

Joining Forces

City of Powder Springs & Cobb County Partnership Opportunities

Transportation – resurfacing and sidewalks

ACHIEVING RESULTS

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Transportation improvements satisfy safety and economic development needs offering corridors easily traversed by pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Numerous roads provide access and mobility options to City and County residents, including Powder Springs Road, Macedonia Road, New Macland Road, Brownsville Road, Oglesby Road, Hopkins Road, Lost Mountain Road, and Elliott Road to name a few - all providing means of access throughout the county and neighboring jurisdictions.

The City and County have already jointly collaborated on resurfacing improvements on Hopkins Road, Macedonia Road, Old Lost Mountain Road and Oglesby Road. Other roads in need of joint **resurfacing** efforts include **Elliott Road** and **Brownsville Road** and sidewalk and intersection improvements on Brownsville Road.

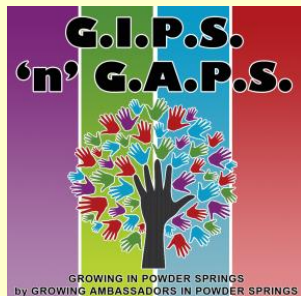
Recreation

City and County residents benefit from the strong partnership between the two jurisdictions to meet the recreational and park needs of the public. The partnership has produced a fantastic and popular water park - Seven Springs Water Park - new equipment and fields at Powder Springs Park and a BMX track at Wild Horse Creek Park.

Ten years in the making, the Silver Comet Trail Linear Park is now off to a great start and features something for everyone - an adult exercise station, rope climbing, a playground for the little feet and a newly added special needs playground to accommodate users of varying abilities. A covered basketball court and expanded parking is under construction and will be available fall 2017.

With **funding opportunities**, the 35-acre stretch could also include the planned **skate park**, a wetlands observation and education facility, and dog park, **sand volley ball**, tetherball and **disk golf** on floodplain properties on **Hopkins Road** and Lancer Drive and an **amphitheater**, **trailhead** and interactive water fountain in the **downtown**.





School impacts

How can we positively impact our schools? By helping children grow up to be healthy, responsible, caring citizens. In addition to parental support, it is important for young people to experience support from nonparent adults, their schools and their community. GIPS 'n' GAPS is a volunteer group consisting of school, church and community representatives created to encourage and motivate young people to do great things, help them resist negative peer pressure, learn how to resolve conflicts, develop a positive identity and provide them an opportunity to experience positive support from the community through lessons or practice in physical and creative activities and community service. The new summer camp begins June 2017.



Boys & Girls Clubs

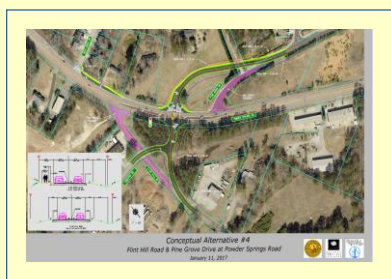
"Great Futures Start Here"

Another effort underway is locating a **Boys and Girls Club** to the City of Powder Springs. Boys and Girls Clubs seek to ensure that all kids, especially those who need us most, have a positive and enriching experience when the school bell rings, putting them on a path to success. There are over 5,000 students in the area schools who could benefit from this program. Each of our schools has more than 50% of its student population eligible for free and reduced lunch. The poverty rate is 18.7% and single parent homes represent over 24% of the families whose children would be served. The City has submitted an application to the CDBG program to participate in a **pre-award** with Cobb County to acquire the land and construct the facility. A potential location exists on Austell Powder Springs Road with good visibility and easy pedestrian access.

Transportation – Powder Springs Road corridor

Chief among planned joint projects is the **Powder Springs Road** corridor. At its intersection with Flint Hill, Pinegrove Road and Deercreek Drive, Powder Springs Road suffers from poor visibility, high speeds and unsafe turning movements. The County is in the process of acquiring **right of way** at the intersection of Powder Springs Road and **Deercreek Drive** in order to improve visibility limitations. Additionally, a major intersection **realignment** of **Flint Hill Road** and **Pinegrove Road** will eliminate **dangerous sight** limitations and have an added benefit of **creating a commercial development node** resulting from the realignment.

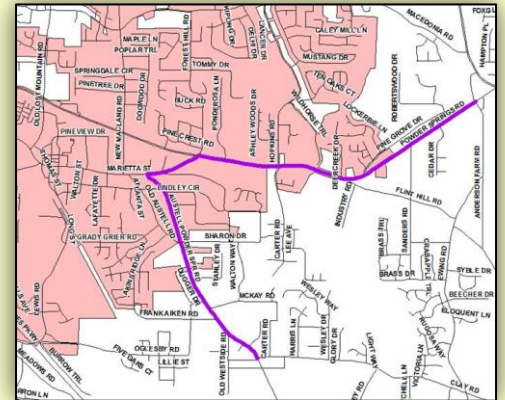
Additionally, Powder Springs Road is a major entry into the City and would benefit from **collaborative land use and zoning changes** and **design standards** to facilitate economic opportunities and improve aesthetics.



