

REGIONAL REVIEW NOTIFICATION

Atlanta Regional Commission • 229 Peachtree Street NE | Suite 100 | Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • ph: 404.463.3100 fax: 404.463.3205 • atlantaregional.org

DATE: March 9, 2020 ARC REVIEW CODE: R2003091

TO: Chairman Charlotte Nash, Gwinnett County

ATTN TO: Ashley Nichols, Planning Manager
FROM: Douglas R. Hooker, Executive Director
RE: Development of Regional Impact Review

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The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has completed a preliminary regional review of the following Development of Regional Impact (DRI). ARC reviewed the DRI with regard to its relationship to regional plans, goals and policies – and impacts it may have on the activities, plans, goals and policies of other local jurisdictions as well as state, federal and other agencies. This preliminary report does not address whether the DRI is or is not in the best interest of the local government.

Name of Proposal: Woodward Mill Road Tract (DRI #3050)

Review Type: DRI Submitting Local Government: Gwinnett County

<u>Date Opened</u>: March 9, 2020 <u>Deadline for Comments</u>: March 24, 2020 <u>Date to Close</u>: March 30, 2020

<u>Description:</u> A Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review of a proposed residential development on two adjacent sites totaling 54 acres in unincorporated Gwinnett County at the southeastern corner of Woodward Mill Road and Buford Highway (US 23/SR 13). The project proposes 79 single-family homes, 223 townhomes, and 250 units of multifamily apartments. A portion of the townhomes are on an adjacent site on the western side of Woodward Mill Road. Access is provided with three driveways on Woodward Mill Road (two face each other and form a new intersection) and one driveway on Buford Highway. The local trigger is a rezoning from R-75 and a small portion of C-2 to RM-24 and TND (Traditional Neighborhood District). Full build-out is expected by 2026.

<u>PRELIMINARY COMMENTS:</u> According to the ARC Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM), part of The Atlanta Region's Plan, this DRI is in the Developing Suburbs area of the region. Developing Suburbs are areas that were constructed from around 1995 to today. These areas are projected to remain suburbs through 2040. ARC's Regional Development Guide (RDG) details recommended policies for areas on the UGPM. General RDG information and recommendations for Developed/Established Suburbs are listed at the bottom of these comments.

ARC's policy guidance for Developed/Established Suburbs mentions that new development should connect to the existing road network and adjacent developments, and use of cul-de-sacs or other means resulting in disconnected subdivisions, should be discouraged. This DRI features appropriate internal street

connectivity, along with an off-street trail network, its site design does not appear to contemplate potential future connections to adjacent properties other than to the south next to Woodward Mill Road.

This DRI appears to manifest certain aspects of regional policy. It offers a variety of housing types and sizes. It incorporates parks and amenities at multiple locations. Streets C and D are a major improvement to previous iterations of the plan, by opening up access across the different housing types and offering onstreet parking, medians, and sidewalks. It's not clear if all the amenities are intended and accessible to all residents of the DRI. The current site plan proposes gated access for vehicles to enter the detached single-family home and townhome portions of the eastern half of the site. Even if this gated access remains for vehicles, pedestrian access should be maintained for access to the amenities.

It is absolutely critical that the Gwinnett County Department of Transportation, Gwinnett County Public Schools, and Georgia Department of Transportation coordinate as soon as possible to facilitate a safe pedestrian crossing for students and other residents to access Lanier High School and its various community and athletic facilities. There is major potential for students living in the proposed DRI to walk to school if a safe crossing for Buford Highway is provided, ideally near the northeastern corner of the DRI and the western entrance for the school campus. Planning in advance for safe and comfortable pedestrian access to major community facilities is essential to mitigating long-term traffic impacts to the surrounding area.

The Gwinnett County Destination 2040 comprehensive transportation plan states: "Gwinnett County should encourage logical connections between neighborhoods and nearby commercial areas to provide enhanced access for people driving, biking, and walking. To improve traffic circulation and provide mobility options for residents of new subdivisions, the County should prioritize traditional street grids for the layout of new subdivisions rather than cul-de-sacs when natural conditions do not demand them. The County should also explore improving bicycle and pedestrian connections between existing neighborhoods and commercial centers, where appropriate, to connect these residents to activity areas via non-vehicular means." For these purposes, a major high school should be considered an activity center.

The gross residential density of this DRI (10.15 units per acre) is above the ARC RDG's recommended development parameters for Developing Suburbs (up to 5 units per acre). Otherwise, the development appears to be largely compatible with recommendations for the Established Neighborhoods Character Area in the Gwinnett County 2040 Unified Plan. Mixed residential developments like this are listed as potential development types.

