

Long Range Planning NEWS

December 2021



DeKalb County
GEORGIA

DeKalb County
Planning and Sustainability Department
Andrew Baker, AICP, Director

Planning During a Pandemic

During the past year, our transition to a hybrid schedule of 50% in the office and 50% working from home. Long Range has continued to produce at high levels, while keeping everyone safe. Initial teleworking allowed us to provide services in a more efficient way, through the use of technology and using tools and strategies implemented during the pandemic:

- Remote Servicing Page ([Click HERE](#))
- Who to Call Matrix ([Click HERE for Planning](#))
- Microsoft Teams for Meetings & Collaboration
- Microsoft Planner for Managing Projects
- SharePoint and OneDrive for File Storage
- Zoom and Teams for External Customer Meetings



Sylvia Smith
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NEW RANGERS ON BOARD



James Burge!

James has been with the Long Range Planning team for approximately six months as our GIS Specialist. He comes to us as a graduate from Georgia Tech.

His experiences includes using web-based GIS services, updating tax parcel data, and improving data base systems.

As a GIS Specialist with Long Range, he will be primarily responsible for preparing maps for case studies, the Annual Development Report, Commission District Profiles, and special planning projects and reports.



James Burge

GIS Specialist
Phone: 404-371-2734
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Brianna McCloud!

Brianna is a Planner with the Long Range Planning team. She is a graduate of Prairie View A&M and the University of North Texas (Dallas).

Her experiences includes analyzing geographic relationships among varying types of data using GIS. Prepares various documents (e.g., case write-ups, proposals, docket material, notices, and advertisements for public hearings, updating tax parcel data, and improving data base systems.

As a Planner with the Long Range Planning Division, she will be primarily responsible for preparing maps and analysis for case studies, the Annual Development Report, Commission District Profiles, and special projects and reports.



Brianna McCloud

Planner
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Memorial Drive Revitalization Study

DeKalb County 2035 Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Update

The study recommends three overall strategies that will help encourage revitalization on the Memorial Drive Corridor.

Implementation Happening Now!

STRATEGY

1

CHANGE THE PERCEPTION

While there are many notable and positive things happening on the corridor, this section of Memorial Drive has a perception problem. Initiatives and activities need to take place to encourage people to rethink these perceptions and see the corridor in a different light.

STRATEGY

2

CREATE DEMAND

Because it has effectively been 30 years since there was demand for new development on the corridor, public sector initiatives will need to take place that fill in that gap and create demand where there is currently none by the private sector. By leading the way, private sector investment can follow.

STRATEGY

3

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY REDEVELOPMENT

A positive regulatory environment can make it easier for the private sector to invest in the corridor by offsetting the risk associated with redevelopment.



The adoption of DeKalb County 2035 Comprehensive Update is not a full update. Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires an update of Comprehensive plan every 5-years. The update highlights the Report of Accomplishments and Community Work Program of new projects from all DeKalb County Departments.



Larry Washington

Planning Administrator

Project Manager for Memorial Plan

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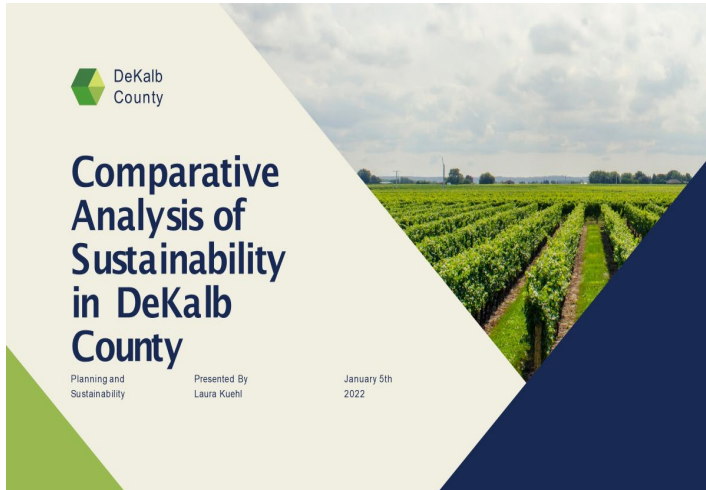


