



Executive Director's Report

October 27, 2011

The TSPLOST Executive Committee has completed a major milestone in their preparation for the vote on July 31, 2012. Recently this group prepared a list of projects from throughout the region. Lead by Mayor Bucky Johnson of Norcross, the committee reached unanimous agreement on the projects. While the CIDs are not permitted to make statements regard support for the project, we are allowed to assist in the educational portion of the overall program.

Senator Saxby Chambliss, at a recent luncheon meeting, says that everyone needs to be committed to educating their friends and neighbors about the impact of the TSPLOST vote. He further stated the importance of transportation to the region that would spur economic growth.

While the education SPLOST (**ESPLOST**) is more imminent, the county's voters will have an opportunity to decide this issue as well. Gwinnett County has long been recognized for the quality of its school system. After having met with the School Superintendent, Alvin Wilbanks, the importance of educating the public about the ESPLOST is critical to our area as well as the remainder of the county. This ESPLOST is a continuation of an existing ESPLOST and not an addition one.

The System is currently considering a new focus on the **Shiloh Cluster**. The focus and new direction for the schools is currently under consideration, with specialized teaching and education under special consideration. This improvement would be significant to the Evermore CID area.

Status of McGee/Cambridge Realignment

This project has been completed. There will a final inspection within the next two weeks and will involve GDOT, GWDOT and the contractor. According to Lewis Cooksey there will only be a very limited punch list except for the grass. Once the project has been closed out, we will be notified of the exact cost and savings, if any exists.

Rockbridge to Davis:

Lewis Cooksey GwDOT, Neil Kantner, GDOT and I finalized the process for moving this project into the Long Range TIP. The 2017 ROW and 2018 CST will remain in the TIP. By this action the funds are protected in case the project goes forward or there is need to reprogram the funding to another project. (See **Attachment A**)

Update Hewatt Road to Britt Drive

On October 3rd the final PHOH meeting was held at Evermore CID. This meeting lasted approximately 2 hours. GS&P introduced the Sound Barrier Wall material and explained the product's unique properties. The residual group will select a design or color palette that would be suitable for the property owners. There was discussion about the actual road alignment and use of the easement for each property owner.

On October 18th, the actual location was staked out to demonstrate where the wall would be located. This survey was also requested by the home owners. This staking process was completed on October 19, 2011.

The homeowners also requested that the sidewalk be deleted or moved to the south side of the ROW. GS&P has adjusted their drawings that moves the sidewalks to the south side of the ROW as requested.

Lewis Cooksey GwDOT, Neil Kantner GDOT and I met to discuss the realistic timelines for the Hewatt to Britt Connector Street project. This meeting occurred on September 30th. As a result of this meeting, the TIP has been revised to satisfy these changes. (See **Attachment B**, Project Schedule) In this attachment you will note that ROW acquisition has been moved to FY-13 from FY-12. Subsequent components have been adjusted as well.

At the request of Neil Kantner, GS&P has prepared a revised cost estimate of the Hewatt to Britt Project. This project has been adjusted downward to \$7,346,726 from \$8,187,041. We have also moved the CID's portion to a "contingency" section of the CAP program. (See **Attachment C**). The primary reason for the reduction is reduction in ROW and construction cost.

A discussion with Floyd Williams, GDOT ROW Acquisition Engineer was held on October 17th. The purpose of this discussion was the explore ROW acquisition requirements and options available to the CID.

Update of the efforts of GDOT on Final Punch List including Landscaping:

We received an email from Harold Mull, District Engineer with GDOT which outlined a course of action and timelines for the completion of the landscape installation. The landscape corrective action is currently underway and continues as of this writing. We have received a request to notify him of any other deficiencies noted by the CID.

Transportation SPLOST:

In our October meeting, we have two members of the MAVEN group to discuss the approach to educating the public on the need for the T-SPLOST. The board will be asked to contribute to the education aspect of the program. With the decision on projects behind the Executive Committee, a most comprehensive understanding of the total projects cost and locations will be available.

Landscape Improvements:

On October 14th the Chairman, Vice Chairman and I met with John Anderson to discuss his design and estimated cost to complete the project. He will make a presentation to the Board on October 27th at its regular Board Meeting.

SRTA Grant Update:

A draft of the SRTA Grant should be submitted to the CID by October 28, 2011. Once the review of the request and grant document is completed, the grant will be forwarded to SRTA for their review and consideration. The grant request is for \$600,000 to assist in funding the Walton Court/Old US-78 realignment project. The current funding commitment of local CID funds is \$971,872, plus \$144,375 Gwinnett SPLOST designated for Evermore CID projects. The total cost of this realignment is \$1,455,815.

Old US-78 to Highpoint to Britt Concept:

We are developing a concept plan for a parallel road project that would complete a section of the parallel road access for the Old US-78 corridor. Once this drawing is completed, a copy will be forwarded to members of the Board of Directors for the CID. A decision will then be required as to whether the CID Board wishes to proceed.

Project Status Report for Walton Court and Old US78 at US78/SR10:

The following comments are from Kimley-Horn. We have a display of the road alignment for the Board's review and comment. Please note the western most terminal point on this project.

- Preliminary plans are complete, a preliminary field plan review (PFPR) has been held and the comments from that meeting have been addressed.

- Right of way plans were submitted to both GDOT and Gwinnett County for review. Minor comments have been received for both parties and the comments are being addressed by Kimley-Horn.
- The Location and Design Report has been submitted to GDOT and is expected to be approved soon. Approval of the L&D is required prior to re-submitting the right of way plans.
- Final plans are more than 50% complete and will be finished during the right of way acquisition process.

Yellow River Greenway Project:

We have met with Phil Hoskins to discuss the Yellow River Greenway project. We are currently reviewing grant opportunities. The County would be interested in developing a partnership to conduct a feasibility study on this project. While there has been some grant requests in the past, a comprehensive study would help move the project forward. We are also researching the possibility of a donated land adjacent to the greenway. (See **Attachment D**)

General Comments:

LA Fitness will be coming to the Mountain East Shopping Center. Peter Cullen, site developer, was at Evermore to report the final steps for the permitting process were underway. This process should be completed within 60 days. Construction will take approximately seven months for a full demolition of the center section (old Kroger building). The new building will follow the two story with large atrium on the second story, design of LA Fitness buildings. He expects the facility to open late 2012. The CID will assist the project any way possible and work to improve pedestrian access with the funds available through the 2009 SPLOST sidewalk funding.

Discussions are underway to determine whether high mast light would improve the interchange at West Park Place@US-78. Charles Bailey, Traffic Engineering and Planning Director/Gwinnett County DOT is researching the concept and will provide the Director of GwDOT and the CID an assessment of the lighting needs at this intersection.

In an ARC meeting on October 7, 2011, we were told Saf-T-Lu will be funded through March 2012. Congress has under consideration alternative funding sources for transportation. These sources will involve issues of allowing drilling for oil on Federal land, permits for exploration in off shore operations as well as fees systems for users of other natural or man-made resources. (See **Attachment E**)

This approach is a significant change from the previous funding sources of Federal Highway Funding. This change will impact future funding of transportation projects for the foreseeable future.