

Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and City Council held Thursday, March 16, 2006, 6:00 PM, Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

Presentations

Presentation by Rocky Moore, Director of Fulton County E-911 on statistics for the City of Sandy Springs.

Mayor Galambos recognized Rocky Moore, Director of Fulton County E-911 who gave the following presentation:

Fulton County *Emergency Services* Department

Our Mission Three vital functions of Emergency Services

1. 9-1-1 Emergency Communications
2. Emergency Medical Services Oversight
3. Emergency Management

Our Value Statement

We Strive For... Excellence, Honesty, Results

We Deliver... Professionalism, Commitment, Diligence

We Are... Friendly, Courteous, Respectful

9-1-1 Emergency Communications

The primary mission of 9-1-1 is to provide the vital link between citizens and Fulton County, through consolidated Enhanced 9-1-1 call reception and radio dispatching of requests for public safety services. The Advanced Emergency Medical Dispatch System is used to triage medical calls.

Emergency Medical Services

The office of EMS within Emergency Services administers the performance compliance of the 9-1-1 designated ambulance providers, Grady EMS and Rural Metro Ambulance Company.

Emergency Management Agency

The Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency is a joint cooperative effort between the City of Atlanta and Fulton County responsible for the development and implementation of a local emergency management plan, and broad assigned responsibilities to local government agencies and support organizations for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery functions.

Program Objectives and Performance Indicators

Emergency Communications/9-1-1

Performance Objectives

9-1-1 calls answered within 10 seconds 90% of the time. (2005 actual was 96.4% in 2 seconds)

90% Emergency Medical Dispatch Compliance

Average 2 minute call processing time.

Maintain 95% radio system reliability.

- Call Processing Times Life Threatening
- Call Processing Times Presumptive
Non Life Threatening
- Call Processing Times Non Emergency
- Performance Indicators continued

9-1-1 and Total System Call Statistics

- 2002: 293,470 and 1,224,576
- 2003: 312,925 and 1,176,973

■ 2004: 325,254 and 1,116,468

■ 2005: 338,942 and 1,102,599

2006 9-1-1 Budget

Operations \$8,623,148

Ambulance Subsidy \$6,349,224

Sandy Springs Estimate \$1,558,632

Revenues

■ 9-1-1 Fees Total \$8,446,073

■ Sandy Springs estimated \$2,516,600

□ Wired Fees - \$1,620,000

□ Wireless Fees - \$896,600

Hypothetical Budget - Personnel Costs

	<u>Regular Salary +Fringe</u>
□ 1 – Manager Position:	\$ 82,296
□ 3 – Supervisor Positions:	180,832
□ 16 – Communications Officers	
□ 10 – Dispatchers	635,846
□ 6 – Call Takers	298,938
□ 1 – 15% of Technical Operations Manager	11,486
□ 1 – 15% of Department Director’s Salary	21,180
□ 1 – 15% of Assistant Director’s Salary	13,558
□ 1 – 15% of Administrative Coordinator Salary	8,716
□ 1 – 9-1-1 Coordinator/System Specialist Salary	7,009
□ 1 – EMS EMD Quality Assurance Officer	9,332
□ Estimated Overtime @ 15% of total.	31,680
□ Total:	\$1,300,873

Hypothetical Budget

Communications Services

□ BellSouth 9-1-1 recurring:	\$93,178.50
□ Dictaphone recorder maintenance:	\$ 5,594.43
□ Computer Aided Dispatch System:	\$31,660.00
□ Professional Services:	\$ 4,813.50
□ Office Supplies:	\$ 7,761.75
□ (15 % of office furniture, mailing, printing, promotions, 800 MHz maintenance includes lease costs for antennas on roof tops)	\$114,752.00
Total:	\$257,760.18
Grand Total:	\$1,558,633.18

Program Objectives Continued

□ Emergency Medical Services

- Responsible for overseeing performance of contracted ambulance services.
- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Placement Program.
- Quality Improvement Unit.
- Public Education.

Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency

- ❑ Critical Program Areas
 - Four Cornerstones of Emergency Management
 - ❑ Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Recovery
 - Emergency Operations Plan
 - ❑ National Response Plan
 - ❑ NIMS
 - Emergency Operations Center
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee
 - Public Education

Conclusion

Whether the first contact from a citizen who is in need of assistance for an emergency or the final action in the recovery process, the Emergency Services Department is there from the beginning to the end.

Presentation of Roswell Road Economic Analysis and Redevelopment Strategy

The following executive summary was presented to the Mayor and City Council:

Sandy Springs Revitalization, Inc. engaged the team of Bleakly Advisory Group and Jordan Jones & Goulding, to conduct an economic and redevelopment analysis for the Central business District of Sandy Springs. The purposes of the analysis are:

1. To determine if the land uses in the Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan ("2025 Plan") will permit economically feasible redevelopment to occur, given the current land and development costs.
2. If the proposed land uses are not economically feasible, suggest changes to the 2025 Plan which would make redevelopment in the CBD economically feasible.

The issue: Creating a Central Business District for the New City of Sandy Springs

Sandy Springs's Central Business District, (defined as the segment of Roswell Road from just north of the intersection with I-285 on the south to Cromwell Street, which is two blocks above the Mount Vernon/Johnson Ferry Intersection on the north; Sandy Springs Circle on the west and Boylston Drive on the east) reflects its heritage as an auto-dependent commercial corridor containing a jumble of older commercial uses. The continuing evolution of Perimeter Center as the dominant regional shopping destination has shifted the focus of demand for Sandy Springs's CBD from a regional shopping destination to a mix of local merchants, service businesses, and convenience shopping and inappropriate uses more likely found in depressed economic areas. As reported in earlier research by Morris and Fellows retail consultants, less than 50% of the retail purchases by Sandy Springs residents are being captured by merchants in the CBD. Further, the inappropriate uses can draw and undesirable element into the CBD, with the potential to increase violent crime, homelessness, etc.

There is a disconnect between the commercial experience on Roswell Road and the very high quality of the residential development, both existing and new, which is occurring around it. Given that the dynamic nature of the region's real estate market, the CBD needs to define a vision for its future that would achieve three objectives:

1. Create a true city center for the new City of Sandy Springs
2. Create a distinct niche for the CBD which would not compete with Perimeter Center but provide a unique, pedestrian-friendly experience drawing demand from the new residents and businesses located there, and the many affluent residents which surround it.
3. Attract significant new high quality investment to redevelop older undesirable properties, enhancing the commercial tax base of the city and thereby lessening the tax burden on the residential portion of the Tax Digest.

The Vision for Sandy Springs's CBD-and the Struggle in its Implementation:

The LCI Study for the CBD was completed in 2001 and established a new vision for the area. It encouraged the transition of outdated strip commercial centers and free-standing fast food outlets to a more pedestrian-friendly mix of

ground floor retail uses with office or residential above, with ample parking in structured decks to support the new development and strategically located green space to be enjoyed by visitors and residents.

Since the vision for the CBD was established in the LCI planning in 2001, its implementation has been sporadic. Substantial streetscape improvements have been made, which add to the attractiveness of the area. However, the conversion of the existing outmoded retail centers and stand-alone retail outlets has proven to be difficult due to the substantial land costs in the area, with average \$1.5 million per acre on Roswell Road and \$1 million per acre off Roswell Road.

In the future, Roswell Road will become the major commercial corridor defining the City of Sandy Springs; much like Peachtree Street defines Atlanta or Ponce de Leon Avenue in the City of Decatur. The current status of Roswell Road does not reflect its prominent role in the city's future.

The Land Use Framework Proposed in the Focus Fulton 2025 Plan will not work with Traditional Development Methods and Finance:

The just approved Focus Fulton 2025 Plan, a collaborative effort undertaken to better manage future development and encourage redevelopment of the Sandy Springs CBD, is not likely to work for several reasons:

- The comprehensive plan does incorporate a vision of the CBD as a pedestrian-friendly city center with a vibrant mix of residential retail and offices uses. However, the level of development it permits in the CBD is not sufficient to make redevelopment economically feasible, with strictly private financing, given the current high land costs in the area.
- In addition, the recent experience with the Sandy Springs Overlay District indicates that additional parking will be required to attract the types of development that is desired.
- The recent termination of the Sandy Springs TAD by Fulton County removed a valuable financing tool used successfully by other communities to create vibrant, mixed use districts.

