



# Johns Creek

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## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
**From:** Warren Hutmacher, City Manager  
**Date:** September 21, 2017  
**Subject:** **Monthly City Manager Report to Elected Officials – August 2017**

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This report details various items of interest regarding city business for the month of August 2017. The information is presented within the framework of the six goals established by the Council at the last Annual Strategic Planning Retreat and the monthly Financial Report is attached.

### **Transportation: Provide a comprehensive transportation network that facilitates ease of movement throughout the City.**

#### **Transportation Planning: Master Transportation Plan**

- The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is a companion document to the Comprehensive Plan and in essence is a more detailed version of the transportation element within the Comprehensive Plan.
- The update of the 2008 Transportation Master Plan is being completed in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan and began in the fall of 2016.
- To date two educational workshops, four planning workshops, and twelve (12) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings have been held to seek public input and guide the drafting.
- At the CAC's twelfth meeting on August 16, 2017, they reviewed the Executive Summary and plan development section.
  - Several CAC members expressed frustration because the CAC opposes widening any roads to six-lanes and yet the TSPLOST projects (which will encompass the first five years of implementation projects for the Comprehensive Plan and TMP) include capacity projects to restripe or widen both Medlock Bridge Road and State Bridge Road from four lanes to six lanes.
  - The CAC continues to desire the intersection at Medlock and State Bridge roads to be studied and designed, before any additional lanes are added to Medlock Bridge and State Bridge.

### **Transportation Planning: North Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

- Regional planning effort managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission kicked off in August 2016.
- Sister cities of Sandy Springs, Roswell, Alpharetta, and Milton are partnering with Johns Creek on this effort and collectively hired consultant Kimley Horn and Associates.
- On August 24, 2017 a community meeting was held to gather feedback and input regarding the needs and potential improvement projects. An estimated 50 individuals attended.
- Staff is working with the consultant to finalize the initial improvements projects list based on the community feedback received.
- The project remains on schedule with an anticipated November/December presentation of final prioritized project list and estimated costs to the Council.

### **TSPLOST (Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax)**

- Approved by voters in November 2016, first funds were collected in late May 2017.
- In August, the monthly public information meeting was shifted to cover all TSPLOST projects rather than focus on just McGinnis Ferry and other active projects.
- The August 17, 2017 monthly TSPLOST meeting attendance was estimated at 20 citizens.
- At the August 21, 2017 Work Session, Council reviewed staff's updated implementation strategy – focusing on six initial projects:
  - (1) McGinnis Ferry Widening from Union Hill to Sargent
  - (2) State Bridge Widening from Medlock Bridge to the Chattahoochee River
  - (3) New Road in Tech Park by Alcon
  - (4) Barnwell Road at Holcomb Bridge Road Intersection Improvements
  - (5) Bell/Boles Corridor Operational and Safety Improvements
  - (6) Haynes Bridge Widening from Old Alabama to Mansell
- Council requested staff prepare a justification template which could be used in community conversations to quickly explain the projects.

### **Other Transportation (Vehicular) Improvement Projects**

- **Abbotts Bridge (SR 120) (from Jones to Parsons):** The contractor is preparing the area for asphalt placement and construction of the retaining walls
- **Barnwell Road at Holcomb Bridge (intersection improvement):** Preparing preliminary design and environmental documentation for submission to GDOT (anticipated in November).
- **Barnwell Road at Jones Bridge:**
  - This “Safe Routes to Schools” project extends the existing sidewalk/trail from the Foxworth Subdivision (Redcoat Way) to the Barnwell Elementary School driveway and also adds guard rail through the Jones Bridge Road curve to better protect pedestrians traveling that route.
  - July 11, 2017 construction bids were received and provided to Council on July 19, 2017 for discussion at a future Work Session
- **Intelligent Traffic System – Phase 3A:**
  - The project is extending the fiber system (connecting the traffic signals) and creating a redundant loop by connecting to Gwinnett County and GDOT.

