

# COLUMBUS PLANS!

Volume 1, Issue 2  
Winter, 2007

## AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Sometimes in order to know where you are going, it is important to know where you have been. As we end this year, it is appropriate for us to reflect on where we have been with our planning efforts. It is also helpful that we look to the future to determine the challenges and opportunities that lie before us. Here is just a sample of the activities undertaken by the Columbus Planning Department over the last twelve months:

- Initiated air quality program in response to possible designation as a non-attainment region by the Environmental Protection Agency
  - ◆ Established citizens committees to help address and respond to this issue
  - ◆ Developed anti-idling resolutions for local member communities to adopt, with Columbus
  - ◆ Working to develop bio-diesel program as a alternative fuel source for local governments and businesses
  - ◆ In cooperation with the Clean Air Campaign, developed the region's first smog alert forecast, to be available to the general public in January 2008.
- Began the initial stages on the new comprehensive plan for the city
  - ◆ Completed Citizens Participation Plan and Community Assessment report
  - ◆ Established citizens and technical stakeholders review committees
  - ◆ Preparing for citizens input through a series of public meetings to be held in January/February 2008
  - ◆ Plan to be completed and approved by October 2008
- Adopted new overlay district for panhandle area of the county to manage development along US Highway 80
  - ◆ Working to establish other overlays on Victory Drive and Veterans Parkway
- Transportation Improvements
  - ◆ Schomburg Road (2 lanes to 4 lanes)
  - ◆ St. Mary's Road (from Buena Vista to Robin, 2 lanes to 4 lanes) under construction
  - ◆ I-185 (from St. Mary's to Victory Drive, 4 lanes to 6 lanes, with interchange improvement) under construction
  - ◆ Whittlesey Road (acquisition of Right of Way for future widening project)
  - ◆ Moon Road (Whittlesey Boulevard to Knology Way – design completed, awaiting authorization for construction)

### Comprehensive Plan Community Vision Workshops

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

January 22, 2008  
Midland Middle School

January 24, 2008  
Double Churches  
Middle School

January 28, 2008  
Wynnton Academy

January 29, 2008  
Clubview Elementary

February 4, 2008  
Kendrick High School

February 11, 2008  
Baker Middle School

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6 p.  
m. and conclude by 8 p.m.

For information on these important  
meetings on the future of our city call:  
706-653-4116 or by email at:  
cpcmpo@columbusga.org

### Public Hearing Open House

#### Widening of Cusseta Road

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church  
4400 Old Cusseta Road  
Columbus, Georgia  
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Widening of CR 62/Cusseta  
Road/Old Cusseta Road from  
Fort Benning Drive to Farr Road

For information on this potential  
road project call:

706-653-4116 or by email at:  
cpcmpo@columbusga.org

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## OPEN LETTER

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- Congestion Management Study which identifies congested roadways and intersections for future transportation projects, completed
- Rails to Trails development (from the 14<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridge to Psalm Road) is under design, awaiting authorization for construction
- Veterans Parkway Streetscapes Improvements (from Victory Drive to 13<sup>th</sup> Street) design has been completed and project will be put out for bid in spring.

This of course is just a sample of our efforts for this past year. As for next year, there are many challenges and

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opportunities ahead, such as:

- Managing the potential impacts of BRAC, Kia and Aflac developments on our community
- Moving forward with such road projects as Moon Road, Veterans Parkway (from Williams/Moon to Turnberry), Talbotton/

Warm Springs, Cusseta Road, St. Mary's Road, and the Eastern Connector.

- Completing the Chattahoochee Riverwalk from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street
- Continuing the efforts to improve air quality
- Completion of the new comprehensive plan

Our vision is to embrace these opportunities, while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in our community. We appreciate the support we have received for our efforts over the last year, and look forward to

## AIR QUALITY MONITORING TO BEGIN IN 2008

Beginning January 1, 2008, citizens of Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley will be better able to protect themselves from the effects of air pollution. Every day, air quality forecasters with the Ambient Monitoring Program at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) review weather patterns, pollutant levels, and other environmental factors to prepare the next day's air quality forecast. The air quality forecast will then be forwarded to the Clean Air Campaign to be distributed in the form of an Air Quality Index to the Planning Department and other interested individuals and organizations.

