

**MINUTES OF BOC WORK SESSION
COBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 22, 2021
1:30 PM**

The Work Session of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., in the second-floor public meeting room in the Cobb County Building, Marietta, Georgia. Present and comprising a quorum of the Board were:

Chairwoman Lisa Cupid
Commissioner JoAnn Birrell
Commissioner Keli Gambrell
Commissioner Jerica Richardson
Commissioner Monique Sheffield

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Cupid called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. To present information regarding preliminary draft recommendations on the Cobb County 2050 Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Drew Raessler, Transportation Agency Interim Director, Cristina Pastore, Kimley Horn CTP Project Manager, and Laura Beall, Transportation Planning Division Manager, presented information regarding preliminary draft recommendations on the Cobb County 2050 Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the development of plan proposals for consideration of a potential Mobility Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. A copy of the information presented is attached and made a part of these minutes.

No official action was taken by the Board.

Chairwoman Cupid called for a brief recess at 2:51 p.m.; the meeting reconvened at 3:01 p.m.

2. To present information regarding the American Rescue Plan.

Debbie Blair, Deputy County Attorney, presented information regarding the American Rescue Plan. A copy of the information presented is attached and made a part of these minutes.

No official action was taken by the Board.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela Cunningham", is written over a horizontal line.

Angela Cunningham
Deputy County Clerk
Cobb County Board of Commissioners



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Agenda

- **Mobility SPLOST Meetings**
 - Outside County / City Discussions
 - ACEC Meeting
 - Cobb Cities Meeting
- **Recent Referenda**
- **Cobb County Options**
- **Schedule**
- **Next Steps**

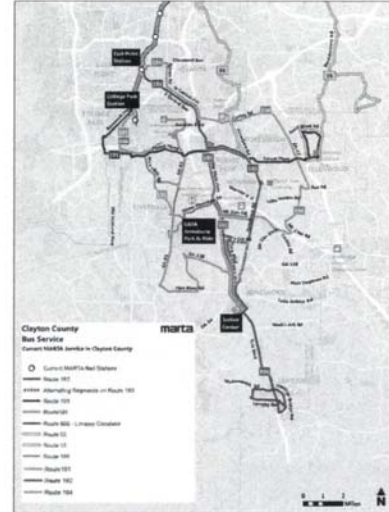
A photograph of a white bus with the Cobb County logo (a stylized 'C' with a triangle inside) and the word "LINC" in large, bold, black letters. A person is visible standing near the back of the bus.

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Mobility SPLOST Meetings: Clayton County

- March 31, 2010 C-Tran ended due to lack of funding to continue operations
- November 4, 2014, Clayton County voters approved a referendum to join MARTA
- 0.5% allocated to MARTA services; 0.5% allocated to future commuter rail
- Clayton represented on MARTA Board with Fulton, Atlanta, and DeKalb (Two Members)
- Coordination and communication with MARTA vital to program success



Clayton County MARTA Service
(<https://www.claytoncountyga.gov/services/transportation>)



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Mobility SPLOST Meetings: Fulton County

- November 8, 2016, Fulton County residents passed a 0.75% sales tax for 5-years (TSPLOST 1)
- Program included all Fulton County except Atlanta (\$500m revenue)
- No Transit funding
- Collections based on 2015 population
- Emphasis on Congestion Relief and Roadway Projects
- Referendum for TSPLOST 2 in November 2021



Fulton County Cities (<https://fultoncountyga.gov/maps/printable-maps>)



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REFERENCE ITEM

Mobility SPLOST Meetings: ACEC

May 27, 2021: transportation/transit roundtable to explore options related to Mobility SPLOST referendum in 2022. Five areas for discussion:

1. Address inequities within the County
2. Foster economic development and growth opportunities throughout the County
3. Utilize different funding mechanisms in addition to a possible Mobility SPLOST
4. Leverage regional transit opportunities to connect Cobb to the rest of the region
5. Benefit from lessons learned from other major jurisdictions nationally



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Mobility SPLOST Meetings: ACEC

1. Equity
 - Have a clear definition and measurements of equity to establish success
 - Garner public engagement from multi-stakeholders early and often
 - Focus on equity gaining importance in federal funding competition
2. Foster economic development and growth opportunities throughout the County
 - Develop how transit and economic development opportunities can be mutually beneficial
 - Identify the anchors that exist in Cobb today and how transportation options can maximize use (i.e. Chattahoochee Technical College)
 - Focus on varying transit/transportation needs across the County



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Mobility SPLOST Meetings: ACEC

3. Utilize different funding mechanisms in addition to a possible Mobility SPLOST
 - Unlikely that any one funding source will be sufficient to meet expected needs
 - Pursue multiple funding sources including a local source that can match federal funds
 - External sources: Small Starts (under \$300m), New Starts (over \$300m), federal grants and appropriations, State bonds, etc.
 - Local sources: SPLOST, Special Service District, Value Capture/TOD, Private Funding
4. Leverage regional transit opportunities to connect Cobb to the rest of the region
 - Take a regional approach to the Mass Transit system
 - Cobb has a central role in the region – central of northern arc counties and north/south connectivity along NW Corridor
 - Identify the changing priorities post-COVID



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Mobility SPLOST Meetings: ACEC

5. Benefit from lessons learned from other major jurisdictions nationally
 - Three pillars of successful initiatives come down to PIP (Politics, Infrastructure, People)
 - Help individual voters understand the clear benefits and impacts of a potential referendum
 - Be clear on accountability and funding transparency to establish trust with voters
 - Some of us ride it. All of us need it.
 - Common reasons for failing: public perception, too much money, not right mix of projects, unclear benefits



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REFERENCE ITEM

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Mobility SPLOST Meetings: Cobb Cities

- May 28, 2021 bus tour and meeting to discuss options
- Elected and management representation from all six cities
- Concern about overlap between HB106/170 and general SPLOST
- For transit, suggest specific focus on how a proposal would benefit the specific voters
- Discussed balance between compressed timeline for 2022 referendum and cost of delay for 2024 referendum

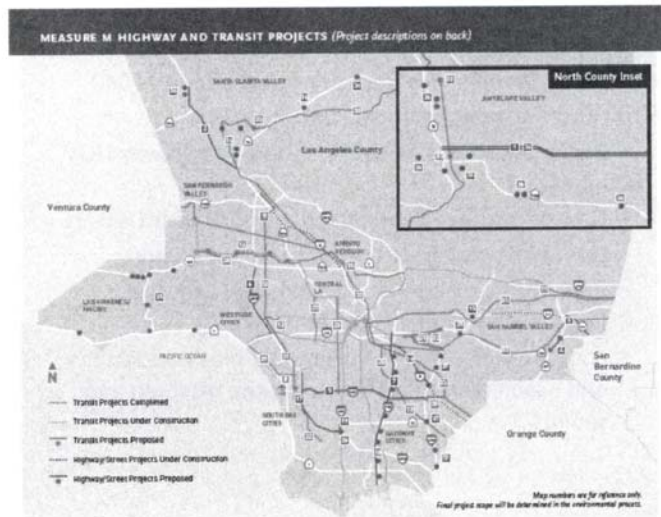


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Recent Referenda: LA Metro Measure M

- Additional ½ cent sales tax and renew existing ½ cent sales tax for Highway and Transit Projects
- Estimated to generate \$860 million annually over a 40-year period
- Project types include:
 - Bus and Rail Operations
 - Regional Rail
 - Local Street Improvements
 - State of Good Repair
 - Reduced transit fares for Students, Seniors and the Disabled
 - Bike and pedestrian connections to transit



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REFERENCE ITEM

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Recent Referenda: Austin, TX Prop A & Prop B

- Prop A approved a property tax rate increase and dedicating 8.75 cents for Project Connect:
 - New Light Rail and Commuter Rail System
 - Transit Tunnel under Downtown
 - Expanded Local, Commuter, Paratransit Service
 - New facilities - 9 Park-n-Rides, 1 new Transfer Center, Maintenance facilities
 - 15 new Neighborhood Circulator Zones with on-demand pickup
 - Bike share at transit hubs
 - Initial investment includes transit supportive anti-displacement housing funds
- Prop B approved a \$460M Mobility bond for:
 - Sidewalks, bikeways, trails
 - Safety projects
 - Substandard streets
 - Major capital improvements



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Recent Referenda: Houston, TX

