



City of Douglasville Transportation Plan Supplement to Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Prepared for:



Prepared by:

JACOBS™

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City of Douglasville Transportation Plan Supplement to Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

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1. Introduction and Background

The Town of Douglasville was established by the Georgia General Assembly on February 25, 1875 and the Georgia Western Railroad was used to define the original town boundaries. The Town has expanded considerably in the past 133 years, resulting in diverse and thriving residential neighborhoods with a strong business community with the historic downtown at its heart.

Today, transportation provides one of the great benefits to life in Douglasville, with I-20 providing a direct link to Atlanta and an effective road network connecting all parts of the City and connecting the City to surrounding communities. Planning for future growth in the City and surrounding areas is key to preserving the high quality of life that is presently enjoyed by residents.

In recent years, growth in traffic has strained the limits of the roadway network in downtown Douglasville and along several important roadway corridors. In addition, commercial activity areas along Hospital Drive, Bill Arp Road, and Douglas Boulevard (including the Arbor Place Mall) have created new centers of commerce with their own transportation challenges.

Purpose of Douglasville Transportation Plan

The purpose of the Douglasville Transportation Plan is to improve the ability for residents of Douglasville and surrounding Douglas County to move within, to/from, and through the City of Douglasville. This plan provides improvements geared towards efficient utilization of existing infrastructure and addition of infrastructure necessary to reduce traffic congestion and provide mobility for all users. The City of Douglasville transportation plan addresses various modes of transportation, including: automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. The plan supports City goals to provide a high quality of life and an atmosphere supportive of families and quality businesses.

Relationship to Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Douglas County has prepared a Comprehensive Transportation Plan using the process defined by the Atlanta Regional Commission to identify regional and county mobility issues and define solutions. This plan includes incorporated and unincorporated Douglas County. The plan provides programs and project recommendations for further development and funding that address traffic flow through, to/from, and within Douglas County. The City of Douglasville was involved in meetings to provide input on plan goals and objectives, as well as to discuss transportation needs and potential solutions. The City and County are in agreement on the plan goals and objectives.

The City has some additional projects that it deems important to provide connectivity within the City that are at a more detailed level than was explored in the Countywide Plan. This supplemental plan provides a list that identifies these projects and provides prioritization of City projects. In addition, the plan identifies a series of projects related to SR 5 and Bright Star Road near I-20 that warrant further study prior to defining a specific project(s) in that area. The City of Douglasville Transportation Plan is provided as a supplement to the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, providing details related to key transportation challenges and recommended projects to address those challenges. Several resolutions were passed by the Douglasville City Council addressing coordination between the City and County Plans (see Appendix A).



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Previous Studies Performed by the City of Douglasville

The Douglasville Transportation Plan provides information on transportation needs, key challenges, and recommended transportation projects based on analysis and project development work that has occurred in the City over the past ten years. The recommended projects were analyzed, evaluated, and discussed with the community as a part of the documented transportation planning efforts that have taken place since 1998. Transportation planning efforts used as reference materials for compiling the current City of Douglasville Transportation Plan recommendations are indicated below and grouped into Transportation Planning, Livable Centers Initiative, and Corridor/Subarea Evaluation.

Transportation Planning

The following references provide information regarding potential improvements based on a citywide assessment of transportation needs:

- City of Douglasville Transportation Study, 2000
- Downtown Douglasville Transportation Study, 1998

Livable Centers Initiative

The City of Douglasville Livable Centers Initiative Study, 2001, provides information on land use and transportation changes to create a livable center in downtown Douglasville. Transportation related recommendations include:

- Supporting regional commuter rail initiatives and providing a station in Downtown Douglasville
- Providing a shuttle bus to support the commuter rail and downtown redevelopment
- Improving the safety of pedestrian crossings of the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks and implementing a grade separated pedestrian crossing in downtown Douglasville
- Providing access management along key corridors and converting streets near the courthouse to two-way operation

Corridor/Subarea Evaluation

The City of Douglasville has prepared several corridor studies and subarea evaluations which have provided more specific guidance regarding congested with high growth areas, including:

- SR 92 Concept Report and Environmental Assessment, draft, 2008
- SR 6 Corridor Study (Draft), 2007
- Prestley Mill Road Corridor Study, 2006
- Chapel Hill Road and Stewart Mill Road Corridor Study, 2005
- Broad Street Downtown Traffic Analysis, 2001
- Arbor Place Mall Transportation Study, 1998



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2. Transportation Needs in Douglasville and Surrounding Douglas County

The Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan is based on an assessment of transportation needs for the entire County, including the City of Douglasville. The previous corridor studies and subarea evaluations performed by the City identified in the preceding section provide additional detail regarding transportation needs in the City. The primary transportation needs in the City of Douglasville are indicated below.

Roadway Safety and Capacity

Providing effective roadway transportation is important for a successful transportation system, particularly in areas heavily dependent on automobile travel. A summary of the primary roadway safety and capacity needs is provided below.

- Provide roadway capacity for movement of traffic along SR 92 corridor around downtown Douglasville
- Grade separate major north-south travel routes and the Norfolk Southern Railroad
- Provide effective travel routes to/from the Arbor Place Mall activity area
- Provide for effective movement to/from I-20 along Chapel Hill Road and Bill Arp Road (SR 5)
- Provide well marked signalized pedestrian crossings at signalized intersections
- Provide roadway infrastructure to allow effective through traffic flow along major mobility corridors
- Provide roadway connections and access management to reduce traffic loads along major corridors
- Provide intersection operations and corridor signal timing to reduce congestion and enhance safety

Pedestrian and Bicycle

A complete pedestrian network is necessary to provide connections for those who choose to leave their automobiles at home. This includes travelers for work, school, shopping, and recreational trips. A summary of the primary pedestrian and bicycle needs is provided below.

- Provide sidewalks and bicycle facilities for effective access to transit and public facilities
- Link local sidewalk and multiuse trail needs to County and regional Needs through City Pedestrian and Bikeway Plan
- Provide pedestrian access across Norfolk Southern railroad
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle routes for travel to schools, libraries, and parks



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Transit and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes

Making effective use of transit and HOV opportunities increases transportation mode choice options. Reliance on alternative travel modes is important, as future year travel demands are anticipated to exceed those that can be readily accommodated on the roadway network. A summary of the primary transit and HOV needs in the City is provided below.

