersections, the study is also assessing traffic calming options for streets that can be accessed from Caldwell Drive between Dresden Drive and Redding Road and from Ellijay Drive between Dresden Drive and Briarwood Road. The map to the right shows the location of Dresden Drive and the study intersections within the City of Brookhaven.

Study Process



The project webpage is located on the City's website at <https://www.brookhavenga.gov/publicworks/page/dresden-drive-intersection-improvement-study>.

It can also be accessed through the QR Code on the right.



Study Purpose

The City of Brookhaven is undertaking an operational and safety analysis for three intersections on Dresden Drive - Apple Valley Road, Ellijay Drive/Caldwell Road, and Clairmont Road. The purpose of the study is to identify improvements to help serve projected vehicular traffic while providing safe and comfortable facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. The primary objectives of the study are to:

- Evaluate existing and forecast future traffic based on known and planned developments in the area
- Evaluate existing conditions, signals, and pedestrian facilities for safety and efficiency
- Recommend intersection improvements for optimal traffic movement
- Provide recommendations for additional or revised traffic calming measures in the neighborhoods north and south of Dresden Drive accessed from the Caldwell Road/Ellijay Drive intersection based on an evaluation of future traffic impacts

Summary of Existing Conditions and Prior Activities

Existing Conditions Findings

The project team assessed existing conditions at the three study intersections along Dresden Drive, examining existing infrastructure, roadway characteristics and conditions, sidewalks and crosswalks, rights-of-way, transit service, existing traffic operations, and crash data for the five most recent years with complete, available data. The final draft of the Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum is available on the project webpage or through the QR code. Key findings include:



- **Sidewalk gaps and missing crosswalks** create safety issues for those walking along and across along Dresden Drive
- **Intermittent congestion and delay** at some intersections (e.g., for left turns at Ellijay Drive/Caldwell Road) are **projected to become worse** if no improvements are made
- **Sight distance issues and lack of lighting at Clairmont Road** contribute to unsafe conditions
- **Ongoing and anticipated new development**, particularly near Apple Valley Road and Ellijay Drive/Caldwell Road, point to the **need for safety and operational improvements**

Transportation Projects

Dresden Drive Street Light Improvements

The City is working with Georgia Power to improve lighting along the Dresden Drive corridor and convert all existing street lights to LED.

Dresden Drive ATMS (GDOT PI# 0013138)

This GDOT-sponsored project will expand the ITS network along Dresden Drive from Peachtree Road (SR 141) to Clairmont Road. This includes signal upgrades and pedestrian improvements at the Ellijay Drive/Caldwell Road intersection as well as communications upgrades at the Apple Valley Road and Clairmont Road intersections.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Upgrades

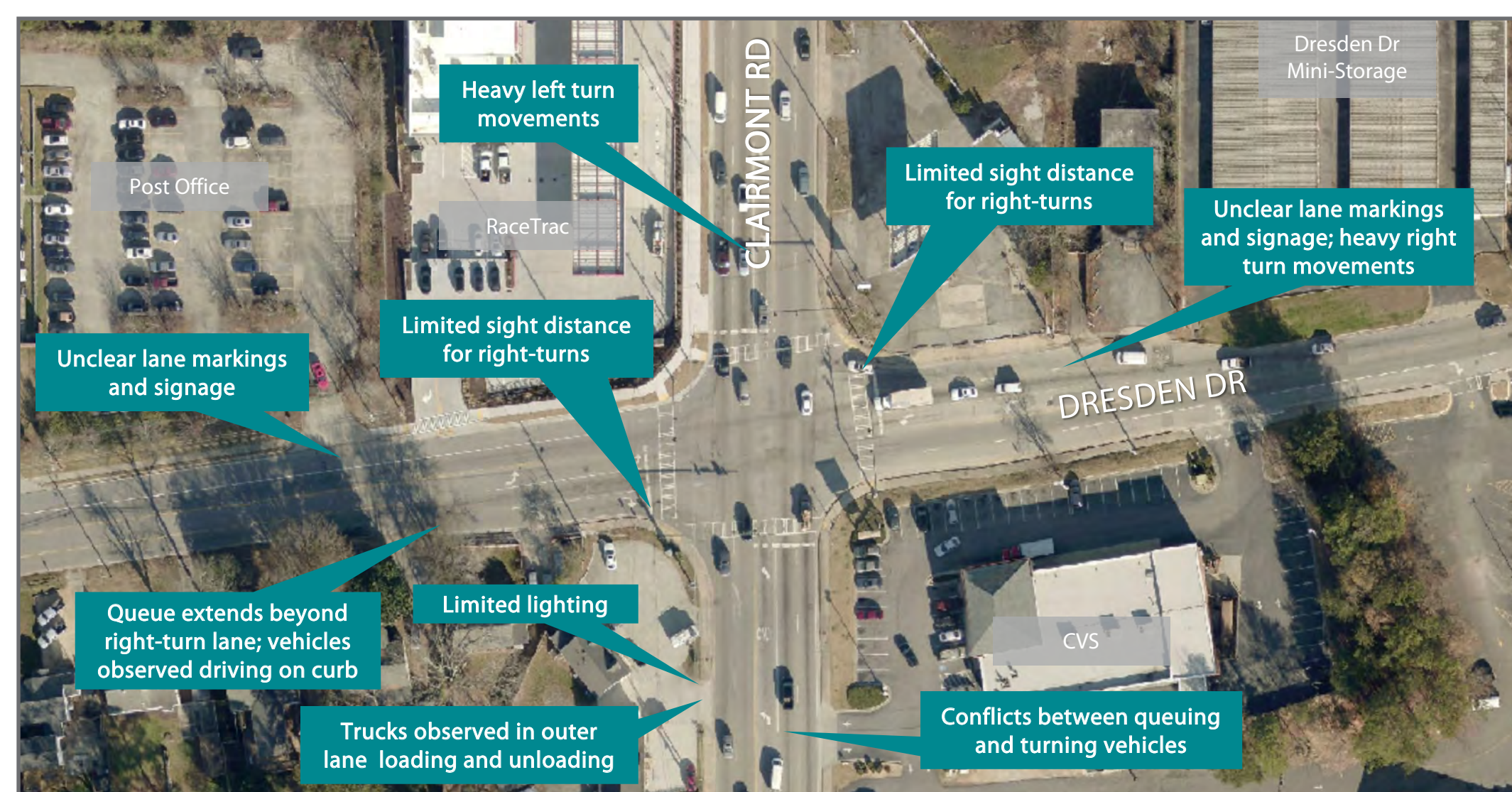
The City of Brookhaven received Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funding to upgrade three existing rapid-flashing beacons (RRFBs) at Camille Drive, Apalachee Drive, and the Village Place Brookhaven entrance. Improvements will include new lighted crosswalk signs, in-pavement lighting, and restriping pavement markings.



