

Clayton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan First Round of Public Workshops Summary

Four Public workshops were conducted in each of the four Clayton County Commission Districts at the following times and locations:

Monday, September 17 (5 attendees)

Virginia Burton Gray Center
1475 East Fayetteville Road, Riverdale, GA

Monday, September 24 (3 attendees)

Jonesboro High School
7728 Mount Zion Boulevard, Jonesboro, GA

Monday, October 1 (13 attendees)

Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center
3499 Rex Road, Rex, GA

Tuesday, October 2 (9 attendees)

Lovejoy Middle School
1588 Lovejoy Road, Lovejoy, GA

A total of 30 people attended the four meetings.

The following advertising was used to promote the meeting:

- Three display advertisements in the Clayton News-Daily on September 11, September 17, and September 24
- Two display advertisements in Mundo Hispanico on September 13 and September 20
- Channel 23 Public Access TV
- E-mail to Stakeholder Advisory Group and Technical Study Group with request for forward to membership and for information to be printed and posted in a visible location
- E-mail to Clayton County Wide Homeowners Association with request to forward to membership
- Announcement at September 11 Clayton County Commission Meeting
- Announcement at September 25 Clayton County Wide Homeowners Association
- Announcement at Fort Gillem Redevelopment Meeting
- Distribution to ARC PIAG e-mail list
- Flyers were distributed at College Park LCI Public Meeting
- Flyers were posted in the following locations:
 - Lovejoy Middle School
 - Publix Break Room in Lovejoy
 - Chick-Fil-A in Lovejoy
 - Jonesboro High school
 - Walnut Grove Apartments on North McDonough Street in Jonesboro
 - Race Trac gas station on Tara Blvd. north of GA 138
 - Tara Manufactured Home Community off of Tara Boulevard north of GA 138
 - Stratford Arms Apartments 417 Valley Hill Road
 - Harmony Pines Apartments 363 Upper Riverdale Road
 - Riverdale Villas on SR 139
 - Virginia Burton Gray Recreational Center
 - Frank Bailey Senior Center 6312 Riverdale Road
 - State Farmers Market Restaurant (Oakwood Café)

- State Farmers Market Visitors Center
- Six Clayton County Public Libraries
- Forest Park Manor Apartments on Forest Parkway
- Clayton Place Commons adjacent to Clayton State University
- Rainwood Apartments on Harper Drive in Lake City
- Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center in Rex
- Clayton County Public Schools website

The following flyer used for display advertising and distribution is below:



You are invited to help shape the future of Clayton County!!

The Clayton County Board of Commissioners is developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to outline cost-effective solutions to address current and future mobility needs of the citizens of Clayton County and its seven incorporated municipalities. Please join the Clayton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan study team for a public workshop to examine existing transportation system conditions and to discuss your transportation needs. Four workshops covering the same information are being held throughout Clayton County. Please join Clayton County in shaping the future of your community by attending the meeting that is most convenient for you!

All meetings will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM.

<p>Monday, September 17 Virginia Burton Gray Center 1475 East Fayetteville Road, Riverdale, GA</p>	<p>Monday, September 24 Jonesboro High School 7728 Mount Zion Boulevard, Jonesboro, GA</p>
<p>Monday, October 1 Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center 3499 Rex Road, Rex, GA</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 2 Lovejoy Middle School 1588 Lovejoy Road, Lovejoy, GA</p>

For additional study information, please visit <http://www.co.clayton.ga.us/tnd/CTP/> or contact Mary Huffstetler, MPH and Associates, Inc. at (478) 477-3688. If you are in need of language translation at the meeting, please contact (678) 808-8857 at least three days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Public Workshop Input

The meeting attendees were asked to answer the following questions considering the overall transportation system including safety; accessibility; mobility; connectivity between cars, walking, biking, transit, and land use; railroad crossings; intersections; economic development; commerce; maintenance; etc.

1. What needs and deficiencies currently exist on the transportation system?

- SR 138 is in need of a transit line from SR 85 south through SR 85:Exit SR 314 to Airport (HJAIA)
- There is a severe need to have bus transportation on SR 138 to SR 314 to the airport. SR 85 and SR 138 to SR 314
- There needs to be a traffic light in front of *Little Girl Food Mart* to enter *Wings and a Prayer*
- The traffic light at SR 138 and Lake Ridge Parkway needs to be addressed – too many accidents
- Roadway very, very bad from SR 85 onto SR 138 through Union City – very bad near car dealerships
- There needs to be public transportation (C-Tran) to the Lovejoy shopping complex. Lots of opportunities for business and employees.
- With the addition of the technical college programs at the Eula Wilborn Ponds Perry Center for Learning, adult learners will make use of public transportation evenings from 5-9 pm
- Safety
- We need more bike trails, sidewalks, shuttles for the elderly
- Bicycling is often very difficult, requiring a very high level of skill and interaction with motorists.
- Sidewalks are more available than they were, but many more are needed
- For motorists, the Jonesboro Road corridor can be quite difficult around I-75 and Mt. Zion.
- Street lighting should be improved at major intersections on Tara Blvd.
- C-Tran should regularly serve (not just during peak periods) new park and ride lot at Lamar Hutchinson across from the library to the airport
- Hwy 42
- Sidewalks along Rex Road and Evans Drive

2. What are the major transportation related issues that must be addressed over the next 30 years?

- SR 138 and transportation line
- Train Station closer to Riverdale County Line and Fayetteville County Line
- Active Bus line intersecting SR 85/SR 138/SR 314 to airport
- More East-West roadway connections or wider roadways
- More sidewalks and recreation areas
- Safety as transportation (buses, trains) increase
- With the expansion of HJAIA, parking will be a very serious issue. Parking is already at capacity and there is very little opportunity to expand parking facilities.
- Increased congestion will be the issue that drives all others.
- Transit needs to be expanded and frequencies increased.

3. Considering the needs identified above, what is your top priority to be addressed in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) development?

- SR 138 needs a transit line
- There is a severe need to have bus transportation on SR 138 to SR 314 to the airport. SR 85 and SR 138 to SR 314
- There needs to be a traffic light in front of *Little Giant Food Mart* to enter *Wings and a Prayer*
- The traffic light at SR 138 and Lake Ridge Parkway needs to be addressed – too many accidents
- Roadway very, very bad from SR 85 onto SR 138 through Union City – very bad near car dealerships
- There needs to be public transportation (C-Tran) to the Lovejoy shopping complex. Lots of opportunities for business and employees.

- With the addition of the technical college programs at the Eula Wilborn Ponds Perry Center for Learning, adult learners will make use of public transportation evenings from 5-9 pm
- Safety
- Careful designs that help ease congestion need to be used county wide. These designs need to take into account bicycle and pedestrian needs
- A new bridge on the east side of the railroad over I-75 in Morrow would be a big help.

4. Meeting attendees were asked to review the needs identified in the table below. They were asked to mark the level of priority as low”, “medium, or “high” for each need both today and as they anticipate the level of priority in the year 2035. Results were tallied and are reflected in the table.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM NEED	TODAY			IN 2035		
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Congestion Relief on Major Roadways	0	2	12	1	1	7
Improved and Expanded Public Transit Service	3	3	9	2	1	6
Additional Public Transit Amenities (Sidewalks, Bus Shelters, Park and Ride Lots etc.)	1	3	10	1	2	7
Commuter Rail from Atlanta to Lovejoy	2	3	9	0	3	6
Improved Sidewalks and Crosswalks	1	0	12	0	0	9
New or Improved Bicycle Facilities (On and Off- Road)	2	1	9	1	1	7
Better Land Use and Transportation System Coordination	0	5	9	0	1	8
Maintenance of Transportation System	2	4	8	0	3	6
Improved Connectivity Between Vehicles, Walking, Biking, Transit	1	5	8	0	2	7
Speed Control on Roadways	1	6	7	0	4	5
Right-of-Way Preservation for New Construction or Widening of Roads	2	1	10	0	2	6
Expanded and Improved Use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) (i.e. Changeable Message Signs, Traffic Signal Coordination)	1	5	8	0	2	7
Dedicated Truck Only Lanes on Interstates	0	6	8	0	3	6
Additional Grade Separations (Overpass or Underpass)	1	6	6	0	4	4
More Mixed-use and Transit Oriented Development	1	5	6	0	4	4

Current High Priority Transportation System Needs:

- Congestion relief on major roadways
- Improved Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Additional public transit amenities
- Right-of-way preservation for new construction or widening of roads
- Improved and expanded public transit service
- New or improved bicycle facilities (on and off road)
- Better land use and transportation system coordination

2035 High Priority Transportation System Needs:

- Improved Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Better land use and transportation system coordination
- Congestion relief on major roadways
- Additional public transit amenities
- New or improved bicycle facilities (on and off road)
- Improved connectivity between vehicles, walking, biking, transit
- Expanded and improved use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Please use the space below to expand on any of the items above (i.e. specific problem locations, potential solutions, etc.):

- I am proposing the eastern continental divide bike route corridor along the roads and areas parallel to the central of Georgia (Norfolk Southern) route through Mountain View, Forest Park, Lake City, Morrow, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy. Roads in this corridor should receive special treatment to make them less stressful to ride. Trails should be developed where roads don't exist, especially between Jonesboro and Lovejoy.
- Make roads more pedestrian friendly "walk", "don't walk", caution signs
- SR 85 and SR 138 – SR 138 lane needs to be pushed by from 85 to prevent accidents
- Traffic light at SR 138 and Lake Ridge Parkway needs to be reviewed – too many accidents
- Traffic light need – new mini mart front of *Little Giant Food Mart* on SR 138 to entrance of new mini mart in front

Group Discussion

A group discussion of Clayton County's multimodal transportation needs was conducted at the public outreach meetings. A summary of the public input has been grouped into categories below.