- Provide an effective commuter transit program in Douglasville:
 - Regional efforts to provide commuter rail service to downtown Douglasville
 - GRTA Express bus routes
- Provide programs and incentives for use of HOV vehicles:
 - Regional efforts to provide HOV lanes along I-20 , reducing travel times for carpools to from Atlanta
 - Carpool matching services and coordination with business owners to encourage employer base programs

These transportation related needs are consistent with the results of the evaluation of existing and future transportation conditions developed as a part of the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.



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3. Key Challenges

Transportation needs were identified through past studies of current and future conditions within the City of Douglasville, as well as the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Evaluation of these needs suggest areas where improvements are necessary to provide transportation that is free of congestion and supportive of transportation goals and objectives. A summary of key transportation challenges is provided in the paragraphs below.

Enhancing Safety

Providing safe transportation facilities is important to reduce the toll of crash related injuries, fatalities, and property damage. Two key areas in which improvements can provide effective safety improvements include:

- **SR 92 Railroad Grade Separation** – The project to provide a grade separation for traffic traveling along SR 92 was developed long ago as a safety related project. Over the past ten years it has increased in scope from a safety related grade separation to a regional capacity project including improvement of SR 92 in Douglasville, Douglas County, and Paulding County. Ensuring this project moves forward to provide the needed capacity and railroad crossing safety is an important challenge being faced by the City of Douglasville.
- **Congestion Reduction Along Well Traveled Roads** – As roads become more congested, a combination of conditions are present that increase the likelihood of a crash. First, additional throughput along a corridor increases the number of vehicle miles of travel. Thus, the number of crashes related to typical interaction between vehicles increases along the corridor. Second, increased congestion allows less room for lane changing and reacting to potential problem situations. Third, traffic congestion and delay can result in people taking additional risks they would not otherwise take, potentially contributing to higher crash rates.

Providing Mobility while Retaining Quality of Life in Downtown Douglasville

Downtown Douglasville is the heart of the community and efforts to provide additional roadway capacity in this area must be sensitive to their impact on Downtown Businesses and the intrinsic qualities of the historic district. The key to maintaining the high quality of life within this area is by managing the volume of traffic that must use the downtown streets. The recommended SR 92 improvements and western bypass split the traffic currently traveling through the SR 92 corridor reducing travel through downtown Douglasville.

- **SR 92 Improvements** - The ability to travel within and through Douglasville without incurring major delays is important throughout the City. However, the SR 92 corridor stands out above others in the City in regards to the importance of providing capacity while supporting a pedestrian oriented Downtown. This need led to the relocation alignments proposed for the SR 92 Realignment and the sensitivity to the surrounding neighborhoods that has been incorporated in conceptual design work to date.



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- **Western Bypass/Connector Road** – As a corollary to the SR 92 widening in Douglasville, the need for additional travel capacity west of downtown has been identified to facilitate travel from southern Paulding County to I-20 and the Arbor Place Mall area. The need for this connection was identified in the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The solution in the County plan is a major mobility corridor along Dorris Road connecting to Bright Star Road. This provides many of the benefits of the Western Bypass route identified by the City. However, the Western Bypass provides additional connectivity between the SR 92 corridor and the County proposed Dorris Road corridor.
- **Livable Center Initiative** – The Livable Center initiative study provides a vision of what downtown Douglasville can be, as well as a plan on how to get there. This study provided a vision of the future of Douglasville with implementation of commuter rail service and pedestrian improvements to promote walking in downtown.

Providing Effective Access to Arbor Place Mall Area

The Arbor Place Mall area is an important employment center and a cornerstone of retail activity in Douglasville and Douglas County. Since the Mall development ten years ago, additional retail development has occurred along Douglas Boulevard, Bill Arp Road (SR 5), and Chapel Hill Road. This center of activity has brought with it heavy volumes of traffic, particularly during the PM peak hour and on Saturdays. The Mall is served directly by Douglas Boulevard which extends east and west to Chapel Hill Road and Bill Arp Road (SR 5) and beyond. In addition to serving traffic to/from Arbor Place Mall, these roads are important through routes connecting residential communities to the north and south with I-20.

In order to keep these arterials flowing to serve through traffic and Mall-bound traffic alike requires a multi-tiered approach. Intersections must be operating at peak efficiency in terms of signal timing and lane allocation to make the most of the existing infrastructure. Roadway capacity is needed that matches the travel demand and growth to ensure the delays are minimized. Traffic traveling between I-20 and Arbor Place Mall is balanced between the Chapel Hill Road and SR 5 interchanges. If traffic delays increase significantly at one interchange, significant traffic volumes could shift to the other corridor for Mall access and increase delays along that route, as well. Therefore, maintaining the ability of both these corridors to access I-20 without severe delays is important to prevent overloading one of the corridors. Planned improvements along SR 5, Chapel Hill Road, and Douglas Boulevard will help provide effective access to the Arbor Place Mall area, as well as allowing for arterial through traffic.

- **Bill Arp Road (SR 5) Widening from Kings Highway to I-20** – This project will provide additional capacity along Bill Arp Road (SR 5) connecting the I-20 interchange which is scheduled for reconstruction as a part of the I-20 HOV project.
- **Chapel Hill Road Improvements from Douglas Boulevard to Central Church Road** – This project will provide more efficient utilization of the existing roadway through signal system improvements from Douglas Boulevard to Central Church Road with widening from Stewarts Mill Road to Central Church Road.



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- **Douglas Boulevard Extension** - This project will extend Douglas Boulevard East from Prestley Mill Road to Midway Road and west from Bright Star Road to Post Road. These extensions of Douglas Boulevard will provide additional east-west connections to arterials parallel to Bill Arp Road (SR 5) and Chapel Hill Road. This will result in fewer vehicles needing to use the congested I-20 interchanges at Bill Arp Road (SR 5) and Chapel Hill Road for access to Arbor Place Mall.

Providing Alternatives to Single Occupant Automobile Traffic

Travel via automobile is the most prevalent form of travel in Douglasville and Douglas County. The land use patterns, development density, and proximity of housing and employment contribute to the high proportion of travel made by automobile. Efforts such as the Downtown Douglasville Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) examine the potential for trip reduction through land use modifications and development of alternative travel modes. Implementation of recommendations contained within that study can help reduce the impact and reliance on single occupant automobiles as a primary travel mode.

