

# DRI REGIONAL REVIEW FINDING

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

DATE: September 16, 2024

TO: CEO Michael L. Thurmond Dekalb County

**ATTN TO:** Aprell King, Planner, Dekalb County

FROM: Mike Alexander, COO, Atlanta Regional Commission

RE: Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Review

ARC has completed a regional review of the below DRI. ARC reviewed the DRI's 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 final report does not address whether the DRI is or is not in the best interest of the host local government.

Name of Proposal: Clifton Springs Mixed Use DRI 4109

**Submitting Local Government**: Dekalb County

<u>Date Opened</u>: July 31, 2024 <u>Date Closed</u>: October 3, 2024

<u>Description</u>: A regional DRI review of a project to construct a mixed-use development consisting of approximately 666 multifamily residential units, 101 townhomes, 20,000 SF of medical office space, 12,200 SF of retail space, and 4,000 SF restaurant space.

### **Comments:**

### Key Comments:

The project is somewhat aligned with Established Suburbs policy recommendations which emphasize the importance of preserving single-family neighborhoods with appropriate infill development. The project's mix of residential, retail, and office uses is supportive of regional placemaking and multimodal transportation policies.

The project proposes to retain approximately 31 acres of the 80 total acres as open/undisturbed space which is supportive of regional environmental policies.

The project is expected to generate approximately 4,836 net daily new vehicular trips; a number of roadway improvements to mitigate these trips are proposed.

The project's incomplete sidewalk network and placement of key buildings set back from active street frontages and surrounded by surface parking are in opposition to regional multi-modal transportation and neighborhood walkability policies.

# **General Comments**

The Atlanta Region's Plan, developed by ARC in close coordination with partner local governments, is intended to broadly guide regional development in the 11-county metro region to ensure that required infrastructure and resources are in place to support continued economic development and prosperity. The Plan assigns a relevant growth management category designation to all areas in the region- Established Suburbs for this project – and provides accompanying growth policy recommendations which are detailed at the end of these comments.

The project's mix of residential, retail, and office is supportive of regional placemaking and multi-modal transportation policies.

Care should be taken in creating the final plan to utilize basic urban design principles that enhance placemaking and support pedestrian activity. The office and restaurant footprints proposed at the driveway D entrance are set back from both the new main entrance street and Flat Shoals Parkway. Both buildings should be placed along with the driveway frontage at a minimum and possibly closer to Flat Shoals Parkway to create an inviting entrance for those arriving by foot or by car which would attract additional customers to the project retail elements. The placement along the street edge of the new central roadway with parking on the sides or the rear will create a sense of place and encourage pedestrian access. The placement of these buildings as shown in the current plan only perpetuates widely acknowledged urban planning failures of the 1970's and 80's. Many jurisdictions are struggling to retrofit solely vehicularly oriented suburban development patterns like this and constructing new ones is inconsistent with multiple regional development policies.

### <u>Transportation and Mobility Comments</u>

The project is expected to generate approximately 4,836 net daily new vehicular trips; a number of roadway improvements to mitigate these trips are proposed.

While sidewalks are generally provided in some areas of the project, their placement and width is unclear from the plans. Further, there are some key blocks where no sidewalks are provided which is in direct opposition to the need to provide pedestrian access to destinations both within the project and within a walkable distance. In particular, pedestrian access from various points within the project to the Quick Trip convenience store just a block or two away is limited or even non-existent which is in direct opposition to regional multi-modal transportation and walkable neighborhood policies.

### **ARC Natural Resources Group Comments**

ARC's Natural Resource Group comments are attached.

The South River forms the southern boundary of the project property, as shown on the project site plan. Both the USGS coverage for the project area and the submitted site plan show one blue–line stream crossing the southwestern corner of the property. Neither the 25–foot State Sediment and Erosion buffer nor the County 75–foot stream buffer are shown along the stream or along the South River. While none of the proposed development is shown near either the stream or the South River, the buffers should be shown to indicate their presence for project revisions or future development.

# **Environmental Comments**

The project proposes to retain approximately 31 acres of the approximately 80 total acres as open/undisturbed space which is supportive of regional environmental policies.

Additional retention of wooded and stream adjacent areas would be desirable and in keeping with regional goals regarding carbon sequestration and climate change/heat island effect mitigation. There may be potential opportunities for linking these fragmented undeveloped areas with adjacent undeveloped or protected areas to ensure their maintenance and potential use for recreation or habitat preservation. Incorporation of green stormwater and heat island mitigation designs for the extensive surface car parking spaces proposed and use of an ecosystem-based design for the stormwater detention areas would be supportive of regional environmental policies.

The project can support The Atlanta Region's Plan in general by incorporating other aspects of regional policy, including green infrastructure and/or low-impact design, e.g., pervious pavers, rain gardens, vegetated swales, etc., in parking areas and site driveways, and as part of any improvements to site frontages.

# **Dekalb County Comments**

The Clifton Springs Mixed–Use development aligns with several of DeKalb County's 2050 Unified Plan goals, including encouraging new development, increasing density, offering diverse housing options (including Senior Living), protecting single–family neighborhoods, updating zoning codes for desired intensity and design, and promoting mixed–use spaces that support a multi–modal environment. The project also partially meets the goals of the Suburban Character Area by improving pedestrian and community connectivity and preserving greenspace. It incorporates features typical of a Suburban Character Area, such as detached single–family homes, townhomes, retail, assisted living facilities, parks, and healthcare facilities. There is an opportunity for economic development strategy as well as other policy measures to meet the needs of surrounding residents.

The County will continue working closely with the applicant team to further refine the project's vision in line with ARC's Atlanta Region's Plan, the 2050 Unified Plan, and the needs of the surrounding communities.

### **GDOT Aviation Comments**

Comments received from GDOT aviation are attached.

# Atlanta Region's Plan Growth Policy Considerations: Established Suburbs

According to the Atlanta Region's Plan, Established Suburbs are areas where suburban development has occurred and are characterized by single–family subdivisions, commercial development, and office, industrial and multi–family development. These areas represent the part of the region that has recently reached "build–out." With few remaining large parcels for additional development, these are the areas in which the region may see the least amount of land–use change outside of retail and commercial areas. While there is still room for limited infill development, these areas will begin to focus more on redevelopment over the next 30 years.

Preservation of existing single-family neighborhoods is important, and wholesale change will most likely not occur in the single-family subdivisions that make up a majority of these areas. However, infill and redevelopment will occur in areas of retail/commercial concentrations, especially commercial corridors. The project is partially aligned with Established Suburbs recommendations in that it provides a substantial amount of new housing that doesn't negatively impact existing single-family neighborhoods. Aspects of the sidewalk network and building placement are not aligned with applicable regional policies but could be if revised to follow standard urban planning policies regarding walkability and placemaking. Dekalb County leadership and staff, along with the applicant team, should collaborate closely to ensure maximum sensitivity to nearby local governments, neighborhoods, land uses and natural systems.

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

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY
CITY OF STONECREST
CITY OF FOREST PARK
HENRY COUNTY

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE
GEORGIA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
GEORGIA CONSERVANCY
CITY OF DECATUR
ROCKDALE COUNTY

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF ATLANTA
CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES
CLAYTON COUNTY

For questions, please contact Donald Shockey at (470) 378–1531 or <a href="mailto:dshockey@atlantaregional.org">dshockey@atlantaregional.org</a>. This finding will be published to the ARC review website located at <a href="http://atlantaregional.org/plan-reviews">http://atlantaregional.org/plan-reviews</a>.





# **Developments of Regional Impact**

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# **DRI #4109 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 Government: DeKalb Individual completing form: Aprell King Telephone: (470) 898-2251 E-mail: alking@dekalbcountyga.gov \*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: Clifton Springs Mixed-Use Location (Street Address, Southwest corner of the intersection of Clifton Springs Road at Flat Shoals Road GPS Coordinates, or Legal Land Lot Description): Brief Description of Project: Approximately 79.53-acre mixed-use development consisting of approximately 766 total multifamily residential units (248 workforce, 158 senior, 360 general), 107 townhomes, 20,000 SF of medical office space, 35,400 SF of retail space, and 4,000 SF restaurant space. **Development Type:** (not selected) Hotels Wastewater Treatment Facilities Office Mixed Use Petroleum Storage Facilities Commercial Airports Water Supply Intakes/Reservoirs Wholesale & Distribution OAttractions & Recreational Facilities OIntermodal Terminals Hospitals and Health Care Facilities Post-Secondary Schools Truck Stops Waste Handling Facilities Housing Any other development types Industrial Quarries, Asphalt & Cement Plants If other development type, describe: Project Size (# of units, floor Approximately 766 total multifamily residential units, 107 townhomes, 20,000 SF of area, etc.): medical office sp Developer: Architectural Standard, LLC Mailing Address: 1261 Hammond Creek Trail Address 2: City:Watkinsville State: GA Zip:30677 Telephone: (770) 317-3000 Email: maxieprice1@gmail.com Is property owner different (not selected) Yes No from developer/applicant?