Transit Needs:

- Xpress service at some local stops
- A transit route moving west along SR 138 to SR 314 to airport
- Transit connection to Riverdale Center (new homes)
- Transit connection from population centers to the airport (specifically the people mover)
- SR 138/SR 314 has lots of new residential development that needs to be served by transit.
- SR 138 on Fayette County border needs transit service.
- Transit access to Lovejoy for summer school for children
- C-Tran expansion to Lovejoy.
- There are employment opportunities in the south part of Clayton County that need to be served by transit (extension of C-Tran service at least as far south as Wal-Mart at the intersection of Tara Boulevard/Lovejoy Road was requested)
- C-Tran needs to serve east/west movement specifically to the eastern part of the county.
- C-Tran stops need to increase in Morrow
- The new Fort Gillen redevelopment needs C-Tran access
- Better transportation for seniors
- Good sidewalk network is needed to create favorable conditions for C-Tran use. Some areas have nice shelters, but no sidewalk leading to the shelter.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Needs:

- Sidewalks throughout the County
- SR 314 is a possible bicycle route
- Connect downtowns with bicycle routes
- Greenways and bikeways with connections to points of interest
- Sidewalks along SR 85 corridor
- Trail to Peachtree City

- Trail to Fayette Pavilion
- Bicycle trail on SR 42 to serve existing bicycle traffic
- Sidewalks connecting nearby schools to recreational centers and neighborhoods
- Ensure that sidewalks/bicycle trail/park and ride lots are located in logical locations. Focus on proper placement to serve the specific area. Focus on areas that will provide health and quality of life and opportunities for the youth.
- The National Archive area needs to be pedestrian friendly with connections to nearby points of interest
- Sidewalks and bicycle facilities are needed in activity areas (Battle Creek has Moms with strollers, Tara Boulevard, SR 54, Schools, parks, libraries, and a grade separated pedestrian over walk on Tara Boulevard and SR 85 were specifically mentioned). Sidewalks need to have a buffer between the facility and busy roadways to create a safe environment.
- Rex Road and Stagecoach Road need pedestrian facilities
- Forest Parkway near Jonesboro Road has walkers and bikers that need facilities
- Crosswalks with signalization are needed in activity areas along with driver education (SR 42/Rex Road was mentioned specifically)
- Preserve Rex Mill and enhance this as a pedestrian friendly destination that is connected to adjacent subdivisions or public transit
- Good sidewalk network is needed to create favorable conditions for C-Tran use. Some areas have nice shelters, but no sidewalk leading to the shelter.

Connectivity

- Street connectivity
- Main Street/Smith Street/McDonough Street connectivity
- East/West Connectivity needs improvement (SR 54 from Jonesboro to Riverdale and McDonough Road were specifically mentioned)
- North South Connectivity needs improvement (Improvement to SR 42, an extension of Panhandle Road to the north, and widening of SR 54 between Jonesboro and Fayetteville were specifically mentioned as possible improvement locations. It was pointed out that Fayette County has widened SR 54 to the Clayton County line and that this should continue into Clayton County. Also, it was mentioned that the Flint River Bridge project may be causing the delay. There is an existing project to address SR 54 that is in the right-of-way acquisition phase.)

Park and Ride Needs

- Park and Ride lots needed to serve more than work trips – service for pleasure trips to Atlanta are desired. These need to be in frequent locations to promote transit use and vanpooling (Exit 5 on I-675 and I-75 near the Farmer's Market were two locations specifically mentioned)
- Park and ride lot at Riverdale Station

Congestion Relief Needs

- Commuter traffic along SR 314 congestion relief
- Main Street in Jonesboro has become a main through route as an alternate south through town. It becomes congested at the railroad and has a lack of turn lanes.
- Tara Boulevard as a six lane, then four lane, then six lane roadway creates problems
- SR 54/I-75/Southlake has a congestion, bridge and turn lane problems. There is a possible operational improvement possible within the existing right-of-way.
- Jonesboro Road/ Hastings Road – bottleneck at McDonough causing severe delay due to growth in the area (Lovejoy)
- Widen I-75
- More HOV/HOT lanes are needed on the interstate to encourage shared trips and reduce single person trips. More HOV exits would encourage HOV use. Consider letting hybrid vehicles use the HOV lane

Operational Needs

- Subdivisions need better/safer access to major roadways (Amberwood and Creekside were mentioned specifically)

- Left turn lanes needed on Evans Drive to access SR 42
- Double left turn lanes need to be considered when connecting to a multi-lane roadway (Mundy's Mill Road at Tara Boulevard and SR 138 at Tara Boulevard were specifically mentioned)
- Reconstruct I-675/I-75

Safety

- Forest Parkway at SR 85/I-75 would be safer if better lit with streetlights
- Consider pro-active traffic signal installation prior to multiple crashes at particular intersections
- Riverdale/SR 85/Roundale/Roberts – has this red light running camera had an impact on the problem?