In addition to land use modifications, proactively providing alternative mode travel options can reduce the reliance on single occupant automobile travel. Several travel modes (indicated below) are incorporated in regional and local planning efforts. Securing funding for and implementing these transportation systems is a key challenge to be addressed by the City of Douglasville and Douglas County.

- **Express Bus** - GRTA currently operates express busses traveling from Arbor Place Mall to Downtown Atlanta (route 460) and Midtown (route 461). Both routes stop at the Douglas County Multimodal Transportation Center, a 500 space park-and-ride facility located along Dorris Road.
- **HOV System** - GDOTs HOV system plan includes extension of HOV lanes into Douglas County to Bright Star Road. This will be combined with the addition of HOV only interchanges at the Douglas County Multimodal Center (Timber Ridge Road) and Bright Star Road. The HOV system will connect the County Multimodal Center to Timber Ridge Road. These improvements are included in the ARC RTP for year 2020 implementation.
- **Commuter Rail** - Commuter rail extending from Atlanta west through Douglasville is included in the Transit Planning Board's Concept 3 plan (adopted August 2008), which is being included in the update to ARC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Implementation of a commuter rail station in Downtown Douglasville will reestablish the rail history of downtown. The associated ease of access to Atlanta afforded by the commuter rail is likely to encourage transit oriented development, as is indicated in the *City of Douglasville Livable Centers Initiative*.
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle improvements** - The City of Douglasville is a strong proponent of walking and bicycling as an alternative form of transportation. In an effort to provide an effective and connected pedestrian and bicycle network, the City has worked with Douglas County to develop a sidewalk/bicycle multiuse path plan. This plan shows future sidewalk and bicycle path locations. A key challenge to implementing pedestrian and bicycle improvements is securing funding from sources outside the City.



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4. Projects Recommended by City of Douglasville

The City of Douglasville is committed to meeting the transportation challenges of the future to provide an effective multimodal transportation system for use by its residents and those traveling through the City. The Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan addresses needs on a Countywide basis. Many of the recommendations provided in the plan also address specific transportation issues for the City of Douglasville. However, the City has some additional projects that are important to provide connectivity within the City that are at a more detailed level than was explored in the Countywide Plan. The sections below provide a list of all City recommended projects, listed in order of priority to the City. In addition, projects not included in the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan are highlighted. Also included is a discussion of the City's recommendation for further study prior to redesignation of the SR 5 corridor or modification of the I-20 at Bill Arp Road (SR 5) freeway access.

Description of City Recommended Projects and Implementation Priorities

The City of Douglasville has worked for several years, across a variety of Citywide and corridor specific studies, to develop a list of projects that will provide effective improvements to the roadway network, facilitating traffic movement. These projects are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 in order of priority for implementation. As this table and figure show, many of the projects are included in the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. In addition, to the roadway projects indicated in Figure 1, the City has recommended a variety of sidewalks and bicycle paths, as shown in Figure 2. The City also supports regional initiatives to provide express bus service from the Arbor Place Mall and the Douglas County Multimodal Transportation Center to Atlanta. In addition, the City supports the regionally recommended commuter rail to serve Downtown Douglasville and other locations in Douglas County, as included in the Transit Planning Board's adopted Concept 3 Plan.

City Projects Not Included in Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

The Douglas County Comprehensive Plan includes eighteen of the twenty-four City projects, including the top twelve City priority projects. However, the five projects indicated below are important to providing roadway connectivity in the City, reducing traffic volumes on congested County and regional roads.

- Western Bypass/Connector from SR 92 to Bright Star Road (priority 13) - This project provides a direct connection from SR 92 to Bright Star Road via Cave Springs Road, Dorris Road, and South Flat Rock Road with a grade separated crossing of the Norfolk Southern railroad and US 78. The original alignment, along North Flat Rock Road was modified to allow this to serve as a connector between the north-south major mobility corridor along Dorris Road to Bright Star Road and the SR 92 corridor. This connection would facilitate movement between these corridors reducing the need for east-west connections to occur through downtown Douglasville.



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- Arbor Place Mall Connector to Heritage Valley Drive and Elizabeth Drive (priority 15) – These improvements will create a direct connection between the Arbor Place Mall and Stewarts Mill Road corridor. This project is intended as a future initiative to be performed in conjunction with redevelopment, as the alignment would currently impact residential neighborhoods south of the Mall.
- Douglas Boulevard East Extension from Prestley Mill Road to Midway Road (priority 21) - This connection will provide a direct route from Arbor Place Mall to the SR 92 and Midway Road/South Burnt Hickory Road corridors. This will result in fewer vehicles needing to use the congested I-20 interchanges at Chapel Hill Road and Bill Arp Road (SR 5) for access to the Arbor Place Mall activity area.
- Douglas Boulevard West Extension to Post Road (priority 22) - This connection will provide a direct route from Arbor Place Mall to the Post Road corridor. This will result in fewer vehicles needing to use the congested I-20 interchanges at Chapel Hill Road and Bill Arp Road (SR 5) for access to the Arbor Place Mall activity area.
- Arbor Place Mall Ring Road Improvements (priority 23) – These improvements consist of intersection and operational improvements on private property to be coordinated with the Arbor Place Mall.

Additional Study of SR 5 / Arbor Place Mall Area Freeway Access

An additional project included in the City of Douglasville Transportation Plan, but not included in the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan is the widening of Bill Arp Road (SR 5) from Kings Highway to I-20. This project will provide needed relief to congestion along this important corridor, allowing Bill Arp Road (SR 5) to continue serving traffic traveling through Douglasville/Douglas County along SR 5, as well as to/from neighborhoods south of the Arbor Place Mall area.

The Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan had instead proposed the following modifications:

- Re-designating Post Road as SR 5, with Bill Arp Road being removed from the state route system or designated as SR 5 Business
- Switching Planned I-20 HOV only access from Bright Start Road to Bill Arp Road
- Moving SOV access from Bill Arp Road to Bright Star Road

This would leave Bill Arp Road as a business route or County/City road with HOV only access to I-20. Post Road would gain the SR 5 route designation. These improvements are intended to shift traffic from the Bill Arp Road corridor to the Post Road and Bright Star corridors. The City is concerned that the shifts may have following potential impacts:

- Increased traffic along Post Road and Bright Star Road corridors
- Increased surface street travel time and delay for traffic to access the Arbor Place Mall area to/from the west



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- Increased congestion at the I-20 at Chapel Hill Road interchange, as some traffic shifts from the Bill Arp Road at I-20 interchange
- Continued need to widen Bill Arp Road as traffic from communities to the south continues to use the corridor.
- Disruption to businesses in the Arbor Place Mall activity center as additional time is needed to access the area.

The concerns above should be considered in a direct and deliberate manner prior to discussions of project programming and funding with ARC or GDOT. Therefore, the City of Douglasville recommends that in place of a series of specific projects along the SR 5 corridor, a more detailed study to consider the factors indicated above be identified as a plan recommendation.

Results of City of Douglasville Public Meeting

The projects recommended by the City of Douglasville for inclusion in the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan were presented to the public in a meeting held on November 6, 2008. This meeting included a presentation of City recommendations with information on areas of agreement and difference between the City recommended projects and those identified in the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. This was followed by a public comment period and an open house session, allowing participants to discuss project recommendations one-on-one with City and County staff. Nineteen participants were recorded on the public meeting sign-in sheet in addition to City and County staff. These participants provided comments that included concerns regarding the conversion of the I-20 at Bill Arp Road interchange to HOV only use. In addition to comments expressed during the meeting, a comment form was distributed to all attendees and one form has been returned with comments. These comments expressed the need for projects to be selected based on an unbiased prioritization, rather than political reasons. They suggested that development should not be allowed unless the infrastructure needed to support the development is planned or constructed. They also indicated that an HOV system, preferably with HOT lanes, should be implemented along I-20 prior to converting interchanges, such as Bill Arp Road, to HOV only.



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**Table 1
City of Douglasville
Roadway/Intersection Transportation Project List by Priority**

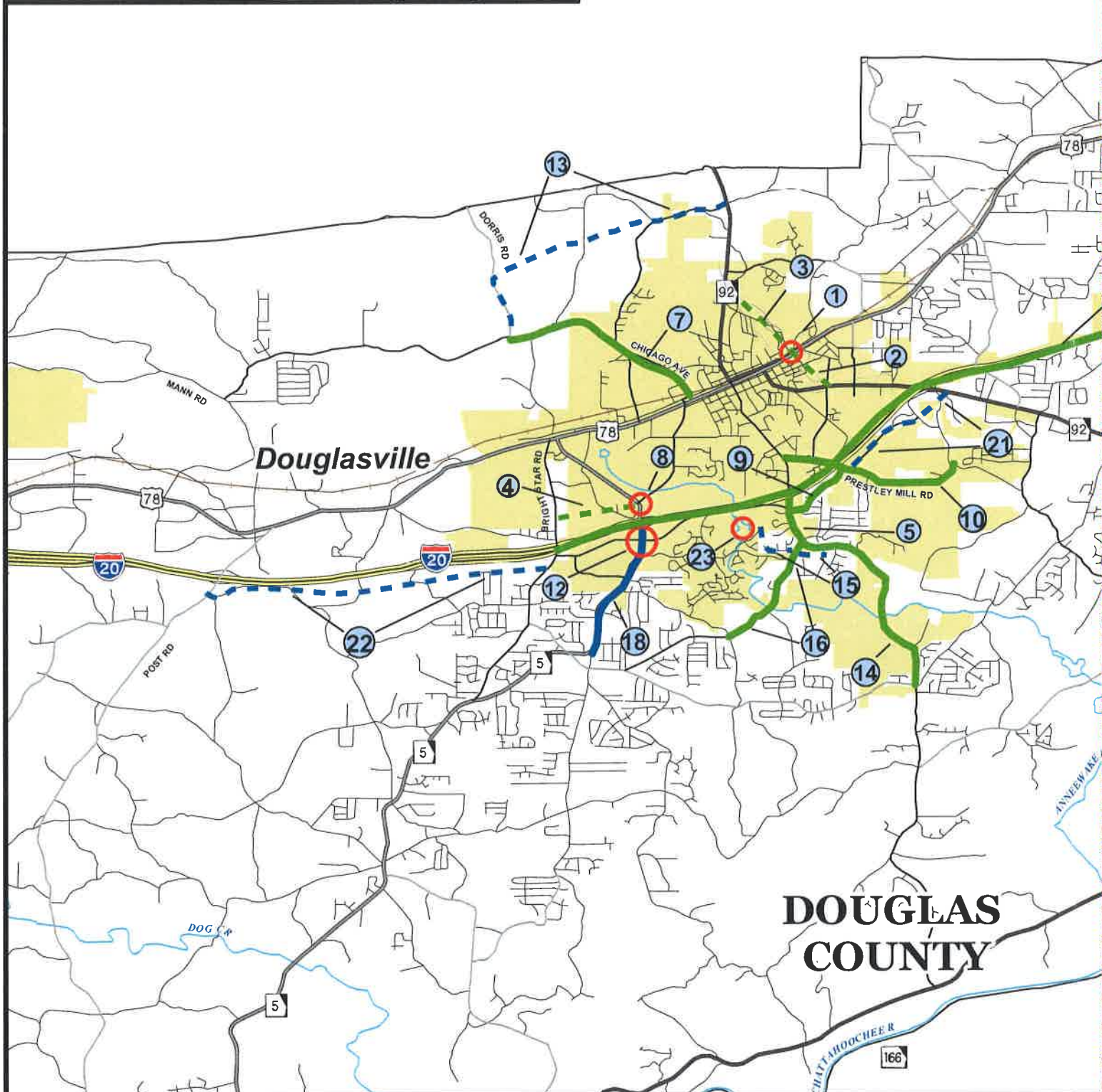
Priority	Project	Type	Existing Lanes	Planned Lanes	Included in Douglas County CTP
1	SR 92 Realignment Phase 1 - Construct bridge under US 78 and Railroad	RR Grade Separation	0	6	Yes
2	SR 92 Realignment Phase 2 - Construct new road from Fairburn Road to US 78	Roadway Capacity	0	6	Yes
3	SR 92 Realignment Phase 3 - Construct new road from US 78 to Dallas Hwy.	Roadway Capacity	0	6	Yes
4	Bright Star Road Connector from Bright Star Road to Bill Arp Road (SR 5)	Roadway Capacity	0	2	Yes - As Committed Project
5	Operational Improvements along Chapel Hill Road from Douglas Blvd. to Central Church Road	Roadway Capacity	2/4	4	Yes
6	Widen Riverside Parkway from Sweetwater Creek to Thornton Road (SR6)	Roadway Capacity	2	4	Yes
7	Widen Chicago Ave. from Cedar Mountain Rd to West Strickland St	Roadway Capacity	2	4	Yes, but not as widening
8	Intersection Alignment SR 5 @ Rose Avenue	Modify Intersection	4	4	Yes
9	Widen Timber Ridge Road from Prestley Mill Road to Chapel Hill Road	Roadway Capacity	2	4	Yes
10	Widen Prestley Mill Road from Campbellton Street to Slater Mill Road	Roadway Capacity	2	3	Yes
11	I-20 HOV Lanes from Thornton Road (SR 6) to Bright Star Road	Freeway HOV	6	8	Yes
12	Improve intersection of Bill Arp Road (SR 5) at Douglas Blvd.	Modify Intersection	4	4	Yes
13	Western Bypass from Dallas Hwy. (SR 92) to Cave Springs Rd to N Flat Rock Rd to S Flat Rock Rd to Bright Star Road	Roadway Capacity	0/2	3	No
14	Widen Chapel Hill Road from Stewarts Mill Road to Central Church Road	Roadway Capacity	2	4	Yes
15	Arbor Place Mall Connector from Mall Ring Road to Heritage Valley Drive to Stewart Mill Road to Elizabeth Drive	Roadway Capacity	0/2	2	No
16	Widen Stewarts Mill Road from Chapel Hill Road to West Stewarts Mill Road	Roadway Capacity	2	4	Yes
17	Improve intersection of Maxham Road at Thornton Road	Modify Intersection	6	6	Yes
18	Widen Bill Arp Rd (SR5) from Kings Hwy. to I-20	Roadway Capacity	4	6	No
19	Widen Blairs Bridge Road from Mt. Vernon Road to Thornton Road and new location to North County Line Road	Roadway Capacity	2	3	Yes
20	Widen Riverside Parkway from Fairburn Road (SR92) to Sweetwater Creek	Roadway Capacity	2	4	Yes
21	Douglas Blvd. east extension from Prestley Mill Road to Midway Road	Roadway Capacity	0	2	No
22	Douglas Blvd. west extension from Bright Star Road to Post Road	Roadway Capacity	0	2	No
23	Mall Ring Road improvements	Modify Intersections	3	3	No

