

Collier Hills North

Traffic Calming Proposal, October 2007

This proposal is prepared by neighbors and members of the Collier Hills North Civic Association and is presented to the Quality of Life Department of the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works in an effort to mitigate the ongoing problem of dangerous speeding and unnecessary congestion in our neighborhood. Our proposal includes a suggested solution that we hope City engineers will consider and incorporate in coming up with the best, and most efficient solution for all residents. This proposal includes four discreet suggestions:

1. Speed bumps on Dellwood Drive NW, Redland Rd NW, Golfview Drive NW.
2. Flashing light on Collier Road between Redland Rd NW and Dellwood Rd NW.
3. Stop light at Collier Rd NW and Overbrook Dr NW.
4. Elimination of Chik-fil-A traffic obstruction.

Traffic in Collier Hills North

Additional density and congestion on Peachtree and Collier Roads has created a much higher rate of drivers avoiding the intersection by driving through Collier Hills North. A majority of these drivers exceed the speed limit as a normal practice and some are even resistant and become dangerous when neighbors try and signal them to slow down. It is unpleasant and unsafe for residents to walk with children or pets in the neighborhood. As a result, many residents actually drive to nearby parks that the City has created specifically to reduce traffic in our neighborhoods.

Speed Bumps

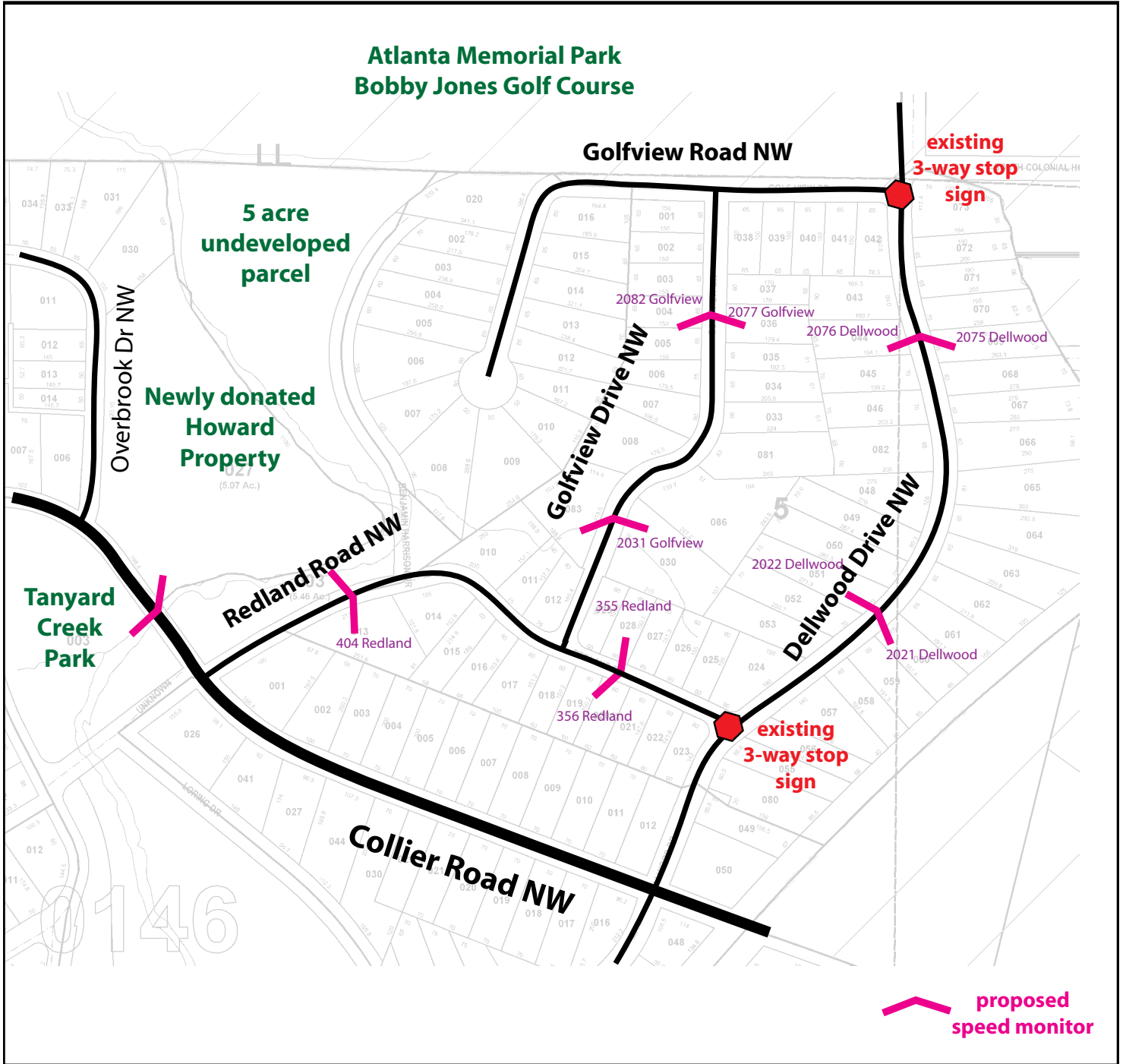
The neighborhood understands that the City of Atlanta Quality of Life Department procedures in implementing speed bumps is to:

