

## TODAY'S FOCUS

### Pleasant Hill road traffic now smoother after synchronization

By TODD DEVOS

Special to GwinnettForum.com

*(Editor's Note: Todd DeVos is a senior project manager at Wolverton & Associates, Inc., in Duluth. He is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a bachelor's and master's degree in Civil Engineering. As a consulting engineer he specializes in the operation and design of traffic signals, as they relate to the progression of traffic through congested areas. Mr. DeVos, resident of Lilburn since 1991, with his wife and three children, has timed over 15,000 traffic signals throughout his career. ---eeb)*

DULUTH, Ga., May 21, 2010 -- The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (GPCID) recognizes the importance of moving traffic in an efficient manner in the Gwinnett Place area for its citizens and businesses. Although in some areas of Georgia the recent economic constraints have placed a hold on maintenance of traffic signal operations, the GPCID moved forward with signal maintenance and monthly and quarterly performance checkups. And the results have been significant.



DeVos

In October of 2008, the GPCID contracted Wolverton & Associates, Inc. (W&A), a full-service Duluth civil engineering firm, to improve the flow of traffic within the Gwinnett Place area. W&A was also contracted to provide monthly and quarterly signal maintenance. The contract includes 45 traffic signals along Pleasant Hill Road, Steve Reynolds Boulevard, Satellite Boulevard and Club Drive. The results have shown that the GPCID decision has helped to save much more than just travel time.

The GPCID signal timing project resulted in a travel time reduction along Pleasant Hill Road of nearly two minutes per vehicle throughout the day. This can add up. In fact, it equates in a savings of over 62,000 gallons of fuel per year, and a monetary impact of over \$1.3 million per year. The project also included extensive coordination with Gwinnett County DOT staff, since they are responsible for the operation and maintenance of these traffic signals.

How did GPCID get these results? The methodology behind the synchronization of traffic signals is to reduce the number of stops, improve travel time and reduce delay experienced by drivers in the Gwinnett Place area. Positive environmental impacts, in the form of reduced emissions and gasoline consumption, are also realized as a result of the successful signal timing project. This is achieved by programming all of the traffic signals within the system to operate in concert with one another to efficiently move traffic. The new signal timings are developed by using traffic computer modeling software that simulates traffic conditions. Signal timings are then fine-tuned under field conditions with numerous observations and monitoring of the system.

W&A staff members visit the system each month to ensure that the controllers all display the exact time and date, which often can be off a few seconds because of thunderstorms or other variables. And a few seconds can make an immense difference. On a quarterly basis, W&A staff visits the system to perform a more extensive review of the operations. Without constant attention, the operation of the signal system would eventually degrade, leading to a much less efficient flow of traffic.

For GPCID, the maintenance has paid off by providing residents, shoppers,

## TODAY'S QUOTE

Realizing a queen has problems that we often have

"I can't understand it. I can't even understand the people who can understand it."

-- Queen Juliana (1909 - 2004), of the Netherlands

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5/14: [Fire ants to whoppers](#)

5/11: [New park, library](#)

visitors, local workers, and merchants a much more pleasant, and efficient, driving experience with controlled and safer traffic conditions.

#### EEB PERSPECTIVE

### People wondered: Why wasn't Rogers On Hall of Fame list?

By ELLIOTT BRACK  
Editor and publisher

MAY 21, 2010 -- Hats off to a lot of people for creating the Gwinnett Sports Hall of Fame, announced recently. The first inductees will be introduced at Coolray Field prior to a Gwinnett Braves baseball game on June 6. (See [GwinnettForum, May 14.](#))



Brack

Five people will be inducted in the first class. However, some obvious names were left off the first announcement, which caused several people to ask some questions.

More than anything else, we heard: "Why was George Rogers not included? What else do you have to do to gain acceptance to the Gwinnett Sports Hall of Fame besides winning the Heisman Trophy?" After all, it is the most prestigious award in college football, and Mr. Rogers won it, after having a successful career at the University of South Carolina. His accomplishments not only at Duluth High School, but as a professional player at New Orleans and Washington are legion. Today he's on the athletic staff at the University of South Carolina, and continues to be an example of the best in sports.

Talking to one of those who helped form the new Hall of Fame, we learned that a provision this first year was that any person named, if living, had to be present. George Rogers was among those who was at first chosen for the honor, but he ran up against a conflict for the date of the induction ceremony. He had already committed to be with his friend, Tony Dorsett, at Dorsett's charity's golf tournament. The selection committee anticipates that they will have Rogers here inducted into the Hall next year, and they will make sure it is a date that Rogers can attend.



Rogers

Of course, a major world figure, Heavyweight Boxer Ezzard Charles, won't attend, since he is deceased. However, his son, Ezzard Charles II, will represent his father at the induction, a fitting tribute to someone born here in Gwinnett who later became world-known.

We got from David Seago, one of the organizers of the new Hall of Fame, a list of the basic qualifications to be considered for the honor of being among those selected. Basically, the person must have either been born in Gwinnett, or participated in sports for two years at a Gwinnett County high school, be at least 26 years of age, and show high standards of sportsmanship, ethical

conduct and character.

The "required attendance" for living inductees also got two recent Gwinnett baseball athletes, Jeff Francoeur and Brian McCann off the list. Anticipation is that efforts will be made to have an induction ceremony one year at a baseball off-season time.

- [5/7: New interchanges](#)
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- [4/29: New math-sci school](#)
- [4/27: Asian temple to open](#)
- [4/23: Airport delay](#)
- [4/20: Red Cross building](#)
- [4/16: Grand openings](#)
- [4/13: Congressional races](#)
- [4/9: Gwinnett in great light](#)
- [4/6: About flag lapel pins](#)
- [4/2: Starting our 10th year](#)
- [EEB index of columns](#)

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- [5/7: Pattie: Spring allergies](#)
- [5/4: Olson: Hudgens' contest](#)
- [4/30: Corley: Golf tournament](#)
- [4/27: Malcolm: Health care, taxes](#)
- [4/23: Grant: New iPad great](#)
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- [4/13: A. Brack: Civil War and today](#)
- [4/9: Bolling: Lanier venues](#)
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#### COMMENTARY INDEX



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