Note: The City of Douglasville is also planning for implementation of sidewalk and multi-use path improvements per the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (See Map in Figure 2).



City of Douglasville C

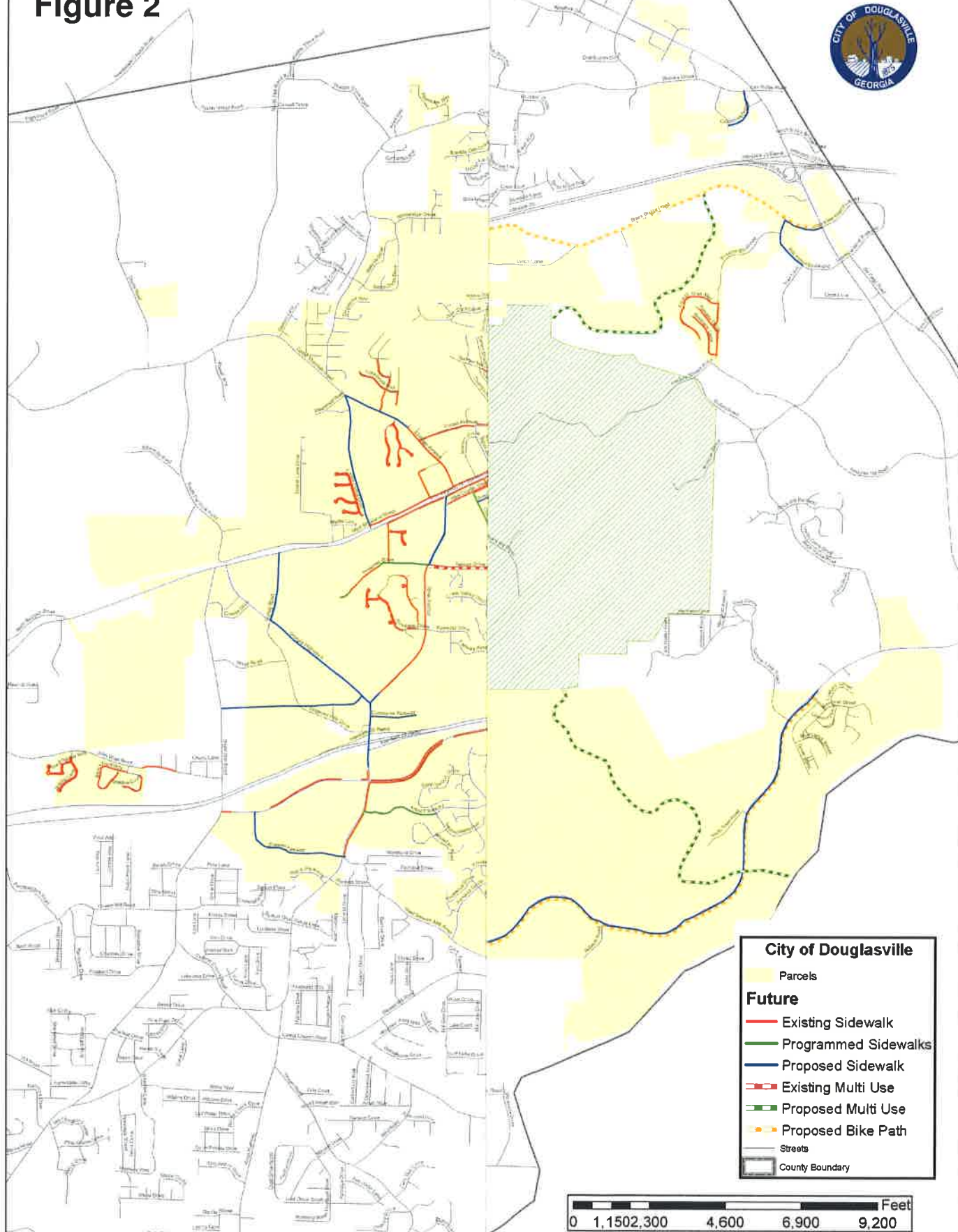
**Figure 1: City of Douglasville
Recommended Roadway Projects**



