



January 2019

From the Mayor's Desk

Intelligent Mobility Laboratory to Be Installed in Tech Park

These are exciting times for our city – in a few months we'll be celebrating the opening of the Town Center – and this spring, we'll be watching as an intelligent mobility living laboratory is added to Technology Parkway.

Autonomous vehicles, drones and automated carts capable of delivering everything from meals, packages and people are on the horizon – and Peachtree Corners plans on being right in the thick of the emerging technology. To help develop the test track, Peachtree Corners has partnered with Sprint to provide 5G service which will turn this 1.5-mile stretch of road into a real-world testbed for companies working on technologies in this emerging intelligent mobility industry.

What does all this mean for our city? It means new high-tech businesses will establish their businesses in Technology Park re-energizing this important area of our city. Prototype Prime, located in Tech Park, will also play an important part in recruiting startup technology companies that may set up shop in its Intelligent Mobility accelerator.

What makes this so attractive for technology companies that are developing new software and hardware is the test track will provide real-world driving conditions as autonomous prototype vehicles interact with human-driven vehicles and pedestrians using the adjacent sidewalks. Other test tracks around the country are set up in a closed environment which does not permit a real-world experience.

The addition of the 5G network is a big leap from the city's initial plans for an autonomous vehicle track. Sprint's 5G service will make it possible for companies to develop and test advanced technologies that can communicate with multiple devices simultaneously, a critical component for the successful operation of autonomous and advanced vehicles. The 5G network comes with Sprint's Curiosity IoT (internet of things) which will equip the track with nodes to test robotics and AV applications.

Initially the AV track was going to be designed to run only on one side of the road, but we learned that to simulate a real-life test track, vehicles would need to run on both sides. In the coming months work will begin to re-configure Technology Parkway, which runs from Spalding Drive to Peachtree Parkway, into four lanes – two outer lanes for the AV test track and the inner two lanes for automobiles. The test track will be separated from the road used by vehicles by bollards and signage.

Creating an environment for developing smart mobility technology is a tremendous engine for economic growth for our city and will have a far-reaching effect on our city, our citizens and our quality of life. We are living up to our tagline, “Innovative and Remarkable” as new technologies in this exciting field are developed right here in Peachtree Corners.

Mike Mason, Mayor