



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Council Adopts Buford Highway Plan and Opportunity Zone

Brookhaven, GA, Oct. 15, 2014 – The Brookhaven City Council took a major step in transforming the Buford Highway area last night, voting unanimously to adopt a five-year redevelopment plan.

The council approved the Buford Highway Improvement Plan and Economic Development Strategy to govern redevelopment of a three-mile corridor from the intersection of Buford Highway and Clairmont Road to the City of Atlanta border.

“There are prime opportunities to turn Buford Highway into a true destination for residential, business and tourism in our city,” Mayor J. Max Davis said. “This plan is the blueprint for us to begin that transformation.”

The plan was compiled by Jaegar Co., Urban Partners and Cranston Engineering, but led by a committee of residents. Its focus is to promote economic viability and physical improvements, such as the addition of bicycle and pedestrian trails, gateway enhancements and streetscape beautification. In addition to physical improvements, the plan includes proposals to increase the perception of the area with a possible name change and other incentives.

In addition to the adoption of the plan, the council is also looking to increase employment opportunities in the Buford Highway area. The city is seeking to create a state recognized Opportunity Zone in the area.

Under the state program, any new or existing business that adds two or more jobs becomes eligible for \$3,500 in tax credits per year for five years. The program is designed for revitalization of aging commercial and industrial areas.

This is Brookhaven’s latest effort to improve the Buford Highway corridor. Last year, Brookhaven began inspecting all multifamily housing to ensure compliance with safety regulations and international property maintenance codes.

As of this week, 58 complexes are in full compliance and nine are in the final round of inspections to meet compliance.

Brookhaven is also working with the state to improve pedestrian safety in the area with the expansion of sidewalks, pedestrian crossing and street lighting along Buford Highway.

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Media Contacts:

Michael Lee Jr.

Office: 404-637-0508

Cell: 404-205-3832

news@brookhavenga.gov

