



TSPLOST 2023

Five Points

Intersection Safety

Improvements

*September 2021, Submitted by Friends of Five Points neighborhood organization*



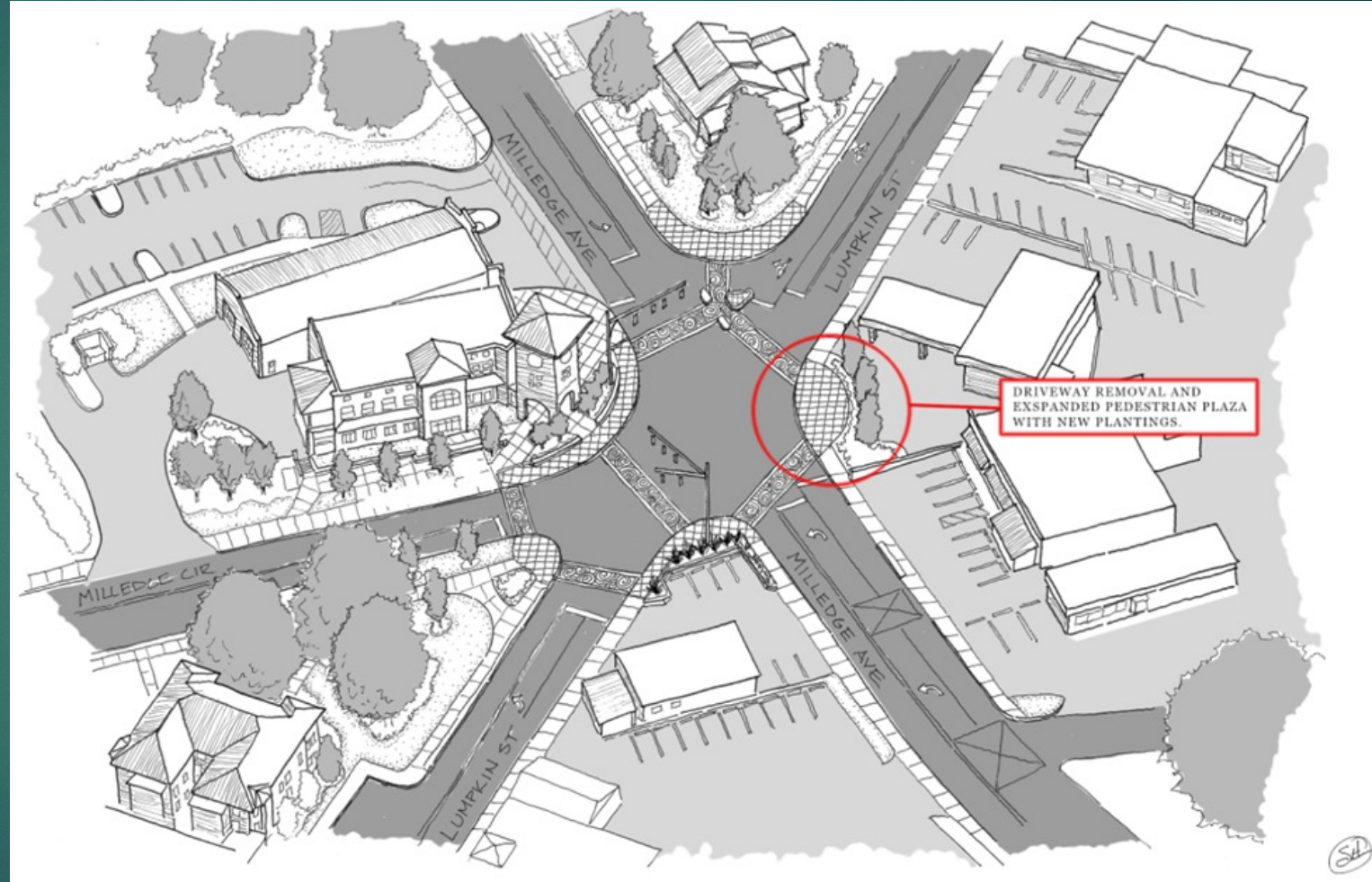
# Project Goal

- ▶ The goal of this project is to implement comprehensive changes to improve the safety of the Five Points intersection for **all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit, and vehicles.**
- ▶ The proposed improvements will:
  - ▶ create a safer intersection for drivers, walkers, and cyclists;
  - ▶ improve the safety associated with turning UGA and ACC transit buses at the intersection; and
  - ▶ create small public spaces at the node that provide improved safety, sightlines and aesthetics.



