

2017 Cobb County Annual Report



Chairman

We are truly fortunate to live in a county with so many blessings. Our motto is “Cobb County Government – Expect the Best.” But this year we kicked it up a notch and also provided the best. Whether you are a resident, a business owner, a visitor or a student, the one thing you want to know about your local government is that we are carrying out a commitment to make this a county a choice destination. A place where everyone can safely work, live, play and pursue their dreams.

Our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs department plays an important role providing a high quality of life for families and individuals. In 2017, we gained more green-space and park land. The Board of Commissioners approved a bond funding ultimately nearly \$27 million in green space. We have already purchased three parcels totaling nearly 60 acres and several more contracts have been approved and are under review. We have upgraded or are upgrading existing parks and have added Aviation Park to the parks inventory with Mabry Park coming online next year.

Thanks to a grant by the Atlanta Regional Commission in December, the last uncompleted section of the West Atlanta Street Trail will be completed in 2020. The county will then be connected in the north at Town Center to the south at the Silver Comet Trail. From there you can keep riding to the Bob Callan Trail and the Chattahoochee.

The inaugural season of the Atlanta Braves and the associated Battery Atlanta has exceeded revenue expectations in almost every category. The county lived up to its obligations in the completion of roads and traffic management projects, infrastructure improvements, the new bridge across I-285 and the widening of the bridge over I-75. I am growing increasingly confident that this public-private partnership will ultimately stimulate the development that will generate the necessary revenues to fulfill the projections made when the project was initially proposed.

There is always a fine line to determine how many services one can provide at what cost. We are committed to providing five-star services while remaining fiscally conservative. Nowhere is this more evident than in our maintaining the county’s Triple AAA bond rating which we were awarded for the 21st straight year. This kind of financial strength is critical to attracting new businesses as well as keeping current ones. This year we welcomed the corporate headquarters for Synovus and the Delta Community Credit Union.

It’s a great time to live in Cobb.

Economy

The Tax Assessors and Tax Commissioner's office submitted the tax digest to the Department of Revenue in July 2017. The 2016 tax digest was the highest digest in Cobb County history at \$33.6 billion in property value. Cobb County maintained its Triple AAA bond rating for the 21st straight year.

Cobb County has the lowest property taxes in the metro Atlanta area compared to neighboring counties.

The Board of Commissioners approved \$435 million in new developments with homes ranging in price from \$126,000 to more than \$1 million; encompassing single houses, townhomes, multi-use developments and apartments.

The home of the Braves, SunTrust Park, opened its doors for the first season at the new location. The park saw more than 2.5 million tickets sold during 2017, according to Major League Baseball statistics. A Brailsford and Dunlavey study projected the park would provide more than \$5 million in tax impact alone for the year.

On the business side, five "Class-A" office buildings worth nearly \$370 million and housing 2,270 jobs were added to the inventory during the year. A total of 3,247 new businesses were registered in 2017, an 11 percent increase from 2016.

The total number of businesses in Cobb were about the same as the previous year, but brought in 4 percent more revenue, indicating the newer businesses were larger in scale.

Judicial

In an effort to serve the citizens of Cobb County more efficiently, the Clerk of Superior Court Office has made several upgrades and improvements. First, the implementation of eFiling has catapulted our technology into the 21st century. With Civil eFiling already in place, Real Estate has begun eFiling all documents to meet the new state tax lien requirements. In addition, our Appeals Division has begun eFiling with the Georgia Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, eliminating the need to print, mail, file and maintain thousands of pieces of paper. Additionally, the Superior Court Clerk's office has opened its doors to the processing of Passports in our Government office building located on Whitlock Avenue; where parking is plentiful and free of charge.

2017 was a dynamic and exciting year for the Cobb County Solicitor-General's Office. In order to better serve and protect the citizens of Cobb County we implemented or enhanced several existing programs in our office.

Solicitor-General's Office has created an "Animal Crimes Unit" to coordinate and prosecute misdemeanor crimes against animals. These crimes mostly entail animals being left in a hot car, abandoned by their owner or suffering from malnutrition and lack of vet care.

This unit has worked closely with the Cobb County Police Department's Animal Cruelty investigator to ensure these cases are handled in a uniform, just and efficient manner across all twelve courtrooms in State Court. The unit was created in mid-April of this year and has secured several guilty pleas in crimes against animals here in the county.

The Solicitor General's Office has created an "Alternative Plea Resolution" program that is a version of our pre-trial diversion program designed specifically for underage alcohol consumption offenses arising from Sun-Trust Park/The Battery Atlanta. Defendants charged for the first time with minor in possession of alcohol at Sun-Trust Park/The Battery Atlanta are eligible for this program that if successfully completed ultimately results in their case being dismissed. Our office is currently working with the departments of Public Safety and Community Development to enact new public safety ordinances for the area in time for the 2018 Atlanta Braves season.

The Cobb DUI court successfully graduated over 50 participants this year. Since the program's inception in 2008 close to 350 individuals have graduated from this program with an 86 percent success rate and an 88 percent retention rate. Our office handles all the prosecution recommendations and represents the state in staffing meetings and court appearances for this accountability court.

Solicitor General's Office continues to have a successful domestic violence court program. This past year our office has put almost 1,000 domestic violence cases through our court protocol. This program offers a combination of anger and violence counseling and other treatment as part of a pre-trial diversion program. This program is limited to first time offenders and has strict eligibility criteria based on the facts of the case, the wishes of the victim and the defendant's criminal history. So far more than 310 people have been accepted into the diversion program this year while 157 have successfully completed it thus far. Since 2014 over 800 individuals have successfully completed our DV court program.

Technological Innovations: The Cobb Solicitor's office upgraded its information technology with an alternative storage drive. The alternative storage drive augments hard copy files in the Solicitor's office and serves as a quick

reference for our prosecutors to gain access to digital files in pending criminal cases.

These digital files contain the videos that our prosecutors need and in most cases the incident and accident reports as well. With this access our prosecutors can review videos and read reports on their computer without the cost of burning a DVD or printing out a hard copy report, thus saving paper and print toner.

The Solicitor General's Office has also been granted direct access to the CCPD video system. Since we have direct access to this system we now can tell our prosecutors much more quickly if there is a video on a particular case or not thus helping us move a case forward for prosecution in a far more efficient manner.

The Solicitor General's Office was recently awarded a Victims of Crime Act grant from the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia for an additional advocate focusing on locating witnesses who have disappeared in cases we are prosecuting. Using software this victim witness advocate has tracked down several essential witnesses in cases we are prosecuting in state court. This helps us make a stronger case and more effectively secure justice.

