

# Analysis of Data and Information: Intergovernmental Coordination

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## **ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INFORMATION: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

This chapter provides an inventory of existing intergovernmental coordination mechanisms and agreements with other local governments and governmental entities.

The City of Peachtree Corners is the largest of 16 cities located in Gwinnett County, Georgia, including Auburn, Berkeley Lake, Braselton, Buford, Dacula, Duluth, Grayson, Lawrenceville, Lilburn, Loganville, Norcross, Rest Haven, Snellville, Sugar Hill, and Suwanee. A vote to incorporate the City passed in 2011, and the City held its first election in March 2012 before its official incorporation on July 1, 2012. A part-time mayor and six city council members (one from each of three districts and three at-large) represent the City's constituents. The city manager is responsible for daily city operations.

### **ADJACENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

The City is located in northwest Gwinnett County. It is bordered by Norcross to the south; Berkeley Lake and Duluth to the east; Johns Creek, Roswell, and Sandy Springs across the Fulton County border to the north; and Dunwoody and Doraville on the west side across the DeKalb County border.

Gwinnett County serves a special role, as they continue to provide many services to Peachtree Corners residents, and coordination between the City and County is especially important. The Peachtree Corners charter states that it will provide the following three services to its constituents: planning and zoning, code enforcement, and solid waste disposal. Currently, Gwinnett County is still providing solid waste disposal services to the City. All other services are provided by Gwinnett County. This agreement is governed by the Service Delivery Strategy.

Table 39 outlines the responsibilities of each department in Gwinnett County that serves Peachtree Corners. While the County does provide many of the following services, it is important that the City continue to communicate its needs related to each of these services to the County.

### **SCHOOL BOARDS**

The City of Peachtree Corners' school system is governed by the Gwinnett County Board of Education, since Peachtree Corners does not have its own governing school board. The Gwinnett County Board of Education is led by five members elected by district that serve four-year terms. Peachtree Corners falls within District 3. The Community Facilities & Cultural Resources section of this report includes an inventory of schools and a map of their locations.

Table 39. Gwinnett County Departments

Service	Department
Board of Commissioners	Elected officials representing the 4 districts in the County. The County Administrator serves as Chief Executive Assistant to Board of Commissioners; oversees County departments; includes County Clerk and other administrative support.
Community Services	Includes Health and Human Services (Senior Services and Human Services Centers); Parks and Recreation (plan for, operate, and maintain parks and greenways; host recreation classes, summer camps, special events, and athletic leagues); Extension Service Division (extension of UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Services and Family and Consumer Sciences; 4-H Youth and Development; soil sampling, water testing, and master gardening program); Environmental and Heritage Center; Public Library; and Voter Registration and Elections (operate elections, report results, manage voter registration.).
Corrections	Promote public safety, operate correctional facilities.
County Clerk	Maintain records of Board of Commissioners.
Courts	Superior, state, magistrate, probate, juvenile, and recorder's court in Lawrenceville.
District Attorney	Trials, criminal investigations, and victim-witness unit.
Economic Development	Attract new businesses, provide expansion incentives for existing firms, add jobs, increase wages, optimize tax digest balance, diversify industries, increase income for Gwinnett residents, encourage revitalization. Administer Opportunity Zones, tax incentives, Community Improvement Districts, and Tax Allocation Districts.
Elections	Operate elections, report results, manage voter registration.
Financial Services	Accounting, Purchasing, Service Division, Budgets, Grants, Strategic Business Development, Tax Assessors, and Treasury.
Fire & Emergency Services	Business services, community risk reduction, and operations.
Human Resources	Recruitment of employees, manage benefits and compensation, maintain employee records.
Information Technology Services	Enterprise Application support, Land Information Solutions, Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
Law	Includes Property Division, Risk Division, and representation for the Board of Commissioners.
Parks & Recreation	Plan for, operate, and maintain parks and greenways. Host recreation classes, summer camps, special events, and athletic leagues.
Police	Operates uniformed police force, criminal investigations, and 911 for the entire county. Operate animal shelter.
Sheriff	Administrative services, civil, court security, field operations, jail, and support services.
Solicitor	Prosecutes all misdemeanor crimes.
Solid Waste & Recycling	Solid waste and recycling collection and disposal.
Support Services	Facilities (building) management, fleet management, capital projects, and real property management.
Tax Commissioner	Collects property and motor vehicle tax.
Transportation	Gwinnett County Transit, Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Operations and Maintenance, Traffic Engineering and Planning, Gwinnett County Airport Briscoe Field.
Water Resources	Provides drinking water, operates infrastructure, stormwater management, Lanier Community Garden, and water conservation resources.

## INDEPENDENT SPECIAL AUTHORITIES AND DISTRICTS

### UNITED PEACHTREE CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The United Peachtree Corners Civic Association (UPCCA) is “a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of residents, subdivisions, businesses, and other stakeholders in matters involving and/or affecting Peachtree Corners.” They are engaged in a variety of activities that support the quality of life in the City. The UPCCA was established in 1993 in response to concerns about development in the then-unincorporated Peachtree Corners area. Currently, the UPCCA maintains medians along Peachtree Parkway and recently installed a gateway sign at Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. The organization was also involved in leading the campaign to incorporate the City. More information on the UPCCA, including how to join, can be found at <http://www.upcca.org/index.html>.

### PEACHTREE CORNERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Peachtree Corners Business Association (PCBA) is a business networking association for the City of Peachtree Corners. Large and small businesses are included, representing a range of industries. One of the PCBA’s roles is to address city, county, and state government issues that affect Peachtree Corners businesses. See <http://peachtreecornersba.com/> to stay up-to-date on PCBA happenings.

### GWINNETT VILLAGE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District (GVCID) was established in 2006 and serves as the gateway between the City of Atlanta and Gwinnett County. A Community Improvement District (CID) is a self-taxing district that raises funds from a millage assessment on real property owned by CID members. It allows a community of businesses, with its own Board of Directors and staff, to augment local government services and specify how the funds it generates can be used.

The organization works to increase commercial values in the district by promoting redevelopment, driving infrastructure investments aimed at increasing mobility, enhancing public safety, and creating a roadside landscape that is pleasing to residents and business owners. The Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District boundary intersects the southern boundary of Peachtree Corners on Buford Highway.

### GWINNETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce markets Gwinnett County to the world as the premier location in Metro Atlanta and Georgia for growing and operating a business. The Chamber assists with site selection, public relations and marketing, assistance for employees and their families moving to the county, and state and local incentives. The Chamber has worked to make Gwinnett the leader in job growth in the Atlanta metro region for the past five years. See <http://new.gwinnetteeconomicdevelopment.com/> for more.

In addition, the Gwinnett Chamber has created Partnership Gwinnett, a public-private community and economic development initiative with the mission of bringing new jobs and investment to the county. It has worked since 2006 to “attract and retain jobs, cultivate capital investment, support education institutions, foster workforce development, and contribute to the exceptional quality of life found in Gwinnett.” Its Partnership Gwinnett 2.0 Strategy builds on prior implementation plans to continue supporting economic growth and a high quality of life. Visit <http://www.partnershipgwinnett.com/> to read the strategy.

## **FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency for the 10-county metropolitan Atlanta area including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale Counties, and the City of Atlanta. Its mission is to demonstrate professional and forward-looking leadership to ensure sustainable growth and competitive advantage by focusing and balancing environmental responsibility, economic growth, and social needs. The City of Peachtree Corners will coordinate with the ARC on comprehensive planning and transportation initiatives.

In addition, the City of Peachtree Corners may pursue funding from the ARC under its Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program. Local governments and nonprofits can apply to receive grants to use in preparing LCI plans that will enhance existing or emerging centers and corridors. These projects should focus on encouraging connectivity, a mix of uses, and housing development in activity centers. Since the program’s inception in 2000, the ARC has approved almost \$18 million in funding through 2017. Peachtree Corners has not yet sought LCI funding, but nearby LCI studies that have been completed include the Duluth Town Center, Norcross Town Center, Norcross Activity Center, Jimmy Carter Corridor, Indian Trail-Lilburn Corridor, and Gwinnett Place Activity Center.

### **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was created in 1977 to serve as an advocate for local governments. In 1996, the Georgia Housing and financing Authority was merged with the DCA. Today, DCA serves as the state’s lead agency in housing finance and development; publishes building codes to be adopted by local governments; provides comprehensive planning, technical, and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state’s solid waste reduction efforts. DCA reviews all local comprehensive plans and solid waste plans for compliance with Georgia’s minimum standards.