- In August, the conduit for the fiber optic cables was completed to Shakerag Park from McGinnis Ferry Road. In September the fiber will be pulled through the conduit.
- **Intelligent Traffic System – Phase 4:**
  - The project adds flashing yellow arrows and extends two turn lanes where vehicles stacked for left turns regularly blocked through traffic.
  - In August the traffic signal controllers and cabinet upgrades (allowing the conversions to flashing yellow arrow operations) were completed for the intersections along Abbotts Bridge Road, McGinnis Ferry Road, and Jones Bridge Road (the last of the 48 intersections).
  - In September the signals will go through a 30-day “burn-in” and the back plates (black rectangles surrounding signal with yellow reflective border) will be installed.
  - In August, the installation and construction of two left turn lanes extensions (Medlock Bridge Road at Hospital Parkway and East Johns Crossing at Medlock Bridge Parkway) continued.
- **Kimball Bridge Road (from State Bridge Road to Jones Bridge):**
  - The 1.25-mile project will widen Kimball Bridge Road (from State Bridge and Jones Bridge) from two to four lanes and also includes adding some turn lanes, beautification, and pedestrian trails.
  - July 25, 2017 construction bids were received and materials provided to Council on August 14, 2017 for consideration at a future Council Meeting.
- **McGinnis Ferry Rd. at Johns Creek Parkway (Right Turn Lane):** In August, utilities were relocated and pavement removal was completed.
- **McGinnis Ferry Rd. at Sargent (Florida T):** In August, construction was completed and the Florida T was opened to traffic while the contractor installed overhead signage.

#### **Other Transportation (Multi-Modal) Improvement Projects**

- **Rogers Bridge:** Public input favored the alternative RP-2 Replica Truss which would replace the existing bridge with a replica that looks like the existing bridge but is structurally sound. In May, a joint application for \$5M in federal funding was submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission. Staff anticipates feedback from ARC in October.
- **Sidewalk Plan:** Following the revised policy adopted by Council in February 2017, the updated sidewalk matrix is available for review on the city's website and continues to be updated monthly (as changes in conditions are recognized). The first two sidewalk projects have been completed on Embry Farm Road. Additional projects in design and bids to be received for Parsons Road in September.
- **Brumbelow Trail:**
  - The proposed trail and pedestrian bridge would be added along Brumbelow Road from Nesbit Ferry Road to Old Alabama Road and Newtown Park. The project would improve connectivity and address safety concerns for pedestrian crossing on the narrow bridge along the corridor.
  - On July 11, 2017 construction bids were received and materials provided to Council on August 9, 2017 for discussion at a future Work Session.

#### **Transportation Maintenance Projects**

- **Resurfacing – Neighborhoods:** Neighborhood resurfacing is divided into three geographic areas.

Allied Paving has completed the nine subdivisions in Area 2 and is working on the eight subdivisions in Area 1. In August they worked in the North Peak Subdivision. In September they will mobilize for Preston Oaks and anticipate mobilizing for the Falls of Autrey Mill in October.

- **Resurfacing – Main Roads:** Northwest Georgia Paving completed the main road resurfacing (Morton Road, Rogers Circle, and Findley Road). They waiting on a schedule from the striping contractor to replace the permanent striping, and reflective pavement markers.

**Recreation and Parks: Ensure a complete recreation and parks system that aligns to the goals and needs of the community.**

- **Parks Advisory Committee**

- At the May 22, 2017 Mini-Retreat, Council reached consensus to reactivate the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
- In June, amendments to Code governing the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee were made to expand the committee to 15 members, set the terms at 2-years, and stagger the terms.
- In July, the self-nomination/application period closed with over 100 citizens submitting applications to serve on the Committee.
- Review of the applications began in August and is anticipated to continue through September.

- **Parks Bond – Concepts for New Parks**

- Approved by voters in November 2016, the \$40M parks bonds were received in April 2017
- At the June 5, 2017 Council Meeting, Council authorized construction documents for: the Bell/Boles Road Pocket Park, the Morton Road Neighborhood Park, the State Bridge Road Pocket Park, and the Linear Park (in Technology Park).
- In August, field surveys were received for each of the parks which is a necessary precursor to preparing construction documents.
- In September Council will discuss restarting the design process for Cauley Creek Park to include the adjacent acquisition of Quail Hollow. The additional work is proposed as a contract amendment with Cauley Creek Park design firm Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (BWSC).

- **Park Improvements**

- **Autrey Mill – Farm Museum:** A cost proposal was received in August and is under review.
- **Newtown Park and Shakerag Park – Synthetic Turf Installations:** At the end of August the land disturbance permits were received and construction is anticipated in September.
- **Ocee Park – Restroom (serving the lower fields):** In August, staff worked with the architect and engineer to determine the best location to balance the needs of park users and tap into existing sewer infrastructure. In September site engineering and building plans will be prepared.

- **Recreation Programming**

- Summer Concert Event – Saturday, August 25 Johns Creek Symphony; estimated attendance: 1,250
- Movies at Newtown Park #3 – Saturday, August 12 – “Moana” – estimated attendance: 850
- Adaptive Recreation – Young Adult Bocce Ball – August 8 and 22 – 21 participants
- MLB/Mayor's Play Ball Event – Saturday, August 26 at Ocee Park – 48 participants
- Farmers Market - 4 market dates with total of approximately 1,750 participants/shoppers
- Clubhouse Fitness Classes - 7 weekly classes with total of 50 participants
- Free Outdoor Fitness - 4 classes with total of 70 participants
- Rentals: 49 rentals of athletic fields, 18 rentals of pavilions, and 7 rentals of Newtown Clubhouse

**Economic Development: Implement a holistic economic development plan approach that addresses infrastructure, workforce, community, and land development needs.**

- **Economic Development Strategy**
  - In May 2017 the Citizen Advisory Committee discussed the Comprehensive Plan draft that identifies key commercial areas for further in-depth study as the areas that may redevelop (in the next ten years).
  - In June 2017 Council discussed a citizen-led initiative to focus implementation of the Strategic Economic Development Plan through the lens of healthcare. Council provided feedback and anticipates further discussion in the fall.
- **Reuse Water System (and Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility)**
  - The County is building a new reuse water line that does not include use of the Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility but will serve all the previous customers of the system.
  - Construction has started and they have completed the work in Country Club of the South, and have completed excavation and paving in front of Woodwork Academy on Boles Rd. The work in front of Barnwell Elementary is now 80% complete. Road work will be continuing with intermittent lane closures.

**Government Efficiency: Develop an innovative and cost-effective approach to exceptional service delivery.**

- **10-Year Financial Model**
  - The 10-Year Financial model was utilized in staff's preparation of the FY2018 Budget as well as the individual review of the budget and scenario testing by the Mayor and members of Council.
  - Programming, development, and integration of the 10-Year Financial Model continues as Council considers new policy choices.
- **Building Permit Requirements and Fees**
  - At the May 22, 2017 Mini-Retreat, Council reached consensus for analysis/reconsideration of which

- activities require a permit and/or inspection and the permit and inspection fees
- In June and July staff interviewed service professionals at local home improvement stores to better understand implementation experiences in the community and discussed code requirements and implementation with officials at the state level in the Department of Community Affairs and building officials in other jurisdictions.
- On August 3, 2017 staff hosted residential and commercial contractors to discuss their experiences with permitting and inspections in the City.
- In September, staff anticipates completing the review of the competitiveness of the permit fees compared to our neighbors and conducted the analysis of direct and indirect costs related to the permit and inspection function.
- **Contract Services**
  - The government service contracts with CH2M and SAFEbuilt (providers of Community Development, Building Permits and Inspections, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks) conclude September 30.
  - At the May 8, 2017 Work Session, Council indicated a consensus for staff to continue negotiations and prepare a full contract package including: (1) terms and conditions, (2) performance indicators and measures, and (3) price for Council's consideration.
  - At the August 14, 2017 Work Session Council indicated a consensus to move forward with staff's recommendation to insource Community Development services.
  - At the end of August staff provided Council fully negotiated contract packages for CH2M and SAFEbuilt for consideration in September.
- **Council Strategic Planning**
  - Annual Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for October 21, 2017

