

## Public Meeting: Commission District 1 Meeting/Town Hall

September 28, 2015 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

### SUMMARY

As part of the public involvement component of the Douglas County Transportation Services Study (DCTSS), the consultant team is holding a series of public meetings in each of the four commission districts. The Commission District 1 Meeting/Town Hall, held on September 28, 2015, in the Alice J. Minor Hawthorne Community Center at Jessie Davis Park represented the second of four commission district meetings. The previous meeting was for Commission District 2, held in April of 2015.

The purposes of the meeting were to update citizens on study progress to date, describe potential transportation services, and gather input from community members about the need for potential future transportation services and locations to be served by the services.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, staff stationed in front of the meeting room welcomed meeting attendees and asked them to sign in and, if they wished to receive study materials and updates, provide contact information. Meeting materials such as the agenda, potential service options handout, and a brief survey about the proposed options for transportation services were provided to each attendee. Additionally, copies of the July 2015 progress report, the project survey, and general comment cards were available at the sign-in table to citizens.



*Figure 1: DCTSS project manager Jamie Cochran leads the consultant team presentation at the Commission District 1 Meeting/Town Hall*

There were 19 attendees at the meeting, in addition to project team members that included Gary Watson (the County's Project Manager), Randy Hulseley, Jamie Cochran (the Consultant Project Manager), Erin Thoresen, and Olen Daelhousen.

### *Welcome/Introductions, Remarks by Special Guests, Meeting Presentation*

Commissioner Henry Mitchell III welcomed the citizens to the meeting and introduced guests from the City of Douglasville and the project team.

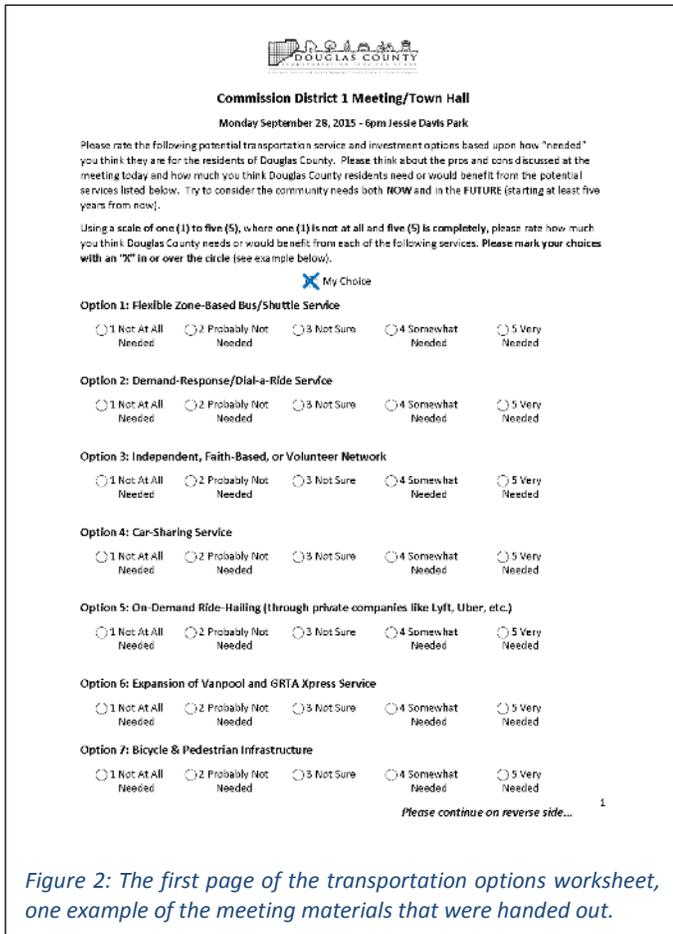
City of Douglasville councilmember LaShun Burr-Danley briefly addressed the meeting attendees. City of Douglasville Planning and Zoning Director Michelle Wright also addressed the citizens.

Jamie Cochran and Erin Thoresen gave a presentation to meeting attendees that began with an overview of the DCTSS, covered what the project team has learned so far, included an overview of potential options for improved transportation services in Douglas County, and concluded with an explanation of how the break-out sessions would work.

Meeting attendees were then divided into two break-out groups, one of which was facilitated by Jamie Cochran and the other by Erin Thoresen.

### Break-Out Sessions

The break-out sessions were designed to engage the public by gathering input on what types of transportation services are most needed in Douglas County and the priority locations for such services. To that end, two activities took place during the break-out sessions, with the first identifying needs and the second locations for service.



**Commission District 1 Meeting/Town Hall**  
Monday September 28, 2015 - 6pm Jessie Davis Park

Please rate the following potential transportation service and investment options based upon how "needed" you think they are for the residents of Douglas County. Please think about the pros and cons discussed at the meeting today and how much you think Douglas County residents need or would benefit from the potential services listed below. Try to consider the community needs both **NOW** and in the **FUTURE** (starting at least five years from now).

