

# Cobb Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update



## Stakeholder and Technical Committee Meeting-SUMMARY

February 26, 2014 5pm to 7pm  
Cobb County DOT Squad Room  
1890 County Services Parkway  
Marietta, GA 30008

### Attendees:

Walter Kiley, Cobb Galleria/Cobb Energy  
Galt Porter, District 4 Planning Commission  
Larry King, Cobb TAB  
Julia Billings, GDOT Planning  
Sally Flocks, PEDS

Ian Samson, PEDS  
Kyethea Clark, City of Marietta  
Steve Covert, GA Tea Party

Ron Sifen

Wade Carroll, Jacobs

Mandy Elliott, Cobb Com Dev  
Eric Randall, City of Smyrna  
Nadine Darby, Cobb DOT

Brantley Day, Cumberland CID  
Michael Kray, ARC  
Craig VanDevere, KSU

Jill Flamm, East Cobb Civic Association

Forrest Shealy, ATTO

Richard Crim, Dobbins ARB  
Karl Van Hagel, Cobb DOT  
Brian Bober, Connect the Comet/River Line Historic Area  
Lanie Shipp, TCACID  
Jack Kennedy, Cobb Public Health  
Jahan Saeed, KSU

### Project Team Staff

Faye DiMassimo, Cobb County DOT  
James Hudgins, ARCADIS

Eric Meyer, Cobb County DOT  
Haley Berry, ARCADIS

Marty Sewell, Cobb County DOT  
Walker Marshall, ARCADIS

## Welcome and Introductions

Tim Preece with ARCADIS opened the meeting.

## Status Update

Mr. Preece gave a quick status update on CTP tasks. The Guiding Principles have been finalized. The draft Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment is under review with County and City staff. A CCT Customer Satisfaction Survey has been completed. The project team is working on the draft project recommendations list and evaluation criteria.

## Presentation

Mr. Preece started the presentation by recapping the Guiding Principles. The Guiding Principles were developed with several inputs, including the Listening Tour, stakeholder interviews, public input, public opinion poll, and input from Stakeholder and Technical Meetings in October and December 2013. Guiding Principles are defined as generalized statements that broadly relate the physical transportation environment to values. The objectives are specific measurable statements related to the attainment of the guiding principles. Performance measures are indicators that capture each objective's fundamental outcomes.

The final Guiding Principles and objectives are:

- (1) Maximize performance of transportation system
  - a. Operate the transportation system efficiently and effectively

# Cobb Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update



- b. Give priority to investment that preserves existing infrastructure
- c. Protect and enhance transportation connections to key destinations
- d. Protect and enhance existing community character
- (2) Improve access and manage traffic congestion
  - a. Focus on improving travel times rather than reducing congestion
  - b. Provide increased travel choices (routes and modes of travel)
  - c. Focus on key travel patterns
- (3) Achieve traveler safety and security
  - a. Reduce number and/or severity of crashes
  - b. Balance safety considerations across all users (see Complete Street principles)
- (4) Drive economic competitiveness
  - a. Enhance and serve redevelopment areas
  - b. Complement growth sectors and areas (see EDGE Core Clusters)
- (5) Lead with Cost-Effective Solutions
  - a. Seek partnerships
  - b. Seek innovative solutions
  - c. Apply value-engineering principles as appropriate
  - d. Select actions which reduce life-cycle costs, not just capital costs
  - e. Select strategies which allow future flexibility

Mr. Preece noted that the existing conditions and needs assessment report looked at several factors, including growth trends, land use, bicycle and pedestrian conditions and needs, economic conditions, transit conditions and needs, travel patterns, freight conditions and needs, funding, and vehicular conditions and needs. The report will be posted to the project website when it is completed.

Mr. Preece then turned the discussion to previous SPLOST programs. Over the years, funding categories and the funding level within each category has varied over the years in order to meet the transportation needs of the county.

Mr. Preece discussed the short term improvements recommendations that the team has been working on. The short term improvements are projects to be completed in the first six years of the plan. Potential projects are identified through citizen and staff input, previous plans and studies, and analysis by the project team (congestion, safety, and high volume locations). Potential projects will be selected and prioritized by comparison with the guiding principles, deliverability within the timeframe for short term projects, and funding availability.

