



## Atlanta CIDs make getting to and around the districts a top priority

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Courtesy of Cumberland CID

A rendering of Segment C of the Cumberland Multi Modal Path, part of the \$100 million "Cumberland Sweep" project.

Getting to Atlanta Braves games efficiently is an obvious win-win for the organization, fans and the community.

So when it comes to providing more mobility options, the Cumberland Community Improvement District is among many metro Atlanta CIDs stepping up to the plate.

“When we moved up there, we were asked pretty extensively about our view on public transportation and unequivocally we always said we’re all for it, 100%. It has to be efficient, it has to be safe, and it has to create opportunities for people to make a determination and decision to not get in their car,” said [Mike Plant](#), president and CEO of the Braves Development Co. “So if you get dropped off a mile from the ballpark for the game, that’s not very efficient.”

In the growing Cumberland-Galleria area the Braves call home, plans for the “Cumberland Sweep” include an autonomous shuttle system as well as lanes for walking and cycling.

The sweep has an estimated cost of \$100 million; the CID provides a 20% match for preliminary engineering and design when it receives federal funding, which it has for this project. The CID has \$12 million in total funding on the project so far.

The Cumberland Sweep is “a major mobility project that adds options for businesses, residents and visitors to easily get along in the district regardless of having a car,” said [Kim Menefee](#), executive director of the Cumberland CID.

“When [The Sweep] gets up and rolling — and it will — I think a lot of people will look at it as an incredible opportunity to get out of their cars,” said Plant, who serves on the Cumberland CID board. Construction on the fully funded segment “C” of the project, Galleria Drive, is expected in 2026.

Other metro Atlanta CIDs are also pushing forward with projects to make getting in and around their areas more efficient with a number of transportation options, including transit. Some other efforts underway.

### **Increasing transit options**

The Lenox Road Complete Street and the Wieuca Road Roundabout projects in the Buckhead CID. Sources of funding for the Lenox work include City of Atlanta bond funds, federal transportation funds, Buckhead CID funds and private funds. The Wieuca Road Roundabout’s sources of funding will include Atlanta transportation special purpose local option sales tax (T-SPLOST) funds and bond funds as well as Buckhead CID funds.

“Motivation for all projects is to improve how people navigate the district regardless of the mode, whether it be by automobile, bicycle, or on foot,” said [Jim Durrett](#), president, Buckhead Coalition and executive director, Buckhead CID.

The CID has a \$1 million budget in 2023 to fund its operations, and a \$2.3 million budget for all of its programs, such as public safety, traffic officers, landscaping, picking up trash, maintenance of infrastructure, etc., Durrett said.

The Atlanta Airport CIDs are continuing to move forward with a multi-pronged approach to transit, including personal rapid transit (PRT), autonomous shuttles and microtransit, Executive Director [Gerald McDowell](#) told Atlanta Business Chronicle recently.

The Gwinnett Place Area Mobility And Traffic Study — a partnership between the Gwinnett Place CID and Gwinnett County — was released in November 2022, said [Joe Allen](#), executive director, Gwinnett Place CID. The study identified 31 needed projects, including 16 intersection improvements, which cost in total \$117 million. Potential funding sources are being determined, including the CID, SPLOST, and state and federal sources, Allen said.

The CID is already seeing mobility improvement from the Venture Drive at Day Drive roundabout, which was finished around 2020. The roundabout makes it easier to reach the Mall Corners property, which is managed by Ackerman & Co. “We’re benefitting because people will come down Venture Drive and then use one of our access points instead of having to go all the way around the shopping center and come onto Pleasant Hill, which at times can be difficult,” said [Leo Wiener](#), president, Ackerman Retail, and chairman of the board of the Gwinnett Place CID. “The second added benefit is that even if they’re coming through the public road which cuts through the shopping center to get to the traffic light, they’re coming through the shopping center, so essentially we’re having more people take a quarter of a second or a second out of their time to see businesses that are in the shopping center.

### **Transformation at I-285 at Georgia 400**

The largest mobility project in the state is currently underway in the Perimeter CIDs, said [Ann Hanlon](#), executive director of Perimeter CIDs.

“The renovation of the 285@400 interchange, dubbed ‘Transform,’ is the \$800 million renovation of the two main highways that provide access to the Central Perimeter market,” Hanlon said. “We have been thrilled to welcome this massive investment into our community — and although we are entering the [sometimes painful] final stages of construction, we know that the finished product will be worth the wait.”

The project is paid for with a combination of state funding and contributions from PCIDs, the City of Sandy Springs and the PATH Foundation, Hanlon said. The timeline for significant completion is December 2023.

The PCIDs contributed \$10 million towards the project to the Georgia Department of Transportation, according to Hanlon. “Much of that investment will be used for trail construction and decorative elements in the project,” she said.

“Improving the flow of traffic and vehicle occupant safety is important to everyone who uses or benefits from the 285/400 interchange,” said [Yolanda Turner](#), administrative services manager for State Farm at Park Center. “State Farm has long supported efforts to improve private passenger/commercial transportation safety and vehicle/roadway technology and design. The Transform 285/400 improvement project is an important step in the right direction.”

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