Suggested Changes to the 2025 Plan to Achieve the Vision of Sandy Springs's CBD:

Based on the results of the research in this report, the following key policy changes to the Plan are recommended:

- Shift to a more flexible, Floor Area Ratio (FAR) based system for controlling the intensity of development. Under this approach the development is allowed flexibility on the specific mix of uses with in an overall maximum build-out on the site, expressed as a ratio of development to the size of the site. Requirements for open space, parking and the streetscapes can be incorporated into the FAR requirements. Other local cities using FAR to design density are Atlanta, Marietta, and Roswell.
- Increase the permitted FAR's from the level of 1.0-1.6 on Roswell Road in the 2025 Plan to 2.2-2.3. This would encourage highest density development along Roswell Road—approximately 40-65 units per acre with shops and restaurants on the bottom floor.
- Encourage higher parking requirements in the current Overlay District. Increase the current requirement of 1.5 spaces per 1,000 sq. ft. to 3 spaces per 1,000 sq. ft. for office, 4 per 1,000 sq. ft. for retail and 2 spaces per unit for residential to create enough parking to make the district work, inclusive of public parking decks. These decks can serve as a shared parking resource for surrounding developments.
- Create one or more public parking decks at strategic locations to: Relieve the need to have substantial parking on every parcel; to create a "bank" of available parking spaces to deal with peak demand periods and create shared parking to be used for different purposes throughout the day (office workers in the day, restaurant customers at night, etc.); allow for flexible parking to serve both civic and commercial purposes.
- Re-establish the Sandy Springs TAD in 2006 by securing the required state legislative approval and holding a referendum in the city to permit re-establishment of the TAD. The TAD will be necessary as a funding vehicle for creating the needed public parking, to provide financial incentives to developments with achieve the vision of the CBD, and to provide the central green space/civic gathering space in the CBD
- Create a major park or public space with Roswell Road frontage to create a community amenity and focal point for the new City. City Hall would be the logical anchor of the public space.
- Allow development densities to transition from their highest level on Roswell Road to lower intensity off Roswell Road.

- Create special land use policies for transitional properties which would buffer the well-established single family areas from the CBD and allow a mix of low-intensity uses (professional office, residential and senior housing), but permit only one land use per site. If a significant land assemblage is accomplished a combination of two low-density uses may be considered.

View Downtown Decatur as the Prototype Vision for Sandy Springs CBD in terms of its:

- Creation of public green space around key civic structures.
- The concentration of residential and retail mixed uses along Ponce De Leon, its major commercial spine.
- The use of public parking decks to meet the challenges of having flexible public parking options.
- Encouraging a mix of unit types and prices to ensure a lively mix of residents in the core.

What may happen if we do nothing?

- More Fast Food, Discount and National Chain Automotive and Service Businesses-If we do nothing, the likely outcome will be a mix of small parcel renovations, continuation of the balkanized land uses with second- and third-tier retail uses, mixed with national retailers in the drug, fast food and automotive services which can pay the high rents commanded by a Roswell Road location-with each store isolated in a sea of parking.
- Current owners will lack the needed economic incentive to redevelop-As additional residential development occurs around the edges of the CBD, and off-Roswell Road it will increase demand for retail services which would make it financially attractive to current owners to maintain their properties as they are. This will prolong the unappealing environment found in the CBD today, missing an opportunity to reposition the CBD as the commercial heart of the new city. The sub-standard, objectionable uses flourishing here today will continue to do so.
- A Slower-Growing Commercial Tax Base-The CBD represents one of the largest concentrations of commercial development contributing to the tax base in the City. Sandy Springs needs to pursue the revitalization of the CBD as a way to accelerate the growth in the commercial portion of the Tax Digest, thereby lessening the burden on residential property owners in the future.

