



## **Executive Director's Report**

February 22, 2023

The Citizen Select Committee for the 2023 SPLOST vote continues to convene to discuss and prepare recommendations for the 2024 SPLOST program. This program is a primary method of financing large, capital projects for Gwinnett County. The county has always focused on the greatest infrastructure needs and sets priorities with the most overall impact on the improvements to the lives of the citizens of Gwinnett.

The SPLOST is also a revenue sharing opportunity for all 16 cities in Gwinnett. The county dedicates Twenty-five percent (25%) to the city by a population based formula. The SPLOST is expected to generate 1.35 billion dollars during the six-year course of the program.

Many large scale improvements such as, Ronald Reagan Pkwy, Sugarloaf Pkwy, F. Wayne Hill Plant, the CID's parallel road project and many other projects have been the beneficiary of the SPLOST program in Gwinnett County. While the CIDs are not permitted to financially contribute to promoting the passage of the program, the CIDs will be asked to participate financially in the education process for the SPLOST.

Commissioner Ben Ku visited the CID on January 26<sup>th</sup>. As is now well known, Commissioner Ku represents a substantial area of the CID and surrounding area. Commissioner Ku remains committed to ensuring the Tennis Center property receives a comprehensive review of the redevelopment as is currently under consideration. He recognizes this development will be the Southern Gateway to Gwinnett for the next 50 years.

The CID will formally present the Gwinnett Police Department with 6 cameras for use within the corridor. In the MOU transferring the cameras to the county, the CID will provide the cameras to the county for use only within the Evermore CID area. The CID will not be required to participate in any ongoing expense of the maintenance and operations for those cameras.

The CID will soon experience a true implementation of transportation alternatives throughout the corridor. In addition to the Express Buses, local bus service will be implemented. This unique route will feature service from Snellville throughout the 7.5 mile corridor to include service to AMAZON. A substantial variation to the local route will feature service to the Indian Creek Marta station. This bus route will be a closed door route from Gwinnett to the Marta station. The exact locations of the stops themselves are being finalized at this point. Public meetings are being held to announce this new route.

In addition to the traditional local bus route, GwDOT will reestablish the Micro transit service to the Snellville area and south on GA-124. This on-call service will be available from approximately 6:00AM to 6:00PM. Additionally, and always asked, the fare for this service will be \$2-\$2.50 per trip. This price will include free transfer to the local routes. While the Lawrenceville-Snellville route is not in the CID, transfers from this route for both Micro transit and US-78 routes will be at no additional cost. This improvement has long been a priority for the CID. The thought has always been to provide transportation alternative and alternate routes, thus reducing vehicular traffic on US-78. This was a yeoman's task that would not have taken place without the efforts of Lewis Cooksey, Director of Gwinnett DOT and his staff.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Gwinnett Transit unveiled the rebranding of the Gwinnett Transit buses. The new design of the buses and the new branding is *Ride Gwinnett*. This new design features a white bus with the county's kaleidoscope logo on the rear of the bus. This design will be on the new buses we should see on the new route for US-78.

A meeting was held with David Tucker, Deputy Director, GDOT. He is directly responsible for all transit operations in the county and links to GRTA, SRTA and Marta. We discussed the impact of the proposed new routes and how to best meet the needs of the community. Additionally, the link between Marta and the local bus service will result in a seamless transfer between the two systems at the Indian Creek Station.

In conjunction with the rebranding efforts of GwDOT, there was a familiarization ride along the new route, which included the US-78 route. During the trip, there was a stop at Piedmont Eastside. The CEO (Trent Lind) of the facilities came out to welcome the tour and discussed what this new operation will mean for patients and staff of the hospital.

### **Collector Road Phase III Evermore North Blvd. (Hewatt-Parkwood-Britt):**

The Gwinnett County Department of Transportation has received bid responses for the HPB project. Those bids have been sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation for review. Once those comments are responded to, the GDOT will issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP).

The project construction was awarded to E R Snellville of Snellville, GA. Certainly, having a local firm that is well respected, should be a plus for the timing and commitment to the project. This project started in 2007 with partial funding coming from an "earmark" by Congressman John Linder. The CID has sought additional funding from the SPLOST programs in 2009, 2014 and 2017. Along with contributions from the SRTA and the Evermore Community Improvement District, this project is completely funded. While the Board of Directors authorized a Five hundred-thousand-dollar (\$500,000) contribution, the CID has received notice that contribution will be the extent of the contribution expectation by Gwinnett County. The bid came in at \$17,400,000. Keep in mind that the Department of Water Resources will contribute approximately \$3,600,000 to the project. In addition to

the parallel road, DWR will install a gravity flow sanitary sewer system before the road is constructed. This project will be a challenge requiring coordination and staging of the construction while ensuring the existing users of the private sanitary system continues to operate.

### **General Comments:**

In Mid-December the annual Chamber's DC Fly-in was held. During the three-day meeting, the group met with both Senators and most of the Gwinnett Congressional Congress members. The discussions focused on fair tax, infrastructure funding and an interest in supporting and being a resource to aid funding of projects impacting Gwinnett.

In late December the Economic Development Manager with the Department of Economic Development Office, Alex Robinson, visited the CID to discuss several parcels within the corridor, that are ripe for redevelopment. While this meeting has resulted in several interested investors touring the area, efforts to identify redevelopment opportunities remain a challenge.

Meetings continue as the details of a road project and the land acquisition by the CID continue. The process by which the CID can contribute/donate property to the county is currently underway. As progress is made on this effort, the Board will be kept abreast of the status of this project.

In January, the CID was invited to participate in the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues Breakfast. Jackson EMC provided a bus from the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce to the World Congress Center. Some of the most valuable conversations took place on the bus! We did hear of the State's priorities and the economic outlook for the state.

Staff continue to meet with the Director of the Economic Development Office for Gwinnett County. During this meeting a discussion of redevelopment opportunities within the corridor are discussed. Some of the issues such as limited sewer capacity and property owners who are not yet ready to sell their property. The vacancies within the corridor also demonstrate this fact. There have been opportunities to sell the property for redevelopment, but the owners have not been willing to sell their property.

There was a meeting with Tina Fleming to discuss Gwinnett's One Stop service for aiding and assisting with the community's needs. There is a phone number that can be accessed 24 hours a day to be able to direct and assist people in need of services immediately. (770) 822.8550

The Gwinnett Municipal Association sponsored a meet and greet for the Gwinnett delegation currently serving in the Georgia Senate and House of Representatives. This event featured a tour of the 28 million dollar renovation and expansion of the Georgia Municipal Association building and parking deck. Participants had an opportunity to discuss issues impacted by proposed legislation and other issues of concern for their respective communities.

The annual audit is underway. The results of the audit will be presented in the April Board Meeting. While the internal audit work has been underway since December, McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC has begun its work since the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

Executive Director's Report

Page 4

February 22, 2022

The annual Partnership Gwinnett Economic Outlook featuring Alfie Meeks was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Alfie shares his views of the future of the economy.

We have initiated a request to Gwinnett County to accept a parcel of land to be purchased by the CID and then donated to the county. Since the CID Board of Directors approval of the purchase with a contingency, we have been able to identify an insurance provider to ensure limited liability for the CID during the transition period.

There will be a special presentation during the Board Meeting. At this point no other details can be released.