

COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY ^{+ Trans. Team.}

CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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May 12, 2009

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The Honorable Jack Kingston
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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CHATHAM COUNTY
MANAGER'S OFFICE
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Dear Congressman Kingston:

At the April 24, 2009 meeting, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously that Truman Linear Trail, Phase II would be rated among Chatham County's highest priorities for beginning construction during 2009. On behalf of the Board, I want to re-emphasize our support for this project and further express our need for funding the Truman Linear Trail Pedestrian Bridge.

The Board thanks you for your previous support for the Truman Trail Phase II. Your leadership, along with Congressman John Barrow, helped to secure the \$1,080,000 in SAFETEA-LU FY 2006-2007 funds. The 6.3-mile trail will link some 830 acres of existing park land as a greenway connector between Daffin Park and the Bacon Regional Park with its termination at Lake Mayer. The funding request for the pedestrian bridge will ensure continuous access and avoid the potential safety hazard of crossing DeRenne Avenue at grade with its 15,000 Average Daily Trip count of vehicles.

Chatham County is requesting \$600,000. The remaining \$400,000 needed will be matched by the County. Fhwa has approved the Truman Trail Phase II project and after fulfilling the NEPA requirements, Fhwa signed a Categorical Exclusion in July of 2004. In conformance with NEPA requirements and the Board's duty for public participation, the County sponsored a number of public meetings for comment. Key meetings include:

- April 6, 2001 County Commission meeting to approve the Truman Trail II Master Plan
- January 27, 2003 Public meeting to present preliminary plans
- March 10, 2004 Public meeting to update plans . Concept for pedestrian bridge proposed by neighborhood representatives.
- March 25, 2004 Some 57 people attended the meeting at Southside Baptist Church to review the plan at 60% completion and provide comments.
- July 21, 2008 Public meeting for project update (monthly meeting of Magnolia Park Homeowners Association).
- April 24, 2009 County Commission meeting to set Truman Trail II as high-priority transportation project

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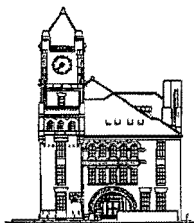
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County Attorney

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The Truman Trail Pedestrian Bridge was not part of the Categorical Exclusion and will be treated as a separate project. The trail project's construction documents are ready for bidding and will provide an estimated 60 local jobs.

Again, on behalf of the Board, I strongly support this request for funding, and I appreciate in advance any assistance you can provide Chatham County with securing this \$600,000.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Liakakis".

Pete Liakakis
Chairman

cc: Board of Commissioners
R.E. Abolt, County Manager