



From the Mayor's Desk

October, 2021

I talk a lot about the city's accomplishments. After all, we've had a lot to celebrate in recent years! Most of the announcements have been about Curiosity Lab, the Town Center, or the multi-use trail system— which are the city's most significant accomplishments.

However, there is more going on elsewhere, and it involves the Holcomb Bridge corridor, Jimmy Carter Blvd. and Peachtree Corners Circle. When we engaged in the comprehensive planning process a few years ago, concerns were raised about these corridors in public workshops.

Peachtree Corners Circle, for example, is treated by motorists as a high-speed thoroughfare as people use it to get from point A to point B. It isn't used for walking or jogging much because it's basically an uninspiring piece of road with narrow sidewalks. Although there is a freshly paved road surface, the center concrete median really serves no purpose. And then there is the bridge over Peachtree Industrial. It is functional, and that is about all I can say about it.

Code enforcement has been busy working to keep the area clean by addressing overflowing garbage cans and the temporary signs cluttering up the roadways. These are the regular, on-going activities that take place that people don't notice until something is left unattended and it becomes an eyesore. But there is bigger-picture planning that is taking place.

In December 2020, the city created the Redevelopment Authority tasked with generating ideas to reinvigorate areas that have been neglected or need to be revamped. We received 36 applications for the new committee and nine residents and two council members were selected to serve. All members are Peachtree Corners residents with broad but relevant backgrounds such as attorneys, real estate professionals, educators and engineers. The members came from all geographic areas of the city and include a mixture of different races and genders. Councilmember Phil Sadd and Mayor Pro Tem Weare Gratwick serve as

ex-officio non-voting members.

The Redevelopment Authority has been meeting monthly for almost a year, reviewing case studies from other cities, and discussing the tools used to breathe new life into these neglected areas. The case studies cover a wide range of properties including office buildings, retail properties and multi-family residential developments. They are examining crime statistics and code enforcement violations. And they are educating themselves about the local topography, land use, zoning and transit. Ultimately, the board will apply the best ideas to our situation and make recommendations to the City Council. I am eager to receive their report and look forward to implementing recommendations that will raise the bar for quality of life in the Holcomb Bridge Road Corridor.

Peachtree Corners is extremely unique. We have a beautiful Town Center with free concerts for the public. We also have a living laboratory designed to provide a real-world testing environment for next-generation intelligent mobility and smart city technology. And we have plans to do much, much more.

So while we talk a lot about Curiosity Lab and Town Center, there is a lot of planning, and study being done to keep the city competitive and sustain a high quality of life for every resident for years to come.

Stay safe, Mike Mason, Mayor