



## Chairman's Corner

*Tom Worthan, Chairman  
Douglas County Board of Commissioners*



### Transportation Services Study Underway - We Need Your Input!

I recently came across some very surprising statistics. Did you know that 5% of households in Douglas County do not have a car, and that 26% of our households have only one car? In addition, there are about 8,500 County residents who have a disability that prevents them from driving. On top of that, many of our senior adults have no way of getting around, or have to depend on family and friends to take them to the doctor, pharmacy or grocery store.

When we get stuck in traffic on one of our busy roads like Chapel Hill Road or Highway 5, we tend to think that every family has three or four cars, and that everyone has a way to get where they need to go. That is just not the case. A significant percent of our population has no transportation options or is underserved when it comes to making basic "quality of life" trips. That troubles me, especially when I think of some of our seniors who have become almost prisoners in their own homes because they can't drive and don't have anyone to call on to get them where they need to go.

We are looking for solutions to solve the transportation issues that face many of our citizens. We recently initiated a Transportation Services Study that has a dual purpose. First, we will be evaluating the transportation services that we already provide – our commuter vanpools, Xpress bus service to Atlanta, and our limited Voucher Program for senior adults and disabled individuals. We want to see what we can do to make these programs better so they can serve more people.

Secondly, we want to look at new programs we can start to improve transportation options for all of our citizens. We know we can't start some giant public transportation system, but what we can look at is some type of service that operates within the boundaries of Douglas County to help someone get, for example, from Lithia Springs to Arbor Place Mall. This could mean some type of van service, bus routes or maybe a "Dial-A-Ride" program. We want our Transportation Services Study to tell us what type of program would be best for Douglas County.

Over the next several months we will be having many public meetings where you will get to tell us what you would like to see in the way of transportation services. We will be set up at locations such as the Mall, Wal-Mart and even some of the ballfields to make it convenient for you to talk to us. In addition, each District Commissioner will host a meeting for their constituents. Commissioner Robinson has already held his meeting and had a very good turnout.

You can keep up with the Study by going to a special web page - [www.dctransportationstudy.com](http://www.dctransportationstudy.com). There is an online survey on the web page that we hope you will complete. It is short and confidential and gives you the opportunity to comment on the type of services you would like to see us consider.

Please be involved in this study. We want your input. If you have questions or need more information, call our Multi-Modal Transportation Director Gary Watson at 770-920-7516 or e-mail him at [gwatson@co.douglas.ga.us](mailto:gwatson@co.douglas.ga.us).

Thanks!

**Tom**



A Project Sponsored by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners

