

# Cobb Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update



## Stakeholder and Technical Committee Meeting-SUMMARY

November 20, 2014 5pm to 7pm  
Cobb County DOT Squad Room  
1890 County Services Parkway  
Marietta, GA 30008

### Attendees:

David Welden, Protect Cobb  
Galt Porter, District 4 Planning  
Commission

Julia Billings, GDOT Planning  
Kim Paris, WellStar  
Ian Samson, PEDS

Ron Sifen  
Challa Bonja, City of Marietta

Galt Porter, Cobb Planning  
Commission  
Eric Randall, City of Smyrna  
Kaycee Martz, GDOT Planning  
Brantley Day, Cumberland CID

Jill Flamm, East Cobb Civic Association  
Stephen Byrne, Mauldin & Jenkins

Richard Crim, Dobbins ARB

Karl Van Hagel, Cobb DOT  
Jack Kennedy, Cobb Public Health  
Steve Covert, GA Tea Party

### Project Team Staff

Faye DiMassimo, Cobb County DOT  
Tim Preece, ARCADIS

Eric Meyer, Cobb County DOT  
Haley Berry, ARCADIS

Marty Sewell, Cobb County DOT  
Julie Price, ARCADIS

The meeting began with a 30 minute open house. Attendees were asked to review the project maps and boards.

### Welcome and Introductions

Tim Preece with ARCADIS opened the meeting.

### Status Update

Mr. Preece gave a quick status update on CTP tasks. The project team is nearing the end of the CTP process. The short term project list was finalized over the summer while the mid and long term projects have been evaluated and prioritized based on how well they meet the guiding principles. A public meeting has been scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> to review and provide feedback on the draft project recommendations. The county will be seeking adoption of the plan in January 2015.

### Presentation

Mr. Preece reviewed the Guiding Principles that were developed early on in the CTP process to guide the development and prioritization of projects. The guiding principles include: Maximize performance of the transportation system; improve access and manage traffic congestion; achieve traveler safety and security, drive economic competitiveness; lead with cost-effective solutions.

Projects were identified through various sources including the needs assessment analysis, completed studies and plan, traffic and crash data, community input, and the travel demand model. Several scenarios were tested and the projects were evaluated against performance measures to see how well projects met

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the guiding principles. Based on their scores with the performance measures, the projects were then prioritized, resulting in a financially constrained prioritized CTP project list.

Three scenarios were run: Base Scenario; Status Quo Scenario, and Innovation Scenario. The Base Scenario consisted of 2040 existing transportation infrastructure and committed projects in the FY 2014-2019 TIP. The Status Quo Scenario included all projects in the Base Scenario plus roadway capacity and transit projects in the 2008 Cobb CTP and PLAN 2040 TIP/RTP/Aspirations projects lists. The Status Quo Scenario costs \$4.1 billion, results in slight improvement to current congestion levels while accommodating growth. Under the Status Quo Scenario, over time there is a decrease in access to jobs. The Innovation Scenario included all projects in the Base Scenario plus roadway and transit projects focused on economic development and innovation in key destinations and along major thoroughfares. For the Innovation Scenario, Status Quo Scenario projects were modified to include other projects and/or remove projects. The Innovation Scenario costs \$3.6 billion and keeps pace with current levels of congestion while accommodating growth. Over time, there is a slight improvement to in access to jobs via transit under the Innovation Scenario.

The project team considered scenario-level performance measures, roadway performance measures, and transit performance measures to evaluate the projects. Measures included congested speed, congestion costs, total transit trips, accessibility, key destinations and projects, V/C ratio, vehicle hours of delay, annual cost per user, daily boardings, and population and employment within ¼ mile of a transit route, to name few.

Outcomes included innovative cost effective solutions such as targeted intersection grade-separations instead of lengthy road widening projects. Further expansion of CCT service in certain areas, such as Connect Cobb, Austell Road and certain portions of south Cobb, Kennesaw, and Acworth to Town Center and Marietta, will double transit use and provide access to jobs and activity centers. Prioritizing specific trail and sidewalk projects in the short term is supportive of travel and tourism in the county and will help drive economic competitiveness.

The short term plan includes the highest priority projects, consists of the first 5 years of the plan, and includes the 2016 SPLOST, just approved in November by Cobb County voters, costs an estimated \$1.2 billion with an estimated \$650 of that as Cobb County's portion. The mid-term projects are considered for years 5-10 of the Plan and are needed for current and future growth, totaling \$1.1 billion with an estimated \$416 million attributed as Cobb County's portion. The long term projects are considered 10 years or greater out in the future, are needed for future travel needs, and would take substantial time to construct. It totals \$3.0 billion with an estimated \$488 million as the county's portion.