- Bond proposal to borrow \$3.5 billion repaid by existing sales tax revenues
- General Mobility Program extended through 2040
- Includes new or expanded transit service:
 - Regional Express Network, including two way HOV lanes
 - New or improved Park & Rides and Transit Centers
 - Light Rail with an extension to Hobby Airport
 - Rapid Bus service that operates like light rail, including an extension to Bush Airport
 - Local Bus Service Enhancements, plus accessibility and usability improvements for the disabled and seniors



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REFERENCE ITEM

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Cobb County Options

Surface Transportation (HB106/170):

Revenue

- Up to 1% sales tax (.05% increments)
- 5-year maximum timeline
- To be in excess of 0.75%, IGAs needed
- Six items exempt from taxation

Purposes

- Transportation Capital
- Roads, bridges, public transit, rails, airports, buses
- 30% of revenue allocated to Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)



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Transit (HB930):

Revenue

- Up to 1% sales tax (.05% increments)
- 30-year maximum timeline
- City involvement, but no IGA requirement
- Six items exempt from taxation

Purposes

- Transit Capital **and** Operating
- ATL must approve project list

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Cobb County Options

2022 Referenda Benefits:

- Represents responsiveness to recommendations in CTP
- Mobility is fresh in voters minds given recent public outreach
- Lessens cost impacts due to additional development and inflation
- Earlier leveraging funds for Transit if approved



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2024 Referenda Benefits

- Time to further evaluate Transit opportunities
- Ability to more fully consider projects in development like I-285 BRT
- More time to on-board a potential Citizen Advisory Committee
- Additional public involvement

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Schedule for 2022 Referenda

2021

June 22, 2021: Work Session on CTP and MSPLOST

July 13, 2021: approval of resolutions and MCAC bylaws (if applicable)

July 27, 2021: assemble BOC appointments to MCAC (if applicable)

August 2021: on-board MCAC (if applicable)

September 2021: develop 150% project lists

October 2021: public outreach on 150% project lists

November 2021: scale project lists to 100% budget

December 2021: present project lists to BOC; BOC decide whether to proceed or scale

2022

January 2022: outreach for 100% project lists

February 2022: develop public education outreach strategy

March 2022: Project List Approvals, Official Notice to Cities

April 2022: City IGA Adoption, ATL project list adoption

May 2022: County IGA Adoption

June 2022: Resolution to place referenda on ballot

November 2022: Referenda



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Next Steps

July 13, 2021 BOC Meeting:

- **BOC consider referendum and by-laws to establish a Mobility Citizen Advisory Committee (MCAC)**
- **BOC consider referendum instructing MCAC to develop recommendations for HB106/170: 1% for 5-years**
- **BOC consider referendum instructing MCAC to develop recommendations for HB930: 1% for 30-years**

July 27, 2021 BOC Meeting:

- **BOC to appoint nominees to MCAC**



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REFERENCE ITEM

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CobbForward

Board of Commissioners
Work Session

June 2021

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Agenda

- Public Engagement Phase 2
 - What did we take to the public?
 - What was the coverage of the engagement?
- Results of Public Engagement/Key Takeaways
- Next Steps

2

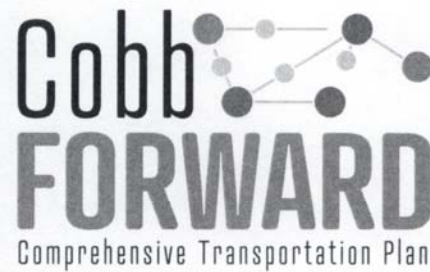
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REFERENCE ITEM

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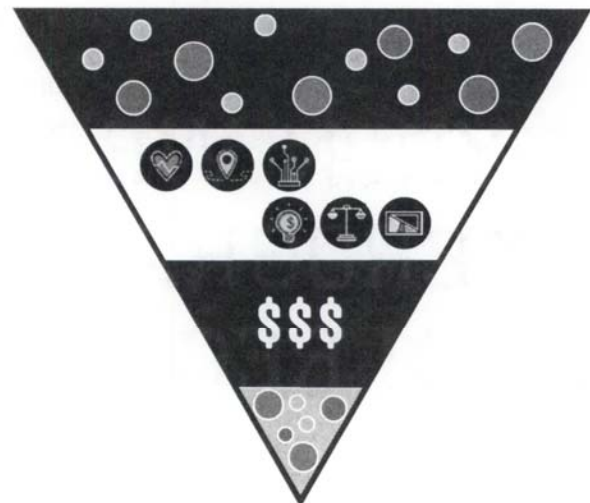
Materials Presented to the Public



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Vision Mixed with Constraint

- Consideration of Cobb County transportation needs
- Development and evaluation of Universe of Projects
- Exploration of possible funding sources
- **Initial** financial constraining:
 - ~ 3% sales tax for 30 years
- Leveraging public feedback for further constraint



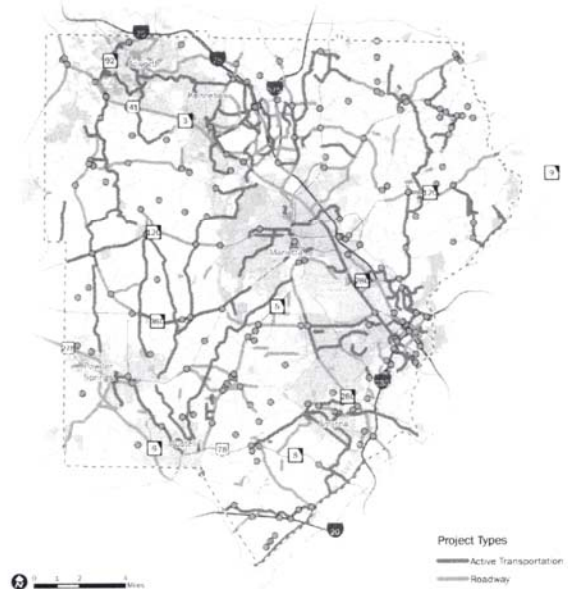
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REFERENCE ITEM

Surface Transportation

- 457 roadway and active transportation projects + set-asides
 - 78% roadway projects + 22% active transportation (excluding sidewalks)
- Active transportation projects include trails and bicycle projects

Note - Set-asides included: sidewalks, operational/safety, technology, other (joint City, beautification, streetscape, etc.)



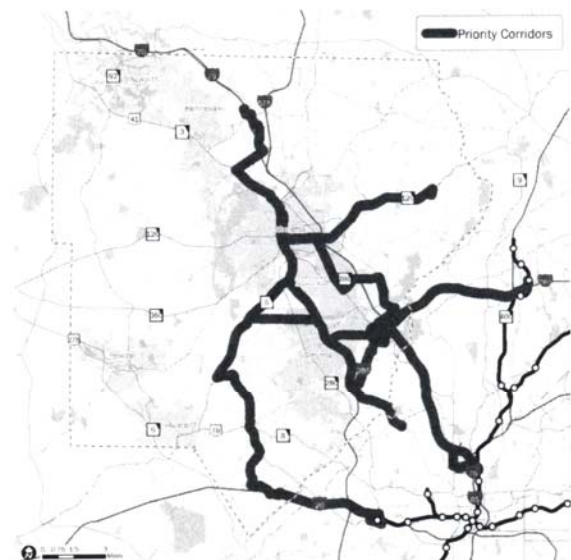
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Transit

Priority Corridors

- High-Capacity Transit Service (assumed to be BRT in this scenario)



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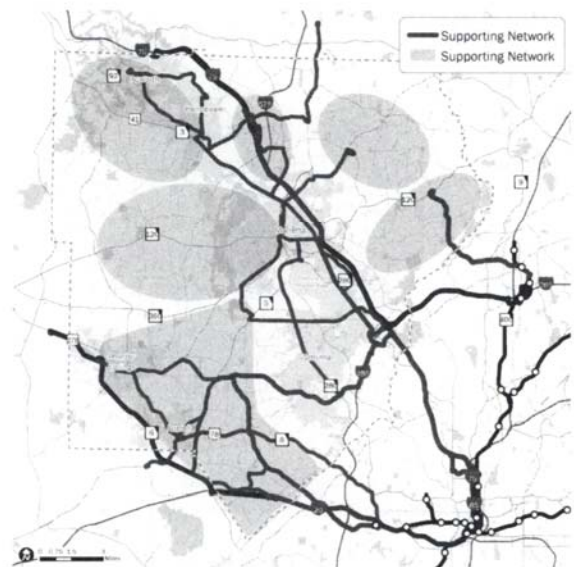
Transit

Priority Corridors

- High-Capacity Transit Service
(assumed to be BRT in this scenario)

Supporting Transit Network

- Traditional Fixed-Route Transit Service
- Commuter Service
- On-Demand/Coverage Service



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Transit

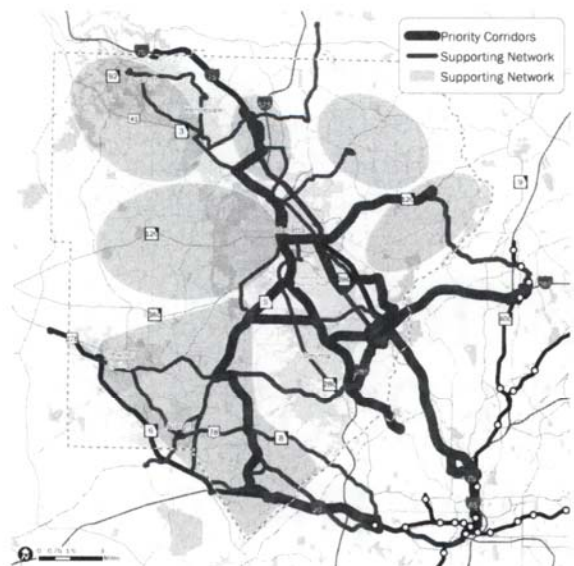
Priority Corridors

- High-Capacity Transit Service
(assumed to be BRT in this scenario)

Supporting Transit Network

- Traditional Fixed-Route Transit Service
- Commuter Service
- On-Demand/Coverage Service

Other Capital, Operations, and
Maintenance



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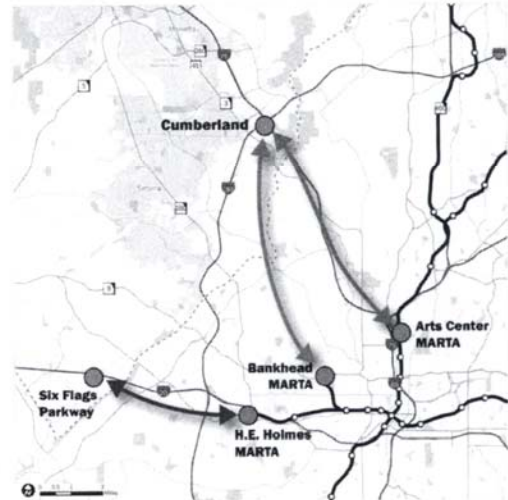
REFERENCE ITEM

Heavy Rail Consideration

Consideration of Three Heavy Rail Connections to Atlanta

- Red – Arts Center/Cumberland
- Green – Bankhead/Cumberland
- Blue – H.E. Holmes/Six Flags

50%-85% of approximate distance located in Fulton County



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Financial Considerations

Surface Transportation projects presented	1% for 30 years
+	
Transit projects presented	1% for 30 years
+	
Three Heavy Rail extension projects presented (Estimating two for constraining purposes – one to Cumberland and one to Six Flags)	~1% for 30 years For 2 projects
	~3% for 30 years

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Methods of Engagement



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Engaging Stakeholders and Public

- Focused Engagement
 - Technical Committee meeting
 - City and CID meetings
 - Transit Advisory Board meeting
 - County Commissioner meetings and work sessions
 - Upcoming – adjacent communities, regional transit operators
- Public-Facing Engagement
 - Public meetings and town halls
 - Surveys
 - Pop-ups and ambassadors
 - Website and social media

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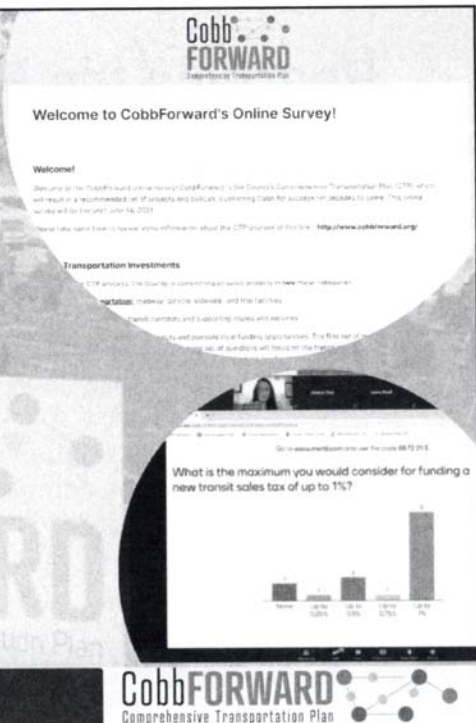


REFERENCE ITEM

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Reaching the Public

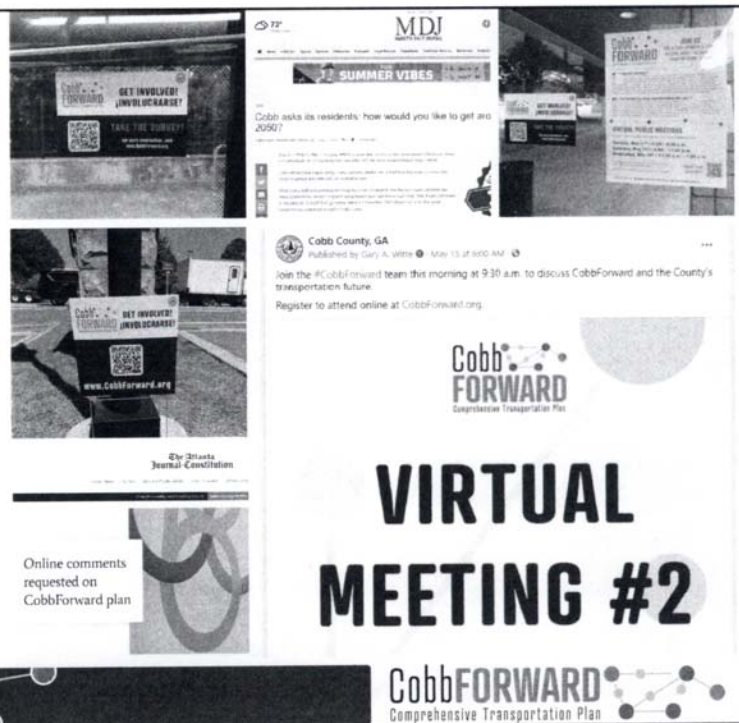
- Virtual public meetings (~160 attendees)
- Town halls (~160 attendees)
- Transfer center pop-ups (~75 riders)
- Online survey (~1,000 responses)
- Scientific survey (~4,300 responses)
- CTP ambassadors



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Reaching the Public

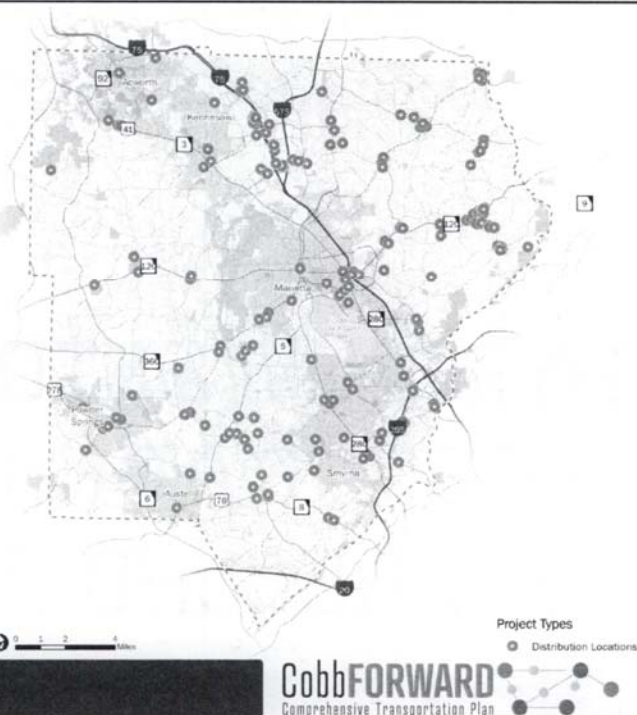
- Advertisement
 - Press releases
 - Social media
 - Email blasts
 - Yard signs, postcards, and flyers
 - Window clings



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- Collateral distribution

- Flyers, postcards, public meeting notices
- Over 150 locations visited across Cobb County
 - Included shopping centers, grocery stores, libraries, universities, medical centers, etc.
- Additional distribution beyond these locations completed by CTP ambassadors