Plans are under way for the 2018 relocation of Mediation, Circuit Defender's Office and Magistrate Court. This will pave the way for the Sheriff's Office Field Operations and Administrative Divisions to acquire and renovate additional space using SPLOST funding to provide the public with a one-stop access point for a many of the Sheriff's Offices services.

The Adult Detention Center utilized SPLOST funding for upgrades and renovations to the facility's infrastructure. These projects include replacement of HVAC systems, Boilers, Roofing, Plumbing / Piping, improvements to safety and security systems. These projects should enhance and sustain the facility's longevity for years to come.

The Sheriff's' Office initiated a new pre-booking program at the county's judicial complex that expedites the entry of an individual into custody. This benefits the arrestee and taxpayers by reducing the amount of time a person remains in custody pending their ability to post a bond.

Public outreach is a priority for the sheriff's office and five firearm safety programs were presented to more than 1,000 county residents with 1,500 gun safety locks being distributed at no cost.

The Sheriff's' Office SWAT Team was assigned marked patrol vehicles during 2017. This will significantly reduce the amount of time it takes them to respond to high risk emergency situations county wide.

In response to the alarming increase of active shooter attacks across the country, the sheriff's office has deployed rifles, ballistic helmets and enhanced body armor to our field operations deputies. This equipment greatly increase our ability to stop an attack on our most vulnerable places such as schools, churches and other large community events.

The Sheriff's Office additional tasers and body cameras for deputies in field operations as well as the detention center. This provides deputies with a less than lethal alternative when interacting with violent and armed offenders and provides better documentation of use of force incidents.

Inmates at the Detention Center have access to new community programming that aides in facilitating an inmate's successful transition back into society. Partnering with community leaders such as teachers in education, religious volunteers, substance abuse counselors these one-on-one contacts provide tools that help reduce the chances of an inmate being involved in future crimes.

Our Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit, comprised of volunteer sheriff's deputies provided more than 2,000 hours of service across the community. Additionally, our civilian VIP volunteers gave another 4,000 hours of administrative and operational support.

Deputies visited each elementary school in Cobb to teach safety programs, mentor students and foster trust between children and public safety personnel.

Public Safety

In 2017, Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services answered almost 60,000 calls for service.

Fire and Emergency Services received Accredited Agency status for the third time with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. This is the second milestone reached within a six month period. In August, 2016 Cobb Fire's Insurance Service Rating changed to a Class 1, which is the highest rating possible.

In 2017 CCFES Training Division had 45 recruits graduate as certified Firefighters/EMT's.

Leadership Cobb Public Safety Day and Cobb Citizens Academy were held in 2017. CCFES Training Center hosted the eighth annual Metro Atlanta Firefighter's Conference with more than 700 firefighters in attendance. Four fire engines, 19, 21, 24 and 30 were placed into service in August. The new Squad 4 was placed into service in October. Oshkosh Striker 1500 ARFF apparatus was purchased in September for Cobb County International Airport. Fire and Emergency Services purchased four pickup trucks, three sedans, four SUVs and one cargo van in 2017.

The purchase of the Fire Annex Building began in 2016. The Fire Annex Building will house Fire Support Services, Vehicle Maintenance, Small Engine Group, Building Maintenance Group and Fire Investigations.

Cobb County Information Services completed its e-subpoena roll out, enabling an electronic subpoena process for Cobb Police Department, Cobb Sheriff's Office, Cobb Medical Examiner, Cobb 911, Cobb Fire Arson, Cobb Drug Court, Cobb County Schools Campus Police Department, Acworth Police Department, Kennesaw Police Department, Powder Springs Police Department, Smyrna Police Department, Marietta Police Department and Kennesaw State University Police Department.

Information Services also executed an internal Incident Command Based Mapping System accessible on all public safety in-car devices. The system provides live access of Public Safety vehicle locations, traffic camera feeds, and incident response plans for schools and significant buildings in Cobb.

The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation collaborated with Information Services to install and support communications and network infrastructure in support of security and traffic operations in the Cumberland SunTrust Park area.

Cobb County operates and maintains 74 outdoor weather sirens to alert the public of severe weather. The current weather siren technology has ended its production life. This year, the weather siren equipment and radios/MOSCAD were upgraded in all 74 sirens to enable the system to work in conjunction with the upgrades to the 800 MHz Radio System. The new technology improves simultaneous and/or consecutive siren activations caused by multiple severe weather warnings. The upgrades required the full replacement of 10 siren sites where equipment was inconsistent with the standard Whelen products used countywide. The purchase of hardware, software, radio equipment, installation and engineering services for the MOSCAD upgrade to the county's 74-siren outdoor warning system and to upgrade 10 sirens to Whelen Vortex Sirens were paid from approved funds through the SPLOST 2016 program, totaling approximately \$936,000.

The Warning Siren Computer InTouch Runtime Software was upgraded in the 911 Center and 911 Backup Center to ensure redundancy, totaling \$13,800. In addition to these upgrades, the siren computer console, monitor and sound bar were also replaced in both locations in the amount of \$1891.44. These upgrades were paid from Emergency Management Performance Grant funds.

Since the program's inception, Cobb Emergency Management Agency staff has trained more than 2,000 individuals in the Community Emergency Response Team curriculum. In 2017, 180 residents completed the training.

In addition to CERT training, EMA staff engaged more than 4,000 community members through preparedness presentations with various faith-based organizations, homeowners associations, senior centers and private organizations.

Cobb EMA gained approval on its Local Emergency Operations Plan from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency in summer 2017 and the Board of Commissioners approved the plan in August. The process involved substantial coordination and information gathering with all county agencies and community partners within Cobb County. The EMA held trainings with all agency representatives in the LEOP and the trainings were designed so that agencies with similar responsibilities attended together and reviewed their emergency support functions.

EMA continues to partner with the Information Services Department to implement a Business Continuity/Continuity of Operations Plan in 2018 that will allow the county to be better prepared to continue operations during emergency situations. To accommodate this undertaking, EMA and Bold Planning hosted workshops with representatives from Board of Commissioner Departments, Elected Officials and the court system to develop their plans.

Parks and Recreation

PARKS SPLOST

Selected Project Summaries

In 2017, the PARKS team was busy finishing out the projects from the 2011 SPLOST Program, and made substantial progress on several of the projects on the 2016 PARKS SPLOST project list. The two programs are different from each other in a variety of ways, but both share the challenge to plan and perform construction projects safely and cost effectively in our parks, with the least possible disruption to the athletic schedules and the activities of our users and volunteers.

County Wide PARKS Master Plan

This comprehensive long range Parks Master Plan is intended to guide the operation and future development of the County's recreation and cultural affairs offerings over the next ten to fifteen years. It will serve as a critical planning tool to help Cobb County keep up with the changes in our population, and provide the best possible leisure services to our residents and visitors. Extensive surveys and public meetings were conducted and compiled to build a narrative of the trends and expectations of our citizens. This will be compared to the existing inventory of PARKS facilities, and provide recommendations for meeting future needs.