Sidewalk/Bicycle/Multi-Use

Figure 2

City of
Douglasville



City of Douglasville

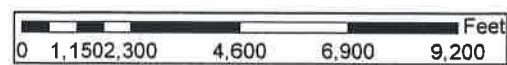
Parcels

Future

- Existing Sidewalk
- Programmed Sidewalks
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Existing Multi Use
- Proposed Multi Use
- Proposed Bike Path

Streets

County Boundary





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APPENDIX A Douglasville City Council Resolutions

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-08-256

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners authorized its Department of Transportation to prepare a comprehensive transportation plan for the purpose of guiding transportation development and operations in Douglas County over the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County officials invited the municipalities of Douglasville, Villa Rica, and Austell to participate in the process of development of a countywide transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Douglasville agreed to participate in this process, while pointing out to the Douglas County government that the Douglasville City Council would be the final authority for making decisions concerning transportation planning, development, and operations within the corporate limits of Douglasville; and

WHEREAS, this City government was represented at various public meetings held as a part of this overall process, with this representation being by elected officials and staff members; and

WHEREAS, the City of Douglasville wants to thank all of the citizens who attended one or more of these public meetings and who participated in the planning process; and

WHEREAS, several City government employees have participated in the staff work group sessions with the consultants hired by the Board of Commissioners to collect information and to prepare a proposed comprehensive transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, in the work group sessions the City representatives provided information on what they considered to be the transportation priorities within the Douglasville city limits; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2008, City staff representatives met with the County's consultants to receive a briefing, to provide comments on the consultants' recommendations, and to be notified of the public hearing being held at the Douglas County Courthouse on June 26, 2008, where the draft plan would be presented; and

WHEREAS, City Manager Bill Osborne reported the next day in a meeting with Mayor Mickey Thompson, County Commission Chairman Tom Worthan, and County Administrator Eric Linton concerning the fact that these recommendations were being presented in a public hearing before they had been presented to and discussed with the local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, no response was received from the Douglas County government and no briefing was provided for Douglasville City Council in advance of that June 26 public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Douglasville was unable in advance of said public hearing to receive from the County DOT a list of the proposed priorities of the proposed transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, City of Douglasville representatives who attended the June 26 public hearing -- including the Mayor and several members of the City Council -- saw for the first time maps which proposed some major changes in the City's transportation system and saw for the first time a priority list of proposed projects which ignored many transportation needs of this municipality; and

WHEREAS, through adoption of this resolution the City Council is expressing its strong opposition to the current priority list of proposed transportation projects, its strong opposition to this elected body not having had the opportunity to be briefed on the consultants' report before the June 26 meeting, and its strong opposition to the overall current plan as it is applicable to the City of Douglasville; and

WHEREAS, it is distressing that even after that June 26 public meeting, it was difficult for this City government to obtain from the Douglas County Department of Transportation a copy of the priority list of projects which had been on display; and

WHEREAS, it is even more distressing that when you examine this list of priority projects, it appears virtually all projects inside the City of Douglasville -- except for some Interstate 20 interchange projects -- have been given a low priority; and

WHEREAS, the list of projects does not include improvements to Chicago Avenue or Prestley Mill Road and does not include the City's proposed western by-pass or any northern arc; and

WHEREAS, without any consultation with the elected officials of the City of Douglasville, recommendations have been made to close the current I-20 - Georgia Highway 5 interchange to all traffic except for HOV vehicles and to shift all other traffic to a new interchange at I-20 and Bright Star Road, as well as to remove the Georgia Highway 5 designation from the current traffic artery (Bill Arp Road) and place it on Post Road without any apparent regard for the damage this would do to Douglasville businesses along this highway; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and members of the City Council, along with our staff, stand ready to work with officials of the Douglas

County government and its consultants to try to modify the current draft plan in such a way that this government could be supportive of the plan and not need to take a position in opposition to it.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglasville that a copy of this resolution be transmitted promptly to each member of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator, the County DOT Director, and the comprehensive plan's consultants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that we request arrangements be made as soon as possible for a presentation to the Mayor and members of the City Council concerning this proposed comprehensive transportation plan, and that this presentation and also a meeting with representatives of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners be held not later than Monday, July 28, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that efforts be made by the City of Douglasville and the Douglas County governments to reach an agreement on a countywide comprehensive transportation plan which can be adopted by both governments and which subsequently can be transmitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that if by 12:00 noon Thursday, July 31, 2008, it does not appear an agreement between these two governments can be reached, the City Manager is hereby directed to place an item on the agenda of the City Council legislative work session of 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31, and the regular voting meeting of the City Council on Monday, August 4, 2008, to provide for a Request for Proposals to be issued to qualified transportation planning firms for the purpose of development of a separate comprehensive transportation plan for the City of Douglasville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that if the City Council on August 4, 2008, votes to proceed with development of a City of Douglasville comprehensive transportation plan, at this same meeting the City Council also will consider adoption of a resolution in opposition to any Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan which includes the City of Douglasville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that a copy of this resolution be transmitted promptly to the mayor and city clerk of the cities of Villa Rica and Austell.

SO RESOLVED this 7th day of July, 2008.

John J. F. [unclear]
Charles [unclear]
Dennis McLean
Ray E. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

Mickey M. Thompson
Mickey Thompson, Mayor

Attest:

Pepe Arnone
City Clerk

DELIVERED TO MAYOR 7-7, 2008 CITY CLERK JS
RECEIVED FROM MAYOR 7-8, 2008 CITY CLERK JS

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-08-291

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Douglasville City Council on July 7, 2008, adopted a resolution setting forth its concerns with how the Douglas County Department of Transportation appeared to be preparing the Comprehensive Transportation Plan to guide transportation development and operations on a countywide basis over the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, in that resolution we said "the Mayor and members of the City Council, along with our staff, stand ready to work with officials of the Douglas County government and its consultants to try to modify the current draft plan in such a way that this government could be supportive of the plan and not need to take a position in opposition to it"; and

WHEREAS, in that resolution we resolved that "if by 12:00 noon Thursday, July 31, 2008, it does not appear an agreement between these two governments can be reached, the City Manager is hereby directed to place an item on the agenda of the City Council legislative work session of 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31, and the regular voting meeting of the City Council on Monday, August 4, 2008, to provide for a Request for Proposals to be issued to qualified transportation planning firms for the purpose of development of a separate Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the City of Douglasville"; and

WHEREAS, as a result of a July 31 meeting between the Mayor and Commission Chairman, as well as three staff-level meetings held during the month of July -- with the results of these meetings being presented on July 31 to the City Council Transportation Committee -- it appears the City's concerns are being addressed, although a final determination can not be made until a draft copy of the plan and a consolidated list of project priorities have been received and analyzed and until subsequent discussions are held between the two governments; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Department of Transportation has assured the City of Douglasville that the list of projects presented at a public hearing on June 26, 2008, has not bearing on the actual prioritization of projects, which is supposed to be received from the County's consultant firm on Monday, August 11; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County DOT and its consultants have received from the City of Douglasville information on City road projects which had not been included in the list presented at the public hearing on June 26; and

WHEREAS, representatives of both governments have agreed to have further discussions after August 11 to seek to resolve any issues identified by either government after a review of the consultant firm's reports, including individual projects and the sub-area studies; and

WHEREAS, this City Council repeats the statement from its July 7 resolution that while the City of Douglasville agreed a number of months ago to participate in this process of developing a plan, we also pointed out to the County government at that time "that the Douglasville City Council would be the final authority for making decisions concerning transportation planning, development, and operations within the corporate limits of Douglasville."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Douglasville Mayor and City Council that we and City government staff members remain involved with the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the Douglas County Department of Transportation in working on development of the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that we request the Douglas County Board of Commissioners to have delivered to the City Manager's Office as soon as possible after Monday, August 11, a copy of the reports to be received from the consultant firm which has been hired by the County to produce the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, so the City government can review and analyze these documents, including the sub-area studies and the consultant firm's prioritized list of projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that, at an appropriate time in August or September, a presentation be made to the Mayor and members of the City Council concerning this proposed plan and a meeting also be held which includes representatives of the Douglasville City Council and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that efforts be made by the City of Douglasville and the Douglas County governments to reach an agreement on a countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan which can be adopted by both governments and which subsequently can be transmitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that no further consideration be given to development of a separate Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the City of Douglasville unless it is determined that an overall countywide plan can not be agreed to by both of these local governments, as well as the City of Villa Rica and the City of Austell.

SO RESOLVED this 4th day of August, 2008.

John A. Schmidt
Charles F. Beale
Dennis McLain
Robert M. Munn
Carl S. Stens
Ty S. W.
Mickey M. Thompson
Mickey Thompson, Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Stone
City Clerk

DELIVERED TO MAYOR 8/4, 2008 CITY CLERK JS
RECEIVED FROM MAYOR 8/6, 2008 CITY CLERK JS

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-08-321

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Douglasville City Council on July 7, 2008, adopted a resolution setting forth its concerns with how the Douglas County Department of Transportation appeared to be preparing the Comprehensive Transportation Plan to guide transportation development and operations on a countywide basis over the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, in that resolution we said "the Mayor and members of the City Council, along with our staff, stand ready to work with officials of the Douglas County government and its consultants to try to modify the current draft plan in such a way that this government could be supportive of the plan and not need to take a position in opposition to it"; and

WHEREAS, in another resolution adopted by this City Council on August 4, 2008, we pledged to continue to work with the County government and its consultants in an effort to develop an objective, fair, and balanced Comprehensive Transportation Plan for all of Douglas County, including the City of Douglasville; and

WHEREAS, to underscore the City's willingness and desire for a sound Comprehensive Transportation Plan to be developed for all of Douglas County, the City Council decided not to terminate these city-county efforts at the end of July or early in this month; and

WHEREAS, in order to have an analysis of the project selection criteria, the priority order of projects, the findings of the sub-area studies, and the other work products of the consultant firm under contract to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners for preparation of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the City Council signed an agreement with the nationally known transportation planning and engineering firm of Jacobs Carter Burgess to conduct these analyses; and

WHEREAS, the analysis work by Jacobs Carter Burgess is underway, using the requested information provided by Douglas County while additional analysis work has been delayed because other requested information has not yet been received; and

WHEREAS, through this resolution the City Council again wants to emphasize the City's approval of and participation in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan now being developed depends on how information to provided Douglas County and its consultants regarding various City projects is considered, with the final decisions being made on an objective basis; and

WHEREAS, based on information provided Jacobs Carter Burgess by the County's consultants, some projects presented by the City of Douglasville are not being considered for inclusion in the plan and some recommendations submitted by this City Council have been rejected without any discussion with this body; and

WHEREAS, in the August 4 resolution adopted by the City Council and presented to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the County Department of Transportation (DOT), we requested that a copy of the sub-area studies of geographic areas located wholly or partly within the City of Douglasville be provided as soon as possible after their receipt by the County from the consultants; and

WHEREAS, although the sub-area studies of our downtown area, the Arbor Place Mall area, and the area including part of the City's Tributary community were received by the County DOT almost two weeks ago, neither the City government nor its consultants has been provided with a copy; and

WHEREAS, at the request of Mayor Mickey Thompson, Commission Chairman Tom Worthan agreed to a meeting, which was held earlier today; and

WHEREAS, at this meeting of these two officials, the Mayor presented the City's concerns to the County Commission Chairman and requested his direct involvement in making sure the City's concerns are addressed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Douglasville Mayor and City Council that we, the appropriate City government staff members, and Jacobs Carter Burgess continue to have contact with the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the County DOT in an effort to develop an objective and fair countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that we request the Douglas County Board of Commissioners to direct the County DOT and the consultant firm of Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc., to provide the information being requested on the City's behalf by Jacobs Carter Burgess in order for this firm to be able to carry out the duties assigned by this body.

SO RESOLVED this 15th day of September, 2008.