If yes, property owner: Otto Tract No. 10, LLC

Is the proposed project (not selected) Yes No

entirely located within your

local government's jurisdiction?	
If no, in what additional jurisdictions is the project located?	
Is the current proposal a continuation or expansion of a previous DRI?	(not selected) Yes No
If yes, provide the following information:	Project Name: Project ID:
The initial action being requested of the local government for this project:	Sewer
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?	
	This project/phase: 2028 Overall project: 2028
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# **Developments of Regional Impact**

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Tier Map

**View Submissions** 

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### **DRI #4109**

### **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 information.

#### **Local Government Information**

Submitting Local Government: DeKalb

Individual completing form: Aprell King

Telephone: (470) 898-2251

Email: alking@dekalbcountyga.gov

### **Project Information**

Name of Proposed Project: Clifton Springs Mixed-Use

DRI ID Number: 4109

Developer/Applicant: Architectural Standard, LLC

Telephone: (770) 317-3000

Email(s): maxieprice1@gmail.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

(not selected) Yes No to your RDC and, if

applicable, GRTA?

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

### **Economic Development**

Estimated Value at Build-Out:

\$150,000,000

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

\$1,315,588 - \$1,326,500

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

(not selected) Yes No

project?

Will this development

(not selected) Yes No

displace any existing uses?

If yes, please describe (including number of units, square feet, etc): 115,088 SF of existing office space in three (3) buildings to be demolished.

#### Water Supply

Name of water supply provider for this site:	DeKalb County
What is the estimated water supply demand to be generated by the project, measured in Millions of	0.17 MGD
Gallons Per Day (MGD)? Is sufficient water supply capacity available to serve the proposed project?	(not selected) Yes No
If no, describe any plans to e	xpand the existing water supply capacity:
Is a water line extension required to serve this project?	(not selected) Yes No
If yes, how much additional I	ine (in miles) will be required?
	Wastewater Disposal
Name of wastewater treatment provider for this site:	DeKalb County
What is the estimated sewage flow to be generated by the project, measured in Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD)?	0.17 MGD
Is sufficient wastewater treatment capacity available to serve this proposed project?	(not selected) Yes No
If no, describe any plans to ea	xpand existing wastewater treatment capacity:
Is a sewer line extension required to serve this project?	(not selected) Yes No
If yes, how much additional lii	ne (in miles) 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.)	5,780 net new daily trips, 475 AM peak hour trips, 471 PM peak hour trips
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) Ses No
Are transportation improvements needed to serve this project?	(not selected) Yes No
If yes, please describe below	Please refer to the traffic impact study prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates
	Solid Waste Disposal
How much solid waste is the project expected to generate annually (in tons)?	3,000 tons
Is sufficient landfill capacity available to serve this proposed project?	(not selected) Yes No
If no, describe any plans to ea	xpand existing landfill capacity:
Will any hazardous waste be generated by the development?	(not selected) Yes No
be generated by the	(not selected) Yes No
be generated by the development?	C(not selected) Yes No  Stormwater Management

https://apps.dca.ga.gov/DRI/AdditionalForm.aspx?driid=4109

	impervious surface once the proposed development has been constructed?				
	Describe any measures proposed (such as buffers, detention or retention ponds, pervious parking areas) to mitigate the project's impacts on stormwater management:Two detention ponds proposed for storm run-off, water quality, & run-off reduction.				
	Environmental Quality				
	Is the development located w	rithin, or likely to affect any of the following:			
	1. Water supply watersheds?	(not selected) Yes No			
	2. 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: Per the National Wetlands Mapper there are wetlands on site. Per the Survey, floodplain exist on site. Retention pond will be proposed to provide the required run-reduction volume on site which will contribute to the groundwater recharge.					
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## **CLIFTON SPRINGS MIXED USE DRI**

# DeKalb County Natural Resources Review Comments August 13, 2024

While ARC and the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District have no regulatory or review authority over this project, the Natural Resources Group has identified County and State regulations that could apply to this property. Other regulations may also apply that we have not identified.

## **Watershed Protection**

The project property is located in the South River watershed. While the South River is not a water supply watershed for the Atlanta Region or the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, it is classified as a large water supply watershed (over 100 square miles) downstream of the District and the Region under the Part 5 Criteria of the 1989 Georgia Planning Act. However, 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 the nearest public water supply intake and no water supply watershed criteria apply.

# **Stream Buffers**

The South River forms the southern boundary of the project property, as shown on the project site plan. Both the USGS coverage for the project area and the submitted site plan show one blue-line stream crossing the southwestern corner of the property. Neither the 25-foot State Sediment and Erosion buffer nor the County 75-foot stream buffer are shown along the stream or along the South River. While none of the proposed development is shown near either the stream or the South River, the buffers should be shown to indicate their presence for project revisions or future development.

Any unmapped streams on the property may also be subject to the County buffer requirements. Any unmapped State waters identified on the property may also be subject to the State 25-foot Sediment and Erosion Control buffer.

# **Water Supply and Wastewater**

Given the large water demands associated with data centers, we recommend working with Rockdale Water Resources to ensure that adequate water supply, wastewater capacity, and infrastructure are available.