GATEWAY WEST GLOBAL CITY HAMBRICK VILLAGE GATEWAY EAST

330 W Ponce de Leon
Avenue Decatur, Georgia
30030
plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov



DeKalb County
GEORGIA



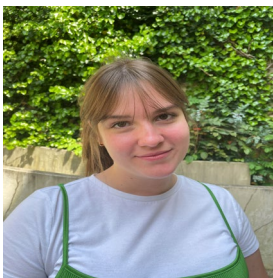
Pedestrian Friendly Design



Creating Mixed Use

Sustainability Analysis

DeKalb County is working on a research analysis to look at ways to enhance DeKalb County's Sustainability Initiatives within our government offices, development and communities. Stay tuned for more information.



Laura Kuehl
Sustainability Intern
Project Manager



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Sustainability Coordinator
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Glenwood Columbia Plan

The purpose was to prepare a plan that provides education and a toolkit for the business community, that builds a consensus on how to strengthen economic development in the area. This project sets the following goals:

- Provides a vision for the re-development of this underutilized commercial node in DeKalb County.
- Focused emphasis on community understanding and buy-in for redevelopment through training.
- Strategy for the education of stakeholders in the community.

This effort was completed in February 2021 and will be incorporated in the 2050 Unified Plan effort presently underway. The project site is still live and can be viewed [HERE](#)



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The DeKalb Business Registry

The DeKalb County Long Range Planning Department has established a Business Registry to get business owners more involved in decisions affecting their communities. Once a company registers as a business with DeKalb County, they become part of the Business Registry.



Jaeson Bell
Administrative Specialist
Project Manager

Community Engagement ! Memorial Drive Community Action Group First Event Of 2021.



Ethiopia New Year's Celebration

Commissioner Bradshaw speaking on the Memorial Drive Corridor Plan.

Commissioner Johnson unveiling the architectural rendering of the community park. 2021

Workforce Housing



The Workforce Housing is to encourage workforce housing units in DeKalb County housing stock. DeKalb will identify areas in activity centers that promote the concentration of residential spaces and commercial activity, which may serve many communities in order to reduce automobile travel, promote walkability and increase transit usage.



Laurel Corrao
Planner
Project Manager

Education and Research

2021 Introductory of Neighborhood Community 101 Project.



The Neighborhood 101 initiative is design to educated unincorporated DeKalb County neighborhoods on community planning.



James Burge
GIS Specialist
Project Manager

Planning News Community Engagement



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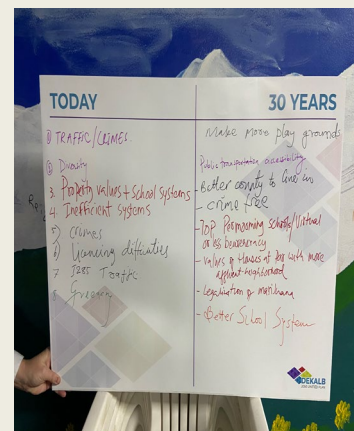
Project Overview

The DeKalb County 2050 Unified Plan will combine two of the County's long-range plans into one: a Comprehensive Transportation Plan that identifies priority transportation projects and policy recommendations and a Comprehensive Land Use Plan that establishes the framework for future growth and development. Transportation and land use investments have a direct impact on one another, so the combined plan will create a more consistent, unified strategy. The combined plan will address arts and culture, housing, health and wellness, public safety, sustainability, retail, and annexation.

The recommendations of this planning process will help DeKalb leadership determine which transportation projects to pursue for both local funding opportunities and state and federal dollars. The Plan will also include recommendations within unincorporated DeKalb activity centers for the types of growth and development that may occur based on new market realities and trends.

2050 Unified Plan

The 2050 Unified Plan kicked off with a series of intercepts at MARTA Stations, Community Farmers Markets and Exchange Park events to gather input.