General

- In the Lovejoy area, major development areas were mentioned: 500 apartments off of Talmadge Road, new housing adjacent to the Lovejoy Post Office, large subdivisions on Panhandle Road)
- Maintain easy access to interstate system
- Maintain easy access to schools

Additional Comments from the Public

JCPenney Logistics
250 Penney Road
Forest Park, Georgia 30297

September 28, 2007

Mary:

This letter will act as a follow up to a phone conversation that we had recently. As you will recall JCPenney Logistics is interested in having bus service available near our building which is on the corner of Frontage and Penney Road.

The building that was formerly JCPenney Catalog is now occupied by five different businesses that make up JCPenney Logistics. In addition to the logistics business, we also have the JCPenney Outlet and Furniture stores under our roof.

A number of our associates continue to ask us if we can get bus service to this building. A good number of our work force resides in Clayton County including Riverdale, Morrow and Forest Park. We believe that you could increase your ridership by expanding existing routes to service our building.

JCPenney is a growing company and as our retail end grows, the services we provide at this location will continue to grow as well. Presently, and please keep in mind that this is not our peak season, we have close to 900 people working at the Logistics facility. When you add in the associates at the Outlet stores, we easily exceed 1000 people and will continue to grow. Plus, if one were to consider even more potential ridership that could be gained from customers shopping at our Outlet stores, we think adding bus service to this location would be cost justifiable for C-TRAN as well as good for our associates. What's more, there are other distribution centers and warehouses in this area who would likely add to your potential ridership as we all pull from the same work force, same area.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or Larry Motycka if there are any questions or anything we can do to partner up to make this request a reality.

Sincerely,

Nat Haytcher, Store Support Center Manager
404- 968- 1501

Larry Motycka, Logistics Center Manager
404-362-6701

Use of Public Comments

The public comments received during the plan development process will be documented and provided to the study team, Technical Study Committee, and Stakeholder Advisory Committee to ensure that each group is aware of the feedback gained from the public during the planning process. The study team will utilize all comments as input into the plan development process. Public comments from previous outreach activities will be summarized and available at the following round of public outreach activities and on the study webpage. All public comments will be recorded in a comprehensive document as an appendix to the plan.

Meeting Evaluation

A comment form to evaluate the meeting was distributed. The results are presented below.

Public Involvement Process

How would you rate this event overall?

- 8 responded "Very Good"
- 4 responded "Good"
- 1 responded "Average"
- 1 responded "Poor"

Are the presentations and display boards informative and easy to understand? If not, please explain.

- 12 responses "yes"
- One response: "Roads should be identified more clearly"

Has project staff been helpful in answering your questions? If not, please explain.

- 12 responses "yes"
- One response of "Mostly"

What did you like most about the event?

- A chance to express my feelings
- Informational
- The interaction between the staff and the audience
- The presenters
- The thorough explanation of the process and the accurate answers given to my questions
- I was able to express quite a number of ideas
- Facilitators very receptive and cordial
- Informative but need more of the meetings
- Very informative
- Presentation
- People friendly

In what areas do you feel the event could have been improved?

- Need more advertisement
- The event needed more publicity or possibly there was publicity and people weren't interested
- More people attending

How would you rate the following statements?

(1 =strongly agree; 2 =agree; 3 =neither agree nor disagree; 4 =disagree; 5 =strongly disagree)

I learned new and valuable information today:

- 10 strongly agree
- 2 agree.

I was given an opportunity to provide input today:

- 7 strongly agree
- 3 agree

How did you find out about this meeting?

- Clayton News-Daily Display Advertisement - 1
- Mundo Hispanico Display Advertisement - 0
- Newspaper article in Dailey News newspaper - 0
- Flyer posted at Virginia Gray Rec Center - 1
- Flyer posted at Carl Rhodenizer Rec Center - 1
- E-mail sent directly to you - 1
- E-mail forwarded to you (no detail on origin)- 3

- E-mail from Chamber of Commerce – 3
- E-mail for Clayton Collaborative - 1
- From a neighbor - 1
- Announcement at Clayton County Wide Homeowners Association Meeting – 1
- Local Channel 23 - 2
- Study website -0

Please provide any additional comments on any aspect of the Clayton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan development below.

- Staff very helpful and courteous