Dresden Drive at Apple Valley Road



Dresden Drive at Ellijay Drive/Caldwell Road



Dresden Drive at Clairmont Road

First Virtual Public Forum

On July 13, 2021, the City of Brookhaven hosted a virtual public forum during which the project team presented findings from the existing conditions assessment and preliminary analysis from the traffic study for the intersections. The team also used real-time interactive polling to gather feedback from participants on their experiences traveling at the three intersections and potential improvements for each location. In addition to project team members, approximately 28 people attended the meeting via Zoom and more than 250 viewed the livestream via Facebook.

Participants submitted a range of comments and questions addressing the intersections and the scope of the project. Participants were not concerned about traffic congestion at the intersections but instead desired more of a focus on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure at the intersections as well as within the surrounding neighborhoods.

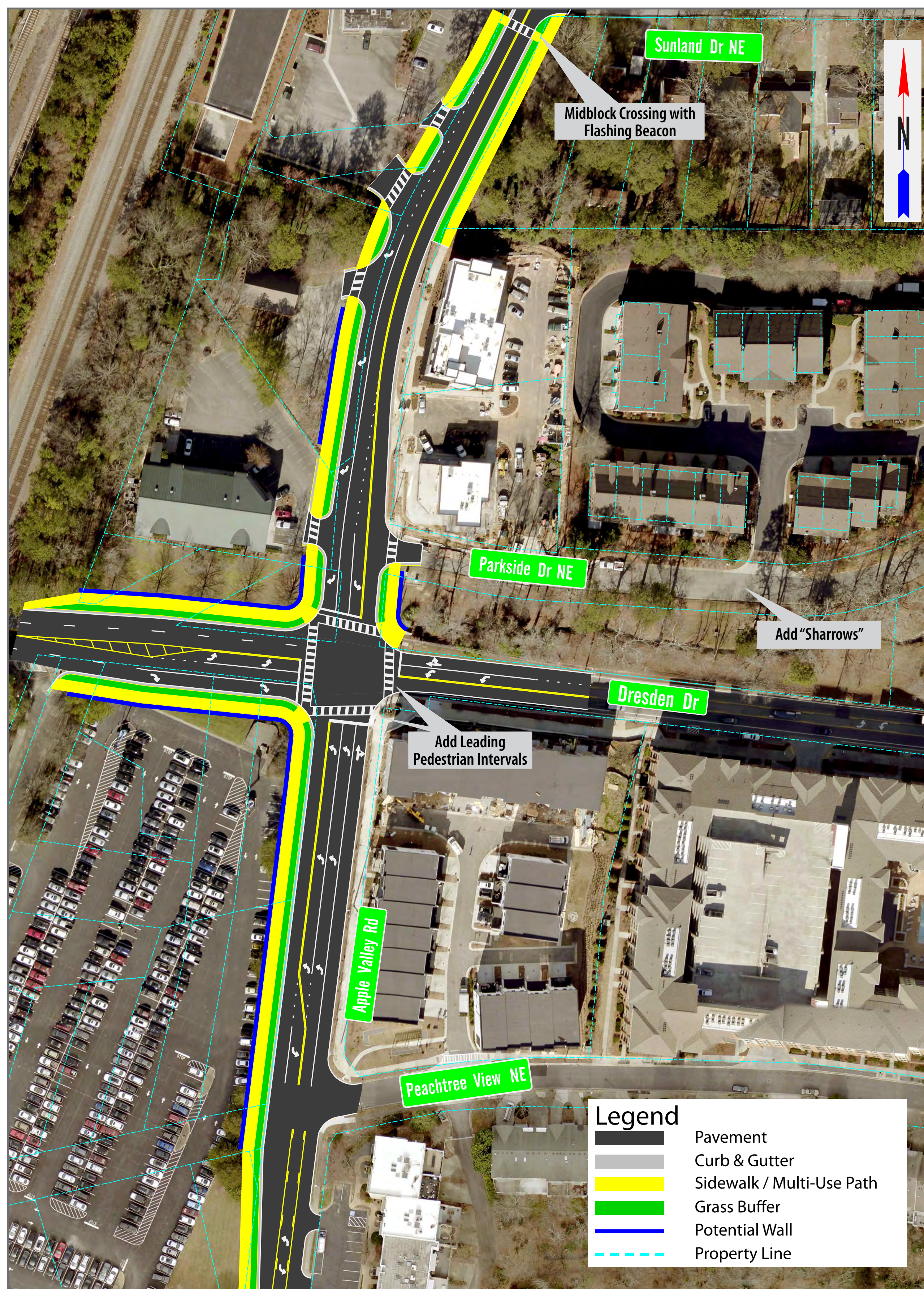
Intercept Surveys

The project team visited the study intersections on two different occasions - a Wednesday at lunchtime and a Saturday morning - and asked people about their experience navigating the study intersections. In total, the team surveyed 26 people. Most participants were local residents out getting exercise with their dogs or kids, or visiting the farmer's market or local restaurants.



Most people reported feeling comfortable walking along Dresden Drive, but expressed concerns about crossing the road, particularly at the flashing beacon crosswalks east of Village Place - they reported that drivers often don't stop when the lights are flashing, either because they're not paying attention or because the lights are difficult to see in the daytime. They also expressed concerns about the increasing volume of traffic and difficulty parking, and indicated that local residents try to walk for short trips in the area.

Draft Recommendations - Apple Valley Road Intersection



Note: Images are for conceptual representations only. Details will be worked out during design phase.

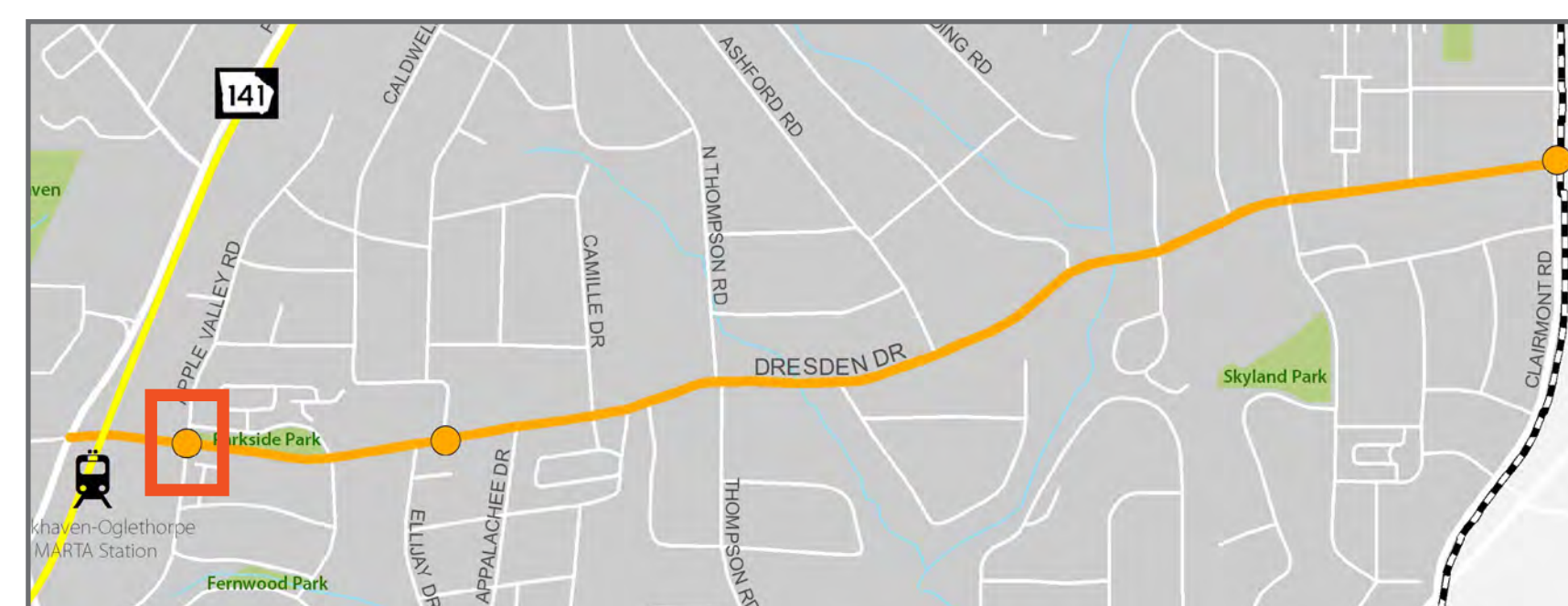
Intersection Improvements

- Install an additional northbound left-turn lane with left-turn arrow (protected-only phasing)
- For all other left-turn movements, install left-turn arrows with flashing yellow arrows
- Install a dedicated southbound left-turn lane
- Add right-turn arrows for eastbound and southbound right-turns
- Add leading pedestrian interval for crosswalks across south and east legs
- Install shared lane markings (“sharrows”) along Parkside Drive
- Extend the sidewalk along the east side of Apple Valley Road to connect to Parkside Drive and install a crosswalk across Parkside Drive
- Add a midblock crossing with rapid-flashing beacon south of Sunland Drive to connect the east and west sides of Apple Valley Road

Note: This area lies within the Peachtree Road Overlay (PRO) district and should meet minimum requirements for landscape zone, pedestrian zone, and streetscape elements. Implementation should align with guiding principles and recommendations from the City Centre Master Plan.

Potential Benefits

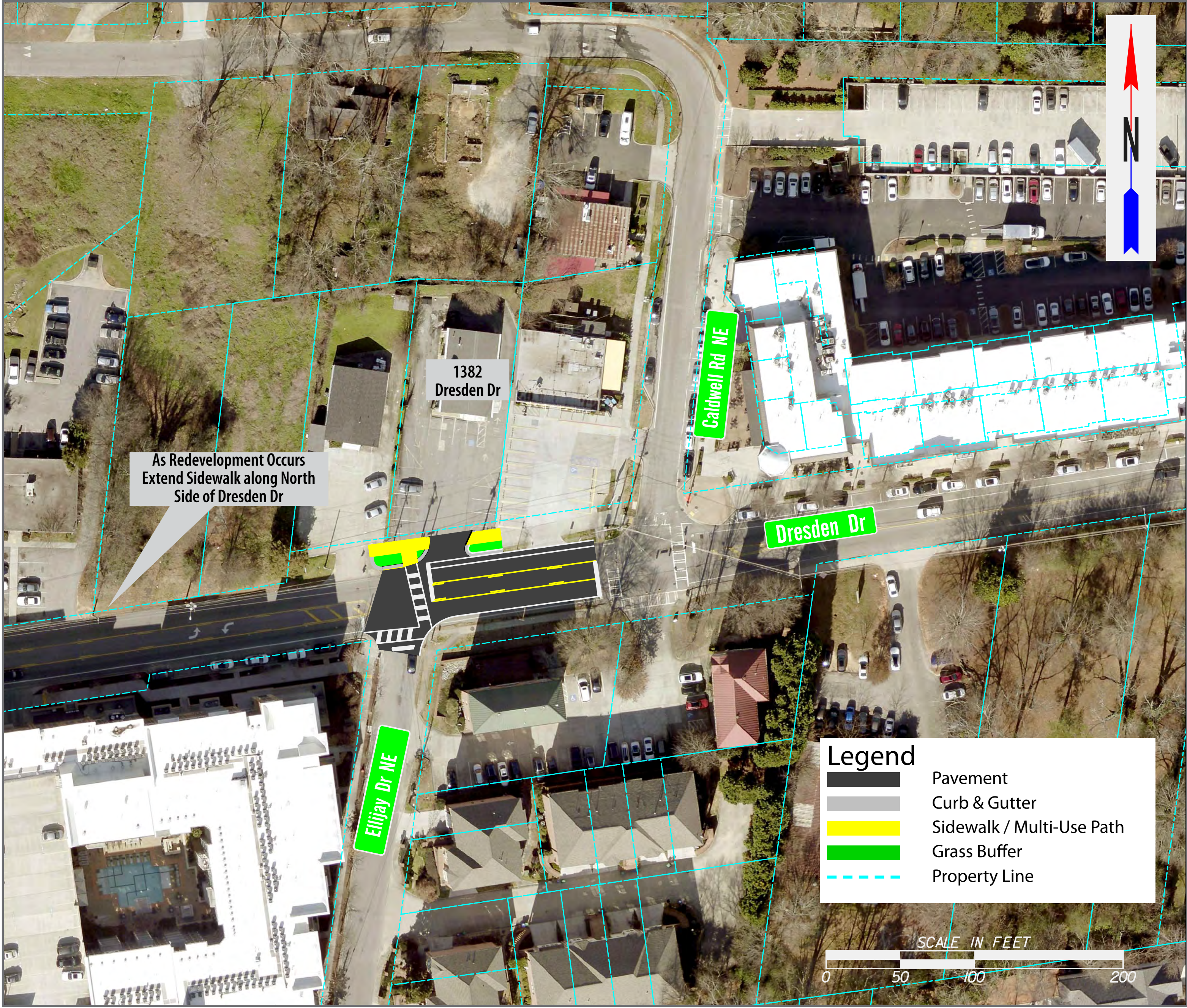
- Increases capacity and reduces delay for northbound left-turns
- Provides dedicated storage for southbound left-turns and increases capacity of the southbound approach
- Provides dedicated signal phase for left-turn movements from Dresden Drive
- Improves safety for bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the intersection
- Fills sidewalk gaps, improving connectivity and pedestrian access to Parkside Park