The plan is nearly complete in draft form, and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for review in early 2018.

Paving and Resurfacing

Over the years, the asphalt paving on access roadways and parking lots serving many of our facilities has reached or exceeded its design lifespan. SPLOST funding from both the 2011 and 2016 programs has allowed PARKS to repair and resurface asphalt paving in parks in all areas of the County. At the same time, these projects included curb and gutter repairs to promote drainage improvements, adding speed tables and signage to improve safety, and re-establishing striping to better control driving and parking.

Dam Repairs

Several PARKS properties contain lakes formed by earthen dams, constructed decades in the past. The 2011 SPLOST includes repairs to the dams at the Cato Nature Center near Austell and the Bartlett Property in Mableton. The projects included grading to re-establish maintainable slopes on the upstream and downstream dam faces and reworking the outlet structures and emergency spillways. Projects at both dams are complete.

Joint Project - Kennesaw Splash Pad

Cobb PARKS worked with the City of Kennesaw to design and build a new "splash pad" water based playground at Swift Cantrell Park. The 3,000 square foot nautical themed splash pad was completed in time for the 2017 summer season, and was an instant success for parents and children.

Synthetic Turf Conversions on Athletic Fields

Synthetic turf fields offer a variety of advantages over grass turf fields, including lower maintenance costs, increased programming opportunities and improved playability. Properly constructed synthetic turf fields recover rapidly from rain events, and do not need to be taken out of service for periodic sod replacement. This effective-

ly makes them available for play for many more weeks per year. The 2016 PARKS SPLOST program includes conversion of several soccer and multi-use fields from bermuda grass to synthetic turf: three fields at Mud Creek Soccer Complex; four fields at Hubert Soccer Complex; one field at Terrell Mill Park. The projects also include improvements to field lighting systems at each park, with Mud Creek receiving LED field lighting on the three main fields. These projects will be completed by spring 2018.

Jim R. Miller Park Exhibit Hall

A new 41,000 square foot exhibit hall will replace the approximately 45-year-old Buildings A and B at Miller Park. The new exhibit hall will provide modern exhibit facilities, storage, meeting, and office space for exhibitors, visitors, suppliers, and staff. It will support a much wider variety of shows, exhibits, and corporate events than the original buildings could, leading to increased revenue opportunities for the County. The main exhibit hall can be subdivided into three sections, allowing multiple events to occur simultaneously. Food service will be housed in a new kitchen area, which will support everything from small concession offerings to large banquets. The project is underway, and will be completed in August 2018.

In addition, a new maintenance and storage building was completed in 2017. New ticket booths have been designed and are scheduled for construction starting in the spring of 2018.

Selected Projects Planned for 2018

Mabry Park – The Board of Commissioners has approved a contract for the construction of the 26.5 acre Mabry Park in northeast Cobb. The passive park will include an entrance roadway, and will contain walking trails with pavilions and benches, a restroom/maintenance building and playground near the parking lot, a community garden, and an improved lake for fishing and observing wildlife. Construction will begin in early 2018 and will last about 12 months. Sidewalk connections along Wesley Chapel Road will be completed under a Cobb DOT contract.

PARKS Main Office Building – Construction of the main PARKS office building on County Services Parkway will begin in January 2018. Improvements to the associated small engine repair shop are included in this project.

Rubber Surfacing on Walking Tracks

The Board of Commissioners has approved a contract to add a rubberized surface to the concrete walking tracks in three parks, improving the comfort level for the large number of citizens who walk for exercise. The quarter mile loop tracks at Hurt Road Park and Sweetwater Park, and the half mile loop at Mud Creek Soccer Complex will receive this enhancement in the spring of 2018.

Green Meadows Preserve and Leone Hall Price Park

These two passive parks, Green Meadows Preserve on Dallas Highway and Price Park on Stilesboro Road, will each receive improvements in 2018. Access roadway and parking improvements, and new restroom facilities are planned. Planning for the rehabilitation of the historic house at Green Meadows Preserve is underway.

PARK OPERATIONS

ZONE AREA PARKS

- Construction of a new lighted dog park in Sweetwater Park
- New lighted walking trail at Sweetwater Park
- New pavilion installation at Sweetwater Park
- Sodding of midway and campground area at Miller Park
- Installation of new LED lighting at five tennis courts (Sewell, Wild Horse Creek, Hurt Road, Rhyne and Larry Bell)
- Installation of new shade structure and concrete pads and tables at Harrison Park
- Installation of new shade structure at Fair Oaks Tennis Center
- Playground safety surfacing replacement in all park playgrounds

EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT

- Work Orders Received - 1,684
 - o Man Hours – 4524.50
 - o Field Repairs – 523
 - o Same Day Repairs – 1,199
 - o Annual Service Repair Orders – 208
 - o Repairs for Other County Departments – 84

RECREATION SERVICES

- Hosted four county-wide special events including the annual “Eggstravaganza,” which had record attendance or the second year in a row
- The 19th annual USA/BMX Dixieland Nationals was held in April at the Wild Horse Creek Park BMX track. More than 1,300 participants from 34 states with ages from 3 to 70 raced for a national championship.
- The 10th annual Legacy Showcase youth fast-pitch softball competition was held July 13-16 at Al Bishop, Kennworth, Lost Mountain, and Sandy Plains Parks. 168 teams from California to Massachusetts came to display their skills to over 360 college coaches. This event generated a \$9 million local economic impact to the community.
- The adult softball program continues to be the largest program in the state. Fiscal Year 2017 had 280 teams with 4,737 participants competing in five parks for the league championships. Al Bishop Softball complex also saw 11,034 softball players competing in weekend tournaments from March-November.
- PARKS resumed management of the Patti Wilder Swim Meet. More than 900 swimmers competed in the two day event. This meet was the GRPA State Swim Meet qualifier and the top three finishers in each event qualified to participate in the GRPA State Swim Meet.

- The Gymnastic Center hosted the Special Olympics National Gymnastics meet in May 2017, with athletes representing more than 40 states throughout the U.S.
- Seven Springs Water Park had another successful summer, keeping pace with attendance and revenues from previous summers
- Over 460 teams and nearly 5,800 participants utilized a Cobb tennis facility for league play in Fiscal Year 2017. These teams host visiting teams totaling 1500 teams and over 15,000 players coming to Cobb and our facilities to compete in league competition. These leagues included ALTA, USTA, and other leagues.
- Harrison Tennis Center hosted the USTA 12s Level II National Tournament in May. The successful event featured full 64 - player draws including some of the top 12U boys and girls in the country.