Major Takeaways



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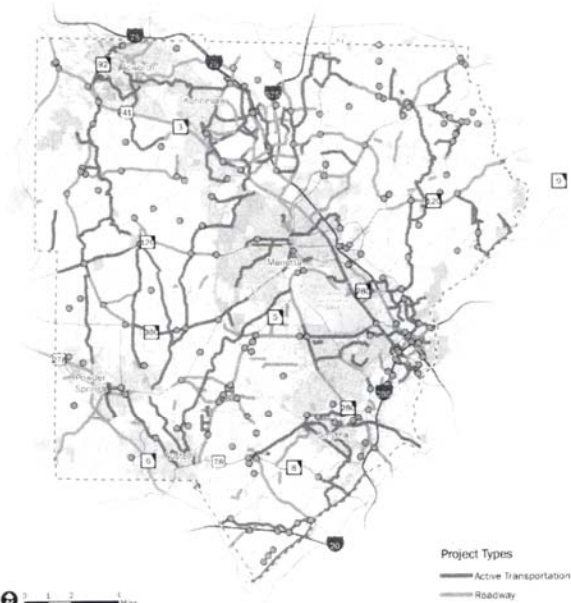
Methodology

- Two surveys:
 - Online survey – open to anyone
 - Scientific survey – random selection of Cobb residents
- Scientific survey:
 - Representative at County level and Commission District level (considering relative population and demographics)
 - Supplemental sampling of renters being completed
 - Minor adjustments will be made when renter sampling is complete
 - More evaluation by sub-groups to be completed
 - Opportunities to opt out of some questions were provided – not all percentages represent the entire sample population

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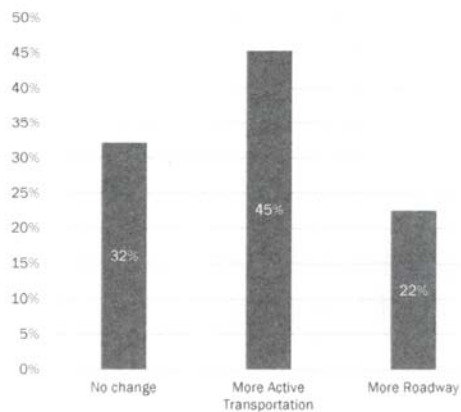
Balance of Projects

For Surface Transportation, what are your thoughts on the balance of projects?

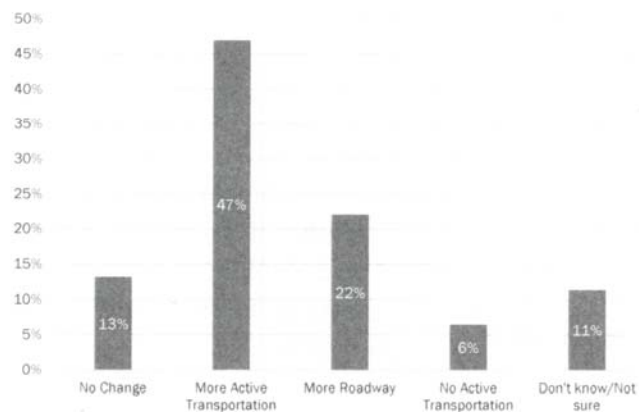


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Balance of Projects



Online Survey



Scientific Survey

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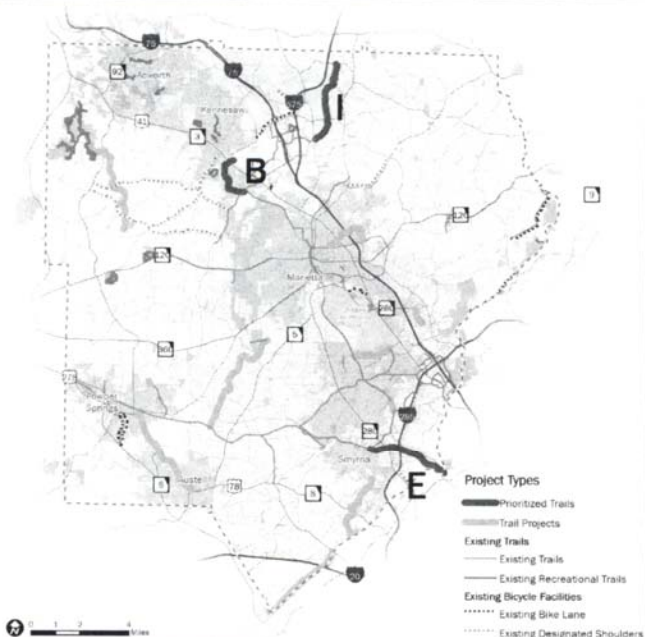
Trails

Popular projects from both surveys

E - Silver Comet - Atlanta Beltline Connector Trail from East-West Connector to the Chattahoochee River

B - Cobb International Boulevard Trail from Barrett Parkway to Old Highway 41

I - Noonday Creek Trail - Bells Ferry Road Trailhead to Noonday Park



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Major Roadway

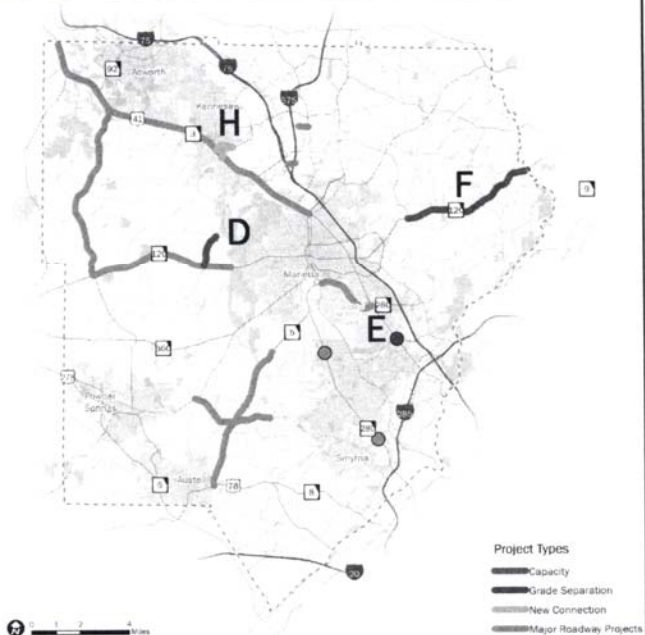
Popular projects from both surveys

H - McCollum Parkway/Cobb Parkway/Kennesaw Due West Realignment

E - Cobb Parkway at Windy Hill Road Grade Separation

F - Roswell Road Widening from East Piedmont Road to the Fulton County Line

D - Barrett Parkway Widening from Burnt Hickory Road to Dallas Highway



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Safety and Operational

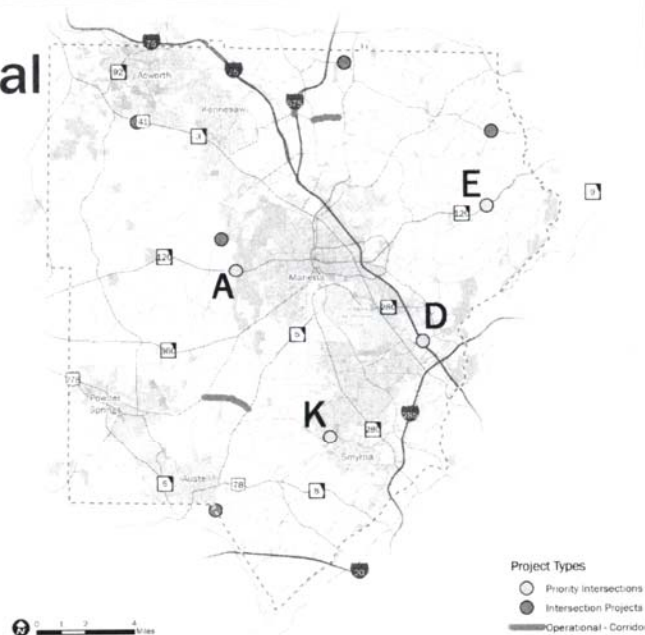
Popular projects from both surveys

D - Windy Hill Road at I-75 Intersection Improvements

A - Dallas Highway at John Ward Road Intersection Improvements

K - East-West Connector at Fontaine Road SE Intersection Improvement

E - SR 120 at Johnson Ferry Road Intersection Improvements



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Current Transit Usage

Current Use of Public Transit

Yes - 17%
No - 83%

Current Use of MARTA Rail

Regularly - 4%
Occasionally - 21%
Rarely - 36%
Never - 39%

Primary Use of Public Transit

Within Cobb - 18%
From Cobb to metro Atlanta - 42%
Outside of Cobb - 40%

Should Cobb Consider New Transit?

