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Letter to the Editor:

The issues surrounding the Northern Arc and the bonding capacity to move forward with other critical transportation projects are complex. They need to be resolved quickly.

It is our job as corporate citizens to focus on transportation improvements that will bring relief to the serious traffic congestion and air quality challenges that exist today. The Perimeter business community wants to see critical transportation improvements like the Ashford Dunwoody Fly-over Bridge and pedestrian side-walk construction completed so that people continue to come to the Perimeter area to live, work and shop. Our investments then remain strong and viable. The public wants these improvements so they can get where they want to go when and how they want to get there.

The local governments, state agencies and the corporate communities in the Perimeter area have created a working partnership. Things are moving. Approvals and support have been given. Everyone is on the same page. Relieving traffic congestion and making the transportation systems work better are our goals. Now, we face the threat of losing that momentum and bogging down. We cannot allow that to happen.

If accelerated transportation projects are halted, the Perimeter Parkway Bridge (Fly-over), the DeKalb Perimeter intersection and sidewalk improvements and the joint Fulton and DeKalb shuttle program for Perimeter are all impacted. County money and private money to match state and federal dollars have been committed. We need to move forward.

The Perimeter area represents big business that contributes to the sales tax and property tax revenues that keep the economic engine running. Business has to recruit employees who can get to their places of employment and customers who want to spend their money in those establishments. There are 100,000 employees who commute into Perimeter everyday not the mention the thousands of customers, and vendors who access corporate headquarters facilities including Hewlett Packard, Cox, and UPS. We cannot wait another 15 years to get simple capacity relief projects built. We have to keep the critical projects on track.

None of us can afford delay in addressing traffic congestion and air quality issues in the metropolitan area. The endangered time-lines are for projects that have support and good will. They need to be accelerated and both sides of the "battle of the bonds" need to find a way to make that happen. Our success depends on it.

Ted Turner

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