**Public Safety: Provide leading levels of public safety.**

- **Fire – Service Delivery**
  - Council reached consensus at the February 2017 Mini-Retreat to move forward with efforts to add a fourth fire station in an effort to improve response time.
  - Staff continues to evaluate options for locating the fourth fire station
  - In August 2017 a proposal was made to include \$250K in the FY2018 Budget to provide for engineering and construction documents once a final location has been determined and acquired.
- **Public Safety Staffing**
  - Police: One open position
  - Fire: Fully staffed

**Sense of Community: Preserve our residential character and enhance our sense of community.**

- **Citizen Survey**
  - The annual citizen survey was conducted in this spring.
  - Staff has completed analysis and summary of the results and is working with the consultant to schedule a presentation at a future Work Session
  
- **Comprehensive Plan Update**
  - The process to update the 2008 Comprehensive Plan began in the fall of 2016 and must be completed by October 2018.
  - To date two educational workshops, four planning workshops, and 12 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings have been held to seek public input and guide the drafting of the new plan.
  - Presentation of the draft Comprehensive Plan was made at the June 19, 2017 Council Meeting.
  - At the August 16, 2017 CAC meeting, the CAC discussed the public comments received to date on the draft Comprehensive Plan.
  - As a mechanism to gather additional community input and potentially as a way to gather feedback about future zoning and infrastructure improvements, CAC members discussed establishing community planning areas either following the twelve character areas (from the Comp Plan) or perhaps a grouping of character areas.
  - Although the draft Comprehensive Plan has been available to the public for review since June 5, with summer vacations and the start of a new school year, staff recommends extending the public comment period through the end of October to ensure the public has had sufficient time to review the draft.
  - When the public comment period closes the CAC members will review the public's comments and make edits to the draft. A second draft document will then be reviewed by the CAC and if there is consensus, it will be recommended to the Council for consideration. A public hearing will be held and if accepted by the Council, the updated Comprehensive Plan will then be sent to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for their 90-day review period (after which a final adoption can be considered by the Council).
  
- **International Festival**
  - At the May 22, 2017 Council Work Session, Council discussed the recommendations from the Cultural Diversity Task Force to hold an International Festival in the spring of 2018.
  - Council reached consensus to approach the Convention and Visitors Bureau regarding interest in planning or supporting an International Festival.
  - In July, the Convention and Visitors Bureau discussed and although supportive of the concept and festival, the Board was in consensus their role should be supporting the event by advertising and marketing for the festival.
  - Staff is preparing information for further Council discussion at a future Work Session.
  
- **Traffic Calming – Long Indian Creek**
  - In December 2016, Turf Curb (removable barriers) for traffic calming was installed to address

- concerns of speeding and cut-through traffic raised by residents.
  - Data was gathered from January to March which showed the temporary measures were not effective in substantially reducing speeds.
  - In June, a meeting with the homeowners association was held to discuss the results and an estimated 30 residents attended.
  - In August, staff installed an expanded and reconfigured Turf Curb installation and is gathering data on speed and traffic volume.
- **Citywide Traffic Calming**
    - In August, a form was created and placed on the website to allow homeowners and residents to more readily report issues and concerns related to traffic and speeding in their neighborhoods
    - In August, five neighborhoods submitted concerns (Cameron Forrest, Prestwick, Mayfair, Willington, and River Farms). Staff installed the City's three radar/speed collection devices in the first three neighborhoods to collect data on speed and traffic volume.
    - In September the radar/speed collection devices will be re-installed in the other two neighborhoods and the data from the first three will begin to be analyzed.