Please see the attached comments from ARC's Natural Resources Group regarding potential watershed considerations. Additional comments from ARC's Transportation Access & Mobility Group will be included in the final report.

Further to the above, general regional policy recommendations for Developing Suburbs include:

- New development should connect to the existing road network and adjacent developments and use of cul-de-sacs or other means resulting in disconnected subdivisions should be discouraged
- Maximize the usefulness of existing recreational facilities in addition to providing new recreational opportunities

- Eliminate vacant or under-utilized parking areas through mechanisms such as out-parceling or conversion to community open space
- Use rain gardens, vegetated swales or other enhanced water filtration design to enhance the quality of stormwater run-off
- · Identify other opportunities to foster a sense of community by developing town centers, village centers or other places of centralized location

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES RECEIVED NOTICE OF THIS REVIEW:

ARC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ARC RESEARCH & ANALYTICS
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CITY OF BUFORD

ARC Transportation Access & Mobility
ARC Aging & Health Resources
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF SUGAR HILL

ARC NATURAL RESOURCES
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
GRTA/SRTA
CITY OF SUWANEE

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Greg Giuffrida at (470) 378–1531 or ggiuffrida@atlantaregional.org. This finding will be published to the ARC review website located at http://atlantaregional.org/plan-reviews.



DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Instructions: The project described below has been submitted to this Regional Commission for review as a Development of Regional Impact (DRI). A DRI is a development of sufficient scale or importance that it is likely to generate impacts beyond the jurisdiction in which the project is located, for example in adjoining cities or neighboring counties. We would like to consider your comments on this proposed development in our DRI review process. Therefore, please review the information about the project included in this packet and offer your comments in the space provided. The completed form should be returned to ARC on or before the specified return deadline.

Preliminary Findings of the RDC: Woodward Mill Road Tract (DRI #3050) See the Preliminary Report. Comments from affected party (attach additional sheets as needed): Individual Completing Form: Local Government: Please return this form to: Greg Giuffrida Atlanta Regional Commission Department: International Tower 229 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100 Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Telephone: (Ph. (470) 378-1531 ggiuffrida@atlantaregional.org Signature: Return Date: March 24, 2020 Date:

ARC STAFF NOTICE OF REGIONAL REVIEW AND COMMENT FORM

DATE : March 9, 2020	ARC REVIEW CODE: R2003091
TO: ARC Group Managers	
FROM: Greg Giuffrida, 470-378-1531	
Reviewi	ng staff by Jurisdiction:
Community Development: Smith, Andrew	Transportation Access and Mobility: Mangham, Marquitrice
Natural Resources: Santo, Jim	Research and Analytics: Skinner, Jim
Aging and Health Resources: Perumbeti, Katie	
Name of Proposal: Woodward Mill Road Tract (DRI	#3050)
Review Type: Development of Regional Impact	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	I) review of a proposed residential development on two adjacent sites
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Submitting Local Government: Gwinnett County	020.
Date Opened: March 9, 2020	
Deadline for Comments: March 24, 2020	
Date to Close: March 30, 2020	
Date to Glose. March 50, 2020	
	Response:
1) □ Proposal is CONSISTENT with the following	g regional development guide listed in the comment section.
-	consistent, the proposal relates to the following regional development
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2)	$\ \ \Box \ \ While \ neither \ specifically \ consistent \ nor \ inconsistent, \ the \ proposal \ relates \ to \ the \ following \ regional \ development$
	guide listed in the comment section.
3)	□ While neither specifically consistent nor inconsistent, the proposal relates to the following regional development
	guide listed in the comment section.
4)	$\hfill\Box$ The proposal is INCONSISTENT with the following regional development guide listed in the comment section.
5)	\square The proposal does NOT relate to any development guide for which this division is responsible.
6)	□Staff wishes to confer with the applicant for the reasons listed in the comment section.
	COMMENTS:



Developments of Regional Impact

DRI Home Tier Map **Apply View Submissions** <u>Login</u>

DRI #3050

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT Initial DRI Information

This form is to be completed by the city or county government to provide basic project information that will allow the RDC to determine if the project appears to meet or exceed applicable DRI thresholds. Refer to both the Rules for the DRI Process and the DRI Tiers and Thresholds for more information.