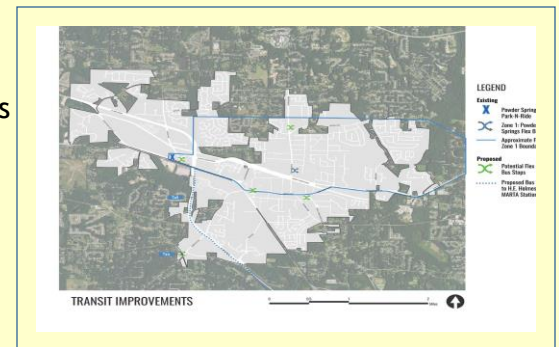
Powder Springs Road Improvements

Corridor Studies, Transit & Curb Cuts

The City of Powder Springs has unique access to areas throughout the County and to neighboring jurisdictions, probably more than any other city in the County. Major County roads carry travelers to state highways and interstates - with **Powder Springs Road** and **Austell Powder Springs Road** being two key corridors both as major travel corridors and as major entrances into the City. The City and County have an interest in ensuring safety for travelers on these roads as well as developing or restoring their economic viability and aesthetics. To that end, a collaborative **enterprise zone** has been developed by the County, the City and the City of Austell. Similarly, Cobb County and the City have expressed commitment to improving the **design standards** on Powder Springs and examining appropriate **land uses** and **annexation** opportunities along both Powder Springs and Austell Powder Springs Road. An application has been submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission for **corridor study dollars** for both roads.



The **Flex Bus** is very popular with local residents and the City frequently receives requests for expanded stops. **Additional stops** could add riders to the County's transit service routes. Economic development on **US 278** within Powder Springs and Cobb County has been impacted by the inability to receive **curb cuts**. The Georgia **DOT** purchased access rights when the road improvements were completed but have recently indicated support for **limited access** at a few locations as well as **signalized intersection** at 278 and Sweetwater Landing and at 278 at the Paulding County line just east of Silverbrooke Drive and Elliott Road. DOT requires **traffic study data** and other supporting documents for the permit.



Workforce development

With 98% of the workforce leaving the City each day, the City is actively pursuing opportunities to locate more **commercial** development in this area of the county. **Workforce** development is a key objective of these efforts. The Development Authority of Powder Springs and its marketing consultant are soliciting **target industries** identified in the business needs assessment as both **job creators** and more likely to succeed. **Key commercial nodes** and areas appropriate for **annexation** have been identified in the Comprehensive Plan Update, and the Downtown Development Authority is busy at work implementing key aspects of the Livable Centers Initiative recommendations for **revdevelopment** of the downtown. Similarly the Business Ambassadors are working with the **State, local businesses** and **McEachern High School** to implement the **Great Promise Partnership**. Each of these programs depends on access to viable transportation alternatives.

"A well trained workforce is essential for economic growth." - Mike Beatty, Pres/CEO – Great Promise Partnership, Inc.

Quality of Life

Clean up events and quarterly road sweeping have removed thousands of pounds of litter, and the roadsides are noticeably cleaner. **Joint sweeps** of areas at or near jurisdictional boundaries have addressed numerous concerns from city and county residents about maintaining and **improving stable neighborhoods**.



Collaborating

Opportunities:

Powder Springs Road. Intersection improvements at Deercreek Drive; Realignment of Flint Hill and Pinegrove. (\$2.6M; funding application submitted)

Corridor Studies. Powder Springs Road and Austell Powder Springs Road to examine appropriate land uses, zoning, design standards and **annexation** (\$180K; funding application submitted).

Boys & Girls Club. CDBG pre-award application to acquire and construction facility. (\$2.7M; pre-award application submitted)

GIPS 'n GAPS. Sponsorships, donated camp items, officers. (\$12K)

Elliott Road. Resurfacing (\$130K).

Brownsville Road. Resurfacing and sidewalks.

Linear Park. In-kind design and development for park features - skate park. Traffic signal. (\$3.3M)

Flex Bus. Added stops to expand ridership.

Transit. Access to county routes; sidewalks on Powder Springs Road.

Curb Cuts. Traffic study data needed for signalized intersections; assistance obtaining GDOT approval for limited right-in/right-out. (\$1M)

Quality of Life. Active enforcement at jurisdictional boundaries or problem areas, including Macedonia Road, Hill Road, Hopkins Road. (joint sweeps; litter removal; mowing)

Floodplain properties (park & drainage improvements) - Hopkins Road Disk golf, sand volleyball, tether ball. (\$320K; funding application submitted)

Downtown redevelopment public projects - park, road improvements, parking, trailhead, amphitheater (\$3.9M; funding application submitted).