## GEORGIA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

The Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) was created in 1999 by the Georgia General Assembly under Title 50, Article 32, by the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Act (Senate Bill 57). The authority's mission is to combat air pollution, traffic congestion, and poor development patterns in the Atlanta region. GRTA has authority over any county that is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-designated nonattainment area under the U.S. Clean Air Act amendments of 1990. Currently, 20 counties in the Atlanta metropolitan region fall under GRTA's jurisdiction ([http://documents.atlantaregional.com/transportation/tp\\_2012UPWP\\_Amended\\_082012.pdf](http://documents.atlantaregional.com/transportation/tp_2012UPWP_Amended_082012.pdf)).

GRTA must review any Development of Regional Impact (DR) that falls within its jurisdictional area. A DRI is a large-scale development that will likely have an impact beyond its immediate vicinity. The 1989 Georgia Planning Act authorizes the DCA to establish procedures for intergovernmental review of large-scale projects. GRTA's oversight of DRIs is intended to improve communication between adjacent governments and to assess potential impacts of large developments to prevent conflicts.

GRTA also operates the Xpress commuter bus service, which takes commuters to and from major employment centers in Downtown, Midtown, Buckhead, and Perimeter Center. See Chapter 8: "Analysis of Data & Information: Transportation" for more details on the Xpress bus routes that serve Peachtree Corners.

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) was created in 1972 by former Governor Jimmy Carter. Its mission is to "provide a safe, seamless, and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to its citizens and environment." GDOT's largest responsibility is the planning, construction, and maintenance of the state's roads and bridges; the Department also plans and funds other modes of transportation, including air, water, and rail. Any transportation project funded with federal dollars is undertaken through GDOT. Within Peachtree Corners, streetscape improvement projects on state highways must be approved by GDOT.

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was created by Governor Jimmy Carter in 1972 under the Executive Reorganization Act. Several existing state agencies were reorganized to form the Georgia DNR. The DNR's mission is to "sustain, enhance, protect, and conserve Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices." The "natural, historic, and cultural resources" protected by the DNR include "the state's air, soil, and water; all game species of animals, birds, and fish; all non-game species of animals, birds, and fish; all plants, whether common, endangered, or protected; and every cultural, historic, or recreational resource within the state."

One of the DNR's many responsibilities is developing and implementing plans that guide the management and protection of Georgia's resources. Local governments should refer to the DNR's plans and regulations in their own planning processes. State-wide natural resources strategic plans, historic preservation plans, wildlife plans, water management plans, and outdoor recreation plans could all be relevant to Peachtree Corners. The DNR also provides technical assistance to municipalities dealing with water conservation, environmental protection, wildlife preservation, parks and recreation planning, and historic preservation.

## METROPOLITAN NORTH GEORGIA WATER PLANNING DISTRICT

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District was established in 2001 for the purpose of establishing policy, creating plans, and promoting intergovernmental coordination for all water-related issues in the district. The goal of the district is to develop comprehensive regional water resources plans that protect water quality and water supply in and downstream of the region, protect recreational values of the waters in and downstream of the region, and minimize potential adverse impacts of development on waters in and downstream of the region. The planning district also facilitates multi-jurisdictional water-related projects and enhances access to funding for water-related projects among local governments in the district area. The district develops regional and watershed-specific plans for stormwater management, wastewater treatment, water supply, water conservation, and the general protection of water quality. The planning district comprises all local governments within a 16-county area.

## SUMMARY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION EXISTING CONDITIONS

### NEEDS

- Enhance coordination with **Gwinnett County Board of Education** to maintain a strong, well-regarded school system.
- Coordinate with the **Gwinnett Chamber** in implementation of the Partnership Gwinnett Strategy.
- According to Gwinnett County's Unified Development Plan, the **costs** of operating and maintaining public services and providing public safety are rising.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- The ARC's **PLAN 2040** outlines strategies for local government implementation, which aims to sustain metro Atlanta's livability and prosperity as its population continues to grow.
- Continue to review **Service Delivery Strategy**, as the City may choose to take on services from Gwinnett County.

- Increase involvement at **local and regional group meetings**.
- Continue to coordinate with **county, regional, and state agencies** regarding infrastructure, environmental issues, and water management.
- Create a mechanism for **county coordination** related to all infrastructure and program needs, such as public works, parks and recreation, and community development.