Cobb needs more transit - 71%
Cobb has enough transit - 18%
Not sure - 11%

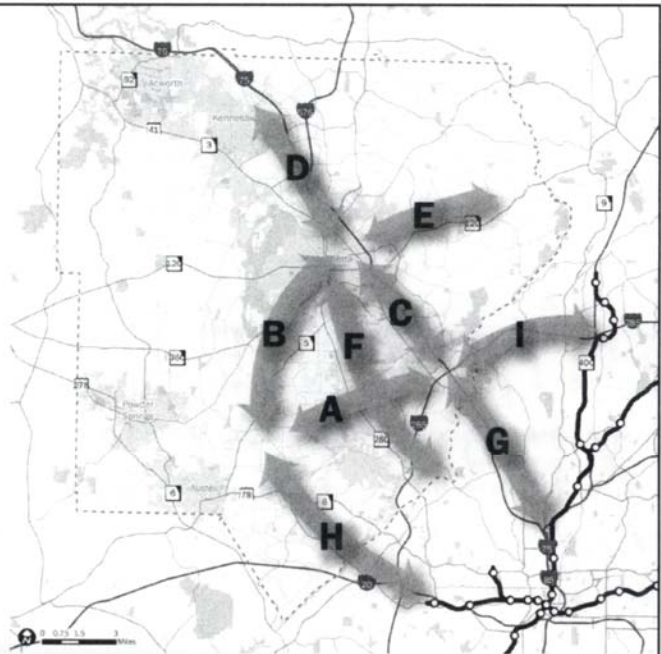
Scientific Survey

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Transit Priority Corridors

Of the nine Priority Corridors, which are top corridors for the community?



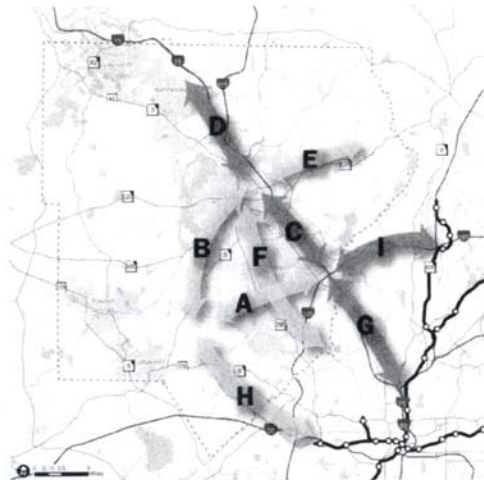
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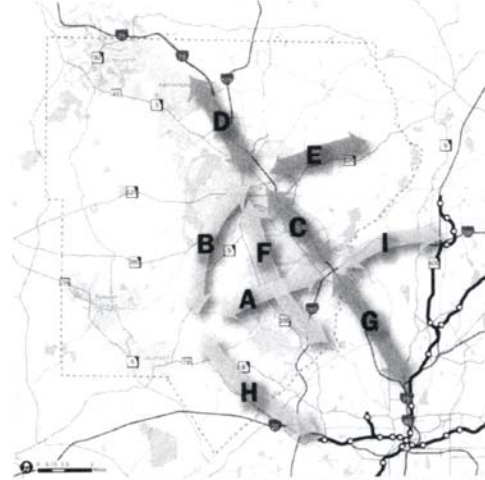
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Transit Priority Corridors



Online Survey

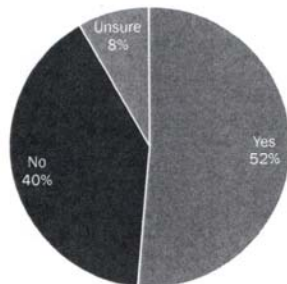


Scientific Survey

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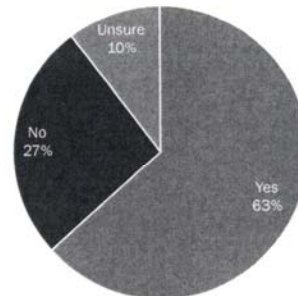
Heavy Rail Investment

52% of respondents said Heavy Rail should be considered for investment.



Online Survey

63% of respondents said Heavy Rail should be considered for investment.

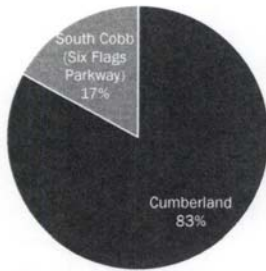


Scientific Survey

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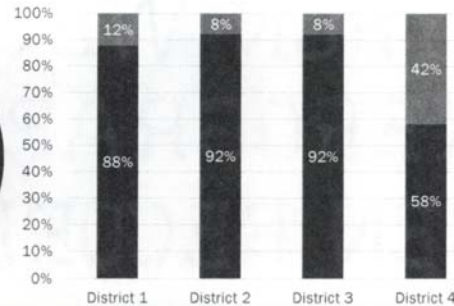
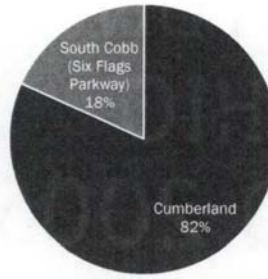
Heavy Rail Investment

Of those who answered yes to Heavy Rail, 83% of respondents said Cumberland is the preferred location



Online Survey

Of those who answered yes to Heavy Rail, 82% of respondents said Cumberland is the preferred location

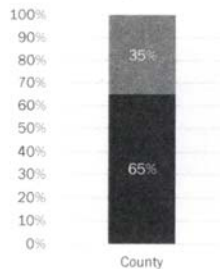


Scientific Survey

Transit Priority Corridors vs. Supporting Network

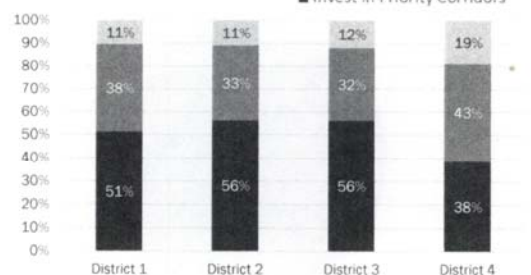
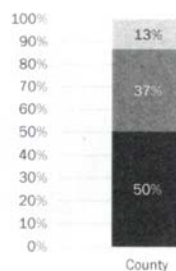
• Of those interested in Heavy Rail, they prefer the following:

- Nearly 2/3 support investment in Priority Corridors over the supporting network



Online Survey

- Majority of respondents selected Priority Corridors
- Some individuals opted out of the selection

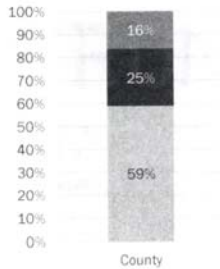


Scientific Survey

Transit Priority Corridors vs. Supporting Network

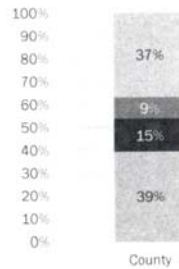
- Of those NOT interested in Heavy Rail, they prefer the following:

- Nearly 60% support the current balance of Priority Corridors vs. Supporting Network

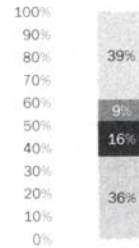


Online Survey

- Of those who answered (other than none), the preference was to keep the balance the same
- The mix between Priority Corridors and Supporting Network was split



County



District 1



District 2



District 3



District 4

Scientific Survey

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Willingness to support a new sales tax

Tax Type	Survey	Yes	Unsure	No
Surface Transportation	Online	50%	14%	35%
	Scientific	48%	17%	36%
Transit	Online	49%	12%	39%
	Scientific	48%	15%	37%

Due to rounding, results do not equal 100%

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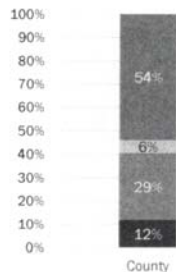
Willingness to support a new sales tax

• Of those willing to support a new sales tax for **surface transportation**:

- 54% said they would support a full penny
- 29% said they would support half a penny

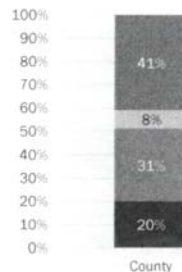
- 41% said they would support a full penny
- 31% said they would support half a penny