Recommended Intersection Improvements

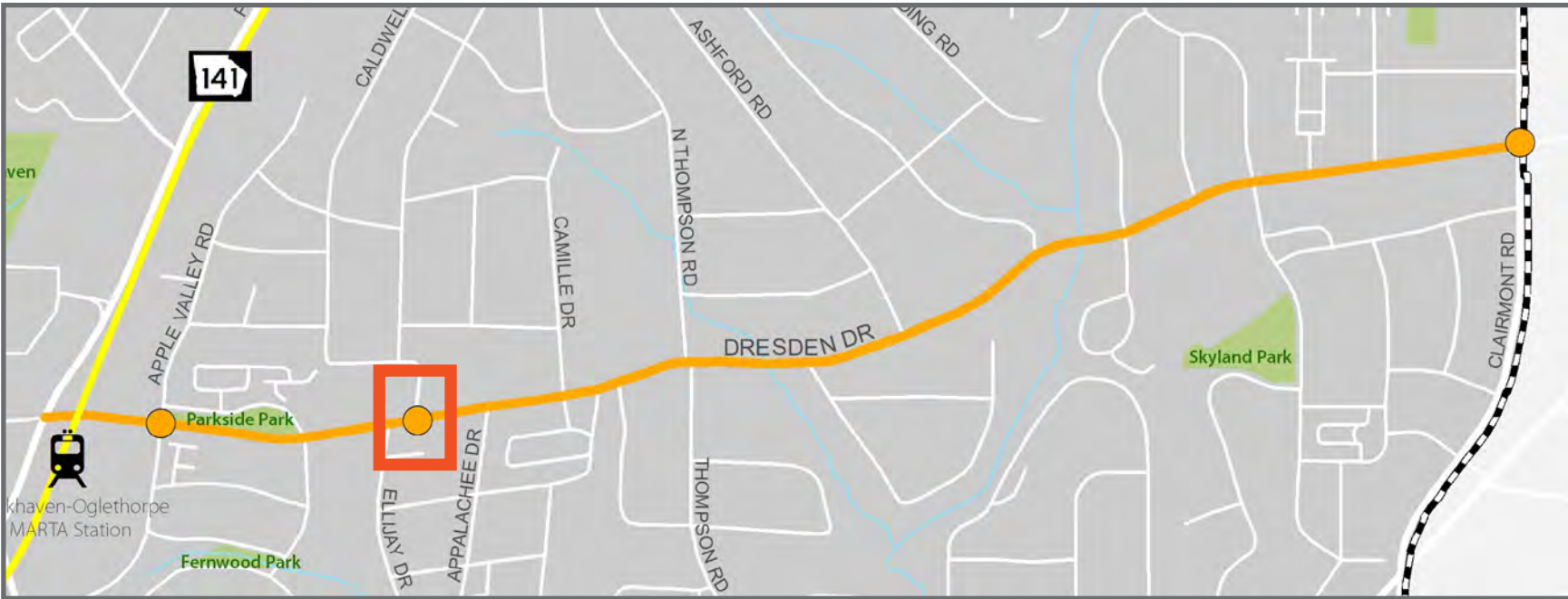
- Install crosswalk across the east leg of the Ellijay Drive intersection
- Add pedestrian signals on the east leg of the Ellijay Drive intersection, for the new crosswalk
- Mill, repave, and restripe pavement markings between Ellijay Drive and Caldwell Road
- Extend sidewalk along the north side of Dresden Drive west of Caldwell Road to meet the proposed crosswalk on the east leg of the Ellijay Drive intersection

Note: This project should be coordinated with Dresden Village development and future re-purposing of 1382 Dresden Drive (formerly Rita's Cleaners). Other ITS and pedestrian improvements at this location are being completed as part of the Ashford Dunwoody Road & Dresden Drive ITS System Expansion Project (GDOT PI# 0013138). This area lies within the Peachtree Road Overlay (PRO) district and should meet minimum requirements for landscape zone, pedestrian zone, and streetscape elements.