KEEP COBB BEAUTIFUL/NATURAL RESOURCES

KCB in collaboration with CCWS hosted the HHW Recycling Event at Jim Miller Park in June 2017. The marketing (social media) outreach campaign was successful; we achieved a 300% increase in participation at the event, with a total of 800 cars and 59,163 pounds of material collected. Residents recycled items such as paint, batteries, household cleaners and much more. We also partnered with volunteers from Lockheed Martin, KCB Board of Directors and Cobb County ECCHO Interns to work the event

“Teach a Child to Fish” program partnered with Cobb PARKS and conducted 4 Fishing Clinics (225 total participants) at Hyde Farm during the month of May. The Clinics were conducted by Professional ProBass Fisherman and retired NFL Player Kendall Newson. Each Fishing Clinic consisted of teaching youth an appreciation of the environment, an appreciation of our natural resources, Fishing 101 followed by lunch and awards.

The 2017 Fishing Rodeo was another success bringing new fishermen to the sport. About half the participants were beginners. The number of fish caught were down compared to previous years. The number of participants were up from 2016 but down from 2015, 2014 and 2013. The program is popular for the Natural Resource Management Unit. There are very few programs like this in the area so it continues to be a success. It had 116 participants, 73 fish caught and the largest fish was a 1 pound, 1 oz. Catfish

This year the Natural Resource Management Unit partnered with SORBA West Georgia for a trail run series and bike races. We offered four running races and 2 mountain bike races. The series started in May and ended in October. The races used all the trails at Allatoona Creek Park with each race on a different trail. All of the running races had two distances, 4 miles and 7 miles. The running races were named Dreamcatcher, Summer Solstice, Fireball and Voodoo.

Services

Cobb County's Geographic Information System received the "Award for Program Excellence" presented by Latitude Geographics at the 2017 Geocortex User Conference. Cobb County was selected out of over 1,400 customers around the world and across industries. The award recognizes long-term programs that have delivered results and evolved effectively over time to embrace what's possible with modern GIS technology.

In 2017, projects for the Information Services Department focused on:

- (1) strengthening and expanding the capability and stability of our network infrastructure;
- (2) collaborating with other Cobb departments to automate access to services and information; and
- (3) making it easier for citizens to see and experience the services and information available in Cobb County by improving on-line and self-service capabilities.

Improvements to our network infrastructure included:

- Increased the bandwidth for guest wireless access across the County from 100 mbps to 250 mbps providing businesses and citizens conducting business at County locations faster and more stable access to the Internet.
- Replaced an aging data backup/restore system with a new, state-of-the-art system which provides faster and expanded capabilities and enhances the disaster recovery abilities for Cobb's data and systems.
- Collaborated with the Department of Transportation on planning, design, procurement, and construction of an upgrade to the communications network serving DOT's Intelligent Transportation System. The ITS upgrade project fully implemented several major transportation corridors in 2017 with new technology, resulting in greater redundancy and resiliency of the Transportation Management System.
- Provided the latest in network and communication technology to ensure secure business connectivity and stability for all new building construction and renovation projects for the Property Management Department.

Projects to automate access to services and information included:

- Implementing a business analytics and dashboarding tool which facilitates data driven decision making by Cobb County government leadership and provides a platform for graphically communicating data both internally and to the public.
- Implementing probation electronic warrants in State Court which replaced a manual paper process with an electronic warrant issuing and tracking process.
- Implemented EZScan for the Motor Vehicle Office which allows employees to scan, track and store checks received by the office. This process automates direct deposit and reduces the time for checks to be deposited.
- Implemented a new File transfer system; allowing secure sharing of files and information between Cobb agencies internally and with individuals and agencies not on the Cobb County network.
- Collaborated with 911 to establish an automated interface between the Cobb 911 Center and local ambulance companies to provide information to the ambulances on dispatches. This reduces or eliminates the requirement for 911 Dispatchers to call and provide the data verbally.
- Rolled out WiFi to passengers on CobbLinc buses and increased administration and safety technology on buses.
- Supported move to new transit vendor partner which required change to new technology.
- Collaborated with the Department of Transportation to implement CleverCAD to provide dispatchers and supervisors with a clear, real-time picture of the location and status of every in-service vehicle and also

enable dispatchers to communicate directly with vehicles and manage routes more effectively. Riders also have access to bus locations.

- Incorporated the “Procure to Pay” business process into the County’s Automated Enterprise Document Management System, including requisitions, purchase orders, delivery orders, invoices and checks. The automation integrates the Document Management System with the county Financial program, automatically linking and associating related documents and eliminating dual entry requirements.
- Implemented new automated Contract Management system to manage and track all documents related to the contract process.

Projects improving on-line and self-service capabilities included:

- Implemented personal property Efiling which allows citizens to file personal property returns online.
- Implemented Employee Learning Management System which allows employees to self-register for County training courses and provides one location for tracking training records. The system allows supervisors and managers to assign and track progress on skill training for their employees.
- Delivered access to more information about Cobb County through web GIS maps including Cobb Library System, Cobb Facility, and District Search.
- Rolled out citizen-facing Open Data website allowing search and download of free GIS datasets from Cobb and Marietta.
- Developed a mobile GIS app to label and gather data on Cobb County storm drains (example: photo submitted of damaged drain). This information is reported in real time to the Cobb County Water System.
- Added street light outage/issue reporting to the GIS Citizen Request mobile application. Citizen Request is also available for reporting for parks and cable matters.
- Collaborated with Cobb Emergency Management Agency, providing a single web location where a citizen can find useful information during severe weather and disasters. During Hurricane Irma, information available included links to shelters, live weather maps, downed tree reporting, live traffic conditions, and emergency contact information.
- Rolled out automated on-line Open Records System for citizens to request information under the Freedom of Information Act.
- Implemented audit management software for Internal Audit which accelerates audit cycles, improves audit strategies, reduces audit costs, and enhances auditor productivity.
- Worked with the Department of Transportation to automate the process for utility companies and businesses to submit requests for roadway lane closures.
- Deployed Radio Frequency Identification technology to libraries enabling quicker checkout, better inventorying, and late fee payment via kiosks.
- Launched new websites for Cobb PARKS, Keep Cobb Beautiful, and Mable House Amphitheater.

New projects planned for 2018 include implementation of a new web portal which will make doing business with Cobb County more user-friendly and expand digital e-government services. Information Services will continue to collaborate with County departments to roll out dashboards that make County data available to the public via the web portal.

The Property Management department consists of just under 100 team members serving employees and the pub-

lic in the areas of Construction, Maintenance and Custodial operations of County owned buildings. We manage construction projects approved by the Board of Commissioners from oversight of outside architects and contractors down to space design and installation of sheet rock and electrical by our own crews. Our online work order system is accessible to all departments and allows for immediate transmission of routine requests for maintenance and supplemental custodial support at our 102 buildings. We negotiate and oversee annual maintenance contracts to ensure quick responses from external service providers at the lowest cost. Parking Deck operations and grounds maintenance also fall under our purview.