■ 0 25%
■ 0 5%
■ 0 75%
■ 1 0%

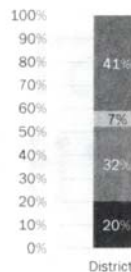


County

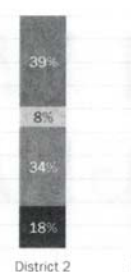
Online Survey



County



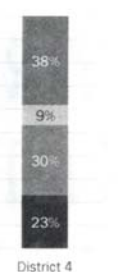
District 1



District 2



District 3



District 4

Scientific Survey

CobbFORWARD
Comprehensive Transportation Plan

31

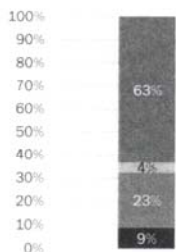
Willingness to support a new sales tax

• Of those willing to support a new sales tax for **transit**:

- 63% said they would support a full penny
- 23% said they would support half a penny

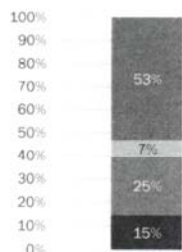
- 53% said they would support a full penny
- 25% said they would support half a penny

■ 0 25%
■ 0 5%
■ 0 75%
■ 1 0%



County

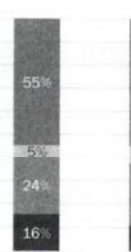
Online Survey



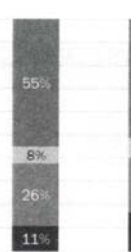
County



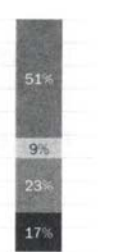
District 1



District 2



District 3



District 4

Scientific Survey

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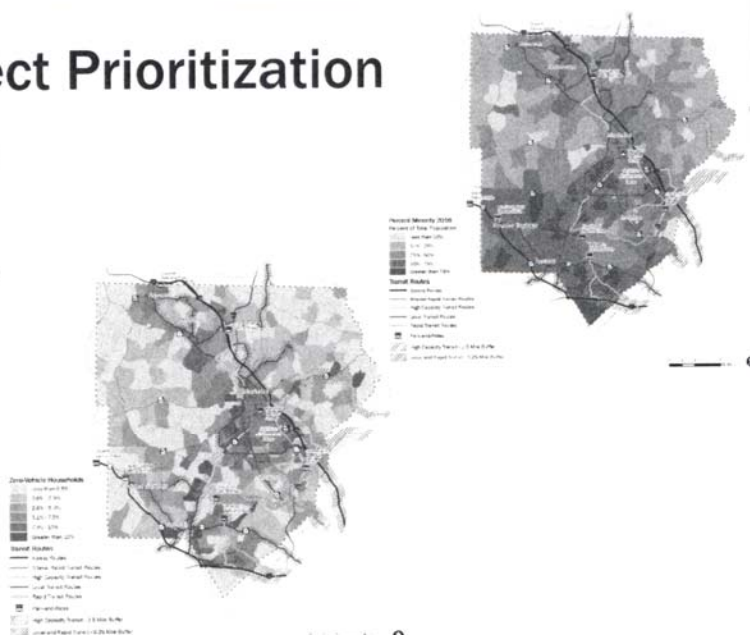
32

REFERENCE ITEM

Cobb
FORWARD
Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Next Steps: Project Prioritization

- Finalizing public engagement efforts/report
- Revisions to project recommendations for surface transportation and transit
- Modeling of long-range scenarios to determine mobility effectiveness, geographic coverage, and equity considerations
- Development of prioritization into tiers (short-, mid-, and long-range)



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REFERENCE ITEM

Next Steps: Policy Recommendations

- Technology:
 - Smart Cities Roadmap
 - Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Roadmap
- Sidewalk Evaluation Framework
- Transportation and Land Use
 - Considerations for Comprehensive Land Use Plan update
- Asset Management
- Transportation Demand Management
- Freight
- Safety



35

Next Steps: Project Conclusion

- Fall 2021
 - Coordination with staff and elected leadership
 - Reports and documentation
 - Plan adoption



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Stay Engaged!

- Website: www.CobbForward.org
- Social media: #CobbForward
- Email address: CobbForward@CobbCounty.org



- Comprehensive Transportation Plan ▾
- About the CTP >
- Schedule >
- Resources >
- Feedback and Participation >
- Related Links >

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

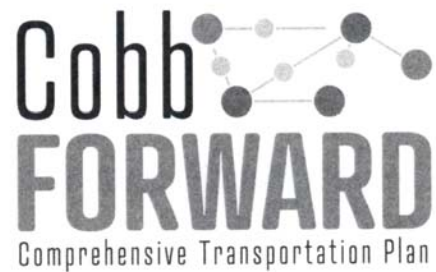


Click "Take Online Survey" below to provide your input on transportation investments in Cobb!



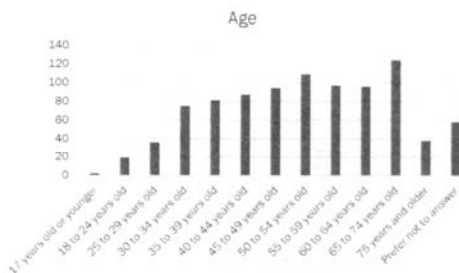
37

Questions

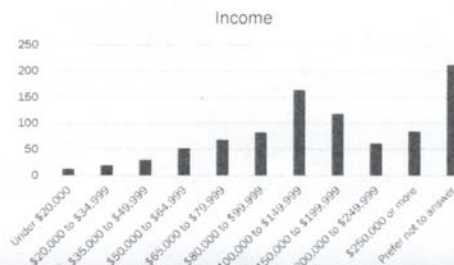
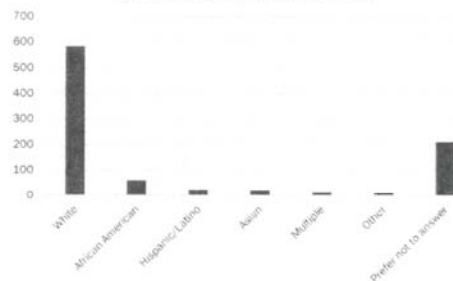


38

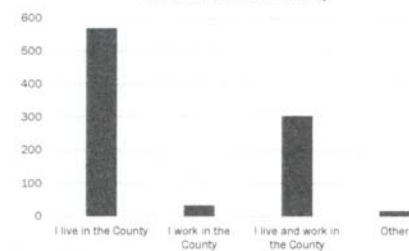
About You



How would you describe yourself?



Relation to Cobb County

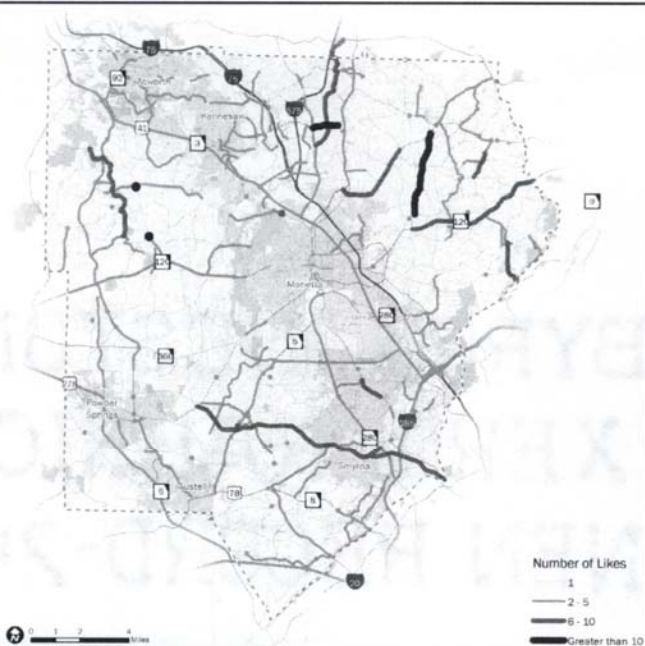


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Surface Transportation Most Liked Projects

- New Chastain Road Improvements
- Holly Springs Road Corridor Improvements
- Acworth Due West Road at Kennesaw Due West Intersection Improvements
- Acworth Due West at Stilesboro Road Intersection Improvements



