

# STAFF REPORT

## Transportation Plan Amendments

March 23, 2021 Town Council Meeting



The Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan map (last amended March 11, 2021) and The Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map (published January 8, 2021) represent a network of current and future facilities that provide guidance on what is likely to be suitable for long term growth, connectivity, and recreation. These plans do not require a schedule for implementation nor do they set aside funding for improvements. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider proposed amendments to the network of planned thoroughfare and collector streets, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, in order to formulate a decision.

The proposed amendments are associated with proposed Rezoning #20CZ12 Felton Grove High School. The rezoning request is associated with plans for a new high school at 8550 Stephenson Road.

The proposed amendments to the Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan map are as follows:

- Remove the future Major Collector street between Smith Road extension and Thriftwood Drive,
- Remove the future Minor Collector street connection to Sunset Lake Road,
- Remove the future Minor Collector street between Derry Down Lane and Thriftwood Drive, and
- Remove the Minor Collector street designation from existing Arrowhead Drive.

The proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map are consistent with roadway recommendations and also include adding a proposed greenway connection from the proposed school site to Middle Creek Greenway.

Construction of the collector streets proposed for removal are not programmed in the Town's 5-year Capital Improvement Program, nor the State's 10-year Transportation Improvement Program. There are no funded projects to construct a greenway connection from the proposed school site to Middle Creek Greenway; however, Rezoning #20CZ12 includes a condition requiring construction of side path along the future school driveway and provision of an easement to allow for the future construction of greenway.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

If the rezoning case is approved and a high school is constructed, the Town of Apex would be responsible for reimbursing the construction costs of any portion of the collector streets constructed on the proposed school site. Given the difficulty of completing future connections of these collector streets to the surrounding transportation network, and the other priorities for municipal-funded roadway projects, Planning staff recommends supporting the proposed amendments to the Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan map. Planning Staff also recommends supporting the proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map, which are consistent with changes to the roadway network and allow for a future connection for pedestrians and cyclists from Middle Creek Greenway to the future school. This recommendation is consistent with recommendations in Advance Apex: The 2045 Transportation Plan to prioritize safe routes to school.

The proposed amendments were reviewed with staff from Public Works and Transportation; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources; Fire; and Police. Representative staff indicated support for the proposed amendments. Staff from Police and Fire acknowledged that, while the Major Collector street would help with future access and connectivity, there are other ways to reach the site and this is not a high-priority roadway project for the Town.

**Planning Board Recommendation:**

The Planning Board considered the proposed amendments during their March 8, 2021 meeting and unanimously recommended approval of the amendments as presented.

