

The Gr8 Exchange comes as county leaders are preparing to launch their own, separate and unrelated effort to solicit public input later this year for a major overhaul of the county's comprehensive transportation plan.

The feedback gathered by the county will be poured into a concrete plan for where Gwinnett will be headed transportation-wise in the future. Warbington said the responses gathered through the Gr8 Exchange, though, will be mainly used to show trends of what types of transportation residents are thinking about.

"I anticipate looking at the trends and seeing 20 trends come out of this," Warbington said. "I don't anticipate there being a mandate. This is not something that says 'OK, people said we need sidewalks more, so Board of Commissioners, we need to focus only on sidewalks.'"

The data gathered from the Gr8 Exchange will be made available to any group in the county who wants to pull ideas from it, including the county government, cities and CIDs.

The idea has support from business leaders, political groups and homeowners associations.

Warbington said he has also met with representatives of the United Tea Party of Georgia, the Gwinnett County Republican Party, Gwinnett Democrats and the Sierra Club.

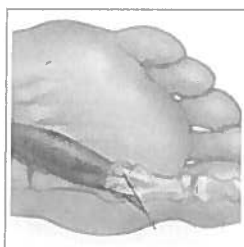
"We had the tea party, the Sierra Club, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party sitting down together, talking about transportation, and there wasn't any yelling," Warbington said.

Organizers have set up a special phone number where residents can send a text message to join the survey and will release it to the public the week of Aug. 24.

They are also launching a Facebook and Twitter hashtag, #theGr8Exchange, to make the conversation go viral on social media. A website, www.theGr8Exchange.com, has also been created.

"We're trying to make sure, that week, it's basically in front of you everywhere you go," Warbington said.

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