Implementing the recommendations found in the following sections of this report for the future land use of Sandy Springs CBD can have a profound impact. Due to the convergence of a number of positive development trends in Sandy Springs, the CBD can become a vibrant, attractive, green and walkable city center which counterpoints the massive retail concentration at Perimeter Center and becomes a highly desirable location for Sandy Springs residents to shop, go to restaurants and enjoy a unique experience, much like the appeal of Virginia Highland, downtown Decatur, and Smyrna. A healthy CBD, with strong, concentrated development, protects the surrounding neighborhoods and contributes greatly to all the Sandy Springs by providing the tax base necessary to support the quality of life expected by the residents of this community.

Staff Discussion Items

John McDonough, City Manager
Communications Protocol

City Manager John McDonough reviewed the proposed communications protocol explaining that it was broken into 11 areas as follows:

Emergency Response

City Manager McDonough explained that Ruben Burch, Safety/Risk Manager, would be the point of contact for 911 emergencies. There was a consensus that Councilmembers would be notified of major emergencies within their respective districts and Mayor Galambos would be notified of all major emergencies.

Council to Staff - Staff to Council

City Manager McDonough explained that discussion between staff and Council and Council and staff should be routed through the City Manager's office to ensure follow-up.

Council to Attorney - Staff to Attorney

City Manager McDonough explained that all correspondence to the City Attorney should also be routed through the City Manager's office. He explained that a response would be expected from the attorney within three days or a reason for the delay would be provided within three days.

Council to Judge or Solicitor

City Manager McDonough explained that this should also go through the City Manager's office so as to prevent anyone from getting into trouble. Discussion followed and it was decided that the word "contact" would be removed from the proposed protocol. It was also clarified that Councilmembers could contact the Judge or Solicitor for updates on Court Services in general.

Media

City Manager McDonough explained the difference between a Councilmember's point of view and the City's position on an issue. He explained that the Mayor is the spokesperson for the City. Discussion followed regarding what issues should be addressed by the Mayor.

Staff to Management

City Manager McDonough explained that this referred to CH2MHILL employees and was to ensure the smooth running of the City.

Council to Developer

City Manager McDonough explained that the Mayor and City Council should be cautious when speaking to developers. City Attorney Willard stated that technical questions should be directed to staff.

Public or Neighborhood Meetings

City Manager McDonough explained that this was not referring to Town Hall meetings, but to meetings in which staff was invited by the public. He stated that staff would accommodate these to the best of their ability.

Committees and Community Involvement

City Manager McDonough requested that the City Manager's office be notified so that any staffing needed is made available.

Facilities

City Manager McDonough requested that any facilities requests come through the City Manager's office.

Public Contact and Interaction

City Manager McDonough advised the Mayor and City Council that when talking with the public not to make any promises that commit this government.

Update on Employee Benefits Plan

Human Resources Director-OMI Beth Brown and Human Resources Manager Connie Jacobs made the following presentation:

Employee Health and Welfare Plans

Benefits Market Overview

- Growing and Aging Population: The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that the majority of the U.S. "baby boom" population (28% of the total U.S. population) will begin to turn 65 between 2010 and 2020.
Consumer expectations for improved healthcare are increasing.
- Reimbursement and coverage of medical expenses by insurance companies and employers are on the decline—customers/patients have to contribute more money.
- Technology is giving rise to new clinical therapies, which in turn are addressing more and more medical ailments and aiding in earlier diagnosis and prevention of diseases.

- Healthcare spending per capita has grown significantly across the world. It increased from \$144 per capita in 1960 to almost \$4,400 by 1999. The U.S. per capita spending is projected to grow to \$7,500 by 2008.
- Medical inflation over the past 5 years has been higher than regular inflation which drives the need to look at different medical benefit delivery models (like the High Deductible Health Plan with Health Spending Account).

Alpharetta:

Insurance Type: United Healthcare POS

- \$25 bi-wkly (single) - (\$56.25 monthly)
- \$45 bi-wkly (employee + 1) - (\$101.25 monthly)
- \$50 bi-wkly (family) - (\$112.50 monthly)

Life Insurance: up to \$250,000 max - 3 times annual salary

DeKalb County:

Insurance Type: United Healthcare HMO

- (Medical/Dental/Vision) - \$45.13 bi-wkly - (\$101.54 monthly)

Life Insurance: \$100,000.00 - \$4.00 bi-wkly (\$9.00 monthly)

How Did We Get Here?

