



From the Mayor's Desk

August 18, 2021

Intuitive Surgical grows operation at Peachtree Corners campus

Intuitive Surgical is bringing 1,200 new workers to the city and adding more than 750,000 square feet to its existing Peachtree Corners footprint. And they are bringing good-paying jobs with average salaries of about \$130,000 a year. I can't tell you how thrilled we were to learn the company had decided to stay and grow its operation in Peachtree Corners. When faced with the need for more space, companies will often times move someplace else. In this case, Intuitive was having discussions with Research Triangle in Raleigh-Durham, NC.

Ultimately, company leadership settled on Peachtree Corners, and not because we were hurling incentives at them. They said they'd worked with the city on previous renovations and found our building department was at the top of their game. They also took a look around.

What they saw didn't happen by accident. When the city incorporated, we looked at all facets of life here. We looked for what we didn't have. There was study after study, master planning, strategic planning, SWOT analyses. You name it, we did it. Members of the community were brought in and consulted time and time again. We had more community workshops than I can remember, dealing with everything from roads and transportation, to zoning, arts and innovation.

We learned that business owners and residents saw a need for nightlife, more recreational options, trail networks, more restaurants. And we all were concerned about the vitality of Technology Park. It was critical that it remain vibrant and competitive.

So, we bought some land, partnered with a developer and built a Town Center, where we now have a host of restaurants, a concert venue, and a children's play area. It is an activity hub with all kinds of events. We built a pedestrian bridge so people on foot could cross Peachtree Parkway without risking their lives. And with the help of our business community and planning experts, we drilled down on the roots of Technology Park.

The Innovation Hub Master Plan received an award from the Georgia Planning Association, and it didn't just sit on a shelf. It is in motion. From the plan emerged the connection of multi-modal transportation and innovation, and ultimately, Curiosity Lab. Peachtree Corners is extremely unique. We have a living laboratory designed to provide a real-world testing environment to advance next generation intelligent mobility and smart city technology. And there are some recognizable names working with us on the lab, like Bosch, T-Mobile, Cisco, Georgia Power and Georgia Tech, among others. Word is getting around, like all over the world.

Intuitive Surgical didn't decide to grow its operation here, investing \$500 million because the city gave them incentives or by happenstance. They invested here because of what the city had to offer. Yes, there is good access to major roads and commercial property is still relatively affordable. But it was more than that. It took work.

Stay safe, Mike Mason, Mayor