



Newton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
Public Information Meeting
Thursday, August 23, 2007
The Center for Community Preservation and Planning
Covington, Georgia

A public information meeting was held on Thursday, August 23, 2007 at The Center for Community Preservation and Planning (2104 Washington Street, Covington) to share information on the Newton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) process and obtain public input on transportation needs. The meeting was publicized in local newspapers and flyers/notices were mailed to over 70 study stakeholders. A total of 49 persons attended the meeting.

Meeting participants were given a brief presentation which provided an overview of the study, key tasks and schedule, and preliminary findings. Participants were asked to identify their relative issues to assist with the study process. Following the presentation, participants engaged in a roundtable discussion. Newton County staff and the consultant team representatives were available to answer questions. Comment forms were distributed to allow participants to provide written input to the study.

Meeting participants provided the following input for consideration in the study:

1. Community Issues Survey

Issues	Low	Medium	High
Mitigating Increasing Congestion	1	5	24
Lack of Adequate Traffic Signals	3	9	18
Lack of Public Transportation	10	9	10
Poorly connected/incomplete sidewalks	8	10	10
Improving Street Connectivity	6	14	9
More Mixed Use Development	8	10	9
Access to Greenway/Bicycle Facilities	6	12	11
Other: Maintenance of Roads, Signage, Trucks	6	15	9

User input: Land Use, Entrance to I-20, Safety

2. Comments, Suggestions, Feedback forms

What are the specific transportation problems or needs that you see in your area?

- Controlled growth & transportation needs
- Limitation on development

How do you think these problems and needs should be addressed in the CTP?

- County and City legislation
 - Government oversight
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How did you hear about this meeting?

- Newton Citizen
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How would you have improved this meeting?

- Need greater citizen input.
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3. Roundtable Discussion

What needs and deficiencies currently exist on the transportation system? / What are the major transportation related issues that must be addressed over the next 30 years?

- Does not include commuter rail – roadway/Interstate expansion leads to more traffic
 - Parking for future rail
 - Rail very long term
 - North-South bottleneck on Hwy 81 at Depot, trucks at intersection
 - Traffic from airport – Development around Covington airport results in more traffic which has an impact on residential neighborhoods
 - Zoning balance
 - Pace of development, integration with transportation
 - Land use to support transportation
 - Lack of highway funding from the State
 - State-level decisions made arbitrarily
 - Need to raise taxes to ensure adequate infrastructure and services
 - Increase the fuel tax – charge those who use the roads
 - Sidewalks
 - Bureaucracy at State
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What should the Comprehensive Transportation Plan accomplish? / Are there any obstacles that you foresee in developing and implementing the Plan?

- Scenic by-ways
- County-wide trails
- Track passers-through, traffic from other counties
- Improved connectivity
- Regional public transportation provided through public private partnerships
- Consider alternative funding sources, directions of public transportation
- Beautification and greenspace
- Bikes, non-cars
- Minimal congestion
- Balanced land use
- Non-diesel buses
- Future planning for easements
- Sidewalks
- Preplanning for commercial development and truck traffic
- Develop “pods” around county
- Focus density around existing infrastructure
- Don’t stray from good plans – stick to the future land use plan
- Share school system buses with public transportation?
- Executive summary of needs, improvement options, changes to be made to allow for implementation

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- Water and sewer planning coordinated with transportation planning
 - Trees
 - Other funding strategies in place and working elsewhere in the county or elsewhere in the world
 - Simplicity
 - Educate the public and engage in securing political support
 - Tie CTP to Future Land Use Map/Comprehensive Plan and transportation dollars
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