Next steps include evaluating the short term project recommendations, assessing deliverability and funding availability for short term projects, finalizing the short term project recommendations/TIP, and continuing public outreach and engagement. The next meeting for the Stakeholder and Technical Committees will be planned for late spring 2014.

Mr. Preece then introduced the exercise for the meeting. Committee members were asked to review maps of the short term recommendations and provide feedback on priorities and identify projects that they thought were missing from the map.

## Discussion

Below is a summary of the discussion and comments received during the presentation:

- Resurfacing has grown in the SPLOST (in terms of funding) to 37% of the SPLOST funding in 2001- is that temporary or is it likely to continue?
- It is nice to see that funding for sidewalks has been a large piece of the SPLOST funding pie over time.

# Cobb Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update



- Will you determine the breakdown in the TIP list between local, state, and federal funding? Can one assume that both city and county will be considered local?
  - *Yes, both city and county are considered local funding sources. The project list will be broken down to identify local and non-local funding.*
- South Cobb Transit Study was completed this week and included good, cost effective transit recommendations that need to be considered in the short term.
- Can one assume that anything related to the Braves Stadium will be considered in the short term?
  - *Important to note that if a project already has identified funding (as many of the projects associated with the Braves stadium do) then it is not included on the list.*
- Is the BRT project long term or short term?
  - *Proposed as part of the short term.*
- The Chairman mentioned new SPLOST possibly this year- how does this effort play into that?
  - *The hope is that projects identified in the TIP will be considered for SPLOST, but there will be some differences.*
- Will there be a discussion of how effective project are (metrics)? Please show staff evaluation of short term projects?
- For quantitative bicycle ridership metrics- look at Tucson, Arizona. Also look at Silver Comet Study for ridership numbers.
- How do you decide where to put the sidewalks?
  - *It is currently policy driven.*
  - *Have a backlog of over 1000 sidewalk projects.*
- What is the timeframe for the short term projects?
  - *Six year program. Deliverability within 8 years.*
- Will you be constraining the list fiscally?
  - *Yes*
- How will this relate to the regional process?
  - *Will be looking at both local and federal funding*

## Activity Results:

What are you highest short term priority projects:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot spot locations on map, university etc.</li> <li>• Factory Shoals Industrial Standards and I-20 interchange</li> <li>• Burnt Hickory Trail</li> <li>• 10X Route</li> <li>• New South Cobb Transit Study – implement flex route and improvements to routes 20, 25, and 30</li> <li>• Excited to see Burnt Hickory, east of Barrett, Stilesboro east of Barrett, Old Mountain Road between Stilesboro and Burnt Hickory – these will be heavily used.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More bike lanes around Kennesaw State</li> <li>• Rottenwood Creek Trail- Phase 2 (Alumni Drive (SPSU) to Cobb Parkway)</li> <li>• Burnt Hickory bike shoulder- between Barrett and Dallas Highway/Whitlock</li> <li>• Grade separate US 41 and Windy Hill</li> <li>• Safe crossings at transit stops, sidewalks along transit routes, median islands</li> <li>• HAWK crossings on S. Cobb Drive, Windy Hill to Concord, Concord to E/W Connector, near 285, and Emory Medical Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Gorgon and Mableton Parkway intersection operation</li> <li>• Rottenwood Creek Trail Phase 3- Cobb Parkway to Terrell Mill</li> <li>• Franklin Road and Cobb Parkway Connection/University N. Connection</li> <li>• Grade separate US 41 and Barrett Parkway</li> <li>• Sidewalks on arterials where there is a large presence of seniors</li> <li>• Create a process for prioritizing crossing improvements. Consider both pedestrian generators (schools, transit) and deficiencies (road width, ADT, and speed)</li> </ul> |
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# Cobb Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update



What projects would you like to see?