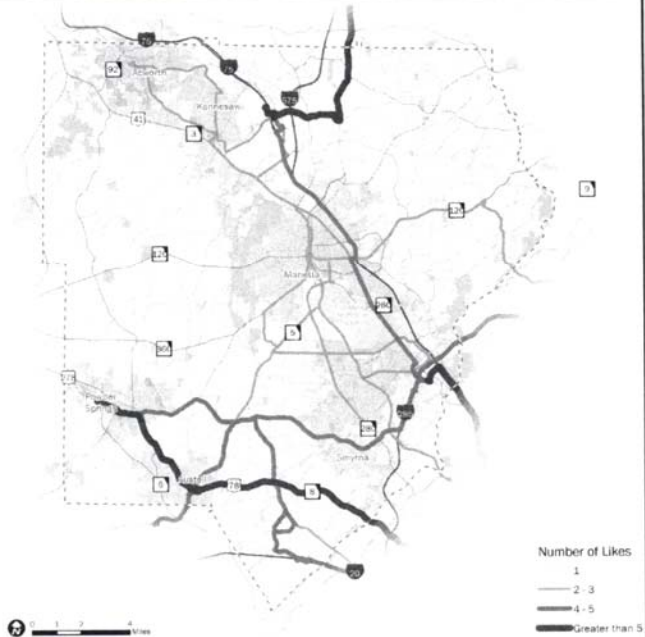
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REFERENCE ITEM

Transit Most Liked Projects

- Cumberland/Atlanta – I-75
- Veterans Memorial Highway
- Town Center/Woodstock



41

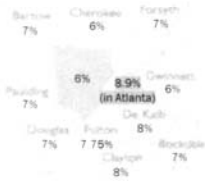
Proposed Short-List of Funding and Financing Options (58)

Federal	State	Local	Project-Specific
- COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance and Economic Stimulus - FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants - FHWA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Funds - FHWA Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds - FHWA Transportation Alternatives - Atlanta Regional Commission Livable Centers Initiative - FHWA Highway Safety Improvement Program - FHWA National Highway Performance Program - FHWA National Highway Freight Program - FHWA Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives (STPSA) Grants - FHWA Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies (ATCMTD) Program - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grants - FTA Formula Funds (5307, 5340, 5337, 5339, 5310) - FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program - FTA Low or No-Emission (Low No) Bus Grant Program - FTA Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Grants - FTA Access and Mobility Partnership Grants - FTA Integrated Mobility and Innovation (IMI) Grants - FTA Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Competitive Grant Program - USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants (formerly TIGER) - USDOT INFRA Grants (formerly FASTLANE) - FRA Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI) - USDOT Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan* - Private Activity Bonds* - FRA Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) Loan*	- State General Fund Allocation - Tolls - Toll Credits - Motor Vehicle Registration Fee Increase - Alternative Fuel Vehicle Fee Increase - Heavy Vehicle Impact Fee Increase - Hotel Motel Fee Increase - Lottery Increase - Motor Fuel Sales Tax Increase - Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program - Income/Payroll Tax Increase - Title Ad Valorem Tax Increase - Real Estate Transfer Tax Increase - Ride Hailing Fee - Rental Car Tax (new) - Casino Gaming Tax (new) - Cap-and-Trade Proceeds (new) - Entertainment/Meal Tax (new) - Estate Tax (new) - State Bonds* - Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB)*	- Regional TSPLOST - County TSPLOST - County TSPLOST (ATL) - County SPLOST - County LOST - Local Property Tax Increase - Local Hotel Motel Fee Increase - Local Title Ad Valorem Tax Increase - Local Rental Car Tax Increase - Local Motor Vehicle Registration Fee (new) - Local Alternative Fuel Vehicle Fee (new) - Local Ride Hailing Fee (new) - Local Parking Fees (new) - Congestion Pricing (new) - Local Motor Fuel Sales Tax (new) - Local Income/Payroll Tax (new) - Local Entertainment/Meal Tax (new) - Local Real Estate Transfer Tax (new) - Local Estate Tax (new) - General Obligation (GO) Bonds* - Revenue Bonds*	- Tax Allocation District (TAD)* - Special Assessment/Community Improvement District (CID) - Naming Rights/Sponsorships - Land Donations - Joint Development - Air Rights - Development Impact Fees - Private/Developer Contributions - Private Financing* - Private Equity* - Fare Revenues - Advertising and Other Agency Revenues

42

Sales Tax Initiatives

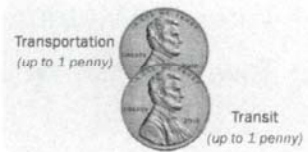
Effective Sales Tax Rates (January 1, 2021)



November
2020
County
SPLOST
Renewal



November
2021
Education
SPLOST
Renewal
(Tentative)



November
2022
Mobility
SPLOSTs

Transportation
(up to 1 penny)
Transit
(up to 1 penny)



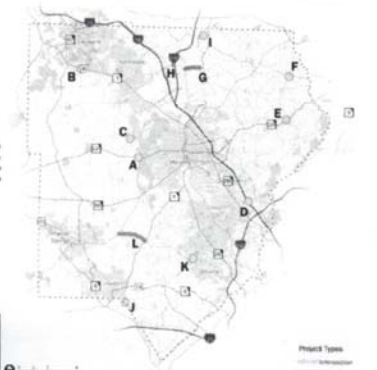
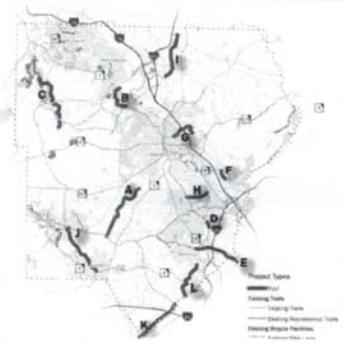
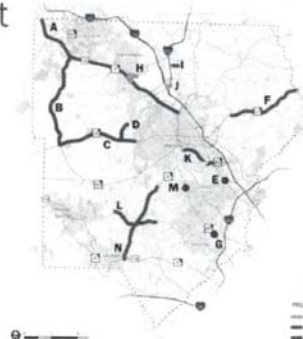
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High-Ranking Projects

- Silver Comet – Atlanta BeltLine Connector Trail from East-West Connector to the Chattahoochee River
- Cobb Parkway at Windy Hill Road Grade Separation
- Windy Hill Road at I-75 Intersection Improvements

Will modify slides and get
messaging down
Consider using graphics versus
words on the map



44

REFERENCE ITEM

22

Potential Transit Network Investments

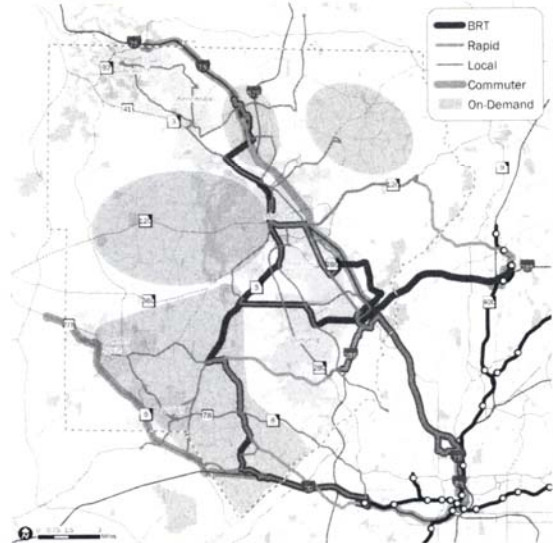
Priority Corridors

- 7 Bus Rapid Transit
- 2 Arterial Rapid Transit

Supporting Transit Network

- 14 Local Routes
- 5 Rapid Routes
- 6 Commuter Bus Routes
- 4 On-Demand Zones
- Paratransit
- 3rd Party Transportation Program (Uber/Lyft/etc.)
- Vanpool Program

*Assumes 1 penny for 30 years



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45

Transit Priority Corridors vs. Supportive Network

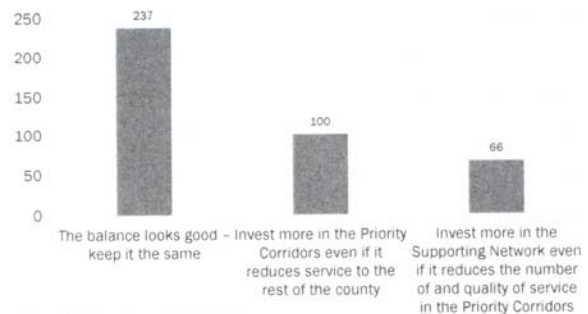
Of those who said **yes to rail**, 65% said the remaining funds should be used to invest in priority corridors.

