



December, 2014 Newsletter

## From the Mayor's Desk

### Study Reveals Exciting Plans for City's Future

If you attended the city's Livable Center Initiative (LCI) workshop on Nov. 20, you undoubtedly were impressed by the presentation on the plans to create a downtown district. The study targeted the area along Peachtree Parkway between Medlock and Holcomb Bridge roads – its purpose was to create an area that would be identified as the downtown area for the city.

The LCI study was made possible through a \$96,000 grant awarded to the city by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its aim was to develop a blueprint for the 1,500-acre area identified as the city's central business district. With the help of Lord, Aeck Sargent, the city's planning consultant, a plan has been developed for the area that divides Peachtree Parkway into three distinct sections; The Town Center hub to the north, the Holcomb Bridge hub to the south and the Innovation hub in the middle surrounding Technology Park.

The study focused on providing a roadmap for the development of a town center within the city and to assist the city in developing a plan for a walkable, connected downtown core and community identity.

It also identified ways to improve traffic flow, find creative ways to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian paths and pocket parks and housing in Technology Park that would appeal to the millennial generation. (Cities interested in economic growth know that this generation of 20-30 year olds are paramount to a city's continued success.)

The study also addressed finding ways to get pedestrians safely across busy roadways such as Peachtree Parkway. The use of attractive bridges that are also destinations themselves was one of the ideas.

The resulting plan – now in its final phase – focuses on five key strategies:

1. **Addressing traffic issues** along Peachtree Parkway through intersection improvements, improved signal timing, revamped signage and pedestrian safety upgrades.
2. **Offering more housing choices** to accommodate a variety of household types, sizes and age groups. Seniors and empty nesters looking to downsize should be able to "age in place." Companies looking to relocate to Peachtree Corners will want housing options for a younger "millennial" workforce.
3. **Refreshing and redeveloping** aging retail and office parcels throughout the district. Particular focus should be on infusing Technology Park office areas with a more diverse array of land uses, especially housing.

4. **Connecting and adding amenities** to the district through a series of new open spaces that are knit together with existing workplaces, destinations and natural areas by a network of off-street trails.
5. **Creating remarkable spaces** for recreation and entertainment that embody the values, aspirations and civic pride of our new city. These new spaces should be unique to Peachtree Corners, leaving an impression on visitors and offering experiences not found elsewhere in the region.

I'm excited about the study – and excited about how following through with the recommendations will improve Peachtree Corners residents' quality of life. Imagine being able to bike or walk along paths that connect to pocket parks – or living in the new Town Center and being able to walk to restaurants and entertainment spots.

Imagine old shopping centers such as the one on Holcomb Bridge Road and Peachtree Parkway that have lost their appeal being transformed into a mixed-use developments with trendy shops, unique eateries and apartments or condominiums above.

It's all possible. Through the LCI study, the city will have a blueprint of projects to visualize its future.