Summary

Jason Gaines, Planning Division Manager, began with an introduction of project staff along with District 2 Commissioner Bob Ott. Jason then announced the purpose of the JOSH Small Area Plan to the attendees. Commissioner Ott officially kicked-off the meeting by laying the ground work for what is to be expected from the staff and community in order to enhance the area and build a sense of identity for the JOSH community. He referenced three other successful plans that have been conducted by staff within his district while under his leadership: Powers Ferry Master Plan, Vinings Vision Plan, and the Johnson Ferry Corridor Study. Commissioner Ott fielded questions regarding transportation and stormwater.

Once Commissioner Ott concluded, Mr. Gaines continued his presentation, explaining the overall planning process. Phillip Westbrook, Land Use Planner, presented several ways the community could get involved and provide input. Those interested may visit www.cobbcounty.org/planning for more information. Mr. Westbrook provided the audience with an existing conditions analysis. This analysis included population and employment projections, housing, income, land use, parks and greenspace, community facilities, natural areas, floodplain and transportation maps. The existing conditions presentation concluded with market statistics within the study area.
Mr. Westbrook and Mr. Gaines wrapped up the presentation, then fielded several questions from the audience regarding transportation and the JOSH stakeholder group.

Following the presentation, the audience was split into four groups to facilitate a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. A SWOT analysis is a strategic planning tool used to identify the internal and external influences that affect a common vision or specific goal. It is a commonly used method by various organizations to evaluate the impacts of the internal and external factors of a community.

As the first step in creating a vision for the JOSH Small Area Plan, the analysis provided staff information about the community’s concerns and desires for the future.

The following pages summarize the participants’ opinions on the positive and negative aspects of the corridor, the opportunities that should be efficiently utilized, and the threats that should be considered.