The EPD uses the Air Quality Index (AQI) to report levels of air pollutants. The AQI is a scale of 0 to 500, divided into color-coded categories. The *Green* category reflects an AQI of between 0 and 50. This designation means that the air quality is good, and citizens can engage in outdoor physical activities without concerns for

health effects. An AQI range of 51 to 100 is described as moderate, and is categorized as *Yellow*. At this level the air quality is likely safe for most healthy people. However, people with heart and lung diseases, and especially children, are more susceptible to adverse effects of pollutants. These people should probably consider curtailing prolonged outdoor activities. Code *Orange* (101 to 150 on the AQI scale) means that the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups. AQI levels between 151 and 200 are considered code *Red*, and this means that most people should restrict outdoor exertion to early morning or late

evening. At levels of 201 to 300, air quality is considered very unhealthy and is designated code *Purple*. Code *Maroon* is when pollutant levels are above 300, and air quality is considered hazardous for everyone. Smog Alerts will be issued at codes *Orange, Red, or Purple*.

The AQI can help inform citizens about the health effects associated with different levels of air pollution and offer guidelines for making decisions about outdoor activities on days when air pollution may be a concern. The AQI can also influence personal transportation decisions that may contribute to a poor air quality day.

The Planning Department and the Air Quality Alliance of the Chattahoochee Valley are excited to help make this valuable information available to our fellow citizens. If you would like to be included on a mailing list to receive daily air quality forecasts or Smog Alerts, please visit our website at [www.columbusga.com/mpo](http://www.columbusga.com/mpo), or call 706-653-4116 for more information.

| Air Quality Index (AQI) Values        | Levels of Health Concern              | Colors                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>When the AQI is in this range:</i> | <i>...air quality conditions are:</i> | <i>...as symbolized by this color:</i> |
| 0 to 50                               | Good                                  | Green                                  |
| 51 to 100                             | Moderate                              | Yellow                                 |
| 101 to 150                            | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups        | Orange                                 |
| 151 to 200                            | Unhealthy                             | Red                                    |
| 201 to 300                            | Very Unhealthy                        | Purple                                 |
| 301 to 500                            | Hazardous                             | Maroon                                 |

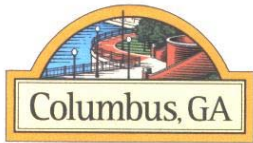
|   |                      | <i>Fees</i> |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Verification Fees                           |                      | \$55        |
| Council Variance Fees                       |                      | \$200       |
| Subdivisions Plat Fees                      |                      |             |
| Preliminary                                 | \$225 + \$10 per lot |             |
| Final                                       | \$225 + \$8 per lot  |             |
| Final (from Preliminary)                    | \$100 + \$5 per lot  |             |
| Zoning Fees                                 |                      |             |
| Planned Unit Developments (PUD's)           |                      | \$1,200     |
| Major                                       |                      | \$1,000     |
| Minor                                       |                      | \$700       |
| Text Amendment                              |                      | \$500       |
| Developments of Regional Importance (DRI's) |                      | \$300       |
| Condition Change                            |                      | \$500       |

0126-242-2100 TLPA

**COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT/  
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CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT  
*What progress has preserved.*  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**We're On The Web!**  
**[www.columbusga.com/  
mpo](http://www.columbusga.com/mpo)**

*Merry*   
*Christmas*

*From all of us, we want to wish you  
the happiest holidays and all the best  
for upcoming new year.*

*The Planning Department provides research,  
analysis, and policy recommendations to the City  
Council and Planning Advisory Commission (PAC)  
on land use, zoning, transportation planning,  
historic preservation, subdivision plat reviews, and  
urban design. Our department also acts as the  
Metropolitan Planning Organization for the  
Columbus-Phenix City region. (CPCMPO).*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**   
