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LETTER TO THE EDITORS - CID PARTNERSHIPS MAKE GOOD SENSE

Dear Editor:

The Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) are formed by corporate property owners within a defined geographic area or district. These owners vote to tax themselves additional property tax to make improvements within those districts. In the northern quadrant of DeKalb and Fulton Counties, the DeKalb Perimeter CID and the Fulton Perimeter CID have partnered to form the Perimeter CIDs (PCIDs). Both CIDs have increased their organizational strength while saving administrative and operating dollars by sharing resources of a single staff, office space, planning and project functions. This partnership makes good sense, and ensures that the area planning is coordinated, visually pleasing and user friendly.

The CIDs in partnership with local and state governments and transportation agencies can make a difference by:

Maintaining and growing strong economic development centers

Contributing to a stable tax base

Effective coordinated land use planning that addresses clean air and water issues

Support of quality job housing for increased populations

Connecting economic centers for retail, sports, events, employment

They can accomplish this through:

A tactical approach of staying focused on improvements within their districts

Expediting studies and improvements where appropriate

Leveraging CID dollars toward federal, state and local implementation dollars

Advocating for comprehensive, well-planned, flexible and responsive transit solutions

Assisting local and state governments and agencies in their goals

Four area CIDs have formed a team to address one of the region's major transportation challenges. The Sandy Springs Revitalization Project is a partner and the team is also working with a fifth CID, Mid-Town. They are packaging the northwest corridor transit study and the I-285 transit study. This strategy will have the greatest chance of funding success and the highest impact on congestion because:

The Cumberland, Town Center, DeKalb and Fulton CIDs agreed to a partnership centered on two major transportation corridors that are in critical need of congestion relief and transit improvement.

The Cumberland, DeKalb and Fulton CIDs have agreed to provide over \$ 1.2 million to expedite the I-285 corridor environmental impact statement and design phase.

By assisting agency partners, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, Georgia

Page 2 - Letter to the Editors - Y. Williams - August 19, 2002

Department of Transportation, MARTA, the ARC and local governments to expedite the I-285 study, the two corridors will be planned simultaneously resulting in a comprehensive, flexible and responsive service to the traveling public. These lines form a system that reaches from Town Center south to Cumberland and from Cumberland east/west across I-285 to Perimeter Center.

The estimated rider ship for both lines by 2025 is over 70,000 passenger trips per day.

This system connects major employment centers with a combined employee work force of over 300,000, which represents 80 % of the employees in the metro area.

The combined areas contain the largest number of Fortune 500 companies outside of the central Atlanta business district and over 40 million square feet of office space.

The potential for "smart growth" or live, work, walk and play communities throughout the areas is greatly enhanced through the development of multiple transportation choices.

The economic stability of these numbers is greatly dependent on transportation connectivity and enhanced development.

The employment base, visitors and residents all need to have a choice in access to the markets with transit being the best option for clean air conformity and congestion relief.

The CID consortium now in place can help champion a new transit destiny through partnerships and innovative approaches. This is a precedent setting CID partnership

that pools dollars to expedite a study that impacts three major metropolitan counties (Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb) and complements the region. Preserving and growing quality economic development will ensure the success of the entire community. Employment, goods, services, mobility and an environmentally sound quality of life will keep our region on the right path. We will aggressively pursue other projects that add value to our community and result in positive outcomes.

We are charting new territory for our region-united we are stronger than we are divided.

Yvonne D. Williams, President,

Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs)

(Fulton and DeKalb)

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