2016 SPLOST project expenditures for FY 2017 included:

Library system - \$10,356,379 in projects consisting of Acworth Kennesaw consolidation, Switzer Library upgrades, Sewell Mill Library construction, Gritters Library design and smaller facility upgrades.

Medical Examiner - \$50,675 in design work for new facility

Senior Services - \$764,512 for addition to North Cobb Senior Center

Public Health - \$5,655,273 for renovation and construction at Acworth/Kennesaw, Smyrna and Marietta Health facilities

Security - \$686,356 for replacement and upgrades of security systems, fire alarm systems, door hardware, sprinklers, panic hardware and cameras at 15 separate locations

Roofs - \$152,169 for restoration and upgrades at Public Safety Training, Cobb County Building and State Court

Equipment - \$242,405 for replacement and upgrades of chillers, ice machines, HVAC controls, generators and plumbing at 15 separate locations

Exterior - \$243,446 for replacement and upgrades of electrical, concrete, paint, windows and doors at 17 separate locations

Interior - \$348,049 for replacement and upgrades of carpet, electrical, paint, plumbing and HVAC at over 25 locations

Judicial Complex - \$1,235,232 for renovation of 10 East Park, Magistrate Court and Child Support facilities

Operating expenditures included Personnel (\$5,015,268), Operating and Repairs (\$3,840,313) and Annual Maintenance Contracts (\$1,519,596) for a total FY17 budget of \$10,375,177

Cobb Senior Services 2017

Nutrition

- 486 seniors served
- 57,450 meals provided
- Volunteers gave 9,107 hours - time equivalent to four full-time employees over one year.
- The Home Delivered Meals program delivers a nutritionally balanced meal to qualifying homebound seniors five days per week. Clients in greater need may qualify for additional meals.

Congregate Meals

- Eligible Cobb County seniors enjoy fun and exciting activities while having a nutritionally balanced meal in a group setting.
- 29,994 meals provided
- 374 seniors served
- What a Waste Study - from February 24 to April 28 2017, Cobb County senior centers measured their

food waste as part of a study led by the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger. This initiative led to 4 program goals:

- o Reduce pan and plate waste
- o Improve nutrient intake
- o Improve fiscal sustainability
- o Environmental sustainability

Senior Recreation

- On August 14th, 80 Cobb County residents gathered at Hyde Farm Park to promote a falls prevention method that is easily adaptable and accessible to everyone. A photo from the event won the second place prize in the National Council on Aging Falls Free® Photo Contest.

Multipurpose Senior Centers

- 4,280 seniors registered to participate in activities, seminars, health and wellness programs, day trips, and events
- Average age: 73 years old

Case Management

- 941 case management clients
- 3,687 case management hours
- 170 clients per case manager

In Home Services

- Personal care
 - o 49 clients
 - o 1,870 hours
- Homemaker
 - o 112 clients
 - o 2,530 hours
- Respite In Home
 - o 89 clients
 - o 4,880 hours

Transportation

- 501 seniors served
- 47,712 one way trips
 - o 3,901 - Group Trips
 - o 7,621 - Demand Response
 - o 36,550 - Fixed Route
- Voucher Programs
 - o Cobb Freedom
 - 6,953 trips
 - 192 clients
 - o Mobility
 - 3,582 trips
 - 98 clients

COBB COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

During the 2017 fiscal year, the department successfully issued, publicly opened, and participated in the evaluation and award of 167 formal solicitations. The total dollar value of contracts awarded through both formal and informal competitive solicitations was \$139,694,734.00. No sustainable vendor protests were received during this period contesting the award of a contract.

2. Each month, the department conducts an analysis of bid prices to provide a comparison of prices obtained through competitive procurement practices. This process is performed to measure the savings achieved through competitive procurement practices, but is also an indicator of the teamwork and collaboration that occurs between Purchasing and County departments. During FY 17, the County achieved a savings of approximately \$11,210,482.00 as a result of competitive purchasing.

3. Through the competitive sale of county surplus property, the Purchasing Department generated total revenues of \$111,082.37.

4. The Purchasing Department currently serves on the Advisory Board for the US Communities Cooperative Purchasing Program. US Communities lead agencies solicit competitive bids and manage a variety of contracts for goods and services available for use by public entities nationwide. The Purchasing Department currently serves as the lead agency for two US Communities contracts, Roofing Supplies and Services, and Tractors, Mowers, and Related Equipment. The department's role as the lead agency for these contracts resulted in total rebates to the county in the amount of \$120,452.37 during FY 17.

Cobb County Public Library System strengthened and expanded community connections and support for lifelong learning opportunities throughout Cobb in 2017. The Library System staff develops innovative programs addressing literacy, education, economic and workforce development, and activities for a healthy community. The Cobb library staff is committed to providing excellent customer service and collaborates with a variety of organizations sharing common goals for the County.

A strong foundation is in place for initiatives to expand access to library print and digital resources for Cobb students at all levels in 2018. This is bolstered by successful year-round support for public schools, independent schools and homeschool families provided by Cobb librarians. Thousands of families introduced their babies and toddlers to the library through the library's weekly storytime events and the 1,000 Books B4 Kindergarten early literacy program.

For the fourth year, the library's 2017 Summer Reading Program involved a countywide collaboration with the Cobb and Marietta school districts and the Smyrna Public Library. Under the "Build a Better World" 2017 theme, the third year for the Summer Reading partnership with Scholastic provided an online platform for logging students' reading progress over the summer break that publishing officials say is a national model for community collaboration.

For the fourth consecutive year of the workshop series GEMS, the Library System's program introducing female students, ages 11 to 17, to engineering, math and science served as a marquee summertime program. Young women met with peers and professional women from tech companies, government agencies and universities for

presentations, fun and creative activities and mentor sessions. GEMS workshops were conducted over four weeks at five Cobb libraries. GEMS 2017 included professionals from Women in Technology, Cobb County School District, Cobb County 4-H, Cobb County Information Services, Kennesaw State University, Emory University, Georgia Tech, The Home Depot and Georgia Power. More than 100 young women participated in the GEMS program. Major support for GEMS includes a grant from the Cobb Library Foundation.

The Cobb County Public Library System partnered with the Atlanta chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Atlanta) and Kennesaw State University's Department of Architecture to present special one-day workshops at four libraries for school age children during the 2017 Summer Reading Program. Discover ARCHITECTURE: Library Edition gave students on summer break a chance to meet design professionals and create architectural models based on Cobb landmarks. Based on an after-school program in Atlanta, the Discover ARCHITECTURE workshop in Cobb libraries was attended by more than 40 children.

