



Dear Cobb Delegation

The City of Powder Springs has unique access to areas throughout the County and to neighboring jurisdictions, probably more than any other city in the County. Major County roads carry travelers to state highways and interstates, and transportation improvements satisfy safety and mobility needs and provide access options to City and County residents within and beyond our City's municipal boundaries. Importantly, transportation improvements can also satisfy important economic development needs by providing access and mobility for the safe and efficient delivery of products and goods. Given the state's focus on the movement of freight along key corridors, we believe the City of Powder Springs is poised to become an important partner in improving freight movement within this unique state corridor.

Historically, economic development on US 278 within Powder Springs and Cobb County has been impacted by the inability to receive curb cuts. The Georgia DOT purchased access rights when the road improvements were completed years ago. The City has been working with the GDOT since 2004 to secure needed access to certain properties fronting 278, and GDOT has in the past indicated support for limited access at a few locations as well as strategically placed signalized intersections (see GDOT letter dated November 4, 2004). We are seeking your support in advocating a change in access policy on this important freight-movement corridor.

A proposed development on US278 just south of Lewis and Oglesby Roads in southwest Cobb County in Powder Springs offers positive and negative benefits to the state as well as locally. From a positive perspective it will support distribution of goods and products, provide jobs, and diversify the City's tax base. On the other hand, without a curb cut and signalized intersection to facilitate truck movement directly to and from US278, the local roads and residents who live along them will be impacted. Introducing truck traffic on Lewis and Oglesby Roads creates unnecessary and unsafe encounters with motor vehicles, bicyclist and pedestrians living in and visiting the adjoining residential properties. That conflict compromises the safety of all travelers including truck operators.

We are seeking your assistance in removing certain restrictions that limit access to properties on US278 in order to both accomplish the mobility goals of the GDOT for the movement of goods and people as well as safe travel of freight carriers on corridors intended to support these vehicles instead of local roads used by the traveling public who live and visit here. We are prepared to provide the data and information you need to loosen these access restrictions and allow strategically placed signalized intersections and curb cuts on 278, beginning with proposed access south of Oglesby and Lewis Roads. After conferring with our local Cobb County Department of Transportation, we are confident that we can develop a solution that improves the movement of freight, accommodates new mobility for freight vehicles in and around the Lewis Road and Oglesby Road intersections with US 278, with potential to reduce demands on the existing signal at Lewis Road.

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Appropriate access has been a goal the City has sought to achieve for many years beginning with the study the City conducted in 2004 and the Georgia Department of Transportation's conditional approval of the City's requests. Additionally, the SR6 Access Management Study identified as goals of the project accommodating freight movement, supporting new and existing development through transportation infrastructure, guiding access standards for future development and consulting local planning documents. The map shows the impact the limited access has on industrial and commercial developments along SR6/US278. This study was preceded by an ARC study in 2008 - "Georgia State Route 6 Transportation Corridor Study (Connect 6)" – that said that an access management plan needed to be developed for the corridor. It specifically noted the need to "Provide access improvements at Powder Springs".

The truck traffic that finds its way into our downtown and adjoining local streets (because the drivers do not observe truck routes and restricted signage) damages our infrastructure, creates travel conflicts with our property owners and compromises safety of pedestrians. Please find enclosed a photo of recent damage to our new \$4M park from a tractor trailer improperly traveling on our local roads. We need your assistance in providing the access and routes required for freight movement on SR6/US278 and to protect our local roads.

Thank you for your assistance with this critical issue. Would you be available in the next week to discuss next steps in securing these approvals?

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council

C: City Manager