Potential Benefits

- Provides full pedestrian access at the Ellijay Drive intersection, in addition to the Caldwell Road intersection
- Fills gaps in sidewalk, improving connectivity and pedestrian access



Note: Images are for conceptual representations only. Details will be worked out during design phase.

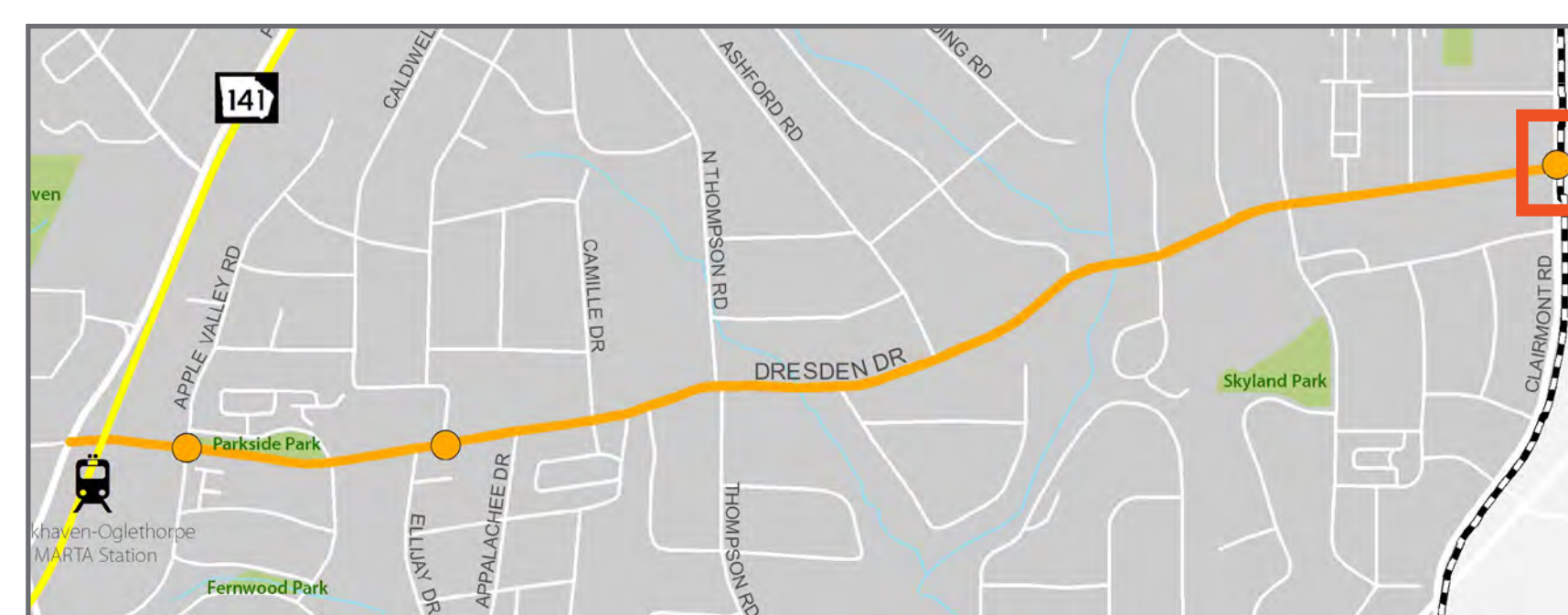
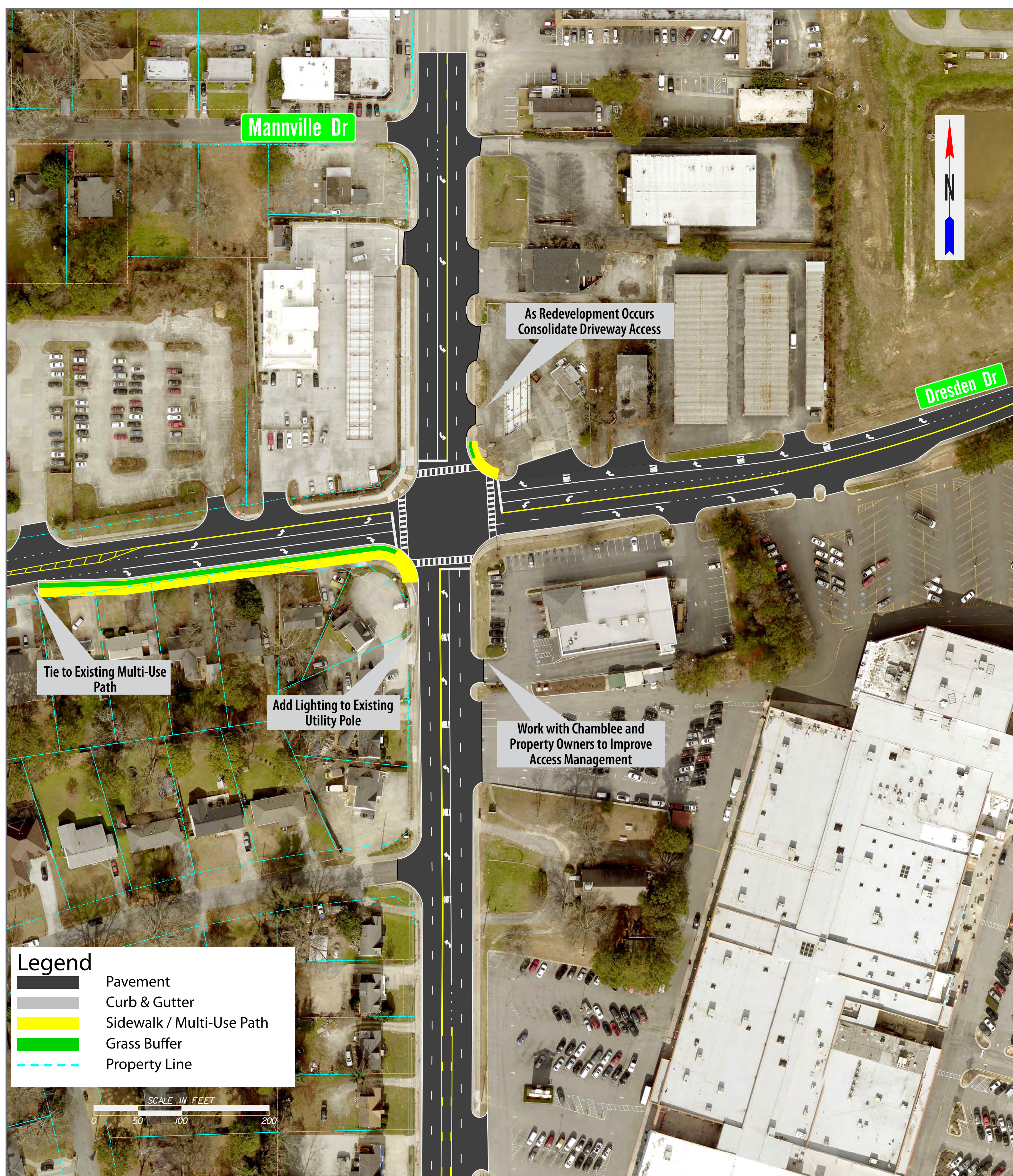
Draft Recommendations - Clairmont Road Intersection