- Pedestrian (improvement) down lower Roswell past Woodlawn to Mt. Bethel Church/Christian School
- S. Barrett reliever good idea- expedite
- Evaluate main roads that are/are not bike safe (ie 4' shoulder or lane)
- Have operational evaluation of bike routes and trails
- Increase lighting around Frey and Ben Kin Road
- Rottenwood Creek Trail
- 4<sup>th</sup> crosswalk at all existing lights down Johnson Ferry Road
- Evaluate powerline easements as bike routes
- Measure bike ridership to schools
- Remove bike hazards in road design. Example: raised barriers, and rumble strips on shoulder. Example of hazard: Stilesboro and Pine Mountain, Kennesaw Due West south of Stilesboro
- Turning lanes from Frey Road to Busbee
- Burnt Hickory Trail
- Frequent, safe crosswalks along al existing and future transit routes
- Create countywide bike commuter routes
- Windy Hill at Cobb Parkway- if alternatives to grade separate possible and grade sterilizes area, breaks up urban character
- 10X Route
- Light timeliness from Frey Road to Chastain.

Note: Mr. Porter left a list of desired project recommendations from his conversations with the public- see attached.

Note: Attached with the summary are comment cards received from PEDS expressing support for an enhanced pedestrian connection between the Cumberland Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall.

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

## Follow-up

- The evaluation process will be emailed to the Stakeholder and Technical Committees once it has been finalized
- The draft list of short term improvement recommendations will be emailed to the Stakeholder and Technical Committees
- The next meeting will be scheduled for late spring 2014
- Committee members are encouraged to contact Haley Berry with any questions or comments



## **Shared at Previous Meeting**

- Six Flags- transit improvement (trams or BRT stop with connection to Holmes station)
- Trails connection along the Chattahoochee River with connection to the Beltline
- Right turn lane at S. Gorgon at Mableton Parkway
- Freeway Access at Factory Shoals
- Expand Factory Shoals to Industrial Park/Quality Road
- Add median to Six Flags Drive
- Six Flags Transit (this items refers to transit within the area, such as providing bus service to the industrial park south of I-20)
- Right turn lane Floyd Road at Veterans Memorial – grid lock
- Thornton Road- transit improvement ( to Powder Springs / Austell)

## **New items Proposed at 2/26/2014 meeting**

1. Intersection Improvement at Riverside Parkway / Riverside Parkway / Six Flags Road. Realign intersection to make Riverside Parkway continuous (currently you must make a 90 degree turn to stay on Riverside Parkway).
2. Road improvement to Bob White Road to make it a three lane industrial quality road.
3. Intersection improvement at Blair Bridge Road and North Bridge Road to make a continuous turn and eliminate the stop signs for those traveling on the road.
4. Trail extending from the Silver Comet Trail Extension (the one being constructed on Floyd Road) down Veterans Memorial Highway towards the Chattahoochee River to connect via bicycle the two main areas of Mableton.
5. Entrance Improvements off of I-20 to make this a more friendly area for residents, businesses, and tourists.
6. The Chattahoochee trails connection needs to include the proposed Nickajack Greenway currently on the DOT maps.
7. Oakdale/VM/Discovery intersection - more lanes needed southbound into the intersection on Oakdale
8. Buckner Road and VM - traffic light needed

9. Floyd Road/EW Connector intersection needs more left turn from northbound Floyd onto EW Connector.
10. Sidewalks and bike lanes are needed along VM/MP and the EW Connector
11. Six Flags Parkway between Lee Industrial and Lee Industrial (yes, it crosses twice) need to be upgraded to handle the 18 wheel traffic for which the area is zoned and planned.
12. Intersection improvement on Austell Road at South Cobb Drive. Provide longer turn lanes and a separate lane for traffic going straight.
13. Brookwood RR crossing near Veterans Memorial – this works in concert with the RR crossings proposed as part of the Mableton Town Center to reduce choke points of RR crossings.
14. Mableton Town Center Improvements - The entire street grid envisioned in the Mableton Master Plan  
[http://portal.cobbcountyga.gov/images/comm\\_dev/planning/MasterPlan8.5x11.jpg](http://portal.cobbcountyga.gov/images/comm_dev/planning/MasterPlan8.5x11.jpg).  
The following elements have been identified as higher priority items:
  - Mableton Town Green (this should be a priority in the CTP so it can be funded)
  - RR Crossings of the tracks running parallel to Veterans Memorial as the limited crossings create choke points for traffic. The following were identified: a) Lyons Club Park area crossing from VM to Fontaine Road; b) Daniel Street connection with street from VM to Clay Road. Once this crossing is built, the at grade crossing at Church Street could be eliminated.
  - Walker Street Extension
  - Front Street improvement to Daniel
  - Greenway Paths



