



Johns Creek

MANAGEMENT REPORT (MONTHLY)

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Warren Hutmacher, City Manager
Date: April 24, 2017
Subject: **Monthly City Manager Report to Elected Officials – March 2017**

A monthly status report of various items of interest regarding city business was introduced as part of the January 25, 2016, Council Meeting. The information presented generally follows the six goals established by the Council at the Annual Strategic Planning Retreat. Some projects impact multiple goals and items related to general operations have been added to the end of the Report.

Transportation: Provide a comprehensive transportation network that facilitates ease of movement throughout the City.

- **Master Transportation Planning Effort**

An 8th Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on March 30, 2017 with the City staff to discuss specific Transportation issues. Eighteen of 22 active CAC members were in attendance. The CAC members were divided into four residential area groups (based on where they lived) and then focused on such concerns as where traffic signals need to be synchronized and where roundabouts might help in managing traffic flows in and out of schools and large subdivisions. CAC members drew on the maps where sidewalks, multi-purpose trails and roundabouts should be added and identified where 2- and a 4-lane parkways should be considered. No 6-lane parkways were recommended anywhere in the City by the CAC members. The consultants, TSW and POND, have taken all of the input from the CAC and the public and are currently writing the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan Update and the Transportation Master Plan. It will be available for review on April 24th for staff and CAC members.

- **Transportation Projects in progress:**
 - **SR120/Abbotts (Jones to Parsons)**
 - Utility poles being relocated
 - Drainage being installed
 - **ITS3A**
 - Boring to begin in April
 - **ITS4**
 - Materials ordered – installation to begin in April
 - Turn lane construction to begin in April - Left turn lane extensions on Medlock Bridge Road at Hospital Parkway, E Johns Crossing and Medlock Bridge Parkway
- **Resurfacing**
 - Bids for the 2017 resurfacing project were received 2/9/17. The project consists of 17 subdivisions and 3 main roads. Total project cost (including CEI Services) is \$5,916,789.65. Bids were approved on 3/13/17 and contracts went out on 3/16/17.
 - A preconstruction meeting was held and City is awaiting the signed contract from the low bidder.
- **Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST)**
 - TSPLOST was approved by voters on November 8, 2016. The initial draft strategy for implementation of the projects was presented 3/13/17. First anticipated funds collected should arrive in late May 2017.
- **Medlock Bridge Transportation Improvements**
 - ON HOLD - until further notice
- **Medlock Bridge Road Phase 1**
 - ON HOLD - until further notice
- **Sidewalk Plan**
 - Revised policy was approved at the 2/27/17 City Council Meeting
 - First (2) projects are to begin in late Spring/Early Summer. The ratings matrix will be updated on the website monthly. (if changes apply). Preparing the bid package as of 4/3/17
- **McGinnis Ferry Rd. at Sargent (Florida T)**
 - Construction to begin in late April
- **McGinnis Ferry Rd. at Johns Creek Parkway (Right Turn Lane)**
 - Construction to begin in late April

- **McGinnis Ferry Rd. Widening**
 - Public Information Meeting was held on 3/8/17 at City Hall. Staff continues to work on improvements to a concept design. Project is still in the concept design phase.
 - Additional public information meetings are being scheduled with impacted homeowners and monthly public meetings are being scheduled.
 - Meeting with the Seven Oaks HOA was held on March 22nd for providing additional information on the McGinnis Ferry & Jones Bridge Projects.

- **Jones Bridge Road Widening (Sargent to McGinnis Ferry)**
 - Public Information Meeting was held on 3/8/17 at City Hall. Staff is working to develop options for sound abatement. Project is still in concept design phase and has not been scheduled to proceed until after the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is completed.

- **Barnwell Road at Holcomb Bridge**
 - In preliminary design and environmental documentation will be submitted in May to GDOT.

- **Rogers Bridge**
 - Public Information Open House meetings were held in both Johns Creek & Duluth on March 28th & 30th.
 - A joint application for additional federal funding will be submitted in May.

- **Bell Road Drainage Project**
 - The project is 90% complete. The contractor is working to replace sidewalk removed to install drainage structures.

Recreation and Parks: Ensure a complete recreation and parks system that aligns to the goals and needs of the community.

- **Newtown Park**
 - Clubhouse flooring to be installed in April
 - Burkhalter Amphitheater has been re-stained

- **Shakerag Park CDBG Projects – ADA Wildlife Observation Deck, Fishing Pier and Pathway**
 - Project on Hold

- **Autrey Mill**
 - Currently working with AMNP Board on planning and scope for renovations of the Farm Museum
 - Engineering has begun on a stream back restoration drainage project.

- **Kimball Bridge Road (Old Milton Parkway to Jones Bridge)**
 - Last two r/o/w parcels being purchased. Bids to be advertised in May for the construction.

Economic Development: Implement a holistic economic development plan approach that addresses infrastructure workforce, community, and land development needs.

