

CID reveals plans for Pleasant Hill bridge

04/18/2007 -

By Hue Ha

Staff Writer

hue.ha@gwinnettdailypost.com

DULUTH — Instead of two traffic lights at each end of the interchange bridge at Pleasant Hill Road over Interstate 85, there would be a single traffic light in the middle and greenspace along the bridge and access ramps.

Gwinnett business leaders saw for the first time the redesigned bridge, in an artist's rendering, at the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District Annual Meeting on Tuesday night.

"This is what it could look like to the typical traveler into the Gwinnett area," said Joe Allen, CID executive director. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to present the details of this very important project to our stakeholders and community at large."

The CID also awarded Jerry and Laura Moore, owners of Centurion Foods Inc., and Gwinnett County Solicitor Rosanna Szabo and Gwinnett County Police Maj. Thomas Bardugon for their contribution to the district at the annual meeting.

The new interchange is moving along the planning stages. The CID, Gwinnett County and state transportation officials are working to put the new interchange onto the transportation plan for the Atlanta area. The interchange and its traffic issues are the vital part of the growth of the improvement district.

"You don't build a bridge overnight. It takes a lot of planning and focus," Allen said.

The signal stop light would increase traffic capacity, improve the traffic flow while requiring less right of way needed for construction, he said.

The plans are available at the CID's Web site, GwinnettPlaceCID.com.

Szabo and Bardugon were recognized for the creation of the Criminal Trespass Notification program, which enhances the ability of law enforcement to keep private properties secure.

The Moores, owners of several Burger King restaurants in the area, were two of the first business owners to recognize what the improvement district could mean for Gwinnett Place, CID officials said.

"We're small business people in this large business district," Jerry Moore said. "We decided early on that what's good for one is good for all."