- Broker, Todd Bryant of Bryant Wharton worked with the Human Resources Task Force during the 4th quarter of 2005. Due to his expertise in the municipal government area, we continued to utilize his skills on the Sandy Springs project.
- A City of Sandy Springs Performance Analysis Group worked with Bryant Wharton to investigate options and develop recommendations. The group consisted of:
 - Aaron Bovos, Deputy City Manager
 - Beth Brown, OMI, Inc.--Human Resources Director
 - Connie Jacobs, OMI, Inc.--Human Resources Manager

One of the earlier challenges for Bryant Wharton was to locate an insurance carrier that would write a competitive plan for Sandy Springs because:

- We are a small group (becoming a large group by year end)
- With no history
- The list of carriers contacted includes:
 - Aetna; Blue Cross Blue Shield; Cigna; Coventry; Humana; Kaiser Permanente; and Principal
- The carriers that declined to quote our business or that were not competitive:
 - Comp Benefits; Guardian (Life and Disability); Hartford; Jefferson Pilot; Met Life; and UNUM

Proposed Medical Plans:

- Point of Service (POS)
- High Deductible Health Plan with a Health Spending Account (HSA)
- Coverage Eligibility:
 - All full-time employees will be covered first of the month following their hire date
 - Domestic Partner coverage for medical, dental, voluntary life, and vision
- Proposed Carriers:

United Healthcare – Medical
Guardian – Dental
Standard – Life and Disability

Plan Options

Point of Service Plan:

How the plan works

The POS is based on the basic managed care foundation: lower medical costs in exchange for more limited choice.

When you enroll in a POS plan, you are required to choose a primary care physician to monitor your health care. This primary care physician must be chosen from within the health care network, and becomes your “point of service”.

Plan Options

HSA Overview:

- HSA contributions can come from employers, eligible individuals or both;
- HSA’s may be offered under an employer’s cafeteria plan, thereby allowing employees to contribute to an HSA with pre-tax salary reductions;
- Unused contributions rollover from year to year and interest continues to grow on a tax-favored basis to supplement retirement;
- HSA’s are portable and move with an employee who changes employment.

Guardian Dental

- Two Plan Options

Standard

- Basic Life Insurance and AD&D at 3 times salary paid by City
- Voluntary Life (supplemental)
- Short and Long term Disability

Annual Estimated Cost Summary

Conclusion

The recommended plans provide the City of Sandy Springs with a competitive benefits package to meet the needs of a diverse employee group, while being financially responsible with the City’s resources.

Recommendation

Accept the staff recommendation for Health, Dental, LTD, STD, Vision and Life and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for provision of these benefits, with a start date of May 1, 2006.

Proposed revision to the work session schedule

Background

- Work sessions were implemented in December 2005
 - To provide the City Council a mechanism to learn about upcoming agenda items that require action; and
 - To discuss pertinent policy and business issues from both the perspectives of staff and the elected officials
- Thursdays were chosen as a result of City Council Meetings being scheduled every Tuesday in December 2005

Discussion

- Does the current work session schedule facilitate the operating needs of the government?
- Does the frequency of the work sessions facilitate the operating needs of the government?

Current Schedule

■ Staff Responses:

- Moving work sessions from Thursday to Tuesday would:
 - Provide a greater time period in which to prepare subsequent agenda items as discussed at the work session;
 - Eliminate the conflict with the planning commission, board of zoning appeals, and design review board;
 - Provide consistency with the City Council meeting schedule, i.e. one day per week; and
 - Allow for continuity of work flow in the City Manager's and City Clerk's Offices, i.e. preparation, review, and approval of agenda items for both meetings.

