

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: Merlin Drive Sewer Repair Project - Approval of Preliminary Construction Plans

DATE: April 25, 2023

BUDGET INFORMATION: N/A

REVENUES:

EXPENSES:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: June 6, 2023

PURPOSE:

To request Mayor & Commission:

- A. Approve the Preliminary Construction Plans for the Merlin Drive Sewer Repair Project; and
- B. Authorize the completion of the Final Construction Plans, acquire easements and associated permits, & solicit bids for construction.

HISTORY:

1. On April 18, 2018, Public Utilities Department (PUD) staff identified the Top Ten troubled segments in the ACCGov sanitary sewer system.
2. On August 4, 2020, the M&C approved the Updated 2020 SDP Infrastructure and Capital Improvements Element which included Prioritized Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement.
3. On December 7, 2021, PUD staff identified the segment of sewer at Merlin Drive to be in poor condition, and a greater priority than the remaining segments on the Top Ten list.
4. On April 11, 2022, PUD issued a Notice to Proceed (NTP) to Armentrout, Matheny, & Thurmond LLC (AMT) to design Sewer Line Improvements for this segment of sanitary sewer.

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. This project is included in the 2020 SDP as Project #3-318, "Prioritized Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement," (History #2).

2. PUD staff identified the highest priority problem sewer lines in the sanitary sewer system that require a) extraordinary maintenance to maintain flow and service and b) are in poor condition, thus needing rehabilitation, replacement or realignment. The Top Ten Troubled segments are listed in priority order:
 - Memorial Park Sewer Replacement – Under construction
 - **Merlin Drive Right of Way - Requesting preliminary approval**
 - Branch Street Right of Way
 - Laurel Springs Dr & Lake Meeler Subdivision Sewer Realignment – Requesting preliminary approval
 - Firewood St & Langford Ct Sewer Rehabilitation
 - Gail Dr & Laurel Dr Sewer Rehabilitation
 - Gatewood Cir & Lake Vista Way Sewer Rehabilitation – Task Order issued for initial design
 - Knottingham Dr Sewer Rehabilitation
 - Oakland Way Sewer Rehabilitation
 - Olympic Dr @ the Loop Sewer Rehabilitation
3. With five of the Top Ten problem segments completed, in design, or actively under construction, PUD staff began identifying the next problem sewer lines to prioritize.
4. The sanitary sewer system that serves the Merlin Drive area is one of these newly identified problem sewer areas. The sewer shed is approximately 95 acres and includes Village at Oak Grove, Merlin Drive Subdivision, Kings Circle Subdivision, and several residential and commercial parcels along Lavender Road and Jefferson Road. **Attachment #1.**
5. The existing sewer line that extends from Merlin Drive to Roberts Road is in poor condition and has caused multiple maintenance problems over the last several years. The line currently follows an unnamed tributary of Turkey Creek and crosses the tributary with an aerial crossing. The line is situated underneath several residents' homes, making this line extremely difficult to access for maintenance. Additionally, the aerial crossing is in poor condition, and has deflected such that a portion of the aerial crossing has reversed grade.
6. Staff worked with PUD's on-call design engineer, AMT, to evaluate different rehabilitation options. Due to the condition of the aerial crossing, replacement was determined to be necessary. Additionally, due to the location of the pipe underneath residents' homes, replacement of the pipe in the same trench was determined to be impossible. A new sewer main route was designed in order to position the line away from permanent structures so

that it will be accessible for maintenance in the future. This realignment also serves to improve flow by reducing the number of sharp turns in the line.

7. Due to the poor condition of the aerial crossing and the risk of a sewer main failure over state waters, the Merlin Drive segment was identified by PUD staff as a higher priority than the remaining lines on the Top Ten troubled segments list. It has therefore been elevated to the top sewer segment for prioritized rehabilitation and replacement.
8. Individual permanent easements and temporary construction easements are required to accommodate the realigned project construction. The new alignment is also anticipated to encroach into the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) 25-foot state water buffer, requiring Georgia EPD concurrence.
9. Preliminary Construction Plans for the subject project are available for review in the PUD Administration Office located at 124 E. Hancock Avenue.
10. The estimated construction cost for the replacement project is \$990,000. PUD seeks authorization to solicit bids for sewer contractors to construct this sewer project.