Tech and career workshops for youths offered in 2017 included the Girls Who Code club at Stratton Library. The program for developing coding skills through group coding projects is continuing through the 2017-2018 school year for pre-teens and teens. An American Library Association official touring Cobb libraries after the ALA's 2017 Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta cited the Stratton Library program as positive example for the nation's libraries striving to engage young people for future careers in tech or any profession.

The new Sewell Mill Library & Cultural Center opened in December. More than a replacement for the East Marietta Library, the 28,000-square-foot complex situated within Sewell Park on Lower Roswell Road is a joint-use project of the Library System and Cobb PARKS. Sewell Mill includes unique children and teen spaces, study rooms, recording studios, a conference room, a digital maker space commons, a community room, an art gallery and art classrooms, an outdoor amphitheater and a black box theater. Events at Sewell Mill include regular library programs and artistic performances. Batson-Cook Company and CAS Architecture served as the design-build contractor for the \$10.6 million Sewell Mill project funded with \$8.6 million from Cobb County's 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and \$2 million from the Georgia Board of Regents.

Design and the start of construction of the new North Cobb Regional Library is planned for 2018. Planned as consolidation of the Acworth and Kennesaw libraries, the facility will be built at the intersection of Old Highway 41 and Blue Springs Road with \$8.6 million from the 2016 SPLOST. The site across from North Cobb High School is approximately equidistant from the small Acworth and Kennesaw libraries built more than 50 years ago.

For the third year in a row, the Library System's Falls Prevention Awareness Initiative promoted evidence-based strategies for reducing serious injuries from falls, especially in the Seniors population of Cobb. Falls Prevention events were held in September at seven Cobb County libraries. The programs included Tai Chi for Arthritis demonstration sessions presented by Cobb Senior Services, health screenings by WellStar Health System, and vision screenings for children and adults by the South Cobb, North Cobb and West Cobb-Paulding Lions Clubs. Other metro Atlanta public libraries developed Falls Prevention events for 2017 and are planning to create their own Falls Prevention program offerings for September of 2018. The events are centered around the national observance of the Falls Prevention Awareness Day set for the first day of the fall season.

Prime Time was developed to assist families of students in at-risk communities to improve children's literacy skills before they enter third grade. The Cobb County Public Library System was fortunate to receive funding from the Georgia Public Library Service to bring the Prime Time program to Spanish speaking families. The program provided materials and guidance on starting regular family reading time and group discussions around the themes in the books. The Library witnessed families come together to enjoy reading high quality books and discuss issues like identity and belonging and how they impact their family. The 2017 program registration included 32 families and 60 children.

The 1000B4K program provides a reading foundation for pre-school children that enables them to be quickly successful upon starting kindergarten, instilling a love for reading, the value of setting goals, and a commitment to learning. In the process, parents also learn how to give guidance and encouragement to their children. There have been over 5,000 Cobb children registered since the program began in 2015, and over 150 "graduates" who attend regular graduation ceremonies at area libraries. The program is strengthened by support from community organizations such as Head Start and Communities in Schools. Future collaborations with Cobb County and Marietta City schools promise to be opportunities for additional expansion of this vital program.

Fleet Management

In 2017, Fleet Management received three major recognitions, ranking number #15 of the 100 Best Fleet's in North America, #43 Green Fleet in North America and ranked #6 Leading Fleet by Government Fleet Magazine. These awards are symbolic of Cobb Fleet's efforts to provide cost efficient services using industry best practices. Fleet Management staff is committed to County sustainability and environmental stewardship, adding six new propane Bi-fuel trucks into the Fleet. These vehicles have a range of 650 miles, produce 13% less CO2 emissions than traditional gas vehicles.

This proactive approach will save the taxpayers more than \$55,000 as the propane cost .015 less than gas, it will also displace more than 17 tons of CO2 emissions.

Fleet Management replaced 50 high mileage vehicles that were at the end of their lifecycle. The new vehicles offer clean fuel technology have been well received by residents and county staff. These vehicles offer all of the latest safety features ensuring our employees well being while providing superior service to the public.

Transportation

Cobb County International Airport – McCollum Field completed a new Airport Master Plan in November. The plan identifies the demand on the airport over a 20-year period and proposes the necessary improvements to address the safety and operational needs to accommodate the forecasted growth. Funding for the \$211,969 Master Plan included a 90% reimbursable grant from the Federal Aviation Administration.

In August, the airport completed a \$6.3 million North Apron Rehabilitation and Expansion Project. The north apron is the parking ramp for based and transient aircraft. The improvements assure a safe environment for aircraft to operate. The project was funded 95 percent by grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration and the state of Georgia.

Engineering (SPLOST)

In 2017, the Cobb County Department of Transportation continued delivery of its 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program while concurrently completing projects funded from its 2005 and 2011 SPLOST programs. For the 2005 SPLOST, engineering/design identified 343 projects. Construction has started on 338 projects, with 333 projects reaching completion.

Major projects underway or completed in 2017 include:

- * Cedarcrest Road
- * Hembree Road at Pope High School roundabout
- * Lower Roswell Road (west)
- * West Sandtown Road
- * Bells Ferry Road at Barrett Parkway
- * Bob Callan Trail, Phase Two

For the 2011 SPLOST, engineering/design identified 205 projects. Construction has started on 198 projects, with 189 reaching completion.

Projects completed or underway in 2017 include:

- * Cobb Parkway at Windy Hill Road intersection improvements and queue jumper lanes
- * Windy Hill Road Diverging Diamond Interchange
- * South Barrett Reliever, Phase Two
- * Windy Hill Road corridor improvements
- * Interstate North Parkway
- * Wade Green Road at I-75 DDI
- * Numerous sidewalk projects throughout the county

For the 2016 SPLOST Program, engineering/design identified 210 projects. Pre-construction activities are in progress or have been completed on more than 120 projects. Construction has started on 60 projects, with 48 reaching completion.

Major projects completed or underway in 2017 include:

- * Windy Ridge Parkway Bridge pedestrian improvements

- * Cobb Parkway at I-285 westbound off-ramp and Spring Road/Circle 75 Parkway
- * Concord Road Covered Bridge rehabilitation
- * Cumberland Boulevard
- * Sandy Plains Road at Davis Road (Mountain View Elementary School)
- * Numerous drainage improvement projects

As part of the 2016 SPLOST program, the county delivered three resurfacing contracts valued at more than \$20 million. Since October 2011, resurfacing contracts have resulted in the total resurfacing of more than 1,700 streets (560 miles) within the County's four commission districts. This represents a cumulative investment of \$130 million in preserving county infrastructure.