Local Government Information

Submitting Local Gwinnett

Individual completing form: Ashley Nichols

Telephone: 678-518-6215

E-mail: ashley.nichols@gwinnettcounty.com

*Note: The local government representative completing this form is responsible for the accuracy of the information contained herein. If a project is to be located in more than one jurisdiction and, in total, the project meets or exceeds a DRI threshold, the local government in which the largest portion of the project is to be located is responsible for initiating the DRI review process.

Proposed Project Information

Name of Proposed Project: Woodward Mill Road Tract

Location (Street Address, Woodward Mill Road at Buford Highway (District 7 Land Lot 256 and 257) GPS Coordinates, or Legal

Land Lot Description):

Brief Description of Project: Housing development consisting of apartments (295 units), townhomes (227 units) and single family residences (76 homes).

Development Type:

(not selected) OHotels Wastewater Treatment Facilities Office Mixed Use Petroleum Storage Facilities Commercial Airports OWater Supply Intakes/Reservoirs Wholesale & Distribution Attractions & Recreational Facilities Intermodal Terminals CHospitals and Health Care Facilities CPost-Secondary Schools Truck Stops Housing OWaste Handling Facilities OAny other development types Industrial Quarries, Asphalt & Cement Plants

If other development type, describe:

Project Size (# of units, floor area, etc.): 598 units

Developer: The Providence Group of Georgia LLC

Mailing Address: 11340 Lakefield Drive

Address 2: Suite 250

City:Johns Creek State: GA Zip:30097

Telephone: 678-218-1729

Email: wjolly@theprovidencegroup.com

Is property owner different from developer/applicant? (not selected) Yes No

If yes, property owner: Howington Holdings, LLC, etal

Is the proposed project

entirely located within your local government's jurisdiction?

(not selected) Yes No

If no, in what additional jurisdictions is the project

located?

Is the current proposal a continuation or expansion of (not selected) Yes No

a previous DRI?

If yes, provide the following Project Name:

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Rezoning
The initial action being | Variance | requested of the local | Sewer | Government for this project: | Water | Permit | Other |

Is this project a phase or part of a larger overall project? | If yes, what percent of the overall project does this project/phase represent?

Estimated Project This project/phase: TBD | Completion Dates: Overall project: TBD |

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Developments of Regional Impact

DRI Home

Tier Map

Apply

View Submissions

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DRI #3050

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT Additional DRI Information

This form is to be completed by the city or county government to provide information needed by the RDC for its review of the proposed DRI. Refer to both the Rules for the DRI Process and the DRI Tiers and Thresholds for more

Local Government Information

Submitting Local Gwinnett Government:

Individual completing form: Ashley Nichols

Telephone: 678-518-6215

Email: ashley.nichols@gwinnettcounty.com

Project Information

Name of Proposed Project: Woodward Mill Road Tract

DRI ID Number: 3050

Developer/Applicant: The Providence Group of Georgia LLC

Telephone: 678-218-1729

Email(s): wjolly@theprovidencegroup.com

Additional Information Requested

Has the RDC identified any additional information required in order to proceed with the official regional review process? (If no,

(not selected) Yes No

proceed to Economic

Impacts.)

If yes, has that additional information been provided to your RDC and, if applicable,

(not selected) Yes No

If no, the official review process can not start until this additional information is provided.

Economic Development

Estimated Value at Build-

\$130 million

Estimated annual local tax revenues (i.e., property tax, sales tax) likely to be generated by the proposed development:

\$2 million

Is the regional work force sufficient to fill the demand created by the proposed

(not selected) Yes No

project? Will this development

displace any existing uses? (not selected) Yes No

If yes, please describe (including number of units, square feet, etc): A small used car dealership and three single family

Water Supply

Name of water supply provider for this site:

Gwinnett County Water Resources

What is the estimated water supply demand to be generated by the project, measured in Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD)?

0.159 MGD

Is sufficient water supply capacity available to serve the proposed project?