J

**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus #

50

Sincerely,

*David Alder*



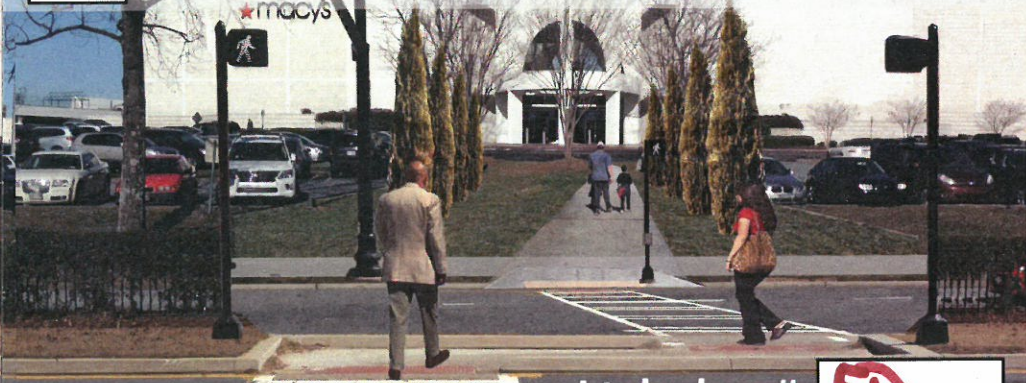
SAFE ROUTES TO TRANSIT

I

**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus #

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Sincerely,

*Matthew Peir*



SAFE ROUTES TO TRANSIT



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's

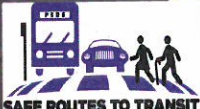


I take bus #

50

Sincerely,

*Patrick Woodard*



SAFE ROUTES TO TRANSIT



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus #

10

Sincerely,

*Don Wright*



SAFE ROUTES TO TRANSIT



 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!





I take bus # **10**

Sincerely,  
*Duyana*

 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!





I take bus # **12**

Sincerely,  
*Jessie*

 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!





I take bus # **10**

Sincerely,  
*Patricia*

 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!





I take bus # **10**

Sincerely,  
*Patricia*

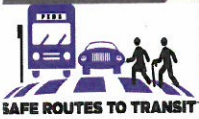


**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

macy's



I take bus # **Gloria**  
Sincerely,



**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

macy's



I take bus # **50**  
Sincerely, *Gary*

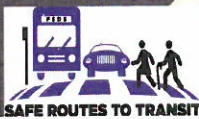


**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

macy's



I take bus # **N, 50**  
Sincerely, *Shirley*



**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

macy's



I take bus # **10**  
Sincerely, *B. Perkins*







**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus # **10**

Sincerely,



**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus # **50**

Sincerely,

*Joy Alexander*



**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

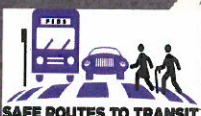
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I take bus # **10**

Sincerely,

*William Cole*



**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus #

Sincerely,

*Wes Howard*





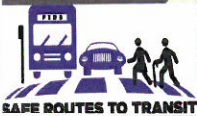
**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus # **20**

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*



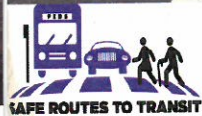
**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus # **20**

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*



**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus # **10**

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*



**YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!




I take bus # **10**

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*






 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!





I take bus # **50**

Sincerely, *TR*


 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!