Cedarcrest Road (2005 SPLOST)

This \$3.9 million project includes widening the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided highway with a raised median from the Cobb County/Paulding County line east to Governors Towne Drive. Construction began on this one-mile project in February 2016 and is scheduled for completion in summer 2018.

Windy Hill Road Diverging Diamond Interchange (2011 SPLOST)

This \$18 million project consisted of operational improvements to the I-75 at Windy Hill Road interchange. The traditional interchange was converted into a diverging diamond interchange to increase capacity and decrease congestion. Construction began in January 2016 and was completed in June 2017.

South Barrett Reliever, Phase Two (2011 SPLOST)

The second phase of the three-phase South Barrett Reliever project consists of construction a multi-lane roundabout, to include curb and gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes at the intersection of Barrett Lakes Boulevard, Shiloh Valley Drive and the rear entrance to the Town Center Commons Shopping Center. This \$5.4 million project is scheduled for completion in summer 2018.

Hembree Road at Pope High School Roundabout (2005 SPLOST)

This project consisted of the construction of a safety and operational improvement roundabout with entering and exiting right turn and bypass lanes for Pope High School at the previously signalized intersection of Hembree Road and Meadow Drive. Traffic circulation and pedestrian improvements on the school site facilitate roundabout traffic ingress and egress and improve pedestrian access on campus. The project began in May 2016 and was completed in July 2017.

Cobb Parkway at Windy Hill Road Intersection Improvements and Queue Jumper Lanes (2011 SPLOST)

Improvements at this intersection include the addition of dual left turn lanes and queue jumper lanes on the north and south legs of Cobb Parkway. Dual southbound right turn lanes on the north leg of Cobb Parkway also will be included. The project will lengthen the existing dual left turn lanes and add a right turn lane on the west leg of Windy Hill Road as well as a third northbound lane on Cobb Parkway exiting to Terrell Mill Road. Construction on this \$5.3 million project began in September 2016 and is scheduled for completion in spring 2018.

Lower Roswell Road (West) (2005 SPLOST)

This \$3.9 million project includes widening Lower Roswell Road from approximately 425 feet east of SR120/South Marietta Parkway to Holt Road and includes the addition of left turn lanes, right turn lanes and signal modifications. Sidewalks will be added within the project limits, and resurfacing will occur from SR120/South Marietta Parkway to Terrell Mill Road. This project began in September 2016 and was substantially completed in December 2017.

Bells Ferry Road at Barrett Parkway (2005 SPLOST)

Dual left turn lanes from northbound Bells Ferry Road onto westbound Barrett Parkway, dual left turn lanes from southbound Bells Ferry Road onto eastbound Piedmont Road and a right turn lane from westbound Piedmont Road onto northbound Bells Ferry Road will be constructed in this \$2 million intersection improvement project. Construction began in October 2017 and is scheduled for completion in November 2018.

Concord Road Covered Bridge Rehabilitation (2016 SPLOST)

The \$800,000 project includes the installation of steel stiffening frames inside the bridge, cleaning and painting existing steel, repairing bridge supports, replacing the guardrail and repairing the roof and exterior siding. This project is complete.

Wade Green Road at I-75 Diverging Diamond Interchange (2011 SPLOST)

This \$4.9 million design/build project for operational improvements to the interchange of I-75 at Wade Green Road consists of converting the existing traditional interchange to a DDI, which will increase capacity and decrease congestion at the intersections. The project includes widening and reconstruction of the eastbound and westbound lanes, widening and reconstruction of both the northbound and southbound I-75 ramps and bridge rehabilitation. The project also includes median and sidewalk construction and installation of curb and gutter as well as new signalization. The interchange was converted into the DDI configuration in October 2017, and the entire project is scheduled to be completed in spring 2018.

Windy Ridge Parkway Bridge Pedestrian Improvements (2011 SPLOST)

This project consisted of the widening of Windy Ridge Parkway Bridge over the I-75 and I-285 ramps to provide enhanced pedestrian accommodations and greenway space. The project was completed in spring 2017.

Planning

The Planning Division secured more than \$33 million in grant funding from federal sources. These funds will help deliver South Barrett Reliever (Phase Three), Akers Mill Road managed lane ramp, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park trails, Mableton Parkway trail and West Atlanta Road trail. Funds will also be used for planning for parks and trails along the Chattahoochee River and improved transit service.

Phase Three of the South Barrett Reliever builds on prior phases to lessen traffic delays in the Town Center area. This project will bridge I-75, connecting earlier project phases to Roberts Court and providing an alternative to Barrett Parkway. The Atlanta Regional Commission awarded Cobb County more than \$10.44 million for right-of-way acquisition and construction for this project.

Connecting the Silver Comet Trail to the Chattahoochee River through Mableton is a key project both locally and regionally. A trail segment along Floyd Road, which will connect to the existing trail that runs to the south side of the Veterans Memorial Highway intersection, is currently under construction. New grant funding, totaling \$3.68 million for the Mableton Parkway trail will help make the final connection to the river.

An additional \$5.6 million in federal funds were dedicated to construct trails in and around Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, which receives more than 2.4 million visitors annually. This project is a collaboration with the City of Marietta, National Park Service and Georgia Department of Transportation.

The Chattahoochee River project is a collaboration with the City of Atlanta and Trust for Public Land. A six-mile segment of the river between Mableton Parkway and Atlanta Road will be studied to construct a trail system.

Utilizing Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant funds, 4,000 books and 3,000 safety blinkers were distributed to Cobb County elementary school students to improve pedestrian safety. Also, a new pedestrian safety video was produced and is being shown to all fourth graders who visit the Cobb County Safety Village.

New efforts initiated in 2017 include a Transit Service Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Plan, Greenways and Trails Master Plan, and surface transportation planning around Cobb County International Airport – McCollum Field.

Road Maintenance

In 2017, the Road Maintenance Division procured an asphalt recycler and hot box trailer, which reduces asphalt waste by 75 percent per week. The division also added a traffic control crew and vehicle for SunTrust Park events. Road Maintenance continued its partnership with the Cobb County Sheriff's Office to use two inmate litter control crews who worked every Saturday and collected more than 60,000 pounds of litter, debris and illegally dumped waste.

Traffic Operations

In support of the Cobb County Police Department, the Traffic Operations Division completed the Traffic Management Plan for SunTrust Park events and implemented it with great success in the Braves' first season in the new ballpark. Elements of the plan included the installation of directional signs on interstate roads and County thoroughfare roads, expansion of Intelligent Transportation Systems to include additional traffic cameras and dynamic message signs and establishment of a center-to-center connection between Cobb DOT's Transportation Management Center and the In-game Operations Center in SunTrust Park. In recognition of this work, ITS Georgia selected Cobb DOT as the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Public Member Agency Award.

