

Community workshops to mold vision for Gwinnett Place area

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#DULUTH -- Locals can help plan the future of the Gwinnett Place community in a two-day Community Workshop scheduled for this week.

#The event, scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at Ferguson Elementary School in Duluth, is part of a 10-year update to the Livable Centers Initiative, which has helped to revitalize the community surrounding Gwinnett's oldest mall.

#"Community members will work together with the area leaders to develop a unified vision for the study area, identifying key catalyst sites and projects for development and redevelopment," said Joe Allen, executive director of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District, which is leading the study. "The resulting plan will drive job creation and economic development in the Gwinnett Place area over the next decade."

#Local leaders said the plan will help steer economic growth in one of the county's major activity centers.

#"Developing a detailed plan for its future will ensure that the economic growth and quality of life goals are central to the area and the overall county's prosperity," said Bryan Lackey, acting director of the Gwinnett County Planning and Development Department.

#Casey Coffey, owner of Gwinnett Place Ford added, "As a property owner, the Gwinnett LCI Update represents the public's ongoing dedication and investment in the area – solidifying my confidence in the area's great possibilities. The anticipated transportation and public improvements to result from the study will provide new impetus for private investment."

#The study, which will qualify the area for Atlanta Regional Commission grants, will include input from professional planners, designers and market analysts.

#The 12-mile area being studied encompasses Gwinnett Place Mall, Discover Mills, Gwinnett Center, Gwinnett Technical College and McDaniel Farm Park. It includes Interstate 85, Pleasant Hill Road, Ga. highways 316 and 120 and Satellite Boulevard.