



NORTH BUCKHEAD CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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September 27, 2009

Dear Reader,

As you know, the Atlanta Public Schools is building another campus for Sarah Smith Elementary at 4141 Wieuca Road. The building is nearing completion. In order to make the school accessible, the City of Atlanta must make changes on the city streets and rights of way. A plan is being developed so that students can reach the school and get back home and do so in a safe manner. Since speeding on Wieuca Road has been a constant concern to many Wieuca Road residents and will likely be a concern for the new population of students and parents at the new campus, the plan must address those concerns, too.

The city traffic and sidewalk planners in Public Works need to understand what the neighborhood's feelings are about potential solutions. Accordingly, this association set out to gather information about community sentiments on a number of questions related to how students should get to school and back home. Related information about the entire Wieuca Road corridor was also sought. The result is this report about response to our web-based survey conducted on September 19-22.

Please read the Executive Summary to see exactly what data were collected and consult the Table of Contents to see how the remainder of the report is organized. For those who are in a hurry, these are some highlights:

- There was support (95%) for the notion that **kids should be able to walk to the new school** if they want (with chaperones, as needed).
- There was support in survey responses for new **sidewalks on the east side of Wieuca Road**. 95% of those with an opinion on sidewalks said "yes" to at least some new sidewalk segments on Wieuca's east side.
- There was support for increasing the **speed limit and adding enforcement on Wieuca Road**. About three-quarters wanted speed limits increased outside the school zone from 25 MPH while less than 20% opposed the idea. An increased limit would support traffic calming by allowing the police to use electronic speed detection measurements.
- There was support for **installing traffic signals or all-way stops at several Wieuca intersections**. More than three-quarters wanted something done at the two intersections at the new campus (Ivy and Whittington) and two-thirds wanted change at the Loidans intersection.

- There was support (96%) for having **crossing guards** at the school.

The report's Narrative Comments section includes every comment and "other" answer provided by the survey respondents. All respondent names have been removed and replaced by codes (response numbers, street names and NBCA membership status). While reading this section, if a few comments seem insensitive, remember that people sometimes offer stronger opinions on-line and via e-mail than they do in face-to-face settings.

Thanks so much to all the participants who made this report possible. It is a credit to their sense of community that 336 neighbors took the time to answer our 18 question survey and to offer copious comments.

I would also like to thank NBCA's Board for their support and especially thank Robert Sarkissian, NBCA's Traffic Chair. Robert has worked tirelessly since 2000, sometimes without the assistance of other volunteers, to make North Buckhead traffic as tolerable as possible. He has also written informative articles in our North Buckhead Newsletter (see Reference Documents) about traffic and the issues the new school campus brings to the neighborhood.

I would also like to thank the many concerned neighbors who have sent their e-mails and attended our board meetings to share their concerns about the new school and Wieuca. Their thoughts helped shape the questions we asked.

And, finally I want to thank our government officials who are helping on this over all Wieuca effort. They are too numerous to list except for a few:

- We especially appreciate District 7 City Councilman Howard Shook for the dedication he has demonstrated to solving the infrastructure needs of the new school campus and those of the larger North Buckhead community troubled by Wieuca speeding. Howard provided an excellent summary about where we are (see the Reference Documents section).
- We appreciate the site visits and other efforts by the city's Public Works staff, including Sandra Jennings, Katrina White and Nursef Kadir.
- We appreciate APS Board member Katy Pattillo and her associates who have joined efforts to gather information and evaluate policy matters.

We hope the city will be able to use this report and the information they have collected to develop and implement the best possible solutions for Wieuca Road, given the engineering, schedule and funding realities.

If you have any comments or questions about this survey, please send them to NorthBuckhead@yahoo.com or NBCA, PO Box 420391, Atlanta, GA 30342.

Sincerely,



Gordon Certain
President