- a. Place traffic monitors on designated streets for 24 hours
- b. Assess the traffic results and prepare a recommendation
- c. Allow the neighborhood to vote on implementation of the proposal

We would like to accelerate and advise that process as much as possible by providing input to the Quality of Life Department. First, we would like to request the location of the monitors be the areas historically most abused by speeders. See diagram A on next page.

We also request that we be notified two days before the monitors are placed so we can notify all of the neighborhood residents. In placing the monitors as well as constructing the ultimately desired speed bumps, please keep in mind that if a partial solution is implemented, then this will worsen the traffic situation for many residents. For example, if speed bumps are only placed on Dellwood Drive, then speeders will avoid that route and "cut through" Golfview and Redland instead, and vice versa. This is a neighborhood-wide proposal intended to benefit all residents, not just the ones on the one or two busiest streets. We understand that there are guidelines to implementing speed bumps such as 15% of traffic measured exceeding 10 miles per hour. However, we also suspect that just the presence of these monitors will slow traffic -- possibly to the point of excluding that section from consideration. Please do not be swayed by skewed results -- we can have a petition with >75% of households attest that the traffic is a huge safety issue here and the neighborhood supports speed bumps to you within a week of review of this plan or a comparable one.

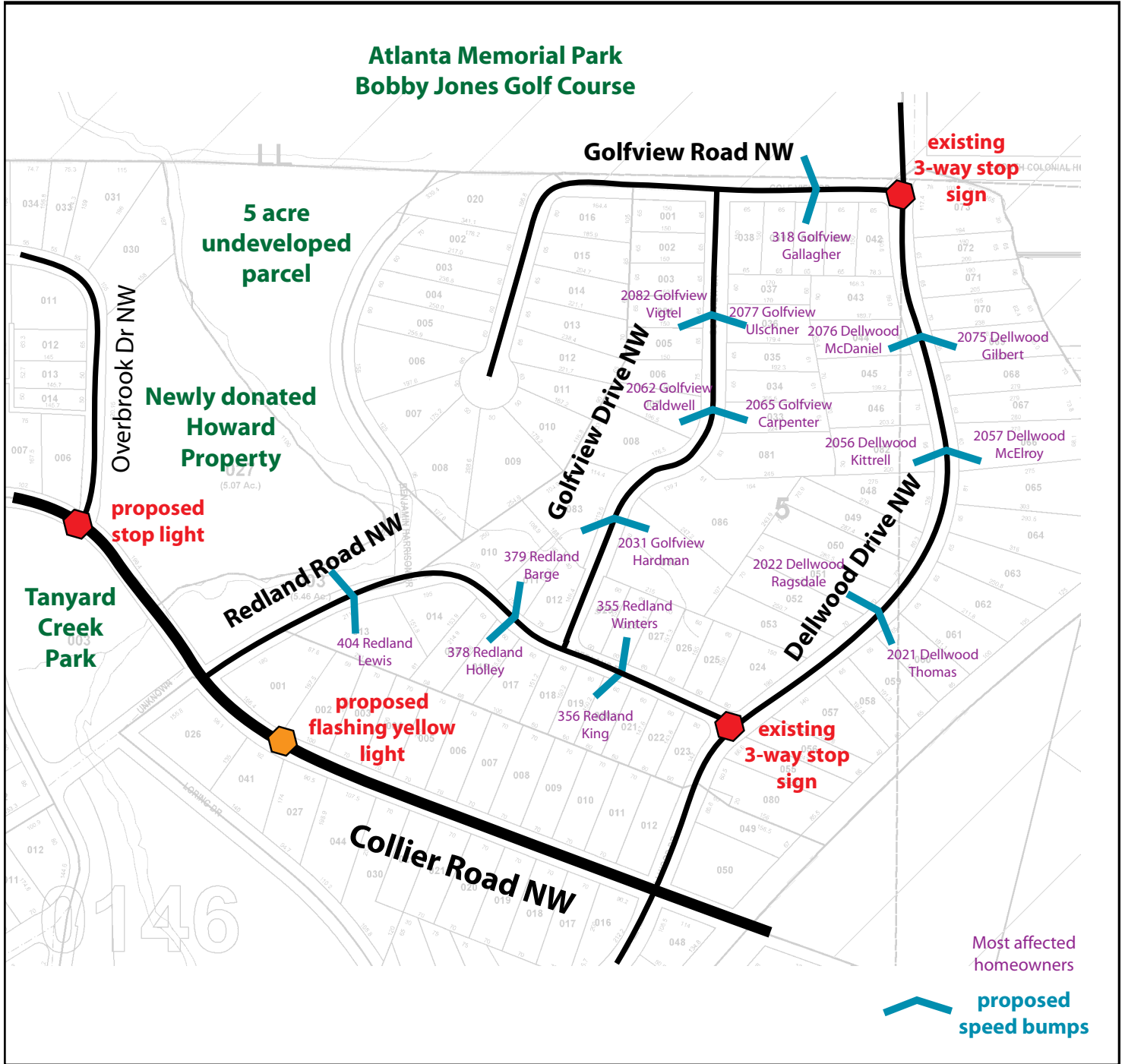
Diagram A - Proposed Location of Speed Monitors



