



DeKalb County's GREEN FOCUS

An Environmental Newsletter

May 2014

Lee May, Interim CEO

ARC Green Communities Reaching for Silver



Last May, DeKalb County Government recertified with Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities as a Bronze participant. This year, the County will turn in new measures that support efforts to remain one of the greenest county's in the metro Atlanta area. Both Cobb and Gwinnett counties are Silver certified while remaining counties within the metro area are certified Bronze. The County's newest sustainable efforts reside in the categories of Land Use and Transportation & Air Quality.

DeKalb County Government
2013 Bronze Certification

Volume 3, Issue 2



In order to better educate the County's employees and constituents, these measures will be added to the County's sustainability website, DeKalb's Green Focus. Certification by the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities recognizes DeKalb County's commitment to implement policies and practices to support sustainability and reduce overall environmental impact. To view the County's Green Focus website visit <http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/greenfocus/index.html>

ARC Category: Land Use Government Infill Development

Infill sites are defined as new development that is sited on previously developed land within an existing community, and that is surrounded by other types of development. The term most commonly refers to building homes in existing neighborhoods but may also be used to describe new development in commercial, office or mixed-use areas.

DeKalb County Government has worked in several locations around the County where vacant parcels of land have been purchased to incorporate the older urban establishments that are already serviced with utilities. During the redevelopment of South DeKalb Senior Center and Scott Candler Library the vacant Mrs. Winners property was acquired to provide additional parking.

Additional projects include the South Police Precinct & the Tucker-Reid H. Cofer library.



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Upgrade

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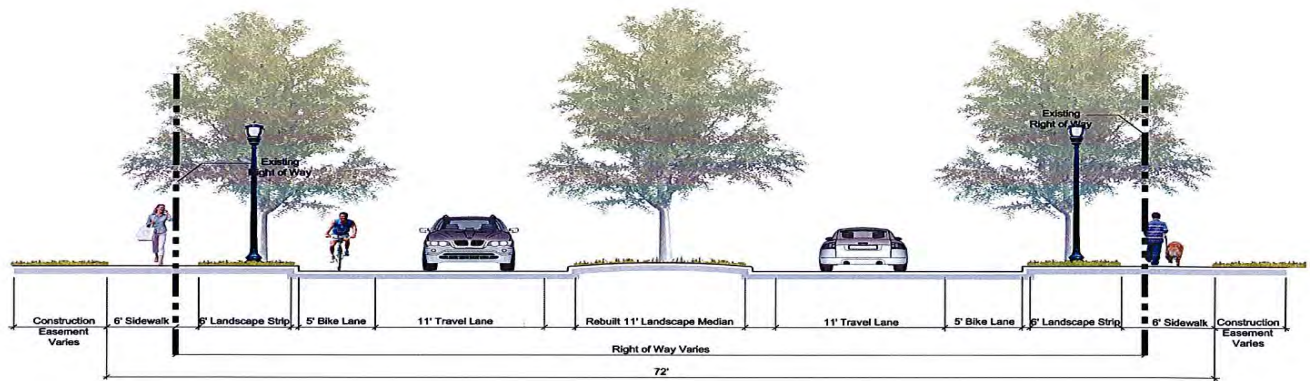
Transportation & Air
Quality—Complete
Streets & Bicycle/Ped Plan

ARC Category Transportation & Air Quality Community Complete Streets

Complete Streets are roadway corridors that are designed and constructed to accommodate users of all ages, abilities and modes. For the past several years, DeKalb County has actively been pursuing the expansion of bicycle, pedestrian, and transit networks throughout the County. To formalize this effort, a Complete Streets Policy has been included in the DeKalb County 2014 Transportation Plan.

The purpose of the policy is to aid DeKalb County in developing and maintaining a safe and efficient transportation system for motorist, bicyclist, pedestrians and transit users. Accordingly, this Complete Streets Policy recommends that all roadway projects, both new construction and retrofit/reconstruction projects, consider incorporating bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities.

The policy recommends the use of the most up-to-date complete streets design guidelines and best practices. Examples include designing walkable urban thoroughfares and the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.



ARC Category Transportation & Air Quality Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan



The objective of the bicycle and pedestrian level of service goals within the DeKalb County 2014 Transportation Plan, in conjunction with the Complete Streets and Bicycle Network Priority, serve to enhance the connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists by improving the quality of sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails with DeKalb County.

The 2014 Transportation Plan incorporated the methodology from the Atlanta Regional Commission's Bicycle Transportation & Pedestrian Walkways Plan. Many of the benefits of building bicycle & pedestrian friendly communities include congestion mitigation, improvements to air quality, mobility, accessibility, safety, and healthy living and quality of life.

The bicycle and pedestrian goals within the Transportation Plan will help build on strategies for regional bicycle network that includes on-road facilities and shared use pathways; and pedestrian planning focused around activity centers.