11. Anticipated Project Schedule:

M&C Approval of Preliminary Plan	May 2023
Completion of Final Design	May 2023
Permitting Completion	June 2023
Easement Acquisition Completion	July 2023
Bid Phase	July 2023
Project Start	January 2024
Project Completion	July 2024

12. This recommendation supports the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:

- Built and Natural Infrastructure Goal, Strategy C: *Provide adequate funding for maintenance of existing and newly constructed infrastructure.*

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor & Commission:
 - A. Approve the Preliminary Construction Plans for the Merlin Drive Sewer Repair Project; and
 - B. Authorize the completion of the Final Construction Plans, acquire easements and associated permits, & solicit bids for construction.
2. Mayor & Commission deny the request.
3. Mayor & Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Option 1A & B

DEPARTMENT: Public Utilities

Prepared by: Hollis Terry IV



Hollis Terry IV

April 25, 2023

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option 1A & B



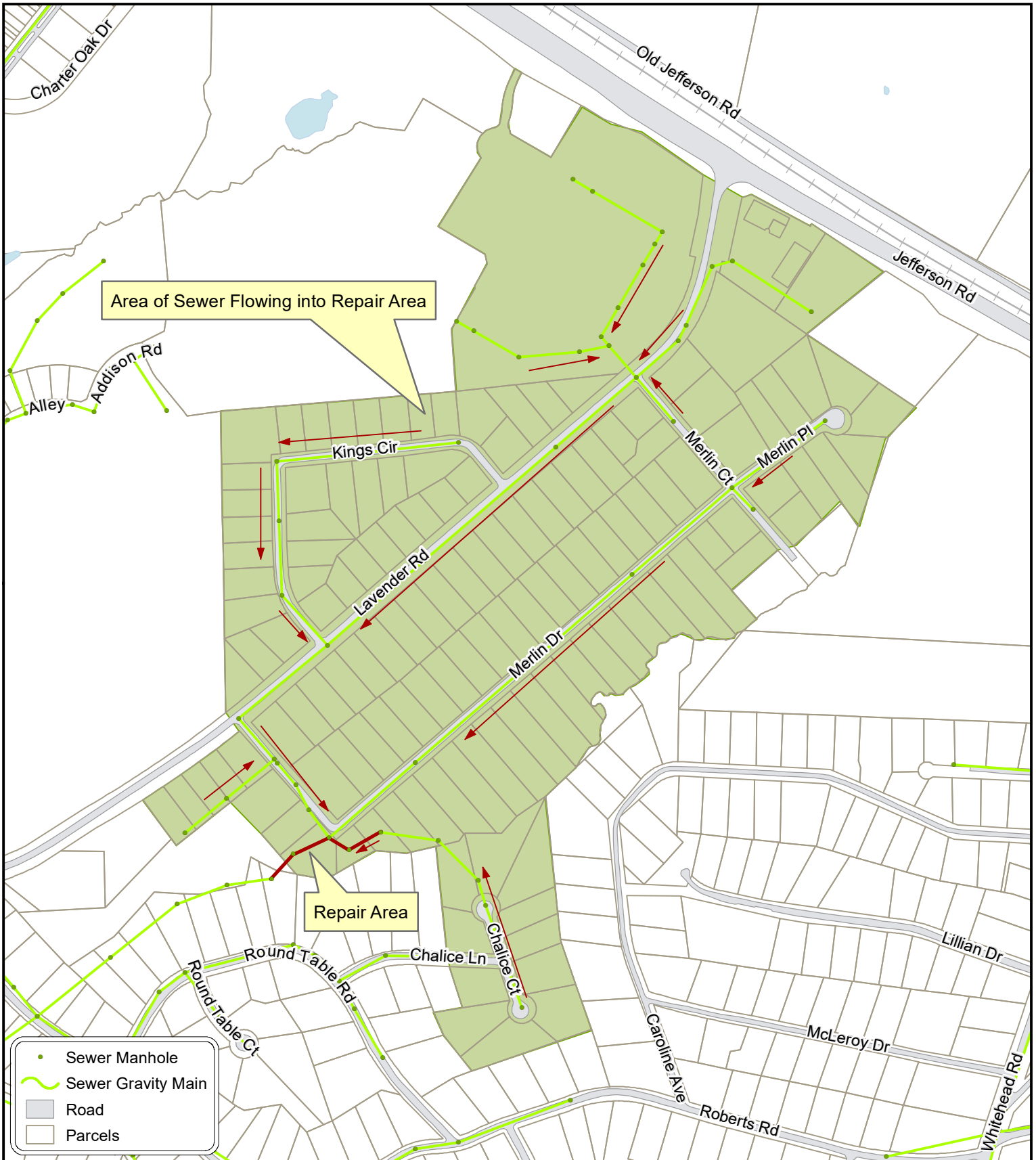
Manager

May 10, 2023

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

Att 1 - Plat



The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County
Department of Public Utilities

124 E Hancock Ave. Athens Ga, 30601

Reference Scale: 1:5,423

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