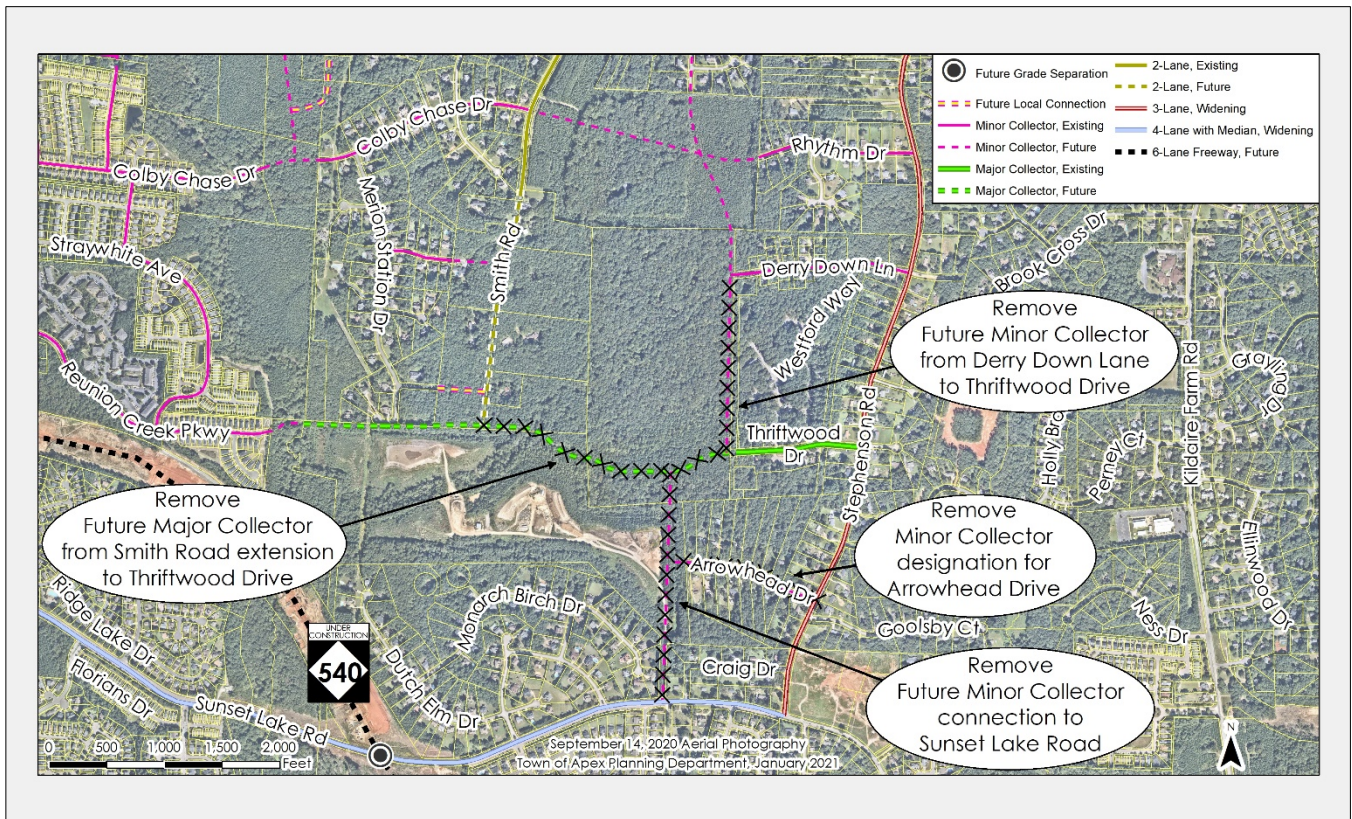


Figure 1. Proposed amendments to the Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan map

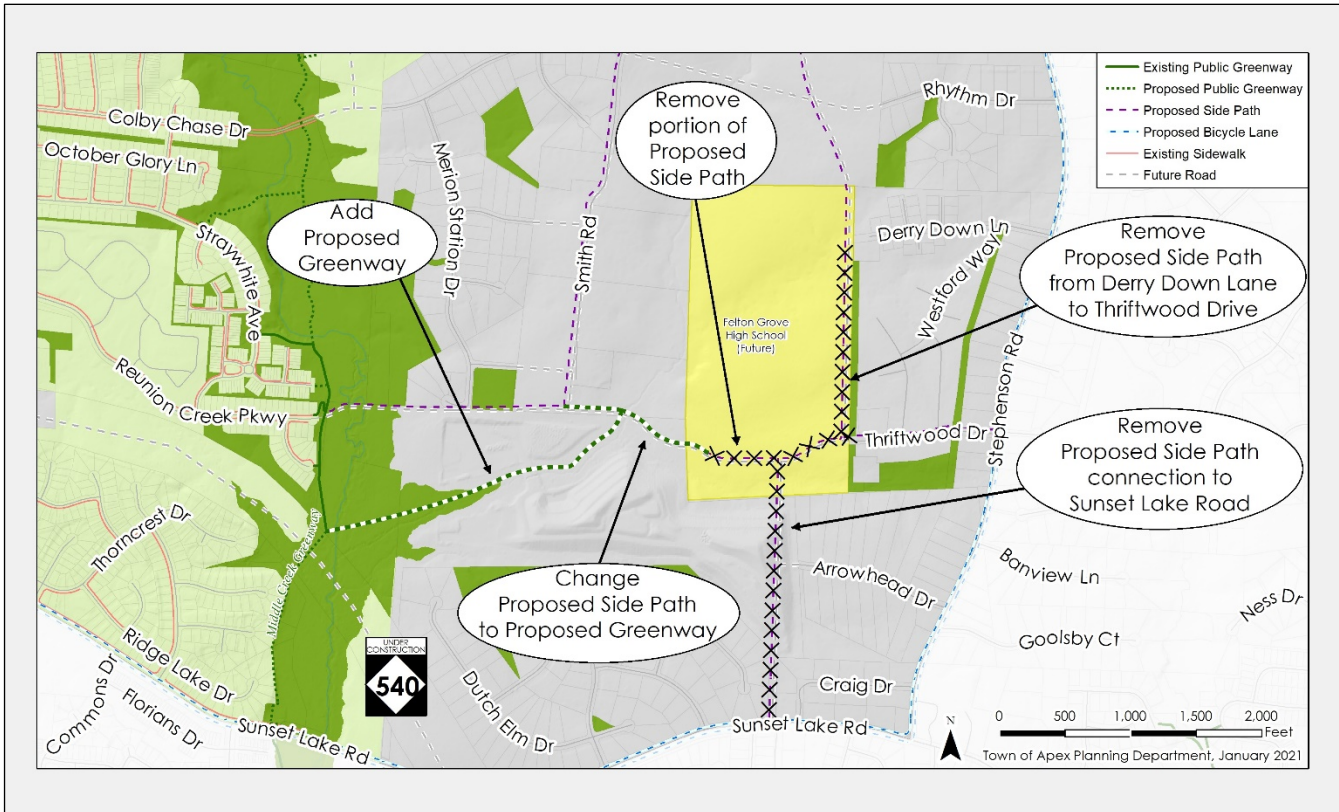


Figure 2. Proposed amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan map