



Summer 2009

The Progress

The official newsletter of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District

Pleasant Hill Road project gaining momentum

The Gwinnett Place CID's priority project remains reconstructing the Pleasant Hill Road bridge over Interstate-85, making the roadway into a higher-capacity system known as a single-point urban interchange.

Because of the CID's focused efforts to address traffic congestion and reconstruction of the bridge, momentum and support are building to remake the Pleasant Hill Road crossing.

U.S. Congressman John Linder recently confirmed that he officially made a federal appropriations request of \$2.5 million for the bridge's preliminary engineering costs. The funding could be included in the federal government's fiscal year 2010 transportation budget.

Linder, who represents the CID's area, recently joined the District's Board of Directors to receive an update on the bridge and other CID projects. The Congressman commended the CID for its work on relieving traffic congestion and other ongoing efforts.

"The Gwinnett Place CID is an excellent example of communities coming together to improve their circumstances, and I appreciate their hard work towards the betterment of my community," Linder said. "They have come up with some wonderful ideas, and solid plans to ensure they come to fruition."

In addition to the much-needed support from Linder, the CID's strong working relationship with U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss is yielding

Congressman John Linder (center) with CID Board Members

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Our Mission:

"Enhance the economic vitality of Gwinnett's central business district by strengthening the area's role as the center of commercial activity."

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additional support. Chambliss announced his intentions to seek \$1 million in fiscal year 2010 transportation funding in support of the Pleasant Hill project.

At the same time, the 2009 SPLOST - Citizen's Project Selection Committee working with Gwinnett County's Board of Commissioners to determine future projects funded by sales tax revenue has recommended support for the bridge replacement effort.

Board Chairman Charles Bannister has acknowledged the importance of replacing the current outdated interchange in correspondence he submitted on the CID's behalf to Congressman Linder's office.



“The replacement of the Pleasant Hill Road Bridge across the Interstate will be a cornerstone project to revitalize and promote economic development along this highly traveled corridor and enforces the goals of both our recently adopted 2030 Unified Plan and Comprehensive Transportation Plan,” Bannister stated.

In the meantime, the CID works closely with local, state and federal political and transportation officials to speed up the bridge replacement to whatever degree possible. To gain an inside edge in the ever-tightening competition for federal transportation dollars, the CID contracted with nationally recognized Ogilvy Government Relations to secure even more available funding.

Area crime stats continue to improve



In the first quarter of 2009, the Gwinnett Place CID area continued to experience decreases in overall criminal incidents, according to statistics from Gwinnett County Police.

Data compiled from January 1 through April 15 for the CID reveal two key types of crimes are on the decline:

- * Motor Vehicle Thefts – 18 percent decrease (down to 56 incidents from 68)
- * Entering Auto Crime – 14 percent decrease (down to 145 incidents from 168)

The CID routinely conducts daily community patrols to alert police officers regarding potential criminal activity. Trash and illegal signs are removed while property owners are notified of areas of disrepair that need attention.

Additionally, numerous CID member properties independently support off-duty police patrols or other private security efforts.

CID putting non-profit foundation to work

The CID is using its recently formed non-profit – the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement Foundation Inc. – to seek available federal, state, local and private improvement grants.

The foundation submitted an application to the Woodward Foundation for \$225,000 to implement another phase of the area's signage/way-finding master plan. Additionally, the foundation is pursuing many other available grant funding resources.

Concept plan complete for road upgrade

CID-contracted traffic experts at Street Smarts have completed a concept design to realign the Venture Drive-Pleasant Hill Road-Gwinnett Place Drive intersection. Plans call for widening Venture Drive from Pleasant Hill Road to Steve Reynolds Boulevard, allowing two through lanes in each direction and two-way left turn movement.

The new design will improve area mobility by adding more options and better traffic flow as work progresses to dramatically remake the Interstate-85/Pleasant Hill Road bridge.

The 2009 SPLOST - Citizen's Project Selection Committee has recommended funds be allocated to begin the intersection realignment effort.



CID traffic signal re-timing gets results

Traffic congestion relief remains a primary goal for the CID's Board of Directors, and a new CID effort addressing this issue is already paying off for drivers.

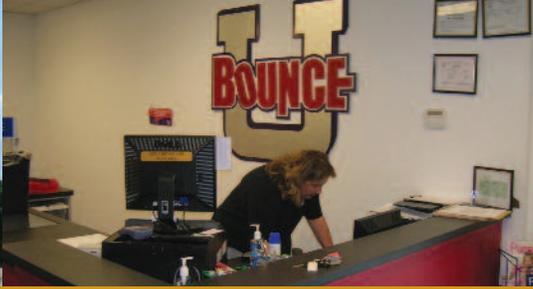
Wolverton & Associates has been contracted to lead and maintain a traffic signal timing and optimization program throughout greater Gwinnett Place. Wolverton works with the Gwinnett Department of Transportation to test and correct timing issues at 45 of the area's busiest intersections.