- **Economic Development Strategy**

- The City Council approved both Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on November 7 with both the JCA and the Chamber of Commerce.
The Chamber of Commerce approved the MOU on November 16 and the finalized MOU was approved by the JCA Board in January.

- **Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility and Reuse System**

- Building off of the assessment of the water reclamation facility, staff continues to evaluate options for the future of the facility.
- Next Step: Discuss options for the Water Reclamation Facility with Council at a future Work Session
- Next Step: Council approved a termination agreement with Fulton County of the reuse agreement. The County is moving forward with plans to build out a renewed reuse water utility that would include all the previous customers of the Fulton County system.

Government Efficiency: Develop an innovative and cost-effective approach to exceptional service delivery.

- **Council Retreat**

- A pre-budget retreat was scheduled for April 22nd.

- **Charter Task Force**

- Charter home rule changes have had a first read.
- Legislative changes have passed the Georgia General Assembly and are awaiting signature by the Governor.

- **10-Year Financial Model**

- As presented to the full Council at the May 23, 2016, Work Session, the 10-Year Financial Model was rebuilt to allow for modeling of different assumptions and policy choices over the 10-year period.
- The 10-Year Financial Model was utilized in the preparation of the FY2017 Budget.
- Staff continues to regularly update the 10-Year Financial Model as new policy choices and alternatives are discussed and considered by Council (such as new park maintenance costs for lighting projects).
- Next Steps: The FY2017 authorized addition of the Financial Analyst position will allow for further programming, development, and integration of the 10-Year Financial Model.

- **Contract Services**

- The government service contracts with CH2M and SAFEBuilt (providers of Community Development, Building Permits and Inspections, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks) conclude September 30, 2017.
- The existing contracts began ten years ago and the City has exhausted all renewal periods.
- The service contracts must be re-negotiated, re-bid, or insourced.
- Council's discussions throughout 2016 focused on service level continuity and clarification of expectations.
- Scopes were drafted to detail the current level of service, workload, and performance for Community Development, Building Permits and Inspections, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks.
- At the December 12, 2016 Work Session, Council reached consensus for staff to return to the January 9, 2017 Work Session with recommendations for the parameters of a renegotiation with the existing vendors. Specifically, Council requested staff's recommendations for (1) level of service (detailed as scopes of service), (2) cost savings range, and (3) contract types by service area. Council also requested an (4) updated project timeline.
- Council authorized renegotiation of the government service contracts and asked Jay Lin to participate in the meetings. Staff will provide a status update to the Council in April.

Public Safety: Provide leading levels of public safety.

Staffing

- **Police:** Three Police Officers are in training at the Police Academy starting 4-10 and will be there for 12 weeks. We have four new Officers in Field training now and are projected to complete their field training Mid- May
- **Fire:** Fully staffed.

Fire and Emergency Services Feasibility / Service Delivery Alternatives Analysis

- Contract has been awarded to Management Advisory Group International firm (within City Manager's signing authority) and an initial draft of their report was presented to Council.
- Consultants presented their findings and recommendations at the August 15th mini-retreat.
- Chief Hogan presented his 5-year strategic plan to Council at the August 15th mini-retreat.
- Next Step: Staff is working with the consultant on a Final report that will be presented to Council by the end of the year based on Council input. Options for a fourth fire station are being prepared for Council consideration.
- Various scenarios are being added to the 10-Year financial model to determine long term impacts for a fourth fire station and various equipment choices.
- Council consensus was to move forward with developing a plan for a fourth fire station to include staffing, a location and cost estimate for the station and the impact on service delivery at the chosen station location.

Communications

- **City Survey** – The annual City survey was begun in April and results should be available in May.

Revenue

- **Revenue Technician** – A new Revenue Technician has been hired and expected to start before May 1.

Sense of Community: Preserve our residential character and enhance our sense of community.

6.3 Update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan by the end of FY2017

An 8th CAC meeting was held on Thursday, March 30th by the Department of Community Development planning staff to further discuss land use and transportation uses. Eighteen out of 22 active CAC Members were present. (The CAC started with 26 members. Three members have since resigned. One member only attended the first meeting.) Four major residential areas were created on large maps and the CAC members discussed what specific and uses could be allowed, including the redevelopment of some shopping centers and the potential uses of current vacant land. Large privately-owned undeveloped land should be either purchased as future parkland or developed to no more than four residential units per acre, depending on the location of the parcels. Some residential development may be appropriate with the redevelopment of our failing shopping centers, however general consensus is to contain future development and create neighborhood area plans for the Character Areas of Tech Park, Medlock Bridge Corridor and State Bridge at Jones Bridge to determine what should be appropriate for future growth.

Transportation issues discussed included where traffic signals need to be synchronized and where roundabouts might help in managing traffic flows in and out of schools and large subdivisions. CAC members drew on the area maps where sidewalks/multi-purpose trails should be added and where 2- and a 4-lane parkways should be considered. No 6-lane parkways were recommended anywhere in the City by the CAC members. The consultants, TSW and POND, have taken all of the input from the CAC and the public and are currently writing the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan Update and the Transportation Master Plan. It will be available for review on April 24th for staff and CAC members.