### **Stormwater/Water Quality**

The project should adequately address the impacts of the proposed development on stormwater runoff and downstream water quality.

During the planning phase, the stormwater management system (system) should meet the requirements of the local jurisdiction's post-construction (or post-development) stormwater management ordinance. The system should be designed to prevent increased flood damage, streambank channel erosion, habitat degradation and water quality degradation, and enhance and promote the public health, safety and general welfare. The system design should also be in accordance with the applicable sections of the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (<a href="https://www.georgiastormwater.com">www.georgiastormwater.com</a>) such as design standards, calculations, formulas, and methods. Where possible, the project should use stormwater better site design practices included in the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, Volume 2, Section 2.3.

During construction, the project should conform to the relevant state and federal erosion and sedimentation control requirements.

From: Aprell L. King
To: Donald Shockey

Cc: Washington, Larry; Brian Brewer; Tony B. Guilford; Keeter, Patrece; Bragg, Rachel L.; Chappell, Adam W

Subject: FW: 2024 Clifton Springs Mixed Use DRI 4109 - Preliminary Report and Comments Request

Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 5:25:25 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.pnq</u>

2024 Clifton Springs Mixed-Use DRI 4109 - Preliminary Report and Comments Request.pdf

Hi Donald,

Please see the below comments for Clifton Springs (on behalf of Long-Range Division). If this needed to be sent in any other format, please let us know.

The Clifton Springs Mixed-Use development aligns with several of DeKalb County's 2050 Unified Plan goals, including encouraging new development, increasing density, offering diverse housing options (including Senior Living), protecting single-family neighborhoods, updating zoning codes for desired intensity and design, and promoting mixed-use spaces that support a multi-modal environment. The project also partially meets the goals of the Suburban Character Area by improving pedestrian and community connectivity and preserving greenspace. It incorporates features typical of a Suburban Character Area, such as detached single-family homes, townhomes, retail, assisted living facilities, parks, and healthcare facilities. There is an opportunity for economic development strategy as well as other policy measures to meet the needs of surrounding residents.

The County will continue working closely with the applicant team to further refine the project's vision in line with ARC's Atlanta Region's Plan, the 2050 Unified Plan, and the needs of the surrounding communities.

Many thanks,

Aprell

Aprell L. King

#### **Planner**

DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability

Long Range Planning Division

178 Sams Street

Decatur, GA 30030

Desk - (404) 371-2841

From: Hood, Alan C.

To: Donald Shockey

Subject: RE: 2024 Clifton Springs Mixed Use DRI 4109 - Preliminary Report and Comments Request

**Date:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:44:10 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

#### Donald.

This proposed mixed-use development consisting of approximately 666 multifamily residential units, 101 townhomes, 20,000 SF of medical office space, 12,200 SF of retail space, and 4,000 SF restaurant space is 8 miles from the Hartsfield - Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL). It is located outside any FAA approach or departure surfaces, and airport compatible land use areas, and does not appear to impact any airport.

If any construction equipment or construction exceeds 200' AGL, an FAA Form 7460-1 must be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration according to the FAA's Notice Criteria Tool found here (<a href="https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/gisTools/gisAction.jsp?">https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/gisTools/gisAction.jsp?</a> action=showNoNoticeRequiredToolForm). Those submissions for any associated cranes may be done online at <a href="https://oeaaa.faa.gov">https://oeaaa.faa.gov</a>. The FAA must be in receipt of the notifications, no later than 120 days prior to construction. The FAA will evaluate the potential impacts of the project on protected airspace associated with the airports and advise the proponent if any action is necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed development.

# **Alan Hood**

Airport Safety Data Program Manager



Aviation Programs
600 West Peachtree Street NW
6<sup>th</sup> Floor
Atlanta, GA, 30308
404.660.3394 cell
404.532.0082 office

Website: https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/pages/AirportAid.aspx

**From:** Donald Shockey < DShockey@atlantaregional.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 4:42 PM

**To:** chuck.mueller@dnr.state.ga.us; gaswcc.swcd@gaswcc.ga.gov; hhill@gefa.ga.gov; Jon West <jon.west@dca.ga.gov>; kmoore@gaconservancy.org; nongame.review@dnr.ga.gov; slucki@gefa.ga.gov; Zane Grennell - Georgia DCA <zane.grennell@dca.ga.gov>; Amy Goodwin <AGoodwin@atlantaregional.org>; Andrew Smith <ASmith@atlantaregional.org>; Ansley Goddard <AGoddard@atlantaregional.org>; Arin Yost <AYost@atlantaregional.org>; Danny Johnson <DJohnson@atlantaregional.org>; David Haynes <DHaynes@atlantaregional.org>; Donald Shockey