I take bus # **10**

Sincerely, *JMA*


 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



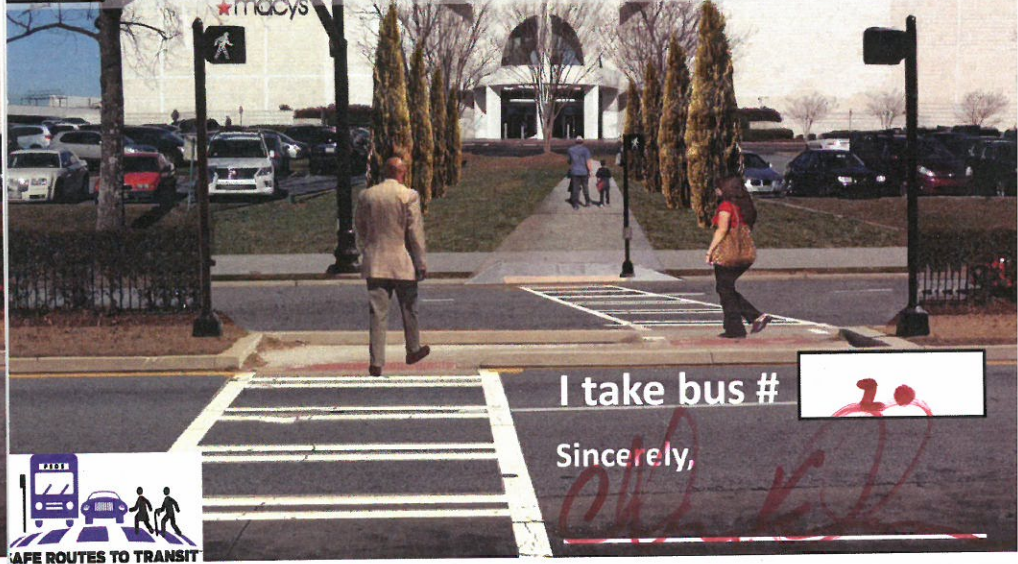


I take bus # **10A**

Sincerely, *BA*

 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

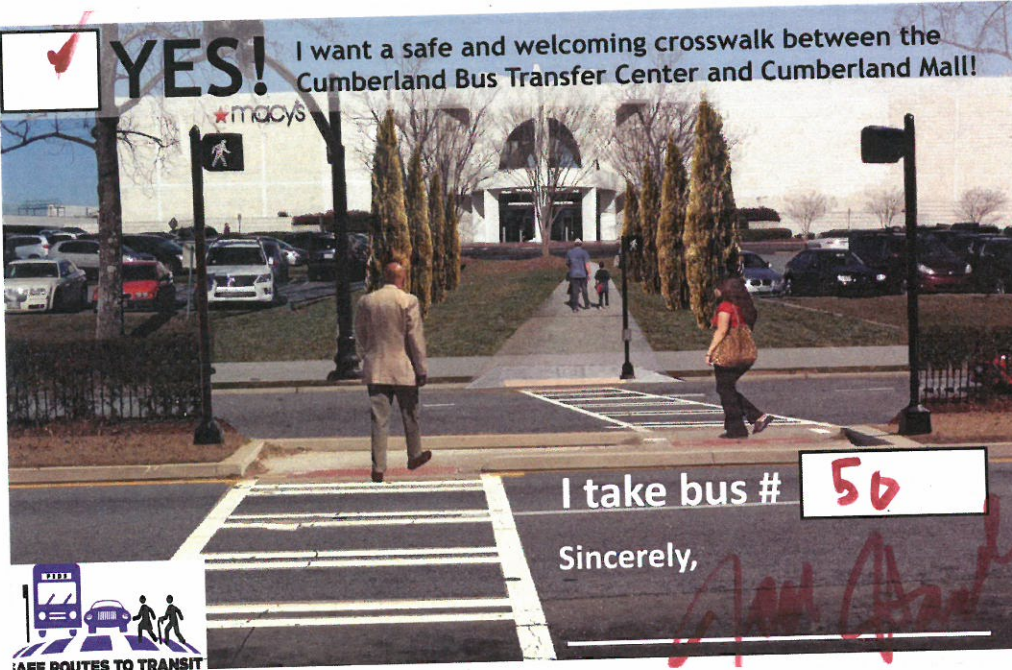
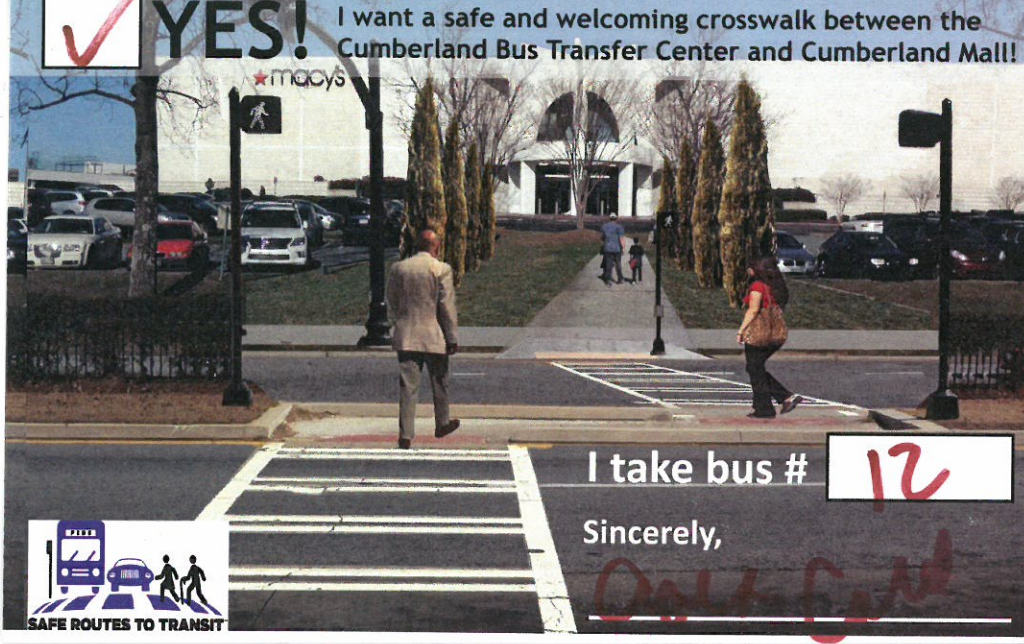




