

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND THE CIDs

Dear Editors:

The idea of a designated regional transportation funding mechanism has tremendous merit. To continue to grow and maintain a strong economic development base in the metropolitan Atlanta area, we must adequately fund and operate a comprehensive, accessible package of transportation choices for our employees, customers and visitors.

The Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) are private sector initiatives already working to make many improvements to the transportation corridors throughout the metropolitan districts. CIDs provide dollars to make intersection, sidewalk, and interchange improvements in partnership with their local, state and federal agencies responsible for those improvements. They are organized and produce real results under the voluntary scenario of self-taxation.

The Perimeter (Fulton and DeKalb) CIDs in partnership with Fulton and DeKalb County Governments have committed over \$7 million to date for funds to assist in making infrastructure enhancements to the area. Over the next 5 years, we expect to commit another \$14 million to help match over \$200 million in other funding dollars for major intersection, bridge and interchange work in the Central Perimeter area.

As discussions of identifying resources for transportation projects move forward, the CIDs' existing tax contribution, priority of needed improvements and successful track record need to be considered in terms of completing existing projects and as a tax credit toward any further funding mechanism for transportation purposes.

Thank you.

**Yvonne D. Williams
President
Perimeter Community Improvement Districts**

CONTACT:
Donna A. Morgan 770-390-1795