During peak travel times, drivers will now save about 98,000 hours and nearly 59,000 gallons of gasoline annually because of the CID's efforts. Lessened trip times and lowered fuel usage for area travel will generate savings of more than \$1.3 million per year.

The CID continues to work with Wolverton to fine-tune signal timing and maintain properly functioning intersections in the District.

Results for Pleasant Hill Road





More businesses opening doors in District

In the last few months, a number of new businesses have opened inside the Gwinnett Place CID. Here is a look at some of the new businesses that are now part of the Gwinnett Place community:

- * The Salvation Army Family Store, Venture Drive
- * Health Foot Solutions, Reynolds Crossing
- * El Toro Mexican Grill, Market Place
- * Simply Self Storage, Gwinnett Place Drive
- * Monte Perry Bridal Collection, Gwinnett Walk
- * Noh Ryang Jin Seafood Restaurant, Satellite Boulevard
- * Bounce U, Pleasant Hill Plaza
- * Ming's BBQ, Mall Corners
- * African Hair Braiding & Beauty Supply, Gwinnett Place Mall
- * It Is Soccer, Gwinnett Place Mall
- * Subaru of Gwinnett Showroom, Gwinnett Place Mall
- * Loco Fashions, Pleasant Hill Plaza
- * Time Square Barber Shop, Pleasant Hill Plaza
- * Shanghai Café, Gwinnett Station
- * Sam's Japanese Restaurant, Esplanade at Gwinnett Place
- * Vision Total Business Solution, Esplanade at Gwinnett Place

District 1 County Commissioner Shirley Lasseter is working with the CID and business leaders to personally correspond with each newly opened location, which helps increase the positive business atmosphere.

More information about all CID businesses is available at www.VisitGwinnettPlace.com. The site includes special discount offers, contact information and other details exclusive to CID-based locations.



Finding new alternatives for parking areas

Utilizing Atlanta Regional Commission grant funds, the CID commissioned a parking management study to examine current and future parking issues in the District. The study not only looked at the current situation, but is also forward-thinking addressing problems that may present themselves as the area redevelops.

Currently 40% of the land area in the CID consists of surface parking. This represents a significant amount of underutilized land. Excessive surface parking is by far the most significant parking problem facing the CID today.

A variety of parking management techniques used by other municipalities and organizations were examined to determine their “suitability of fit” for the CID. Some of these include establishing parking maximums, shared parking provisions, public parking decks and on-street parking among others.



CID receives GDOT gateway funding

The Gwinnett Place CID recently was awarded \$50,000 from the Georgia Department of Transportation to assist with ongoing area revitalization efforts.

The CID applied the funding to its continued landscape improvements along the Interstate-85/Pleasant Hill Road interchange. The CID just completed improvements to the northeast and southeast areas of the Pleasant Hill Road interchange.

Prior to the special grant, the CID finished extensive landscape upgrades at the Steve Reynolds Boulevard interchange and part of the Pleasant Hill Road exits.

CIDs awarded grant funds for rail study

The Atlanta Regional Commission has issued grant funding to the Gwinnett Place and Gwinnett Village CIDs to complete a unique transportation-related study.

The CIDs were jointly awarded \$30,000 to evaluate light-rail transit options along the Interstate-85 corridor. The concept calls for a rail line joining

Norcross, Gwinnett Village, Indian Trail Road, Gwinnett Place and Gwinnett Arena sometime in the future.

The CID’s funding is part of the Atlanta Regional Commission’s overall effort to promote livable centers throughout metro Atlanta.



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Fanning named to CID Board of Directors

The Gwinnett Place CID's Board of Directors recently welcomed Justin Fanning as its newest member. Justin serves as the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners' representative to the CID Board. He has been a manager at the Loafing Leprechaun restaurant for five years and has 10 years of experience in the restaurant management industry. Justin is a life-long Gwinnett County resident.



Much-needed sidewalks added in the District

The CID and Gwinnett County cooperated to fund and complete new sidewalks along Old Norcross Road from Ring Road to Satellite Boulevard, a portion of Steve Reynolds Boulevard and another section of Old Norcross Road connecting Steve Reynolds Boulevard to Pleasant Hill Road. The projects are preserving and promoting safe pedestrian access in high foot-traffic areas.