Kick Off Meetings

Sylvia Smith

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Project Manager for 2050
Unified Plan

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<https://dekalb2050unifiedplan.com>

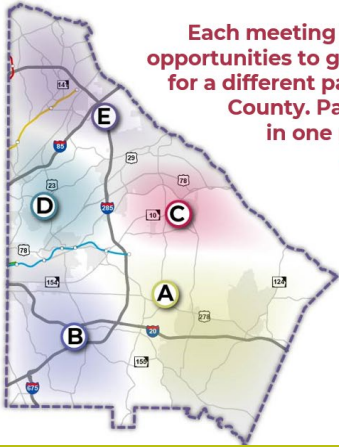
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Planning News Community Engagement

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Community Engagement

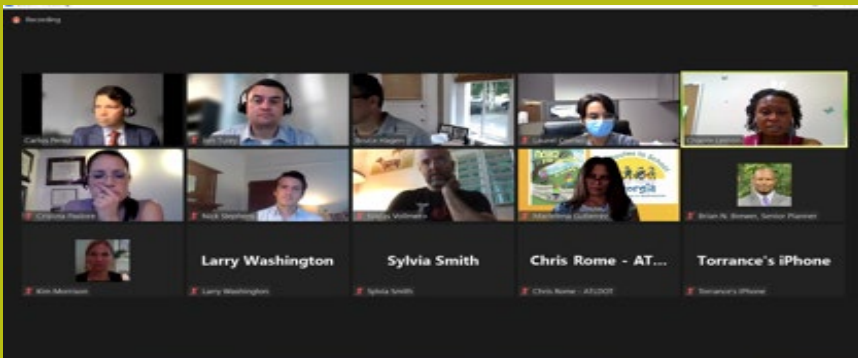


Each meeting provides opportunities to give input for a different part of the County. Participate in one meeting, or more!

- A Southeast DeKalb County**
Wednesday, September 15th
6:00-7:30 PM
- B Southwest DeKalb County**
Thursday, September 16th
6:00-7:30 PM
- C East Central DeKalb County**
Thursday, September 23rd
6:00-7:30 PM
- D West Central DeKalb County**
Monday, September 27th
6:00-7:30 PM
- E North DeKalb County**
Tuesday, September 28th
6:00-7:30 PM

The 2050 Unified Plan team hosted a series of Stakeholders, Focus Groups, Online Surveys, Community Charrettes and Non-English speaking community meetings to gather Land Use, Transportation and Economic Development input from the community to prepare the needs assessment.

Virtual Meetings



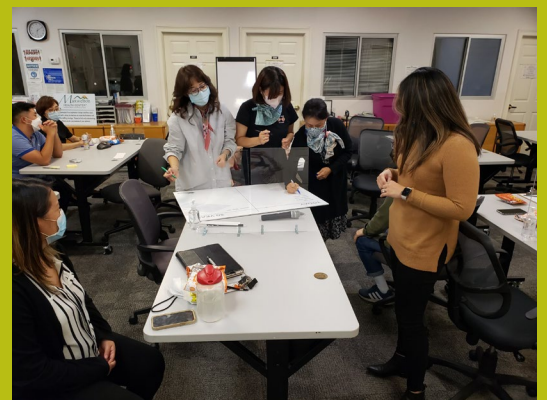
Multicultural Fact Sheets

- Fact Sheet in English (PDF, 334 KB)
- Fact Sheet in Spanish (PDF, 334 KB)
- Fact Sheet in Chinese (PDF, 464 KB)
- Fact Sheet in Korean (PDF, 404 KB)
- Fact Sheet in Nepali (PDF, 337 KB)
- Fact Sheet in Burmese (PDF, 3,764 KB)
- Fact Sheet in Hindi (PDF, 1,094 KB)

Ethiopian Community



Hispanic Community





2022 Planning Goals

- Annual Development Report
- 2050 Unified Plan Adoption
- Memorial Drive Community Action Group Implementations
- Mercer LCI Application
- Sustainability Implementations

Long Rangers