Stop Light and Flashing Light

In addition to traffic calming within the interior streets of Collier Hills North, we request assistance to address the speed problem on Collier Rd between Dellwood Dr and Cottage Lane. Our solution includes a flashing light just East of the Redland Rd and Collier Rd intersection. When drivers are travelling West on Collier Rd, just before the bend, they should encounter a yellow flashing light warning them of an approaching stop light. At Collier Rd and Overbrook Dr we request a stop light. It is acceptable for this traffic light to only stop traffic on Collier Rd when there is a pedestrian wanting to cross Collier Rd. This compromise should help to alleviate further congestion during peak times (7-9am and 3-5pm) on Collier Rd. See Diagram B on next page for suggested location of speed bumps and traffic lights.

Diagram B - Proposed Location of Speed Bumps and Traffic Lights



Traffic Congestion on Collier Rd

Besides traffic calming, traffic congestion is also an issue for Collier Hills North. It is the opinion of several residents and other experts that the traffic obstruction currently implemented daily in front of Chik-fil-A on Peachtree Rd is not only exacerbating the existing congestion problem on Collier Rd, but is also unlawful. The restaurant is overriding the traffic lights facing Peachtree and Collier Roads by stopping traffic facing a green light on the two roads whenever a restaurant customer wants to enter or exit the restaurant parking lot during peak traffic hours.

Traffic Congestion on Collier Rd (cont'd)

The Chik-fil-A problem is different from the situation when a private business stops traffic to assist customer access to its premises while concurrently *enhancing* traffic flow.

Chik-fil-A is located just 34 yards (roughly 6 car lengths) north of the Peachtree Rd and Collier Rd intersection. Therefore, whenever the Chik-fil-A employee stops northbound traffic on Peachtree Rd he is always stopping traffic that has just passed through the Peachtree-Collier intersection with a green light; this includes traffic traveling north on Peachtree and traffic turning left onto Peachtree from Collier. Also, the line of vehicles being illegally prevented from proceeding through the intersection have already waited long periods of time (clogging traffic on Peachtree and Collier Roads), because these vehicles have been forced to wait through several extra traffic light cycles while Chik-fil-A blocks traffic.

No State Law or Municipal Ordinance allows private businesses to increase their profits at the expense of other neighborhood businesses and residents by violating traffic laws and obstructing traffic flow.

Chik-fil-A's practice of impeding Peachtree and Collier Road traffic flow is improper for many reasons:

1. The practice violates State law in three ways:
 - (a) Traffic facing a green traffic light at an intersection (like that facing Peachtree and Collier Roads) is supposed to proceed through an intersection unless there is a lawful reason preventing this (*O.C.G.A. 40-6-21*).
 - (b) Private citizens are not allowed to obstruct traffic, even when stopping to render medical assistance to people who have been injured in traffic accidents *Klaub v. State, 255 Ga. App. 40 (2002)*.
 - (c) Vehicles are not allowed to stop within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection (*O.C.G.A. 40-6-203*). This statute is violated every time the Chik-fil-A employee stops traffic because the vehicles at the back of this line are always within 20 feet of the crosswalks at the Peachtree-Collier Road intersections.
2. The traffic congestion caused by Chik-fil-A undercuts the city's multi-million project that synchronized the lights on Peachtree Road.
3. We suspect that Chik-fil-A is decreasing the profits of other, longer established, Peachtree Road businesses, as well as increasing the number of cars driving through Collier Hills North by forcing people to avoid the area due to the increased congestion.
4. Although the Chik-fil-A's traffic employees wear police and sheriffs' uniforms when they violate the law for Chik-fil-A, they are nevertheless working as a private employee when they do this. And public safety officers are not allowed to break the law when they are off duty simply because they are wearing their uniforms and being paid to break the law.
5. Public safety is being compromised by Chik-fil-A's decision to violate state traffic laws; the traffic congestion caused by Chik-fil-A's violations blocks the Peachtree Road entrance to the Piedmont Hospital's emergency room.

Contact

For further discussion and communication with the neighborhood on this matter, please contact either Christy Harris, (404) 355-2466, christy.harris@mindspring.com, or Tony Casadonte, (404) 234-4364, benshouse@mindspring.com.