



**Spalding County Freight Cluster Study
Stakeholder Steering Committee Meeting #1
Meeting Notes**

Date: September 18, 2019
Time: 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: Spalding County Offices, Griffin, GA

Team Attendees: William Wilson, Spalding County - County Manager
Michelle Irizarry, Spalding County - Assistant County Manager
Brian Upton, Paragon Consulting
Eric Pitts, Paragon Consulting
Wade Carroll, Metro Analytics
Justin Scott, Metro Analytics
Laura Beall, Eagle Eye Planning Solutions

SSC Attendees: Bob Stapleton, Airport Authority
Brian Jones, Griffin Police Dept
Chad Jacobs, Spalding County Community Development
Chris Walker, City of Griffin Public Works
Doug Hallberg, City of Griffin BOC
Frank Harris, GSATC member
Glenn Polk, Spalding County Fire Dept
Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Spalding County BOC
Harland Smith, GDOT District 3
Homer Daniel, Griffin Police Department
Jeannie Brantley, Three Rivers Regional Commission
Kenny Smith, City of Griffin
Kristen Miller, UGA Archway Partnership
Miles Neville, Spalding County
Ray Lightner, Griffin Daily News
Sarah Lamothe, GDOT Office of Planning
TJ Imberger, Spalding County Public Works
Toussaint Kirk, City of Griffin Community Development
Truman Tinsley, City of Griffin BOC

Per the agenda, the highlights of the discussion were as follows:

Introductions and Overview

- William Wilson, Spalding County Manager, called the meeting to order. He gave a brief orientation of the importance of this committee and thanked participants for attending. The Committee will continue to meet after the Griffin Spalding Area Transportation Committee (GSATC) regularly scheduled meetings in the future since there is so much overlap in participants.
- Daniel Studdard of Atlanta Regional Commission provided background on the ARC Freight Cluster Study grant program and the goals of the program.

Project Overview

- Wade Carroll of Metro Analytics introduced the agenda starting with introduction of the consulting team and their respective responsibilities.
- Mr. Carroll went on to describe the purpose of the study and key focus areas. He also noted that the emphasis of the study is broader than a freight mobility study as it has an economic development component and hopes to ensure Spalding County well positioned to plan for its future industrial growth.
- Mr. Carroll presented the project schedule and key milestones for Steering Committee coordination and input. This includes:
 - Gathering input on the overall needs based on the Inventory and Assessment Report (November 2019)
 - Gathering input on preliminary recommendations based in traffic study and COD analysis (March 2020)
 - Gathering input on final recommendations (May 2020)

Cargo-Oriented Development

- Mr. Carroll presented slides provided by the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) who are experts in the Cargo Oriented Development (COD) analysis and planning, describing the process on how the analysis is conducted. He explained how this model would be applied to Spalding County during the Freight Cluster Study and the upcoming workshops.

Stakeholder Input Session: Vision, Goals and Objectives

The discussion was oriented around the questions below; however, the input was provided by each individual introducing themselves and describing what they would like most out of the project and/or their top priority. The major themes are grouped by question.

- What do we hope to accomplish?
 - Bring industry and redevelopment of old mill sites
 - Recruit more businesses and develop in NE/SE Quadrant
 - Bring job growth and increase tax base
 - Good growth that meets community vision
 - Public safety improvements

- Attractive development
- Better mobility
- Industry to attract and preserve community
- Facilitate development in corridors – “developmental parkway”
- Remove trucks from Downtown (hurting historic buildings and walkability)
- I-75 & 16 Interstate Access and plan for a well-designed freight operational interchange
- Controlled growth/freight infrastructure improvements

- What should be our priorities?
 - Railroad locking up downtown
 - Bottleneck truck traffic
 - I-75 and SR 16 access to interstate
 - Investigate downtown truck congestion - is an issue and was the #1 priority of the LCI study conducted 14 years ago
 - I-75 and 155; 19/41
 - Protect infrastructure
 - New Airport
 - Rail connections
 - DRI in Butts County spill over into Spalding
 - Future easements
 - Overlay and revisit factoring in employment hubs
 - Traffic congestion from trucks backing up
 - Coordinate with Comp. Plan Update to feed freight findings into future land use
 - Designing truck routes to remove blight/impacts to downtown historic districts
 - Workforce planning for future growth

- What types of industries would we like to attract?
 - Domestic air cargo operator
 - Air Cargo related functions
 - Auto manufacturing
 - Clearing old mill sites for new development where infrastructure is in place
 - Supportive services, like restaurants and retail (not big box), near the industrial areas

- Any other interested parties we should contact for interviews?
Additional stakeholders identified to include in future meetings and outreach are:
 - Board of Education
 - Butts County
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Chuck Copeland, First National Bank of Griffin, Community leader
 - David Luckie (already on list but had a conflict today; follow up with him)
 - Griffin Area College & Career Academy
 - Southern Crescent Technical College
 - UGA – Griffin

Next Meeting Preview

- Report on Cargo-Oriented Development activities and analysis
- Present results of Inventory and Assessment Report
- Stakeholder Input Session: Issues and Needs

Next SSC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:45 PM (after GSATC) – unless the GSATC meeting is re-scheduled for November 13 to avoid holiday conflicts.