A 9th CAC meeting will be held on April 27th to review the two draft documents with the CAC members and get any changes they deem appropriate. Changes will then be incorporated into the draft and the first draft will be available for the public to review in early May. An outreach campaign will be undertaken during the month of May in coordination with Communications staff including an event on May 20th at Newtown Park during the Saturday morning Farmer's Market and Touch-a-Truck events to get the word out that the draft is available for review and to try and get feedback from the public. In addition, a new marketing brochure, mailing postcards and electronic advertising will be sent out over the next several weeks to encourage our residents to log into CONNECTJOHNSCREEK.COM to review the drafts and to provide us feedback.

It is anticipated that updated drafts incorporating public feedback will be presented to the Mayor and City Council at the June 5th Work Session with the goal to get Mayor and City Council approval to send the draft

documents to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) at the June 19th City Council Meeting. The ARC then has 90 days to review the documents and provide feedback to the City. A final public hearing and Mayor and City Council approval and adoption of the Updated Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan would then happen later this fall.

- **Thornhill Community Traffic Management**

- This spring citizens in the Thornhill community raised concerns regarding speeding, stop sign disobedience and cut through traffic in the Thornhill.
- Thornhill HOA representatives requested the City allow for an access gate to be constructed at one of the entrance/exits to the subdivision to restrict access for the residents of the subdivision to eliminate cut through traffic by non-residents of the subdivision.
- Legal counsel opined that a gate cannot be constructed or operated that would give preference to residents of the subdivision over non-residents, since the roads in the subdivision are public roads.
- Staff has met with Thornhill HOA representatives several times and have suggested alternatives, the JCPD have increased enforcement efforts to deter dangerous driver behavior, and the city installed a “Don’t Block the Box” sign and pavement markings to prevent vehicles from blocking the entrance to Thornhill during peak travel times.
- Staff met with the residents on June 16th.
- Staff has received an inquiry for permission to allow the neighborhood to construct a gate on a public road that would open for residents and non-residents at the entrance at Old Alabama. Staff has reviewed the request and requested and received a legal opinion. Legal counsel has advised that the City can legally negotiate an encroachment agreement on a public road that would allow for this type of a gate. All costs should be borne by the neighborhood. However, staff also recommends revisiting the situation after completion of the Old Alabama widening project later this year before proceeding.
- In the interim period, staff has developed recommendations for the installation of this gate with proper precautions and protections for the City and the motoring public, if Council desires to move forward with this request.
- At the August 15th Council meeting, Staff was directed to discuss with the neighborhood a interim solution with Tuff Curb that would simulate the impact of chicanes and splitter islands.
- Thornhill HOA has asked Council to hold off on taking any action as they complete their analysis of the options and evaluate the effectiveness of the Old Alabama Road widening to see if it mitigates the cut-through traffic issues.

- **Doublegate and Long Indian Creek Subdivision Traffic Management Concerns**

- Staff has met with citizens from both Doublegate and Long Indian Creek Subdivision to discuss concerns they have with speeding, stop sign disobedience, illegal passing of school buses, pedestrian safety and cut through traffic.
- Staff proposed individualized traffic management solutions for each neighborhood. Doublegate preferred to request increased enforcement of speed limits within the neighborhood.
- Staff has installed radar signs, striping and new signs in Long Indian Creek to address some of the issues presented by the residents. Staff is collecting data from the radar signs to measure current

efforts to reduce speed along this street.

- Staff met with Long Indian Creek Subdivision on August 4th to continue discussions regarding speeding. Staff presented various options for in road traffic management including splitter islands and chicanes. Staff also presented speed data from the radar signs to share with residents the impacts of current measures in place to reduce speeding.
- Via a sub-committee of the HOA, the residents of Long Indian Creek will look at all the spots along the Long Indian Creek Drive to determine what kind of traffic calming devices are desired. This will be completed and has been submitted to the Public Works staff.
- Public Works staff will continue to collect data from the two data collectors attached to the speed limit signs. This data will be summarized and shared after September 1, 2016.
- Public Works staff will take the traffic-calming list received from residents of Long Indian Creek and begin the pricing and time frames for the traffic calming list.
- This recommendation will be made available to the residents on September 9th for review.
- Council discussed this issue at a September work session.
- Staff has installed the Tuff Curb to simulate traffic calming devices for the neighborhood at a cost of \$15,435. The stop sign for the neighborhood that was recommended in the warrant analysis has been installed. Staff will evaluate the effectiveness of the Tuff Curb implementation along with gaining community feedback before bringing this item back to Council in the spring of 2017.
- Council passed a traffic calming policy at the March 13th Council meeting. Staff will begin to implement the policy. Long Indian Creek will be grandfathered from the policy since the City has committed to working with the neighborhood prior to the policy being passed.

Other Items of Interest

Financial Condition

- Monthly reports sent to Council related to the City's financial condition.
- The City of Johns Creek was awarded triple AAA ratings by two top Bond rating agencies: Moody and S&P.