# What does that mean?

- ▶ relocation of existing crosswalks to shorten and improve pedestrian walk time;
- ▶ conversion of the existing strain poles to mast arms;
- ▶ improved pedestrian and wheelchair ramps;
- ▶ improved pedestrian refuges at corners;
- ▶ evaluation and improvement of curb radii at key corners of the intersection;
- ▶ updated signal control and timing;
- ▶ **overall reduction in car/bike/pedestrian conflict points.**

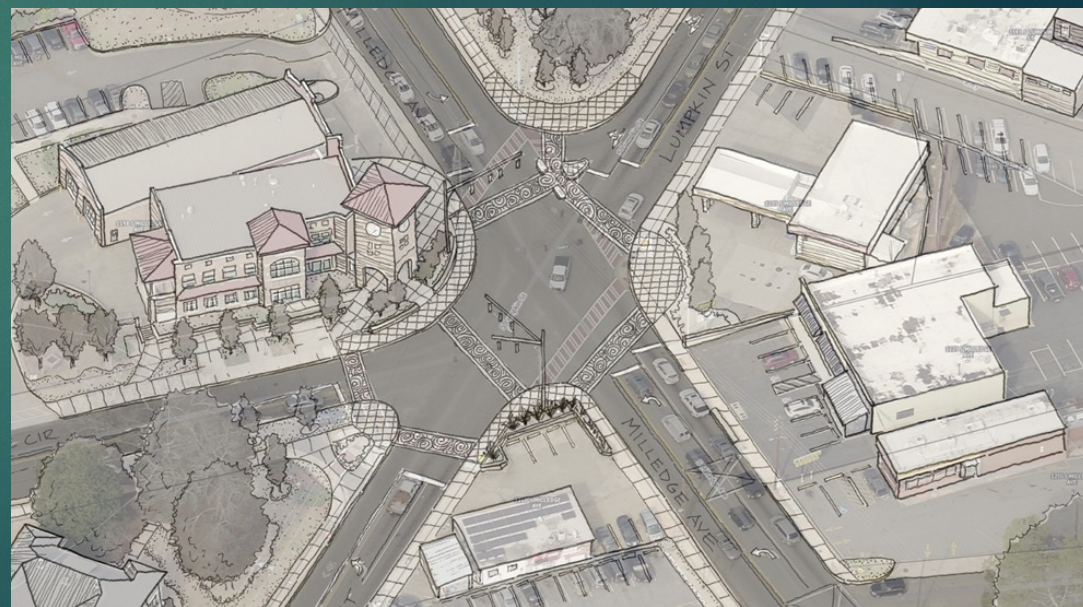


Sketches courtesy of Scott Haines, Landscape Architect



# Why this intersection?

- ▶ The Five Points intersection is major hub of transportation and commercial activity with multi-modal activity (cars, walkers, cyclists, transit) that serves all of Athens and surrounding communities
- ▶ Safety concerns – accidents, near-misses, nearby school, high volume of UGA student drivers
- ▶ Terrible intersection geometry – unusually long crosswalks, irregular abutting properties and corners, driveways/curb-cuts inside of the intersection





# The larger picture

- ▶ “Five pointed intersections” are notoriously challenging around the country; some of the creative solutions other communities have used to address similar problems, such as roundabouts or a complete transformation of the intersection are not feasible due to existing buildings and infrastructure.
- ▶ The ACC Department of Transportation and Public Works has also identified this intersection as an area of concern, and has already implemented some measures, such as signal timing adjustments, to improve safety.
- ▶ The proposed improvements are consistent with goals outlined in Athens in Motion plan.



# How does this support TSPLOST program goals & selection criteria?

- ▶ **Economic Prosperity** (provides capital expenses needed to achieve plan action items): By improving the safety of this important node, the proposed project helps Athens move toward several of the goals identified by Athens in Motion including **connectivity** (connected network of low-stress bicycle and pedestrian facilities), **equity** (improve safe access to opportunity for all citizens of ACC), more users (encourage those who not normally use active transportation to use the network for trips), and **implementation** (provide a variety of different funding mechanisms to finance and maintain the network).
- ▶ **Social Well-being** (improves **safe and equitable access** to public transportation facilities, including transit, crosswalks/sidewalks, cyclists).
- ▶ **Environment** (supports other transportation related capital expenses needed to achieve action items identified in previously adopted plans)



# Which selection criteria does this project address?

- ▶ Promotes the Goal of Improving Equitability of Capital Improvements throughout the Community (by increasing safety and access to multiple modes of transportation for all users of an intersection that serves all of Athens)
- ▶ Promotes the Upgrade and Continued Use of Alternative Transportation Facilities (safer bike lanes, crosswalks, sidewalks, transit)
- ▶ Promotes Health and Safety (improves safety for pedestrians and cyclists)



# Conclusion

- ▶ A safer, more vibrant, walkable, more accessible Five Points intersection enhances the livability for all of Athens, including pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users
- ▶ As Athens moves towards its shared vision of strong neighborhoods, increased public safety, equitable access, healthy lifestyles and an increased range of transportation options, the Five Points node is one of several nodes that have an important role to play.

## Thank You!







