



MEMORANDUM

TO: 78 CID Board of Directors
CC: C. Fox, Administrator
FROM: Brett Harrell, Executive Director
DATE: March 23, 2005

RE: Monthly Report

Administration

During March, I attended events at the Snellville Commerce Club, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Forum, Georgia General Assembly, and visited with CID property owners and businesses among others. I met with representatives from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Downtown Development; Gwinnett County Planning Director Steve Logan; various consultants from firms including GS&P, PBS&J, TransCore, NET, and Street Smarts; and traveled to Washington, D.C. with the Gwinnett Chamber fly-in. In D.C., I met with Senators Chambliss and Isakson and Congressmen Linder and Scott. Additionally, I met with Transportation Aides in Congressman Westmoreland, Price, Gingrey, and Marshall's offices and I left information with the offices of Congressmen Lewis, Deal, Norwood, Barrow, and McKinney. Caron and I also participated in providing Hwy 78 CID displays at the Button Bash and I met with Major Dan Branch, GCPD, Southside Precinct Commander regarding our public safety efforts.

Funding

Property tax revenues are trickling in with 99% of the 2004 billing received – property taxes receivable is \$8,114.61 as of February 28, 2005. Our auditors, Smith and Howard, have completed the FY 2004 year end financial report and will present to the Board on March 23, 2005. The Gwinnett County SPLOST Committee will meet again on March 24, 2005 and discuss school safety projects.

H.R. 3 – TEA-LU passed overwhelmingly in the U.S. House including a \$7 million earmark for U.S. 78 provided by Congressman Linder and Congressman Scott. The U.S. Senate began deliberations on SAFETEA on March 17th; Senator Isakson serves on the Environment and Public Works Committee that is hearing the highway reauthorization bill. The House Appropriations Committee received testimony from Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta on March 18th and will hear from the FHA on April 6, 2005.

Projects Underway

During March, we advanced the following projects:

- Wentz-Reeves IPA: Zeus Management/LAI Engineering – received 90% plans
- Corridor LCI Study: Issued RFP for consultant services March 18, 2005
- Landscape Master Plan: PBS&J – for Board approval March 23, 2005
- ITS / ATMS – Received three proposals and presentations from PBS&J, GS&P, and NET – Georgia DOT requests an opportunity to review and comment
- Paxton Lane: GDOT confirmed connection with Jessica Darron Court
- URS Driveway Evaluation: Received communication that URS will complete report and forward this week – project authorized May 2004.

Potential Projects

During March, the following potential projects received attention:

- Niknafs IPA: Pending Agreement from legal counsel.
- PPAC Study: Proposed timeline presented to Board March 23rd.
- Board Election: Drafted legal ad to begin running March 31, 2005
- Restaurant Row IPA: Attended Nob Hill HOA meeting with over 100 in attendance and provided additional information to several homeowners subsequent to the meeting.

CID Alliance

After several weeks in hibernation, the CID Alliance supported legislation exempting Interstate Highways from the Congressional Balancing formula received attention in a modified form. Back to back Transportation Committee meeting at the General Assembly on Monday, March 21 appears to have the legislation back on track.

Key Contacts

In addition to numerous property and business owners, our office had contact with the following and/or their representatives during March: numerous members of our U.S. Senate and Congressional delegation; Governor Perdue; Charles Bannister, Chairman; Mike Beaudreau, District 3 Commissioner; Lorraine Green, District 1 Commissioner; and Mayor Oberholtzer among others. I have also sent correspondence to numerous elected officials and staff that our office has had contact with over the past 30 days.

Public Relations

During March, the Hwy 78 CID received positive PR in the following publications and venues: Atlanta Journal Constitution, Gwinnett Daily Post, and Gwinnett Business Journal. The Hwy 78 CID was well represented to the more than 1,000 attendees of the Button Bash and the City of Snellville recently included a link to the CID under the heading – “Our Proud Partners” on the city website. Caron mailed our March newsletter to property owners on or about March 4th. We provided information regarding our projects on CD during March to GDOT, GwDOT, Gwinnett Planning, and the City of Snellville.

Advocacy

On behalf of our constituents, the Hwy 78 CID supported various measures regarding median openings, turning radii, signage, easements, and sidewalks with representatives in Congress, Gwinnett County, and Georgia DOT. Our organization continues to have great success gaining adjustments and improvements for the benefit of our members.

Cash Flow

With numerous pending and potential projects identified, it will become increasingly important to carefully monitor the CID's cash flow position. The Board will likely need to make additional prioritization decisions in the near future regarding issues such as our Landscape Plan, ITS, Inter-Parcel Access, and others. Although we have clearly identified and will indeed receive funding through sources such as the federal highway bill, ARC LCI program and Gwinnett County SPLOST, the timing of receipt of those funds remains unclear.

Economic Development

Our office fielded numerous calls and assisted the City of Snellville and several property owners with development issues. Several pending projects along the corridor include the sale of 13 acres by the City of Snellville, the location of a Northern Tool facility in a currently vacant building, the start of interior finish work by O'Reilly Auto Parts in another vacant building, and preliminary site selection for an Italian Restaurant. Our office referred several other prospective real estate agents and/or businesses to the property owners or their agents. Additionally, our office has aided a community bank in site selection in the Snellville market area – though outside our taxable district.

Website

The CID website at www.78cid.org continues to average over 1,200 hits per month. The site contains information valuable to our visitors including contacts for elected officials, city and county, as well as information on development regulations, sign ordinance, RFPs, and projects underway.

SPLOST

Caron completed a field review of potential sidewalk projects. That information is before the Board for consideration and will be presented to the CPSC at the appropriate time. Further, I have had discussions with Gwinnett County regarding funding a portion of the PPAC Study from SPLOST Transportation Planning funds.

Membership

I have been in contact with and provided information to a key retail property owner that is considering executing a voluntary consent form joining our tax district.