



# Land reuse dialogue has urbanism tone

**The Third Annual Redevelopment Forum has started dialogue about land reuse opportunities among local stakeholders.** Partnership Gwinnett, in cooperation with The Council For Quality Growth, brought together over 200 real estate developers, engineers, architects and government officials to educate and inform them about local and regional redevelopment opportunities. Panelists shared new urbanism trends, redevelopment financing, best practices and community case studies.

"The real estate demand in metro Atlanta and Gwinnett County in the coming decades is for compact, walkable

urban development which works best with rail transit," said keynote speaker Christopher B. Leinberger, president of LOCUS, Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors and senior fellow, Brookings Institution.

State, county and local leaders shared details on current incentives and why they feel the time is right for redevelopment. With Gwinnett County's population on track to eclipse one million residents in the next decade, combined with dwindling availability of undeveloped land, county and municipal leaders are working to develop innovative strategies to leverage urban density.

"Gwinnett County's prime location makes it a great choice for someone looking to harness local redevelopment opportunities," said Alan Durham, Gwinnett County's director of Office of Economic Development. "Our focus collectively as a community is to work to ensure that we are highlighting these sites and educating brokers, developers and architects on their availability and use."

The County's stable business environment provides companies, looking to create or recreate their presence in the region, with a highly educated workforce and an exceptional quality of life. January reports show that Gwinnett has had

the lowest unemployment rate in Metro Atlanta's core counties for 30 consecutive months.

"Gwinnett's leadership has done a tremendous job of laying the foundation for redevelopment to make redevelopment more economically feasible," said Chuck Warbington, executive director of the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District (CID).

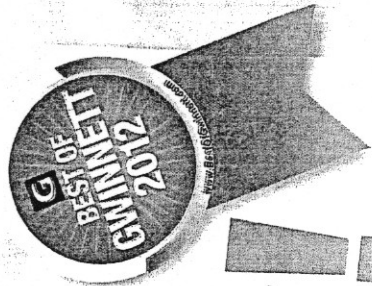
Joe Allen, executive director, Gwinnett Place CID added, "We have the opportunity to breathe new life into those older developments to create the new urban suburbia that is necessary to attract businesses and talent in today's economy."

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by Mark Lackey



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