Frequency of Work Sessions

■ Staff Responses:

- Moving from two monthly work sessions to one:
 - Provide ease of management from a work flow standpoint, i.e. prepare for one meeting versus two per month

There was a consensus that the work sessions would be held on the second Tuesday of the month and special work sessions would be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Gene Wilson, Police Chief

Police Facilities Report Update

Police Chief Gene Wilson presented the Sandy Springs Police Officers' uniforms to the Mayor and Council. He then explained the pattern of R-1 crimes in Sandy Springs. Discussion followed regarding the future pattern and updates.

City Manager John McDonough explained that the RFP's for the police facility are ready except for the square footage requirements which they should have next week.

Approval of the List of Roadways for the Use of Speed Detection Devices

Police Chief Gene Wilson explained that use of Speed Detection Devices must be done under permit issued to the State granted by Federal Communication Commission. He explained that the Georgia Department of Transportation must certify which streets we can use radar on. He explained that the Police Department will be requesting that Council approve a list of streets in which the State has said we could use radar.

Approval of Psychological Provider Bid for the Police Department

Police Chief Gene Wilson explained that Lt. David Roskind worked on this and he commended his efforts. Chief Wilson explained that staff is not recommending the lowest bidder because they do not meet all the criteria required. He explained that the department is saving 42% of what was budgeted for this service even though the lowest bidder was not chosen.

Police Chief Gene Wilson stated that staff will be requesting approval of the purchase of weapons for the department. He explained that it is an all metal, 40 caliber weapon, which is what the military uses and it is very reliable.

Finance Director Steve Rapson explained that staff would be reviewing the Purchasing Policy so that Council does not have to approve something where it was already approved as a line item on the budget. Chief Wilson also reviewed his staffing requests.

Don Howell, Director of Operations

February 2006 Monthly Financial Reports

Finance Director Steve Rapson presented the February Monthly Financial Report explaining the revenues, business license, other taxes (motor vehicle and alcoholic beverage excise taxes), permits, municipal court fines, and cell towers.

Finance Director Rapson then reviewed the expenditures: transition office, equipment leases, elections, IGA's with Fulton County. He also reviewed the fund balance. Discussion followed regarding the collection of taxes by Fulton County and the IGA with the Georgia Dome for Hotel/Motel taxes.

Finance Director Rapson explained the claim and judgment line item and the disposition of these funds. Discussion followed regarding the agreement with Roswell for prisoner housing. He also reviewed the escrow fund for community development. He also reviewed the Capital Fund.

Buddy Reneau, Public Works Director

Transportation Director Larry Crowe made a presentation on developing a policy for Speed Limits, Traffic Calming and Traffic Signals.

Speed Limits

- The United States has the only uniform continental transportation system in the world
- Governed by accepted uniform regulations, such as the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- Allows for consistent professional practice
- Meets driver expectations by having standardized regulations and guidance – drive from Maine to California on a seamless system

2 Major Groupings of Road Types

On-System (State)

- GDOT maintains and controls
- GDOT sets speed limits based on engineering criteria
- No local authority to set speed limits
- In COSS: Roswell Road (SR 9), GA 400, I-285

-System (Local)

- Organized by functional classification:
 - Arterials
 - Collectors
 - Local (residential and side-streets)
- Local authority to set speed limits

Process for Off-System Roads

For Enforcement

(Regulated Process)

- Staff reviews requests for establishment or modification and makes recommendations to City Manager
- Staff submits list to the GDOT for review once per year
- GDOT returns approved list of modifications
- Mayor and Council adopt amended list, which is returned to GDOT and forwarded to GDPS for radar permitting

Local Discretion

- Staff reviews requests for establishment or modification and makes recommendations to City Manager
- Mayor and Council adopt changes
- Roads modified outside the regulated process are not radar enforceable

Reality of Driving Speeds

- Most people drive at a speed that they consider to be comfortable, regardless of the posted speed limit
- Arbitrarily setting a speed limit artificially low forces drivers out of compliance with the law and may be considered entrapment
- Before/after studies show no significant changes in driving speeds when speed limit signs are installed or modified

Recommendations

- The Council should adopt the amended speed limit list. The list of roads adopted as part of ordinance number 2005-12-10 is missing 54 roads or road segments that were previously approved by GDOT.
- The adopted list will go to the Police Department so they may obtain their radar permit to begin enforcement on July 1st
- Ongoing cooperation between Police Department and Public Works – Transportation
- Request for modification in 2006 will be sent to GDOT in June. We currently have 11 requests for modification or establishment.

Traffic Calming Program

Background

- Traffic calming has been around for about 30 years
- First traffic calming project in Sandy Springs was installed in 1986
- 22 traffic calming projects exist today in COSS
- 2 neighborhoods have submitted petitions, inherited from Fulton County

Effects of Traffic Calming

Recommended 3-Step Process

- Citizen/Neighborhood Request: neighborhood request initiates staff investigation
- Community Participation: petition process, education, agree to cost share
- Implementation: final design, funding, and construction

- Community Participation
Petition requires 75% support in impacted area
- Reduction allowed for non-respondents
- Cost Sharing: 75% City - 25% neighborhood

Projected Costs

- Minimum cost per project: \$25,000
- Average cost per project: \$50,000
- Estimated demand: 3 projects per year
- Estimated funding: \$80,000 to \$100,000

Additional Considerations

- The City should not support a traffic calming project if it diverts traffic to neighboring streets
- Active traffic calming should only be implemented on local, residential streets with Average Daily Traffic (ADT) between 400 and 4,000 vehicles
- Fire, Police, and EMS are consulted on each traffic calming project
- By GDOT policy, Local Assistance Resurfacing Program (LARP) funds will not be allowed on streets where traffic calming devices are in the roadway

Discussion followed regarding the cost sharing for traffic calming.

Traffic Signals

Policy on installation and modification

Fact:

- Assign right-of-way to drivers
- Ensure no conflicting movements for vehicles and pedestrians
- Reduce frequency of right-angle collisions

- Allow pedestrians to cross busy roadways

Fiction:

- Most traffic problems can be fixed with signal timing
- Guarantee a non-stop trip on major arteries
- Reduce the number of overall collisions
- Reduce delay for all drivers

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
(MUTCD)

- MUTCD is the document that ensures all traffic control devices are used consistently across the US
- Georgia Code §32-6-50 requires GDOT to adopt a traffic control manual and requires municipalities to adopt a traffic control manual or use what GDOT adopts
- Adoption of the MUTCD is required by state law to receive State and Federal transportation funds

Signal Warrant Study

- Traffic signals should not be installed unless one or more warrants are met
- A signal warrant study considers the following criteria:
 - Eight-Hour Vehicular Volume
 - Four-Hour Vehicular Volume
 - Peak Hour Volume
 - Pedestrian Volume
 - School Crossing
 - Crash Experience
 - Roadway Network (rural highway)
 - Coordinated Signal System
(major urban downtown)

Process

Citizen Request:

- Citizen requests are investigated by staff and recommendation for further study is made to City Manager
- Signal warrant study conducted
- If warranted, signal is added to CIP list

Developer/Commercial Initiated:

- Development process or commercial request triggers study
- Signal warrant study submitted by applicant for staff review
- If warranted, signal is made a condition of zoning or LDP
- Signal installation is permitted and inspected by staff

Additional Considerations

- All signal installations or modifications on or affecting a state route must be permitted by GDOT
- Requests for exclusive left-turn phases will follow a similar study and permitting process as that for signal installation

Update on Traffic Synchronization

Transportation Director Larry Crowe updated the Mayor and Council on the Roswell Road corridor traffic synchronization. He stated that there was approximately 50% video or loop detection failure on Roswell Road. He stated that all but a couple are working now.

Mayor Galambos questioned what the schedule is for synchronization of the lights. Transportation Director Crowe answered by the end of the year.

Al Crace, Assistant City Manager

List of Candidate Projects

Assistant City Manager Al Crace explained that this is a list of projects that do not fall under any other policy. He stated that these items would be dealt with on a case by case basis. Discussion followed regarding the cost of several of these projects.

Nancy Leathers, Community Development Director

Training Session on Tree Ordinance

Community Development Director Leathers stated that there will be a training session on the Tree Ordinance.