The division operates 570 traffic signals with state-of-the-art adaptive control timing systems and traditional time-of-day systems. With the assistance of the Georgia Department of Transportation, Traffic Operations upgraded the software used to control 400 signals in the traditional system. Additionally, the division reviewed signal timing and adjusted for changes in traffic patterns on four corridors—Barrett Parkway, Johnson Ferry Road,

Mableton Parkway and Veterans Memorial Highway—which included a total of 45 signals.

The backbone of Cobb DOT's ITS is more than 200 miles of fiber optic cable, which links ITS assets—including traffic signals, traffic cameras and dynamic message signs—to the TMC and prepares the county for the connected vehicles of the future. The division completed the first phase of the ITS Communication Master Plan to provide a more reliable, fault tolerant network, adding three communications hubs and additional fiber optic cable at a cost of \$1.6 million.

Transit

The Transit Division continues to improve technology to enhance the passenger experience and enable trip planning for CobbLinc riders. CobbLinc buses are equipped with WiFi to give commuters the ability to connect to transit information and entertainment while onboard vehicles. Riders can now access an automatic vehicle locator system and a rider information mobile application, CobbLinc BusTime, to track buses and receive alerts about specific routes.

Three Cumberland Circulator routes began operation on March 31, 2017. The Blue, Green and Red Circulator routes were implemented to improve mobility for those who live, work or shop in the Cumberland area, to help relieve traffic congestion and to stimulate additional economic activity.

The division issued a request for proposal in November 2016 to select a new operations and maintenance contractor for CobbLinc. First Transit, Inc., was selected as the contractor in March 2017. Ten new paratransit vehicles replaced older vehicles in the CobbLinc fleet in May 2017.

Geographic Information System

The GIS Division is in its second year of a two-year implementation of Cobb DOT's workflow software, Cartegraph Operations Management System. The software went live in April 2016, allowing Roadway Maintenance staff members to transition successfully from paper work orders to the use of digital devices in the field. In 2017, more than 10,000 resident requests for DOT work were entered into the system. For its accomplishments with OMS, Cartegraph named Cobb DOT a finalist for the company's Excellence in Operations Management Award and highlighted the department in its "How We Work" video series.

Snow and ice treatment statuses for 2017 are integrated between OMS and the department's traffic navigation tool, Cobb Commute, which has received approximately 19,000 unique users in 2017—a 20 percent increase over last year.

As part of Cobb DOT's partnership with Waze, the department shares road status information in the Waze app using an XML feed via GIS. In 2018, the GIS Division will leverage this partnership and new county enterprise GIS infrastructure to download and store Waze data that can be used to make data-driven decisions for infrastructure improvements as well as for the OMS integration of road maintenance issues reported on Waze.

In 2018, GIS staff will work to display road maintenance automatic vehicle location information in the man-

agement system to improve the efficiency of dispatching work trucks to issues. Additionally, DOT's GIS crash database, which serves as the foundation for engineering decisions and the selection of improvement projects, is expected to enter production.

Street Lighting

The Street Light Program currently provides more than 45,000 street lights throughout Cobb County. Most lights are located within the County's more than 3,200 street light districts, which collectively serve more than 120,000 customers. In 2017, more than 1,250 new customers were added. The year's program budget was approximately \$6 million.

Notable achievements in the Street Light Program in 2017 include the continued conversion of high pressure sodium street lights to more energy-efficient LEDs. During the year, 1,300 more lights were converted, doubling the number converted in 2016. Lighting conversions occurred on both main thoroughfares and along residential neighborhood streets.

In partnership with the Cumberland Community Improvement District, the Street Light Program continued installing new lighting along many corridors in the Cumberland area. This has included updated street lights and smaller-scale pedestrian lights, most of which also are energy-efficient LEDs. Upon completion, nearly all of the roadways within the Cumberland area will be illuminated with signature, decorative lighting fixtures to enhance the appearance of the area during the day and improve safety for motorists and pedestrians after dark. During 2017, several additional projects were completed, including those to augment the lighting for SunTrust Park with new fixtures on corridors immediately adjacent to the park and to add lighting on the new pedestrian bridges.

In 2017, the County also entered into an agreement with the Town Center Community Improvement District to install new decorative street lights and signature pedestrian lighting on its corridors. Installations are expected to begin in 2018, offering aesthetic enhancements during the day and safety enhancements at night for both motorists and pedestrians, similar to the project in the Cumberland area.

Water System

The Cobb Water System and its supply partner, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, met all drinking water standards as presented in our 2017 Annual Water Quality Report. The Water System delivered nearly 19 billion gallons of water to its customers in the 12-month fiscal year through September 2017.

Even with an increase of approximately 100,000 people during the last decade, water use in the county is about the same as 10 years ago. This is due, in large part, to the ongoing success of the system's efficiency program in reducing demand for water. The program was recognized in 2017 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with a national WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award in recognition of going above and beyond in supporting water conservation. Locally, the water system was awarded the 2017 STREAM Award by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District for its comprehensive response to the recent 2016/2017 drought, and given the Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence Award by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

In order to accommodate growth in the county, more than 100,000 linear feet of new water lines and sewers were added to the public system.

The Water Protection Division earned platinum awards for outstanding operation in the "Large Utility" category at three water reclamation facilities for permit compliance for seven, 12, and 16 consecutive years.

While successful water conservation efforts have delayed the need for expansion of any of the four water reclamation facilities in the county, various rehabilitation and/or rehabilitation projects are ongoing at three of the treatment plants. These include chemical feed systems, final filtration, biosolids handling, and odor control and others.

The System Maintenance Division is responsible for operating and maintaining nearly 29 million feet of pipes and tunnels ranging from 2 inches to 24 feet in diameter. In 2017, this division earned a Wastewater Collections Platinum Award and Water Distribution System Gold Award for outstanding operation of a large systems based on judging by industry peers.

In an effort to provide continuing quality performance, the water system annually funds ongoing pipeline rehabilitation and replacement programs. Nearly 70,000 linear feet of deteriorating water pipes were replaced during 2017 with limited service disruption. Rehabilitation of deteriorated sewers is ongoing throughout the county, with a major project recently initiated in the Pinetree area of Kennesaw. In 2017, over \$14 million in construction contracts for pipeline repair and rehabilitation projects were awarded by the Board of Commissioners.

While most of the organization's focus has been on construction, significant progress has also been made in essential systems and programs. A comprehensive asset management system remains an ongoing priority. A program to upgrade and include the asset management system of the treatment plants and their warehouses was completed.

The water system's geographic information system continues to grow and provide increased capabilities in conjunction with County efforts. An interactive map of current water system construction projects, similar to the Cobb DOT project map, will soon be available on the county web site.

The Cobb County Water System rates continue to be some of the lowest in the metro area because of the dedication and quality of the staff.