



COBB TO RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION AID

The Atlanta Regional Commission released a list of transportation projects for Cobb County recently. ARC developed the project list in close consultation with local governments to meet the Cobb community’s greatest needs. All projects are scheduled to be under construction or complete by 2023, with funding from federal, state and local sources.

Key projects include:

- South Barrett Parkway Reliever – Shiloh Valley Drive and Greers Chapel Drive in Cobb County will be widened from two to four lanes, creating a viable alternative to Barrett Parkway.
- Mableton Parkway Trail Phase I – Construction of a segment of a six-mile continuous trail network along Mableton Parkway connecting the Silver Comet Trail to the Chattahoochee River. Future connections to the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta BeltLine trail are proposed providing travel options for regional commuters.
- CobbLINC – Cobb’s transit system will establish Sunday service and enhance Saturday service to better serve residents and employers.
- Windy Hill-Terrell Mill Connector – A new four-lane road will be built to connect Windy Hill and Terrell Mill roads, east of I-75. The road, just under one mile in length, will include an 8-foot raised median.

“We appreciate the ARC working with us to address our infrastructure needs,” Cobb Board of Commissioners Chairman Mike Boyce said. “These projects are part of a larger effort to address the traffic challenges Cobb County faces not only from people who live here but pass through our county every day.”

The Cobb projects are among more than 100 across the region funded as part of an update to the short-term portion of ARC’s Regional Transportation Plan, The Atlanta Region’s Plan, at a total cost of \$400 million. The ARC board approved the update on June 27.

“These projects address some of the most significant local transportation needs and will help people get where they need to go safely and efficiently,” said Doug Hooker, ARC executive director. “This will provide more options for many residents and will strengthen our economic competitiveness.”

The potential impact is significant, from cleaner air to reduced congestion:

- The bike-ped and transit projects will take enough cars off the road to reduce annual vehicle miles traveled in the Atlanta region by 96.3 million miles.



- Tailpipe emissions will decrease by 19,900 tons per year.
- Vehicle travel delays will decline by 7.7 million hours a year.

The \$400 million project list is part of \$7 billion dollars of improvements that are already planned or under construction through 2023. Many of these are large freeway projects, such as Express lanes on I-75 and I-575 in Cobb and Cherokee counties, and a massive rebuild of the I-285/Ga. 400 interchange.

Here’s a closer look at how the \$400 million project list will improve transportation in metro Atlanta:

Better transit options:

The region’s transit providers plan to improve service and meet growing demand:

- SRTA/GRTA will expand Xpress service in coordination with the opening of the I-75/I-575 Xpress Lanes in Cobb and Cherokee and expand park-and-ride lots in Rockdale County and at Sugarloaf in Gwinnett County

Preliminary engineering and design will be provided for several major freeway projects, including:

- I-285 West Express Lanes (I-20W to I-75N)
- I-285 East Express Lanes (I-20E to I-85N)
- Interchange improvements at I-285 and I-20W
- Interchange improvements at I-285 and I-20E

Atlanta Region’s Transportation Improvement Program
The project list updates the Atlanta region’s Transportation Improvement Program, which is managed by ARC. As the region’s federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, ARC allocates federal transportation dollars across the 20-county Atlanta region.

Learn more about metro Atlanta’s Transportation Improvement Program, including detailed information about each of the projects on the list.



Gary A. Witte

Cobb floods water playground list

Atlanta Parent magazine recently compiled a list of the metro area's best water playgrounds and splash pads and three Cobb facilities that made the list.

- Seven Spring Water Park is an outdoor water park with plenty of features to provide fun for the whole family. There are also picnic pavilions available for rent that are perfect for parties. It is located in Wild Horse Creek Park at 3820 Macedonia Road, Powder Springs. Hours are 12:30-3:45 p.m. and 4:30-7:45 p.m. all week.
- South Cobb Aquatic Center is an indoor pool and water park that is open year around -- perfect during the summer on those rainy days and in winter when it is cold outside. It is located at 875 Riverside Parkway, Austell. Open swimming is 11 a.m.- 2p.m. and 3-7 p.m. seven days a week though **Aug. 3**.
- Sewell Park Pool is an outdoor pool with a splash pad area for extra fun for the kids. It is located at 2051 Lower Roswell Road in Marietta. Hours are 1-7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 1-5 p.m. Friday through Sunday until **July 28**. From **July 29 through Sept. 3**, it will be 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday only.



Grants help establish community park

Since 2015, \$223,605 in Community Development Block Grant funds have helped City of Powder Springs staff create a unique playground with accessible equipment at the Silver Comet at Linear Park. The park is located at the intersection of Richard D. Sailors Parkway and Villa Springs Circle in Powder Springs, adjacent to the Silver Comet Trail.

The park now has two playgrounds, a concession stand, restrooms, a circuit exercise area and a covered outdoor basketball court. The project was completed in 2017 and this transformation would not have happened without CDBG funding, which was used as leverage to the city's Special Purpose Option Sales Tax, impact fees and a grant from the Department of Natural Resources. Partners include Resurgens Charitable Foundation, Cobb County Government, the City of Powder Springs, Cobb County CDBG Program Office, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Natural Resources.

Cast a line, try to catch a fishing trophy

Cobb PARKS Natural Resource Management unit will host the Annual Fishing Rodeo 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Saturday **July 21**, at Lost Mountain Park. The age divisions will be: 3-6, 7-9, 10-12 and 13-16.

Trophies will also be awarded for the five biggest fish overall. This event is free, so grab your fishing pole and join us for a morning of fishing and fun. For more information, contact John Purcell at john.purcell@cobbcounty.org or 770-528-8825.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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