



# Long Range Planning NEWSLETTER

August 2023

DeKalb County  
Planning & Sustainability



## Towers Community Meeting



On Tuesday, July 25th 2023, our department met with the Towers High Community for their monthly community meeting and presented information about the duties and functions of Planning and Sustainability. From Long Range Projects to Zoning and Special Projects happening around their area, the guests who attended the meeting were able to not only learn, but also ask questions regarding the work that our department does in their area.

The meeting was held at Peace Baptist Church at 4000 Covington Highway, Decatur, Ga.

We look forward to meeting with more of the community as the year continues!

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## World Planning Day

November 8th 2023 is the annual celebration of World Planning Day! Each year, planners around the world engage in activities that highlight the importance of planning. Updates will be provided as November approaches!



## Small Area Plans

One of the primary tools to guide development within Activity Centers is through the use of Small Area Plans (SAPs). These plans allow policy makers and the community to guide development, policies, and investments at a much finer level of detail than can be provided in the comprehensive plan. Goals and conditions regarding SAPs can be found on the DeKalb 2050 Unified Plan.



### Stone Mountain PATH Trail

This project will bring together cross-jurisdictional stakeholders to help align planning goals and regulations to create more affordable housing, multi-modal transportation options, and places for the community to work and play along the Stone Mountain PATH Trail.



### Presidential Pkwy/ Embry Hills

The Presidential Pkwy/ Embry Hill study will include an analysis of existing conditions that impact the ability to create a livable, pedestrian friendly environment associated with the boundary of the study.



### Candler Road Corridor Public Art

The Candler Road Corridor SAP will focus on providing public art installations along the corridor. More information to come!

## Transit Oriented Development

Transit-Oriented Development, or TOD, means development that is vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and genuinely integrated with transit that supports both local community development and regional economic development.

### Indian Creek Station

Over 150 community members attended the July 19th Design Charrette at Electric Own studios and provided their input regarding design elements that they would like to see implemented in the master plan of Indian Creek Station. The communities input will help shape the plan for TOD at Indian Creek Station.

There will be an open house conducted later this year. More information regarding the TOD to come!

Find a summary of the event and presentation materials [here!](#)



Indian Creek Station Area Design Charrette, July 19th, 2023

**Find out more information [here!](#)**

## Memorial Drive Revitalization

### Options Summary



The primary goal of the Memorial Drive Revitalization Plan is to provide a vision for the area. Work towards a consensus among business owners and the community. Create a revitalization strategy for this important corridor that includes beautification, vibrant businesses, mixed use development, and living wage employment opportunities.

### Community Action Groups

Since the Memorial Drive Revitalization plan's adoption, DeKalb County has been working on numerous plan initiatives. The Community Action Groups (CAG) is designed to be the community advocacy needed to move the needle on various projects.

## Memorial Drive Rebranding

The DeKalb County Planning and Sustainability Department hosted the Memorial Drive Rebranding Final Public Presentation on June 8th, 2023. The public meeting was hosted virtually through Zoom. Over 50 community members attended and were given the opportunity to ask our team questions regarding the proposed logo and signage to be implemented along the Memorial Drive Corridor.

During the meeting, community members were invited to ask questions regarding the project and took a survey to give preference in regards to how the logo for Memorial Drive would be seen across the corridor.

The next steps of this project involve speaking with GDOT to ensure that signage can be placed along the corridor and getting the details regarding signage and banners solidified.

Stay tuned for more updates regarding this project!



### Trees and Trails

Trees and Trails hosted their Public Engagement meeting on August 2nd, 2023 at the Covington Highway Public Library Conference Room from 6PM— 7 PM. The presentation can be [found here!](#) The survey can be [found here!](#)



### East Memorial Drive Revitalization Foundation (EMDRF)

EMDRF will be hosting their Good Neighbors Day Out event at Memorial Square, 5979 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain on September 30th.

### Lift DeKalb

Plans to create a Community Development Corporation as well as a website to inform, educate, and gather community feedback. Information to come.

### F.A.M.E.

In process of finalizing a location and date for a Paint by Numbers event on Memorial Drive. Information to come.



## Planning hosts the 2023 Atlanta ULF Program!

### urban leaders fellowship

Our Planning and Sustainability Long Range Division hosted two interns from the ULF program, Abigail Cook and Khalil Coleman. While the program itself concluded on July 26th, 2023, the two are continuing to work with our department and other members of the Planning and Sustainability department to put together their policy recommendations focusing on housing insecurity in DeKalb County, especially South DeKalb.

The Urban Leaders Fellowship is a paid summer fellowship for professionals who come from various backgrounds, professions, ideologies, and experiences with a sincere commitment to transforming communities through people and partnerships. The program ran from June 20th till July 26th. The program concluded with the ULF fellows presenting their recommendations in two topics that concern DeKalb County, Justice 40 and Civic Engagement. Their presentation was streamed live on DCTV as well as open to the public at the Manuel J. Maloof Center.



### Housing Insecurity

Khalil Coleman  
&  
Abigail Cook

They will be presenting their policy recommendations before the Board of Commissioners, date to be determined. We look forward to their upcoming presentation!

It was a pleasure for our department to collaborate with the ULF program and look forward to future collaborations.

You can find more information regarding the program [here!](#)

## Stay Engaged!



### Welcome to DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability

Contribute your ideas and influence decision-making on local  
issues and projects that matter to you!

[Register here](#)

## Engage DeKalb is Live!

DeKalb County's Planning and Sustainability department has launched Engage DeKalb! This engagement platform is a new way for you to provide input to county staff quickly and easily. Whether you have 5 minutes or more time to share, you can learn what is happening in your local government and share your thoughts.

We want to hear what you have to say on projects, programs, and topics that affect you and your neighbors. New projects will be added onto Engage DeKalb so be sure to register and keep updated on major projects happening around DeKalb County.

Engage DeKalb is live NOW! Get involved and [register here!](#)

## DeKalb County...

### 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.

### Neighborhood Registry

The DeKalb County Long Range Planning Department has established the Neighborhood Registry to get residents more involved in decisions affecting their neighborhoods and to improve participation. Neighbors and neighborhood organizations that are not already on the Neighborhood Registry are invited to join. So far, the registry has over 500 people.

[Register Here!](#)

## WELCOME OUR NEW RANGERS ON BOARD



**Jacob Wilson**  
Planner

Jacob Wilson is Planning and Sustainability's new Planner, starting mid-June 2023. He holds a Bachelor's in Urban Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is an advocate for transit, cycling, and livable communities.

**Look forward to meeting  
new rangers at our next  
newsletter!**

### Meet the Long Range Planning Team!



**Cedric Hudson**  
Planning and Sustainability  
Interim Director



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Long Range Planning Manager



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**Have further questions regarding the material covered in this month's newsletter?**  
Contact Nicole Marchant at [nvmarchant@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:nvmarchant@dekalbcountyga.gov) or [plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov)