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What a difference a few years make

When the city incorporated five years ago it had office vacancy problems. But in the short time since Peachtree Corners became a city, we've seen a 64 percent increase in company relocations and a 182 percent increase in the number of jobs that those relocations have brought to our city.

The city has also seen those corporate relocations bring in an investment jump of 1,432 percent in the last five years, including the \$15 million invested by Crawford & Company, the most recently announced relocation, coming to Peachtree Corners from the Perimeter area.

While positive job growth coupled with corporate investments is a major indicator of a city's economic health, there are a number of other areas of expansion.

Since 2012:

- Population: Increased 8 percent
- Number of total jobs: Increased by 15 percent
- Business Licenses: Increased 5 percent
- Number of restaurants: Increased 16 percent
- Residential building Permits: Increased 196 percent
- Commercial building permits: Increased 19 percent

And our progress continues. In our short time as a city we have:

- Planned and broken ground on the Town Center
- Begun the first phase of the city's multi-use trail system
- Launched plans to reimagine Technology Park
- Opened the city's new incubator, Prototype Prime
- Broke ground on Echo Lakeside in Technology Park
- Created an Arts & Culture Master Plan
- Continue to improve transportation throughout the city

The groundbreaking of the new **town center** on June 30, represented a tremendous step in the city's development. The 21-acre mixed use development will serve as Peachtree Corners' city center, where the community gathers and events take place.

And we are also proud to announce that the original \$11.5 million loan to purchase the land has been paid in full and the monies needed for construction has been placed in escrow. The city expects to hold a ribbon cutting to officially open the Town Center in December 2018.

The city's 11.5 mile **multi-use trail** system will crisscross through office parks, restaurants, retail centers and the new town center and surrounding neighborhoods. The trail system will be used as another transportation alternative as the city presents other modes of transportation for its residents and workforce.

We recently held an Open House Trail Study for residents and those in the business community to provide their input on the multi-use trail plans. The information gleaned will be used to produce the design and specific placement of trails that link existing residential areas to job centers within the central business district. Watch for more on this project in the near future.

The city's plans to reimagine **Technology Park** into an innovation hub encompasses **Prototype Prime**, the city's startup incubator, the multi-use trails and **Echo Lakeside**, a new high-end apartment development designed for millennials aimed at offering a convenient location within Tech Park. The master plan for the project is aimed at re-invigorating and re-branding this well-known technology office park into a destination for creativity, technology and unique, fun lifestyle. The plans include adding a secondary education component in the near future.

It's well documented that a city with a strong arts-centered community provides many benefits including adding to economic development, personal enhancement for residents, building stronger connections within the community and improving community identity. Peachtree Corners has developed an **Arts & Culture Master Plan**, watch for more on this exciting opportunity.

Since incorporating, we have tirelessly worked to **improve transportation** and pedestrian safety throughout the community and have made a number of intersection, pedestrian safety and road improvements including:

- Installing additional sidewalks and streetlights
- Adding a merge lane to S.R. 141 at Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Adding pedestrian crossings at Peachtree Corners Circle at Eastman Drive

And there plans to:

- Widen Peachtree Industrial Boulevard from three to four lanes from Jimmy Carter Boulevard to Winters Chapel Road
- Add a roundabout at Peachtree Corners Circle and Medlock Bridge Road (Spring 2018)
- Add pedestrian crossings at East Jones Bridge Road and Winters Chapel Road
- Improvements to a section of Winters Chapel Road to provide dedicated left-turn lanes for a stretch of the road that runs in front of the reservoir.

We will continue our transportation improvement efforts with information gleaned from the recent comprehensive Transportation Plan and the S.R. 141 Corridor Study. The city is also working on a multimodal transportation plan that will study the most practical transportation methods and look into the feasibility of autonomous vehicles, bike sharing and other modes of transportation.

The city has made tremendous progress in just five years. I look forward to the next five years in our city. With your continued support and assistance, we can indeed expect Peachtree Corners to continue as a city where you can live, work, play, and learn.

Mike Mason, Mayor

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