Next steps include the public meeting on December 4, 2014 and finalizing the documentation and reports of the CTP. The County Commission and respective city councils will consider the CTP for approval in January 2015.

## Discussion

Below is a summary of the discussion and comments received during the presentation:

- Include the assumed population and employment growth assumed for each future scenario.
- What did the CTP do to reflect the Braves? The underlying land use has not changed. It was always assumed that area would be developed at a high-intensity. The impact of the Braves is handled at that local area, not system wide as the CTP is handled.
- Connect Cobb doubles ridership levels- what are those levels? From what ridership level to what new level?
- Status Quo and Innovation Scenarios are need-based documents, they are not financially constrained.
- Attach the \$ amounts in the legends of the maps for each category.

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- Include a board with currently funded projects on it and share information on the “What’s in it for me?” app.



## Comment Form

Attached.



# Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2040 Update Comment Form

1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree      Somewhat Agree      Neutral      Somewhat Disagree      Disagree

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?

Public TRANSPORTATION / PEDESTRIAN ACCESS  
graduation @ intersections

3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority?

they are interactive - so difficult to do one  
w/o the other

4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

(private mass transportation - some countries have  
informal mass transit systems - that could help  
to link major hubs @ work

5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

not that I would give higher priority -  
but curious how Marietta's dense population  
will make more effective use of Cobb Pkwy corridor  
(would also like to see incentives for seniors getting them  
of road

6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting  
on December 4<sup>th</sup>?

None



# Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2040 Update Comment Form

1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neutral

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?

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3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority?

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4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

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5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

Public Transportation from East Cobb to  
SunTrust Park  
Ped. improvements on Johnson Ferry

6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>?

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# Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2040 Update Comment Form

1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neutral

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?

GRADE SEPR - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS,  
LOCAL TRANSIT ROUTES - BUSES.

3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority?

BRT  
"COMPLETE STREETS"  
TRAILS & BIKE PATHS

4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ESTIMATED O & M & SUBSIDY COSTS

5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

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6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>?

BREAK \$3.6B INTO SUMMARY LEVEL CATEGORIES

PROVIDE CURRENTLY FUNDED PROJECTS MAP/LISTS



# Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2040 Update Comment Form

1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neutral

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?

- TRAFFIC LIGHT COORDINATION  
- ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS - ADDITIONAL LANES  
- GRADE SEPERATION AT HIGH DEMAND INTERSECTIONS

3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority?

- PRIVITIZE TRANSIT SERVICE -- EX: MEGABUS, GROOME,  
UBER,

4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

NONE THAT I CAN THINK OF

5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

NO

6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>?

NO - LOOKS GOOD



# Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2040 Update Comment Form

1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neutral

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?

Sidewalks, median crossings on transit routes. Complete  
Streets projects.  
Cobb County BRT.

3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority?

Road expansion projects - will negatively impact  
safety & usability, wrong direction for future of Cobb County.

4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

A county complete streets policy is a great idea.

5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>?





# Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2040 Update Comment Form

1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree      Somewhat Agree      Neutral      Somewhat Disagree      Disagree

COBB CONNECT BRT HAS CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY OPPOSITION & ON JULY 22 THREE COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO NOT FUND THIS PROJECT WITH SPLOST. IT MAY BE THAT A MAJORITY OF COMMISSIONERS MAY NOT SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?  
INTERSECTION GRADE SEPARATIONS  
MORE BCT ROUTES THAT SKIP LOW DEMAND STOPS

3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority?

COBB CONNECT BRT

4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

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5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

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6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>?

ASTERISK FOR COBB CONNECT AND ASK THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXPLICITLY IF THEY WANT TO INCLUDE THIS PROJECT OR PURSUE LESS EXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVES



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1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neutral

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?

The areas south of I-20 given that FedEx will be putting 1500 employees at the intersection of two two-lane roads. Factory Shoals needs to be widened to 5 lanes. Additionally there is a 600,000+ warehouse going in on White Road which should generate several hundred jobs. Also Windy Hill widening should

3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority? *be moved up.*

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4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

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5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

Widening Factory Shoals south of I-20. Interchange improvements to I-20, possibly an interchange at I-20 and Factory Shoals.

6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>?

Also include projects that are already funded, but not built.

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# Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan 2040 Update Comment Form

1. Overall, do you agree with or disagree with the project list and its priorities? Circle one.

Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neutral

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

2. What projects do you see that should be given a higher priority?

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3. What projects do you see that should be given a lower priority?

*The BRAT project for Hwy 41 is not a good  
added in my opinion. Increasing Bus  
service is!*

*Personally I would not like to see planes  
on Piedmont / EAST PIEDMONT*

4. Are there other programs and policies that should be recommended?

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5. Are there any projects that you think are missing from the project list?

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6. Are there any changes you would make to the materials for the general public meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>?

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