Using a scale of one (1) to five (5), where one (1) is not at all and five (5) is completely, please rate how much you think Douglas County needs or would benefit from each of the following services. Please mark your choices with an "X" in or over the circle (see example below).

My Choice

**Option 1: Flexible Zone-Based Bus/Shuttle Service**

1 Not At All Needed     2 Probably Not Needed     3 Not Sure     4 Somewhat Needed     5 Very Needed

**Option 2: Demand-Response/Dial-a-Ride Service**

1 Not At All Needed     2 Probably Not Needed     3 Not Sure     4 Somewhat Needed     5 Very Needed

**Option 3: Independent, Faith-Based, or Volunteer Network**

1 Not At All Needed     2 Probably Not Needed     3 Not Sure     4 Somewhat Needed     5 Very Needed

**Option 4: Car-Sharing Service**

1 Not At All Needed     2 Probably Not Needed     3 Not Sure     4 Somewhat Needed     5 Very Needed

**Option 5: On-Demand Ride-Hailing (through private companies like Lyft, Uber, etc.)**

1 Not At All Needed     2 Probably Not Needed     3 Not Sure     4 Somewhat Needed     5 Very Needed

**Option 6: Expansion of Vanpool and GRTA Xpress Service**

1 Not At All Needed     2 Probably Not Needed     3 Not Sure     4 Somewhat Needed     5 Very Needed

**Option 7: Bicycle & Pedestrian Infrastructure**

1 Not At All Needed     2 Probably Not Needed     3 Not Sure     4 Somewhat Needed     5 Very Needed

Please continue on reverse side... 1

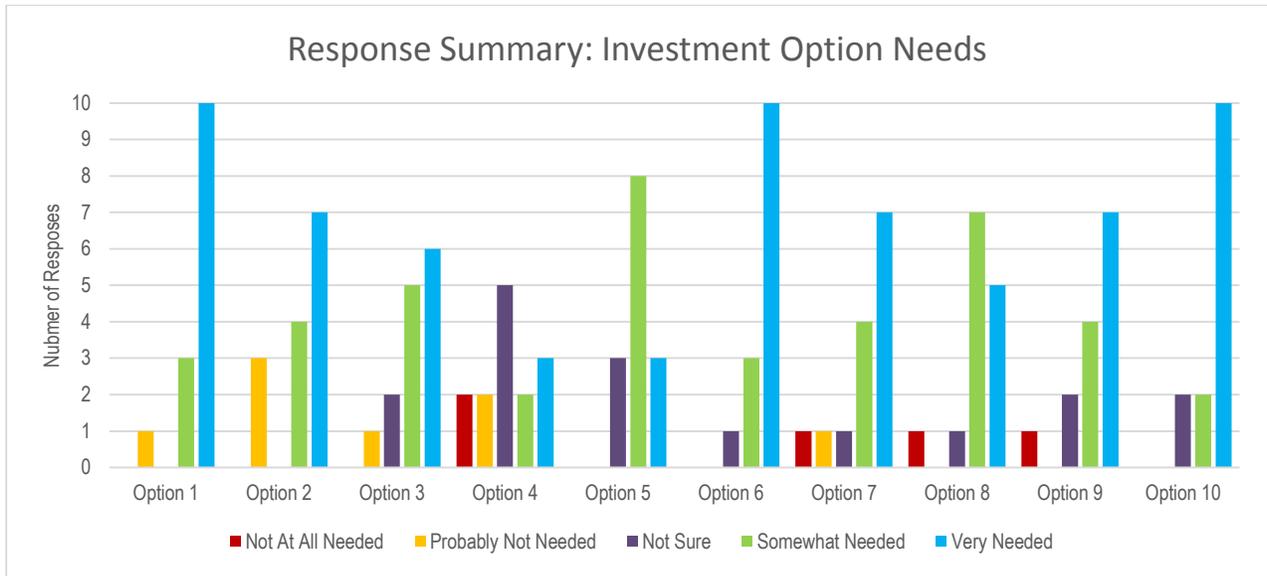
*Figure 2: The first page of the transportation options worksheet, one example of the meeting materials that were handed out.*

Each attendee was provided with a handout that described 10 options for potential transportation services. During the first activity, the groups reviewed the options and responded to each of them, with the group facilitator writing comments on a flip-chart that everyone could see and refer to. After discussing potential benefits and challenges of each option and asking questions of the project team members, each participant filled out a worksheet rating how strongly they felt each of the 10 options were needed in Douglas County. The second part of the worksheet asked attendees to identify which of the 10 options they believe are most needed now and which are most needed in the future.

