Walker Street Improvements

Project Background

Walker Street Improvements Project is another example of Cary’s commitment to revitalizing our downtown. This project will improve the intersection of Chatham Street and Walker Street including important Pedestrian Connectivity Elements, Aesthetic Streetscape Treatments, Improved Stormwater as well as Upgraded Utilities as detailed below:
Intersection Improvements include a new decorative traffic signal similar to the one at Academy and Chatham as well as brick sidewalks, new pedestrian push buttons and ramps.

Pedestrian Connectivity Elements include a new brick sidewalk along the west (Methodist Church) side of Walker Street from Chatham Street to Waldo Street and other sidewalk improvements along Walker Street.

Aesthetic Streetscape Treatments include landscaping, decorative street lighting, brick pavers and burying overhead utilities including Duke Power, AT&T and Spectrum.

Improved Stormwater includes an adaptive approach to stormwater and floodplain management - In the fall of 2017 and winter 2018 a dynamic stormwater model was developed to simulate existing conditions flooding in the downtown Walnut Creek Basin. The model confirmed historic flooding between Cedar Street, E. Chatham Street, N. Academy Street and N. Walker Street. The existing conditions model was modified to determine if stormwater improvements along S. Walker Street would mitigate the historic flooding. The evaluation revealed that increasing the storm drainage infrastructure along S. Walker Street and on Waldo Street would provide benefit to the upstream flood prone area. A win-win outcome for Adaptive Stormwater and sidewalk improvements.

This project also provided an opportunity for us work collaboratively and upgrade our existing utilities in this historic area of Town - The existing water
and sewer mains along S. Walker Street, from Waldo Street to just past Chatham Street has reached an age and condition which makes it more vulnerable to unexpected service interruptions and potentially costly repairs. Given this information, the Town decided to include in the Walker Street Improvements project water and sewer system improvements along S. Walker Street thru the intersections of S. Walker & Waldo St. and S. Walker & Chatham Street. The project will include the construction of a new 16-inch water main along this stretch of S. Walker Street, upsizing from the existing 6-inch main size, and will replace the existing water main with new ductile iron pipe designed to current Town standards. This new 16-inch main will increase available fire flow and improve redundancy in our growing downtown area. Similarly, the installation of cured-in-place liners and other sewer system improvements will improve the reliability and resiliency of the wastewater collection system.

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