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CID Launching Interstate Beautification Program in 2007

District will fund extensive landscape improvements along exit ramps

Duluth, (December 14, 2006) - The commuting public is promised a future Gwinnett Place area with dramatically enhanced landscaping because of the Community Improvement District (CID).

In January, the Gwinnett Place CID's Board of Directors should approve a landscape master plan to enrich the Interstate 85 interchanges at Pleasant Hill Road and Steve Reynolds Boulevard.

Extensive plantings of new trees and ground-covering bushes, among other items, will be added along both sides of the interstate in an effort to enhance the District's attractiveness. The CID plans to maintain the landscaping going forward.

Additionally, consultants are now preparing a study and conceptual layout to allow increased vehicle and pedestrian mobility across the expressway by widening the Pleasant Hill Road bridge.

CID Executive Director Joe Allen said while the feasibility study should be completed just after the first of the year, no construction plans currently exist to facilitate the interchange's expansion. However, Board members are expected to authorize the interchange landscape installation to begin in early 2007.

"We have identified traffic congestion relief as the top priority for our area, and we know expanding the Pleasant Hill Road bridge is a vital part of our efforts," Allen said. "While expanding the bridge is not now on the radar of state and federal agencies, the CID wants to help make it a priority. We want to move this project forward as soon as possible."

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