

**Clayton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
September 6, 2007**

Attendees:

John Parker, City of Forest Park
Gerald Garr, City of Lake City
Iris Jessie, City of Riverdale
Jeffrey Turner, Clayton County Police Department
Synamon Baldwin, Clayton County Wide Homeowners Association
Shelley Lamar, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
Ron Sherwood, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
Krishna Rama-Murthy, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
Edie Yongue, Keep Clayton County Beautiful
Hugh Morton, Peachtree Homes
Jim Crissey, Southern Regional Medical Center
Mimi Arjomand, Clayton County Aging
Mike Gippert, City of Forest Park

Consultant Team:

Keith Rholing, Clayton County SPLOST
Janide Sidifall, URS Corporation
Joel Stone, Joel Stone Consulting
Mary Huffstetler, MPH and Associates
Rodney Givens, Coastline Consulting, Inc.
Vanessa Partee, Turner Associates
Lisa Glover, Turner Associates

Summary of Needs/Deficiencies:

Congestion

- Tara Boulevard is congested during commuting hours
- Major travel corridors cannot accommodate travel during peak hours
- Major travel corridors cannot respond to changes in travel patterns and land use changes

Land Use

- Greenspace protection is needed
- County control over land uses is needed to support/influence transportation
- Need to develop zoning and land use plans and stick to them. Land is limited; jobs and business are decreasing; there are currently a lot of underutilized transportation facilities

Bicycle/Pedestrian

- Alternate means of transportation is needed (bike/ped) to support mixed use development
- Bicycle path on Sullivan Road is underutilized. Better placement of facilities is needed.
- Board of Education needs to participate in funding sidewalks near schools
- Sidewalk buffers are needed on major roadway projects to provide greater separation from roadway
- Examine access to recreation centers (sidewalks, transit, bicycle paths, etc.)

Transit

- Focus on improving transit services
- Transit does not go where the people are
- Rex/Ellenwood/Morrow is a growing area that is prime for transit expansion
- Improved transit and supporting amenities are needed (sidewalks, shelters, bus pull offs, etc.)
- Consider benefits and impacts of commuter rail
- Examine access to recreation centers (sidewalks, transit, bicycle paths, etc.)

Park and Ride Lots

- Need for better placed park and ride lots – examine existing private lots for park and ride use
- The new park and ride lot at SR 138 and I-75 will not be utilized – bad location

Traffic Generators

- Fort Gillem redevelopment will impact transportation system (7,000-9,000 new jobs; single family housing; 3-4 years to begin development; need to look at build out year; traffic study will be conducted.
- The new trend in healthcare is to spread service providers throughout the county – transportation needs to accommodate this trend
- State Farmer's Market – potential 25-30 additional acres available for development as a wholesale distributor – additional truck traffic – the plan is currently under consideration and GDOT plans to improve access to enhance accessibility

Aging Population

- Transportation services for the aging needed for medical services and for socialization – needs to be more efficient and reliable

Connectivity

- There is adequate north/south connectivity; east/west connectivity needs improvement
- EMS needs to be involved in the planning process to discuss access and connectivity.

General

- Definition of the county's vision (what it wants to be) is needed
- A balanced transportation system is needed
- There is a lack of local influence on state routes in local communities – suggested using SPLOST funds to balance influence
- The mix of local and commuter traffic using the same routes does not work – suggested looking for solutions that serve primarily commuter trips and others that serve primarily local trips
- Board of Education needs to be involved in the planning process
- Human behavior needs to change to maximize alternatives to traditional travel (incentives, education, etc.)
- Healthcare depends on access regardless of mode

Top Transportation System Priorities:

- Roadway connectivity
- Separation of local through traffic
- Policies to change behavior (public education of traveling impacts, living closer to employment centers, etc.)
- Beautification/aesthetics
- I-75/I-675 redesign
- Accessibility to local recreational amenities
- Mixed use transit oriented development

Potential Obstacles to Plan Implementation:

- Funding
- Politics
- Lack of public education

Prioritization of Needs:

Meeting participants were asked to mark the level of priority as “low”, “medium, or “high” for each need both today and as they anticipate the level of priority in the year 2035. Seven Responses were received and the results are tallied below. The highest scoring category is shaded in blue.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM NEED	TODAY			IN 2035		
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Congestion Relief on Major Roadways		1	6			7
Improved and Expanded Public Transit Service		3	4	1	1	5
Additional Public Transit Amenities (Sidewalks, Bus Shelters, Park and Ride Lots etc.)		3	4	1	1	5
Commuter Rail from Atlanta to Lovejoy	2	3	2		4	3
Improved Sidewalks and Crosswalks		2	5	1	3	3
New or Improved Bicycle Facilities (On and Off-Road)	1	4	2	1	4	2
Better Land Use and Transportation System Coordination		3	4	1	1	5
Maintenance of Transportation System		2	5		3	4
Improved Connectivity Between Vehicles, Walking, Biking, Transit	1	3	3	1	2	4
Speed Control on Roadways	1	3	3	1	2	4
Right-of-Way Preservation for New Construction or Widening of Roads	1	2	4		2	5
Expanded and Improved Use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) (i.e. Changeable Message Signs, Traffic Signal Coordination)		4	3		4	3
Dedicated Truck Only Lanes on Interstates	2	2	3	2	1	4
Additional Grade Separations (Overpass or Underpass)		6	1	1	4	2
More Mixed-use and Transit Oriented Development		1	6	1		6