



Gary A. Witte

Cobbcommute.org drives forward

A free online service to help keep Cobb County drivers informed has already expanded its capabilities and attracted thousands of users each month.

Cobbcommute.org began through the efforts of the Cobb County Department of Transportation, Cobb Information Services and Geographic Information Systems personnel. It offers a central location and quick access to real time traffic information, road closures and construction projects that may impact drivers throughout the county.

"We believe we were successful in meeting our goal of creating a streamlined, easy to use GIS based web application that provides information on local Cobb traffic conditions to the public," GIS Computer-Aided Design and Drafting Supervisor Lynn Biggs said.

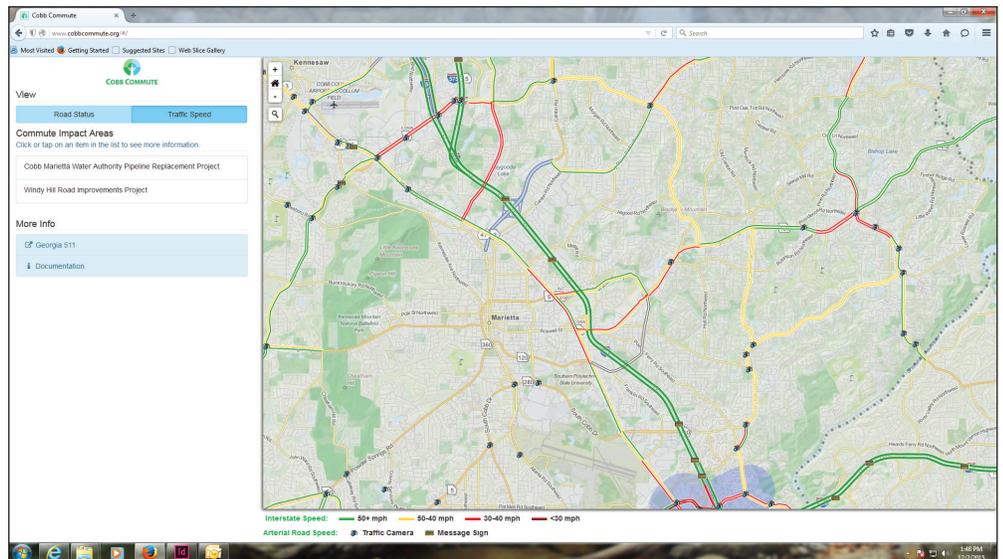
"It's kind of neat that the web map gives the public access to the same information we have in the Transportation Management Center."

The service joins other methods Cobb County Government uses to let the public know traffic news, including the daily CobbTV live broadcast feed from area traffic cameras and the official Twitter feed @cobbcountygovt.

Since starting service in August, the site is averaging 1,800 users and 3,700 views per month. It's estimated that 50 percent of its users are younger than 35 years old.

Cobb Commute features a desktop version, which provides two information views, and a mobile version, which is designed to provide streamlined, traffic information on a mobile device. The correct version of the web page will pull up regardless of how you access the site. There is no app to install.

The site shows users color-coded traffic speeds on major roadways and offers a look at live traffic camera feeds from around



the county. Users can also read construction updates for major projects and use filters to focus in on specific construction areas.

About 60 percent of viewers use their mobile device to access the site and the rest use desktop computers, officials said.

The Cobb Commute site also provides a direct link to the state Department of Transportation traffic site, 511.ga.org.

Please send feedback about cobbcommute.org to cobbdot@cobbcounty.org.



Giving to seniors makes a difference

Christmas is a few short weeks away and Cobb Senior Services staff is in full gear to help needy seniors in our area enjoy the holidays. The 10th annual Christmas365, formerly Senior Santa, event will be held Friday, Dec. 11. This special event is a wonderful opportunity for homebound senior adults to enjoy an afternoon of holiday cheer, good food, great gifts and fellowship.

You can help brighten the holidays for these seniors by making a monetary donation to adopt a senior for the event or by donating new generic items. Suggested items include:

- Bath sets (male and female)
- Blankets (all sizes)
- Adult pull-ups (male and female)
- Bed pads and liners
- Diabetic socks (all sizes)
- Electric blankets
- Electric can openers
- Gowns (all sizes and lengths)
- Grocery store gift cards
- Pharmacy gift cards
- Hats and glove sets (male and female)
- Non-skid bottom house shoes (male and female)
- Pajamas (male and female)
- Towel sets

You can drop off these donations 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, at: East Cobb Senior Center, Freeman Poole Senior Center, North Cobb Senior Center, West Cobb Senior Center or the Senior Wellness Center. To make a monetary donation online, click here. All donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call 770-528-5368.

Recycle your tree after the holidays

Once you start taking down the decorations, you can help the Cobb County Bring One for the Chipper program by bringing your Christmas tree to a designated drop off site or volunteering with your local coordinator to collect trees. Trees will be accepted at the following Cobb County Park locations anytime after Christmas:

- Lost Mountain Park**, 4845 Dallas Hwy, Powder Springs
- Sewell Park**, 2085 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta
- Noonday Creek Park**, 489 Hawkins Store Road, Kennesaw
- Fullers Park**, 3499 Robinson Road, Marietta

Information about other drop locations and dates are available online at keepcobbbeautiful.org/bring-one-for-the-chipper.



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Bike rental program offers affordable ride for trails

Cobb County continues its efforts to improve our environment and transportation. On Nov. 20, Town Center Community Improvement District staff and county officials hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the first CID bike share program in the state. This program provides commuters with a safe, fun and affordable option to get from point A to point B.

The CID partnered with Cobb County and Zagster, a leading provider of private and public-private bike sharing systems. In addition to providing visitors and cycling enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy more than eight miles of scenic trails, the program also provides an alternative transportation solution for students, residents and visitors who want to explore the Town Center area.

To use a bike, riders visit one of three bike stations, located at the Bells Ferry trailhead, Town Center Mall trail and future home of Aviation Park (corner of Barrett Lakes Boulevard and Cobb Place Boulevard). After downloading the Zagster mobile app, riders simply unlock the bike with the access code provided on the app, rent the bike and ride. Once the ride is complete, the rider then locks the bike back at any bike station and ends the bike rental on the app. For more information, visit zagster.com.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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