Recommended Intersection Improvements

- Extend the eastbound right-turn lane
- Convert the westbound approach to a dedicated right-turn lane, single through-lane, and dedicated left-turn lane with a single receiving lane on Dresden Drive west of Clairmont Road
- Add right-turn arrows for eastbound and westbound right-turns and prohibit right turns on red
- Add flashing yellow arrows for all legs of the intersection
- Install multi-use path along the south side of Dresden Drive, west of Clairmont Road
- As the former gas station in the northeast corner is redeveloped, seek opportunities to consolidate driveways
- Work with the City of Chamblee and property owners to mitigate driveway turning conflicts at the CVS entrance on Clairmont Road
- Add street light to the existing utility pole south of the intersection on the west side of Clairmont Road
- Evaluate the need for No Loading and/or No Parking signage along the west side of Clairmont Road south of Dresden Drive

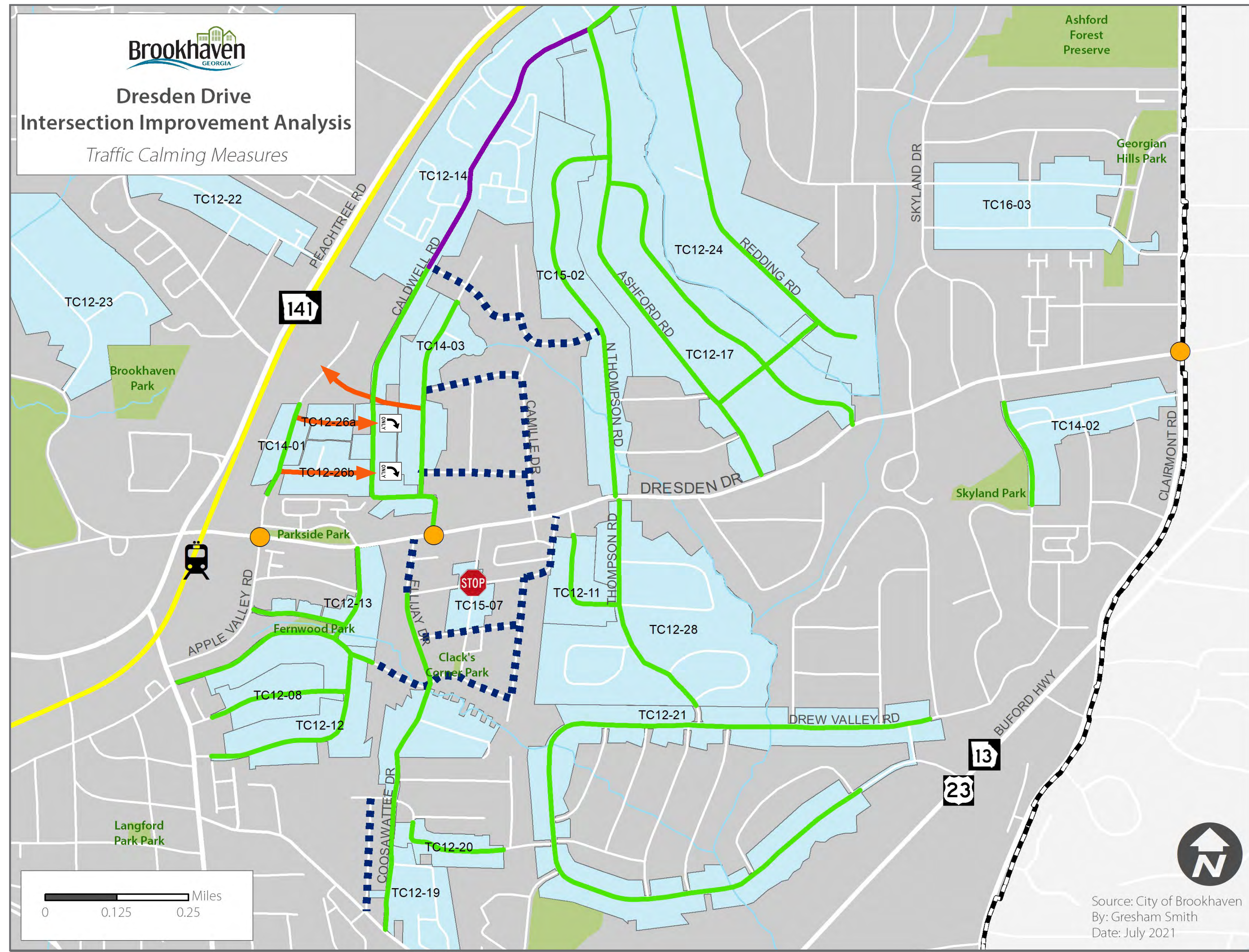
Potential Benefits

- Addresses sight distance issues for eastbound and westbound right-turns
- Provides additional storage for eastbound right-turns and reduces likelihood of vehicles driving on curb
- Improves traffic signal to meet current standards
- Improves access management, mitigating conflicts between vehicles queuing at the intersection and entering/exiting commercial driveways
- Improves visibility and pedestrian safety
- Reduces congestion due to and/or conflicts with trucks unloading along Clairmont Road



Note: Images are for conceptual representations only. Details will be worked out during design phase.

Draft Recommendations - Traffic Calming Measures



Recommended Additional Traffic Calming

Consistent with the City's Traffic Calming Program, consider installing traffic calming devices such as speed tables, speed humps, or raised median islands, along streets that can be accessed via Caldwell Road (between Dresden Drive and Redding Road) and via Ellijay Drive (between Briarwood Road and Dresden Drive) where traffic calming measures are not already in place. Suggested locations for additional traffic calming (such as speed humps) include:

- Ellijay Drive between Dresden Drive and Canoochee Drive
- Canoochee Drive/Canasauga Avenue (Dresden Drive to Dresden Drive)
- Etowah Drive (Ellijay Drive to Oostanaula Drive)
- Cartecay Drive (Sylvan Circle to Oostanaula Drive)
- Oostanaula Drive (Cartecay Drive to Canoochee Drive)
- Briarwood Hills Drive/Tellford Drive (Briarwood Road to Coosawattee Drive)
- Camille Drive (Dresden Drive to E Osborne Road)
- E Osborne Road (Camille Drive to Green Meadows Lane)
- Willford Drive (Camille Drive to Green Meadows Lane)
- Cheshire Way/Valvedere Drive (Caldwell Road to Thompson Road)

Potential Benefits

- Slows vehicle speeds through residential neighborhoods
- Discourages neighborhood cut-through traffic
- Creates safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists



Legend

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Existing Traffic Calming Measures | Traffic Calming Recommendations |
| | Center Islands | Recommended for Consideration |
| | Four-Way Stop | |
| | One-Way Roadways | |
| | Speed Humps | |
| | Right-Turn Only | |

Note: Images are for illustrative purposes only.