ATHENS CLARKE COUNTY

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

120 W. Dougherty Street ◦ Athens, Georgia ◦ 30601

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Planning Staff
DATE: April 26, 2013

RE: Proposal to update the Transportation Corridor Concept Map of Athens-Clarke County

Section 9-29 of the Athens-Clarke County Code allows Staff to protect certain planned transportation corridors from development activities that would otherwise block their route when these corridors appear on the officially adopted Transportation Corridor Concept (TCC) Map. Planning Department Staff in conjunction with the Departments of Transportation and Public Works and Leisure Services has compared the current FY 2010 TCC map with recently adopted MACORTS MPO documents - the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The TCC Map enclosed in your agenda packets is the Staff-recommended version to reflect these recent project approvals.

In general, the TCC Map does the following:

- Provides Staff with a long range-planning tool that affords protection at the local level to identified possible interconnections and corridors.
- Is utilized in conjunction with property development. Depending on the nature of the development, the protection of these corridors may be served through proper design or possible purchase by Athens-Clarke County.
- Does not lead to widespread tree removal as the protection of R/W, per Section 9-29, is only to be afforded during property development by the property owner.

Staff emphasizes that the primary purpose of this map is to allow corridor protection at the local level. If there are corridors identified on this draft map that, in your opinion, do not warrant local protection from future development given their location and/or ultimate purpose, then they should simply be recommended for removal. Finally, it should also be pointed out that this map does not ultimately dictate where a road may or may not be built in the future, only which corridors may receive long-term local protection.

The specific Staff-recommended changes to the current TCC Map are as follows:

<u>Projects removed</u>
- Milledge Avenue Ext Trail (completed)
- Smithonia Rd at Smokey Rd/Charlie Bolton Rd intersection realignment (completed)
- Old Lexington Rd at Barnett Shoals Rd intersection realignment (completed)
- Old Elberton Rd at Lem Edwards Rd intersection realignment
- College Station Rd to Security Cir
- Old Elberton Road right-of-way expansion

<u>Projects added</u>
- Old Hull Road at Athena Dr intersection realignment in 2013-2016 TIP
- College Station Rd bridge at North Oconee River in 2013-2016 TIP
- Tallassee Rd bridge at railroad in 2035 LRTP
- Macon Hwy bridge at Middle Oconee River in 2035 LRTP
- Atlanta Hwy at Cleveland Road/Dozer Dr intersection realignment

<u>Projects revised</u>
- Barnett Shoals Rd connection to Bailey St revised to a Barnett Shoals Road connection with Grove Street
- Atlanta Hwy medians – removal of portion east of Mitchell Bridge Rd/Timothy Rd and addition of portion west of Jimmie Daniel Rd