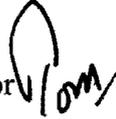




C H A T H A M C O U N T Y - S A V A N N A H
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

"Planning the Future - Respecting the Past"

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 2, 2009
TO: The Planning Commission
FROM: Thomas L. Thomson, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: MOU between City of Savannah and MPC Regarding I-16 Exit Ramp Removal Study

The I-16 exit ramp at MLK Jr. Blvd. and Montgomery Street has long been recognized as a physical, social, psychological and economic barrier to development and progress of the MLK/Montgomery Corridor.

Chatham County has allotted \$1,000,000 in SPLOST funds to study the removal of this exit ramp; however the funds will likely not be available until 2010. In order to advance this important project, City Council agreed, on July 2, 2009, to provide the MPC with \$250,000 to complete the study, with the County repaying the funds when SPLOST funds become available. On April 24, 2009, the County Commission agreed to this arrangement. The \$250,000 will be used as the local match to several federal grants. A federal grant will fund this study.

The I-16 Exit Ramp Removal Study will include transportation component, civic master plan and urban analysis, an economic and marketing analysis, and a real estate cost analysis. There will be heavy stakeholder and public involvement throughout the process.

MPC staff will serve as the project manager. Wilbur Smith Associates will have the main contract and subconsultants through them will include Sottile and Sottile, Urban Partners, Gilbert and Lattimore, among others.

This study will help advance the goals of the MLK/Montgomery Corridor Land Use Study and the Downtown Savannah Master Plan.

Staff recommends approval of the MOU.

TLT/eh

cc: Mark Wilkes, Director Transportation
Ellen Harris, Preservation Planner