

## Your commute, your opinion

Sometimes, it only takes speaking your mind to make a difference in the world.

Cobb government is seeking the public's input in order to update the county's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The program, which will establish strategies and make recommendations to serve the community through the year 2040, is considered essential it's eligibility for state and federal transportation funding.

"The Cobb County transportation plan is our opportunity to provide input into the critical transportation infrastructure decisions and funding that will shape our community for years to come,"

Department of Transportation Director Faye DiMassimo said.

Residents can go to the Web site [www.cobbcounty.org/dot](http://www.cobbcounty.org/dot) and contact county officials with their ideas. A series of public hearings will be scheduled for this fall to help gain more information and feedback from the community.

Chairman Tim Lee said the county wants its decisions to create the best results for everyone who lives, works and travels in the county.

"We also want to hear from residents about the level of improvements they are willing to support," Chariman Tim Lee said. "Not only are we interested in specific improvement suggestions, we also want to know how the public wants us to pay for them. Are you willing to back high-cost transportation products that make huge impacts or are you willing to make



A video describing the importance of public participation in transportation planning is now available at on the Cobb County Department of Transportation Web site at [cobbdot.org](http://cobbdot.org).

do with minor changes and smaller adjustments?"

Outside transportation funds have an impact on Cobb transportation. State and federal governments have authorized more than \$43.5 million for Cobb County projects in 2013. The previous year, it was \$16.4 million. The year before that it was \$47.7 million.

DiMassimo said investments in the transportation network is a proven way to support the county's future economic prosperity.

"Such investments define how we will make sure commuters have a reliable trip to work, that we have addressed mobility and accessibility needs for local trips to

school, shopping, recreation and medical, and that the effective, efficient movement of freight and commerce is fully considered," she said.

Cobb County often uses public feedback to improve transportation projects. For example, on Six Flags Drive, plans called for a fence and lengthy median. Comments by those who live and work there made officials aware of potential problems and led the county to arrange for cut-throughs that balance safety with traffic flow.

Lee said the county's efforts to ascertain public opinion are important for the future and will establish changes that will impact Cobb for decades.

"We are planning what our community will be like for our children," Lee said. "And their children."



# Bridge replacement continues traffic impact

The Cobb County Department of Transportation is reminding motorists Sope Creek Bridge on Paper Mill Road in east Cobb remains closed through **Oct. 25**.

This continued closure is expected to cause heavy traffic congestion along Lower Roswell Road when Sope Creek Elementary School opens on **Aug. 7**.

Transportation officials encouraged motorists to use alternative routes to work and school during peak traffic times as school bus drivers will use Lower Roswell Road to transport children to and from Sope Creek Elementary School.

Bus drivers will begin practice routes along Lower Roswell Road in early August.

“Your safety is important to us,” Daniel McDuff, assistant director at Cobb DOT said. “Being mindful of traffic congestion and alternative routes during a unique time when the Sope Creek Bridge is closed while Sope Creek Elementary School opens, will help get our children to school safely and the public to work on time.”



The ongoing replacement of the Sope Creek Bridge is expected to impact traffic in the area, especially along Lower Roswell Road, through October.

Alternate routes for traffic traveling west from Paper Mill Road include Johnson Ferry Road to Roswell Road to Old Canton Road to Paper Mill Road. Alternate routes for motorists traveling eastbound on Delk Road/Terrell Mill Road, include continuing on Terrell Mill Road/Lower Roswell Road to Old Canton Road to Roswell to Johnson Ferry Road.

Message boards will provide motorists with regular updates. Project updates are also provided at [www.cobbdot.org](http://www.cobbdot.org) or by calling 770-528-3383.

## Seminars to address online hazards

The Cobb County Police Department will host two separate Internet safety seminars with Q&A sessions for the public to help those who work with teens and youths. The free events will take place at the Cobb County Safety Village, 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta.

Topics planned for discussion include cyber bullying, social media and sexual exploitation of youths. Attend and become educated about these important issues.

- 7-9 p.m., Thursday, **Aug 22**
- 7-9 p.m., Monday, **Aug. 26**

Registration is required.

Contact [safetyeducation@cobbcountry.org](mailto:safetyeducation@cobbcountry.org) or 770-852-3270 for further information.



## Meet to learn county vendor process

Business owners interested in becoming a vendor for Cobb County Government should attend the next “How to Do Business with Cobb” seminar 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, **Aug. 13**, at East Cobb Government Center, 4400 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta. Attendees will learn about various vendor opportunities, meet department representatives, network with other business owners and hear about the local vendor preference. Space is limited, so please register by calling Inger Eberhart at 770-528-3317 or emailing her at [inger.eberhart@cobbcountry.org](mailto:inger.eberhart@cobbcountry.org).

## Library work will redirect patrons

Kennesaw Library will be temporarily closed Friday and Saturday, **Aug. 9-10**, while crews repair the HVAC system. The library will reopen for regular hours Monday, Aug. 12. Patrons are encouraged to visit Kemp Memorial Library or West Cobb Regional Library during that timeframe. For more information, call Kennesaw Library at 770-528-2529.



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