Special Event Road Closure

Deputy Director of Community Development Tom Wilson explained that staff would be bringing Special Event Road Closures before the Mayor and Council from time to time.

Adoption of SSRI's five-year Action Plan Update to the Livable Centers Initiative Study

Adoption of Perimeter Community Improvement District's Five-Year Action Plan Update to the Livable Centers Initiative Study

Community Development Director Nancy Leathers explained that the Livable Centers Initiative qualifies the City for additional transportation funding only for those areas where there is an LCI adopted plan. In order for the City to qualify for the funding, the City must approve these action plans. She explained that Fulton County has already adopted them, but now the City needs to adopt them. She explained that the CID is funded by federal funds and by the money collected by the CID, but the City must approve the projects.

Community Development Director Leathers stated that in the case of the SSRI, the downtown Sandy Springs area, the City qualifies for this program. She confirmed that the City is not bound to move forward on these projects.

Judy Parker, Communications Director

Logo Contest

Communications Director Judy Parker explained the process used for the logo contest. She explained that there were approximately 60 entries. She displayed the top three entries. There was a consensus that the City will continue their search for a logo.

Bob Schommer, IT Manager

Unsolicited or "spam" e-mails

IT Manager Bob Schommer stated that staff is increasing the spam protection and moving the email server offsite. He explained that staff would be providing some user-friendly tools to filter spam as well.

Mayor and City Council Discussion Items

Mayor Eva Galambos

Sandy Springs PCID Board Nomination

Mayor Galambos explained that the City would appoint Adam Orkin to this Board with the understanding that the legislation would change next year and the two Fulton County appointments would become Sandy Springs appointments.

Donate Life Month Proclamation

Mayor Galambos explained that this Proclamation was for organ donations.

Appointment to the Planning Board/Tax Assessors Board

Mayor Galambos stated that Bill Huff is now on two public boards and questioned if this was legal. City Attorney Willard stated that he did not believe it was due to the way the law is written. Mayor Galambos stated that the City would tolerate both appointments until June. At that time Bill Huff should know if he will be a Tax Assessor. She explained that in June, if he is going to continue as a Tax Assessor, we will need to select a new member.

Status of Water Rate Lawsuit

Mayor Galambos stated that the City of Atlanta will be defending the differential.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mayor Galambos reported that the Sandy Springs Police Department is going to be featured in the St. Patrick's Day parade along with the Mayor.

Time Limit on Work Session Presentations

Mayor Galambos stated that for future work sessions, presentations would be limited to 10 minutes and the policies, such as the speed limits policy, would not be presented at a work session.

Dave Greenspan, District 1

**Amend existing ordinances to make the animal control and zoning ordinance consistent with each other.
Certification by an arborist of property up for rezoning/permitting, etc.**

Councilmember Greenspan requested to defer these two items for further review by staff.

Abandon Vehicle Ordinance

Councilmember Greenspan explained that he would like to have this ordinance strengthened to include vehicles that are parked on public streets or right-of-ways for a certain period of time. Discussion followed regarding commercial and residential parking. There was a consensus that commercial vehicles should not be parked for more than 72 hours.

Ashley Jenkins, District 4

Location of a City Hall/Police Department – long term

Councilmember Jenkins questioned what the long term plans for City Hall/Police Department would be. Mayor Galambos stated that it was too early to decide; however, at this time it is referenced in the Comprehensive Plan.

Impact fees – will we have them?

Councilmember Jenkins questioned if there were any plans to impose impact fees. Community Development Director Nancy Leathers explained that in order to collect impact fees, the City must have a Community Infrastructure Element. Staff will be reviewing this during the updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Assistant City Manager Al Crace explained the three step process stating that the Comprehensive Plan will eventually include the Community Infrastructure Element.

Karen Meinzen McEnery, District 6

Redevelopment Plan for the Roswell Corridor/Public Service of Counselor's of real estate "CRE".

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated that this is a professional group that will come in and provide a development plan for our community pro bono.

After no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Date Approved: April 18, 2006


Jeanette R. Marchiafava, City Clerk


Eva Galambos, Mayor