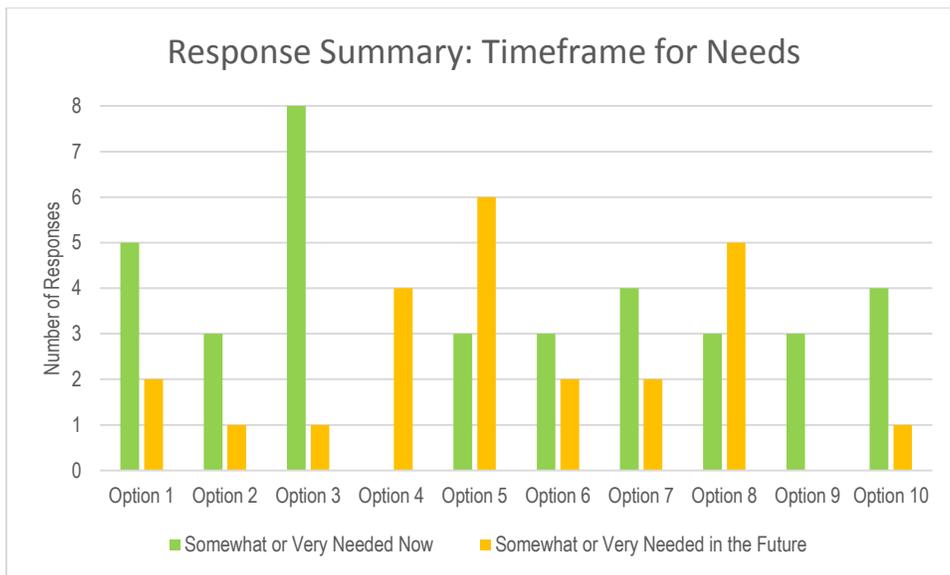
For the second activity, group members developed a list of locations where they believe people would like to be picked up and dropped off, with the group facilitator recording suggestions on a flip chart.

After the meeting, the project team compiled the results of the worksheets and they are summarized as follows. Most respondents rated the potential transportation services options as somewhat or very needed. The

options with the most responses for very needed were **Option 1: Flexible Zone-Based Bus/Shuttle Service**, **Option 6: Expansion of Vanpool and GRTA Xpress Service**, and **Option 10: Marketing and Branding**. Potential services with the most responses for somewhat needed were **Option 5: On-Demand Ride Hailing** (through private companies like Lyft, Uber, etc.), **Option 8: Multi-Modal Center and Park-and-Ride Lot Improvements**, and **Option 3: Independent, Faith-Based, or Volunteer Network**. Only a few respondents rated potential services as not at all needed. The following chart shows the number of responses for each of the ten options.



- Option 1: Flexible Zone-Based Bus/Shuttle Service
- Option 2: Demand-Response/Dial A Ride Service
- Option 3: Independent, Faith-Based, or Volunteer Network
- Option 4: Car-Sharing Service
- Option 5: On-Demand Ride-Hailing (through private companies like Lyft, Uber, etc.)
- Option 6: Expansion of Vanpool and GRTA Xpress Service
- Option 7: Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- Option 8: Multi-Modal Center and Park-and-Ride Lot Improvements
- Option 9: New Park-and-Ride Lots
- Option 10: Marketing and Branding



The above chart summarizes meeting participants responses to which potential transportation services are needed now and which are needed in the future. The following services rated as **somewhat or very needed now** are listed in descending order by number of responses:

- Option 3: Independent, Faith-Based, or Volunteer Network;
- Option 1: Flexible Zone-Based Bus/Shuttle Service; and
- Option 7: Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure and Option 10: Marketing and Branding (tie).

The top rated potential services needed **in the future** included (in descending order by number of responses):

- Option 5: On-Demand Ride Hailing (through private companies like Lyft, Uber, etc.);
- Option 8: Multi-Modal Center and Park-and-Ride Lot Improvements; and
- Option 4: Car-Sharing Service.

In addition to soliciting input through the worksheets, throughout the course of the meeting, project team staff recorded comments from attendees. The following is a summary of recurring themes in the comments made during the meeting and on the worksheets:

- North/south movement between residential areas in the north of the county to Douglasville and destinations to the south is constrained
- Highway 92 north of SR 5 is congested
- SR 5 is a pinch point
- Better connections from the north side of the county to the multi-modal center are needed
- Transportation services to connect the parks throughout the county
- Connections to shopping (e.g. discount stores, grocers) are needed
- Arbor Place Mall is a key destination
- Connections to downtown Douglasville are needed
- Medical facilities need to be connected by transportation services
- Connections to colleges are a need



*Figure 3: Consultant project manager Jamie Cochran records public comments on a flip chart during a break-out session.*

The Commission District 1 Meeting was the second Commission District meeting planned as part of the DCTSS and the team will hold the remaining two meetings in Commission Districts 3 and 4. In addition, the team will continue to solicit input from residents and Douglas County community as the project moves forward. The initial project survey is still available online through the County’s website. A second survey focused on gathering input about potential transportation service options will be available this fall. Details about these and other activities are available online: [www.dctransportationstudy.com](http://www.dctransportationstudy.com).