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I-85 Corridor study gets underway

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga., (July 26, 2011) – The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners last week approved just under \$1.1 million to study transportation alternatives and opportunities in the I-85 corridor from I-285 to the Gwinnett Center.

This project is funded 50 percent by the 2009 SPLOST Program and 50 percent by a grant from the Federal Transit Administration. Interested companies submitted bids in April. The highest-scoring firm, Atkins North America, Inc., was awarded the contract. Others contributing to the study include the Gwinnett Village CID, Gwinnett Place CID and the Federal Transit Administration.

“This project has been a major priority for businesses in the CID for the past several years. We can improve the southern core of Gwinnett by increasing transportation options and providing a significant economic development boost,” said Executive Director Chuck Warbington of the Gwinnett Village CID.

The study will compare no-build, baseline/transportation system management, express bus, bus rapid transit, light rail and commuter rail options and look at their respective effects on traffic, travel patterns, the environment and land use. Estimates of capital and maintenance costs for each option will be included along with proposed operation plans, ridership forecasts, cost-effectiveness analysis and an overall evaluation of options.

Gwinnett Place CID Chairman Leo Wiener said, “We’re pleased to collaborate with the county, regional and federal transportation officials to pursue this much-needed transit alternative analysis and are committed to improving access throughout the greater Gwinnett Place area.”

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash said, “Gwinnett’s population has increased so much over the last few decades. Today’s commuters need more transportation options. This study will include public hearings with advisory committees on policies, technical issues and community concerns.”

The study will take 18 months to complete.

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