Of those who said that the balance should be kept the same.

Add scientific

Point about coverage in D4

Note the equity conversation – perhaps geared towards next steps



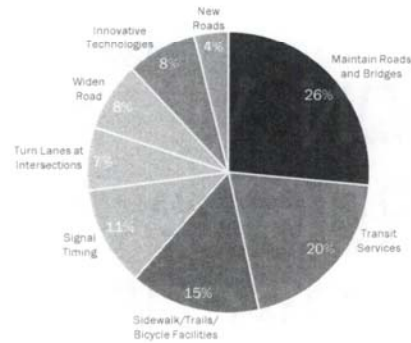
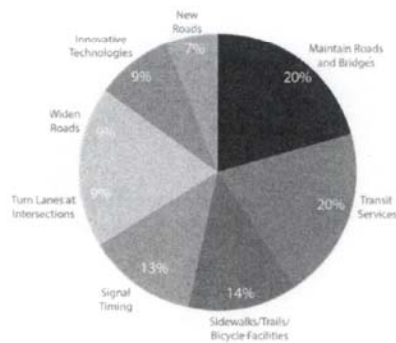
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46

Funding Buckets

- Comparison between the first round

Team, I'm leaning towards removing this.
Sentiment hasn't changed much.



47

Willingness to support a new sales tax

- Approximately 50% of respondents would support a sales tax increase for surface transportation projects
 - 35% said no, 15% were unsure
- Approximately 50% of respondents would support a sales tax increase for transit projects
 - 38% said no, 12% were unsure

Add scientific

48

REFERENCE ITEM

2

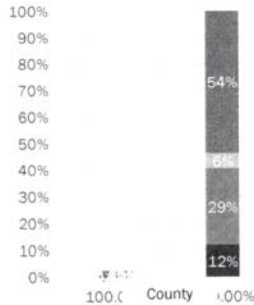
Willingness to support a new sales tax

- Of those willing to support a new sales tax for surface transportation:

- 54% said they would support a full penny
- 29% said they would support half a penny

- 41% said they would support a full penny.
- 31% said they would support half a penny

- 0.25%
- 0.5%
- 0.75%
- 1.0%



Online Survey

OLD

Scientific Survey

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49

Willingness to support a new sales tax

- Of those willing to support a new sales tax for transit:

- 63% said they would support a full penny.
- 23% said they would support half a penny

- 53% said they would support a full penny.
- 25% said they would support half a penny

- 0.25%
- 0.5%
- 0.75%
- 1.0%

Online Survey

Scientific Survey

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Comprehensive Transportation Plan

50

Key Takeaways

- CTP will finish in fall 2021, resulting in:
 - Projects
 - Policies
- CTP can help Cobb to prepare for future funding opportunities like the Mobility SPLOST
- Feedback is needed from the public regarding:
 - High priority projects and corridors
 - Investment in different project types
 - Consideration of new local funding options



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Coronavirus State
& Local Fiscal
Recovery Fund

Different from CARES Act:

- While many of the allowable uses under CARES are still available, there are more restrictions;
- CARES had 3 requirements: necessary due to COVID, unbudgeted, and incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020;
- Comments on Interim Final Rule open until July 16, 2021.

1

Five primary
ways that
counties may
use ARPA
funds:

To support the public health response;

To address negative economic impacts to workers, families, and small businesses;

To replace public sector revenue loss;

To provide premium pay for essential workers; and

To improve water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

2

Funds may cover costs from

March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024

31 Dec. 2024

Funds must be incurred/obligated by December 31, 2024;

Funds must be expended (projects completed) by December 31, 2026.

31 Dec. 2026

3

Assessing whether a program “responds to” the COVID-19 public health emergency...

Eligible uses must be in response to the disease itself or the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions. There must be a connection between the need or negative economic harm and COVID-19, the nature and extent of that harm, and how the use of the funding addresses such harm.

- First, identify a need or negative impact of COVID-19;
- Second, identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the need or impact.

4

REFERENCE ITEM

2

2

Support the Public Health Response

- COVID-19 Mitigation & Containment – a broad range of services and programming that are needed to contain COVID-19
- Medical Expenses – provide care and services to address COVID-19 public health needs, risks presented by new variants and long-term effects of the virus
- Behavioral Healthcare – new or enhanced services that may be needed to meet mental health, substance use, and other behavioral health needs
- Public Health & Safety Staff – responding to the public health and negative economic impacts of COVID-19 and requires additional resources

5

Address negative economic impacts

- Workers & families– assistance to unemployed workers and job training; food, housing, cash and other assistance to households (proportionate); survivor's benefits for family members of COVID-19 victims
- Small business– loans and grants to mitigate financial hardship; loans, grants and in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics; technical assistance
- Public sector– rehire staff; replenish state unemployment insurance funds; administer economic relief programs
- Impacted industries– tourism, travel and hospitality; other similarly affected sectors

6

Allowed within Qualified Census Tracts

- Addressing health disparities- community health workers and public benefits navigators; remediation of lead paint and other lead hazards; community violence intervention programs
- Housing & neighborhoods- services to support individuals experiencing homelessness; affordable housing development; housing vouchers, residential counseling, navigation assistance
- Education disparities- new or expanded early learning services; expanded resources for high-poverty school districts; educational services like tutoring and afterschool programs
- Promoting healthy childhood environments- new and expanded high quality childcare; home visiting programs for families with young children; services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth

7

Replace public sector
revenue loss
(entity-wide basis)
(for costs incurred after
March 3, 2021)

After determining the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency, projections are calculated at either:
the county's average annual revenue growth over last three full fiscal years
OR
4.1%, national average state and local growth rate

Calculate extent of reduction in revenues as of December 31, 2020;
December 31, 2021; December 31, 2022; and December 31, 2023

Use of revenue replacement also subject to reporting requirements

8

REFERENCE ITEM

2

WHAT CAN COUNTIES SPEND MONEY ON AFTER REVENUE LOSS IS CALCULATED?

ANY government services including, but not limited to:

Maintenance or pay-go pay-go funded building of infrastructure, including roads

Modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure

Healthcare services

Environmental remediation

School or educational services

Provision of police, fire, and other public safety services

Revenue recoupment cannot be used for rainy day funds or debt services.

9

Premium pay for Essential Employees

- Essential work- work involving regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others (a worker may not qualify for premium pay if able to telework from a residence)
- Premium pay can be retroactive to January 27, 2020
- Eligible essential employees – any work performed by an employee of the local government; staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home care settings; workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants; janitors and sanitation workers; truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers; public health and safety staff; childcare workers, educators and other school staff; social service and human services staff

10

Improve water, sewer and broadband infrastructure

(for costs incurred for
eligible projects planned
or started prior to
March 3, 2021 provided
costs incurred after
March 3, 2021)

WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Improvements to infrastructure, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution and storage systems
- Eligible uses aligned to Environmental Protection Agency project categories in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support households and businesses below a set level of service
- Projects that deliver reliable services above a set level of service

11

Ineligible expenses

Outside of Water, Sewer, Broadband and facility upgrades related to COVID-19 response and mitigation, general infrastructure and economic development projects, such as new jails, roads and bridges, and business parks, are prohibited.

HOWEVER, COUNTIES MAY USE THE PORTION OF THEIR "REVENUE LOSS" RECOUPMENT FOR THESE TYPES OF INVESTMENTS.

12

REFERENCE ITEM

2

Ineligible expenses

Pension funds – cannot be used for deposits into defined benefit pension funds (deposit defined as an extraordinary contribution for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability)

Other restrictions – funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments; deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves; non-federal match, i.e. EDA & Medicaid

13

Reporting requirements

Interim reports: to include the county's expenditures by category at the summary level. The interim report will cover spending from the date the county receives Funds to July 31, 2021. Due by August 31, 2021.

Quarterly project and expenditure reports: to include financial data, information on contracts and sub-awards over \$50,000 and other information regarding utilization of funds. The first report will cover spending from the date the county receives Funds to September 30, 2021. Due by October 31, 2021.

Recovery plan performance reports: annual report to include descriptions of projects funded and information on performance indicators and objectives of each award. Initial recovery plan will cover activity from the date the county receives Funds to July 31, 2021. Due by August 31, 2021.

14

BYRON WESTON
XEROGRAPHIC
ITEM RECORD-2004