

Progress Continues on SunTrust Park and Mixed Use Development

SunTrust Park and the adjacent mixed use development continues to progress as we work toward the official opening in 2017. In addition, we are proud to be moving forward with the multiple transportation and development projects that together with the ballpark and mixed use component will become *the* destination for families, baseball fans, tourists and business travelers from across Georgia, the Southeast and the world.

The Atlanta Braves will play 81 regular season games per year while the mixed use development will be a 365 day a year destination with retail, residences, restaurants, a hotel, office building and a multi-use entertainment venue that will be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Cobb County has been proactive with transportation improvements and had several projects planned and in process before the Braves announced their move. More than \$1 billion dollars of transportation improvements will positively impact game day travel. This includes the I-75 managed lanes project, the Windy Hill Diverging Diamond and Windy Hill corridor improvements , among others. The 14 different access point to SunTrust Park will help disperse game day attendees as well.

The county is equally committed to pedestrian safety in this activity center. I am happy to report that the multi-use bridge connecting the Cobb Galleria Centre to the mixed use development is beginning to take shape. This bridge will provide safe pedestrian access to and from one of the region's premier commercial activity centers and the county's newest premier destination.

In 2014, the Cobb Galleria Centre hosted a total of 614 events with 363,400 guests. Currently, the greater Cumberland area is home to more than 75,000 jobs. This is equal to about 17 percent of Cobb County's total jobs. With the addition of SunTrust Park, the mixed use complex and new Class A office buildings in the area, these numbers are forecasted to trend up. The multi-use bridge will provide a safe and accessible connection for hundreds of thousands of annual visitors and the employees who work in one of the strongest commercial markets in Georgia to the dining, shopping, entertainment and park amenities that will be part of the mixed use development.

Like many complex infrastructure projects the specific design of the bridge is an evolving process. In fact, yesterday the Board of Commissioners authorized staff to begin negotiations with a consultant firm that will conduct the engineering and design study for the bridge. We anticipate that throughout this study process, multiple design options will emerge as transportation experts, structural engineers, architects, county leaders and community stakeholders come to a consensus on the safest, most aesthetically pleasing and structurally sound final design.

The estimated cost of the bridge ranges from \$6 to \$9 million and will depend on the final design. As we do on every transportation project, Cobb County will be exploring all funding opportunities and partnerships.

We are excited about the progress we are making and all of the investment that these projects, developments and destinations will bring to Cobb County now and for generations to come.

Multi –Use Bridge Major Milestones

Kick off engineering & design study	Spring, 2015
Board of Commissioner Approval of Final design concept	Summer, 2015
Submission of final bridge plans to Georgia Department of Transportation	Fall, 2015
Board of Commissioners award construction Contract	Winter 2015/2016
Construction begins	Spring 2016
Bridge Opens	Spring 2017