(not selected) Yes No

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If no, describe any plans to expand the existing water supply capacity:		
Is a water line extension required to serve this project?	ℂ(not selected) ຶYes ® No	
If yes, how much additional	line (in miles) will be required?	
	Wastewater Disposal	
Name of wastewater treatment provider for this site:	Gwinnett County Water Resources	
What is the estimated sewage flow to be generated by the project, measured in Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD)? Is sufficient wastewater	0.132 MGD	
treatment capacity available to serve this proposed project?	ℂ(not selected) 『Yes No	
If no, describe any plans to e	xpand existing wastewater treatment capacity:	
Is a sewer line extension required to serve this project?	○ (not selected) Yes No	
in yes, now mach additional in	in (in times) will be required:	
	Land Transportation	
How much traffic volume is expected to be generated by the proposed development, in peak hour vehicle trips per day? (If only an alternative measure of volume is available, please provide.)	4,374 daily trips, 270 AM trips, 316 PM trips (see traffic study)	
Has a traffic study been performed to determine whether or not transportation or access improvements will be needed to serve this project?	ℂ(not selected)◎ Yes No	
Are transportation improvements needed to serve this project?	ℂ(not selected)◎Yes◎No	
If yes, please describe below improvements as required in	r:Construction of accel/decel lanes. Center left turn lanes at the project entrances. Other the traffic impact study.	
	Solid Waste Disposal	
How much solid waste is the project expected to generate annually (in tons)?		
Is sufficient landfill capacity available to serve this proposed project?	ℂ(not selected) 『Yes No	
If no, describe any plans to e	xpand existing landfill capacity:	
Will any hazardous waste be generated by the development?	ℂ(not selected) Yes®No	
If yes, please explain:		
Stormwater Management		
What percentage of the site is projected to be impervious surface once the proposed development has been constructed?	80%	
Describe any measures proposed (such as buffers, detention or retention ponds, pervious parking areas) to mitigate the project's impacts on stormwater management:Stormwater Management BMP's to include above ground detention facilities as per local municipality regulations.		
Environmental Quality		
Is the development located within, or likely to affect any of the following:		
Water supply watersheds?	ℂ(not selected) Yes No	

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Significant groundwater recharge areas?	(not selected) Yes No	
3. Wetlands?	(not selected) Yes No	
4. Protected mountains?	(not selected) Yes No	
5. Protected river corridors?	(not selected) Yes No	
6. Floodplains?	(not selected) Yes No	
7. Historic resources?	(not selected) Yes No	
8. Other environmentally sensitive resources?	(not selected) Yes No	
If you answered yes to any question above, describe how the identified resource(s) may be affected: Chattahoochee Water Supply Watershed. Stormwater BMP's will control surface runoff in the watershed.		
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WOODWARD MILL ROAD TRACT DRI

Gwinnett County Natural Resources Group Comments March 6, 2020

Stream Buffers and Watershed Protection

The proposed project is in the Chattahoochee Corridor watershed, but it is not within the Chattahoochee River Corridor and is not subject to Corridor Plan requirements. It is in the Suwanee Creek watershed and Suwanee Creek enters the Chattahoochee upstream of Peachtree Creek. The portion of the Chattahoochee River watershed upstream of Peachtree Creek is also a large water supply watershed (over 100 square miles), as defined under the Part 5 Criteria of the 1989 Georgia Planning Act. For large water supply watersheds without a water supply reservoir, the only applicable Part 5 requirements are restrictions on hazardous waste handling, storage and disposal within seven miles upstream of a public water supply intake. This property is more than seven miles upstream of any public water supply intake.

Both the site plan and the USGS coverage for the project area show one blue line tributary to Suwanee Creek running across the property in the northern portion of the property near Buford Highway. No development is shown in this area and the Gwinnett County 50-foot stream buffer and 75-foot impervious setback are both shown along the stream. These buffers may also apply to any unmapped streams on the property. This stream, any other streams, and any other waters of the state on the property are also subject to the State 25-foot Sediment and Erosion Control buffer.

Stormwater/Water Quality

The project should adequately address the impacts of the proposed development on stormwater runoff and downstream water quality. During construction, the project should conform to the relevant state and federal erosion and sedimentation control requirements. After construction, as with all development, water quality will be impacted due to polluted stormwater runoff. The amount of pollutants that will be produced after construction of the proposed development are dependent on the type and intensity of the use and the impervious coverage, which will affect the design of stormwater controls for the project.

In order to address post-construction stormwater runoff quality, the project should implement stormwater management controls (structural and/or nonstructural) as found in the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (www.georgiastormwater.com) and meet the stormwater management quantity and quality criteria outlined in the Manual. Where possible, the project should utilize the stormwater better site design concepts included in the Manual.

We also suggest the following additional measures to help reduce stormwater reduction and provide for its reuse:

- Where possible, use green spaces and tree planting beds as stormwater controls. These can provide for water quality treatment and run-off reduction, potentially reducing the need for larger stormwater facilities and helping to minimize the negative effects of stormwater runoff on streams and water quality.
- Include rainwater capture in the project design to provide for landscape irrigation during dry periods.