John P. Smith
Charlie F. Boush
Dennis McLain

Ray E. Muns
Paul S. Harris
J. S. Muns
Mickey Thompson
Mickey Thompson, Mayor

Attest:

Glepe Stone
City Clerk

Delivered to Mayor 9/15, 2008 City Clerk JS
Received from Mayor 9/16, 2008 City Clerk JS

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-08-351

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, since July 7, 2008, the Douglasville City Council has adopted and transmitted to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and to the Douglas County Department of Transportation three different resolutions pertaining to development and approval of a countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Douglasville recognizes the importance of such a plan, both for local guidance in implementing transportation projects in the future and for use by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in making planning and fund allocation decisions; and

WHEREAS, based on a preliminary review of the draft Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the Douglasville City Council believes many aspects of this plan are worthy of support and can be beneficial in the future for the governments of Douglas County and Douglasville in planning for future transportation projects, with this also being true for those portions of Villa Rica and Austell located within Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, there are some parts of the draft plan with which the Douglasville City Council disagrees and believes these proposed transportation projects need to be considered further by both governments before decisions are made which would have major long-term impacts on one or both governments and their citizens; and

WHEREAS, this City Council supports the continuing work by staff representatives of both governments, as well as our respective transportation planning consultants, to reach a tentative agreement on as much of this plan as possible in order for the two governments' elected officials to make their decisions on the proposed comprehensive plan relatively early in November 2008; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with comments made by a representative of ARC during a recent work session involving the two governments' staff representatives and their consultants, this City Council believes one part of the solution which will enable Douglas County and Douglasville to meet a deadline for a report being made to ARC on November 20, 2008, is for the City of Douglasville to have its own Comprehensive Transportation Plan which would be included as an attachment to the countywide plan; and

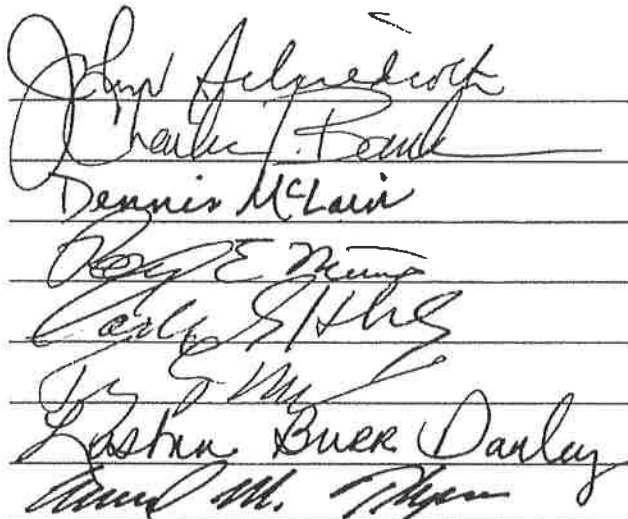
WHEREAS, in order for the City Council and its staff to obtain citizen input on the City's proposed plan and how it would link to the countywide plan, a public hearing needs to be held.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglasville that a public hearing be scheduled on the City's proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan for 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6, 2008, in the City's Downtown Conference Center.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that City residents, property owners, and businesses be encouraged to come to this public hearing to receive information and to make comments and suggestions on the City's draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that the City Manager be directed to take the necessary steps for the City of Douglasville's Comprehensive Transportation Plan to be prepared and submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission so it can be an attachment to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan prepared by Douglas County.

SO RESOLVED this 20th day of October, 2008.


Mickey Thompson, Mayor

Attest:


City Clerk

DELIVERED TO MAYOR 10/20 20 08 CITY CLERK JS
RECEIVED FROM MAYOR 10/20 20 08 CITY CLERK JS

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-08-368

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the Douglas County Department of Transportation are transmitting to the Atlanta Regional Commission a Comprehensive Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Douglasville City Council in general is pleased with and supportive of this countywide plan, and specifically is pleased with and supportive of the plan's stated goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, several City of Douglasville staff members participated in work on these goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, to assist the City in its review of the plan being presented by Douglas County, including an analysis of the basis for project selection and prioritization, the City Council contracted with Jacobs Engineering, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, during the past 4-1/2 months this City Council has adopted four resolutions in which support has been stated regarding the intent of the countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan and in which objections have been stated regarding a relatively few specific projects; and

WHEREAS, copies of each of these resolutions -- dated July 7, August 4, September 15, and October 20 -- were transmitted to the Douglas County Department of Transportation and the members of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, with each expressing a need for these two local governments to try to reach an agreement in the areas where the City Council was voicing objections; and

WHEREAS, as a result of those resolutions and meetings involving representatives of the Douglasville and Douglas County governments, most differences have been resolved or have been identified as needing further study on a joint basis; and

WHEREAS, in order to show support in general for the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan and in order to specific the proposed projects with which the City Council has expressed disagreement and recommends further study, a decision was made by this body for our staff and Jacobs Engineering to prepare a separate City of Douglasville document which would be attached to the Douglas County plan; and

WHEREAS, based on the most recent meeting of staff representatives from both governments and the two governments' respective consultants, held November 3, agreements were reached concerning

most projects and the remaining projects were identified as needing joint study by these two local governments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Douglasville made it clear to Douglas County that its attachment would include a list of transportation projects which would be ranked in a priority order, and this ranking would not follow Douglas County's priority ranking of projects within the City of Douglasville if this City Council did not agree with the County's listing; and

WHEREAS, in order to enable the public to review and comment on the key components of the City of Douglasville and the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plans, a public information meeting was held at the City's Downtown Conference Center on November 6; and

WHEREAS, comments from that November 6 public information meeting have been taken into consideration during preparation of the City's attachment to the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglasville that the document prepared by Jacobs Engineering with the assistance of several City employees be approved as presented at this regular meeting of the City Council, to be identified as the City of Douglasville Comprehensive Transportation Plan and to include the prioritization of specific proposed projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that a copy of this document be transmitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission to be an attachment to the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, which is to be presented later to ARC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that through this resolution, ARC and Douglas County be notified of the City's approval of the goals and objectives developed as part of the countywide planning process and of their inclusion in both governments' plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that the Douglas County Board of Commissioners be notified through this resolution that the City of Douglasville is ready to begin further study of the transportation projects on which our two governments currently are not in agreement, with the City's representatives in this process to include the Mayor, one or more members of the City Council, the City Manager, the City Planning Director, the City Development Services Director, and the consulting firm of Jacobs Engineering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that the Atlanta Regional Commission be commended for permitting the City of Douglasville to attach to the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan this independently prepared attachment concerning the City of Douglasville Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and members of the City Council that the Douglas County government be commended for its willingness to work with the City of Douglasville on our related Comprehensive Transportation Plans.

SO RESOLVED this 17th day of November, 2008.

John F. Edwards
Charles F. Powell
Dennis McLain
Greg E. Munn
Carol S. Hry
Ed & M
Lashia B. Darley
Mickey Thompson
Mickey Thompson, Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Stone
City Clerk

DELIVERED TO MAYOR Nov. 17, 2008 CITY CLERK JS
RECEIVED FROM MAYOR Nov. 18, 2008 CITY CLERK JS