I take bus # **20**

Sincerely, *AK*



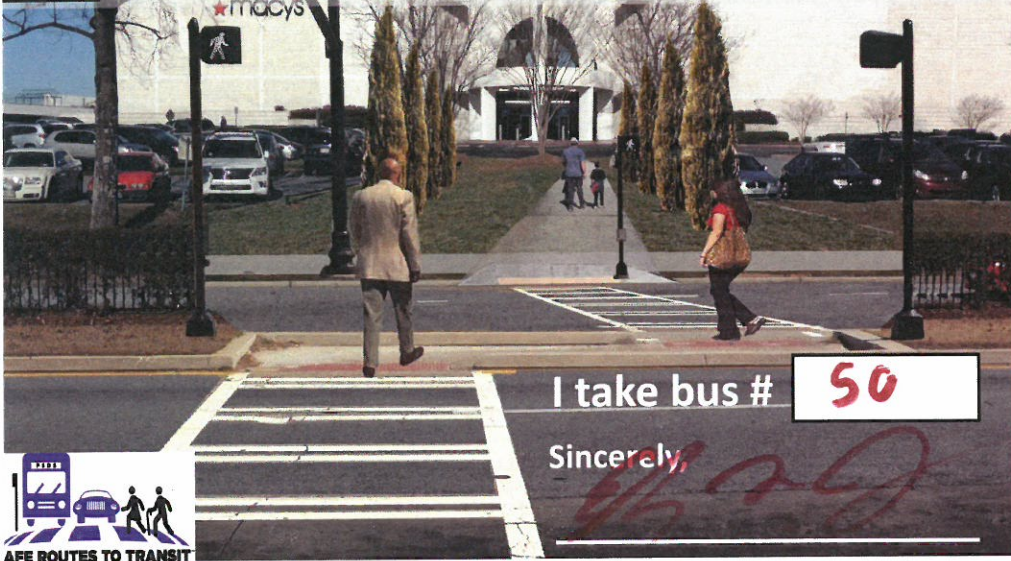






**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



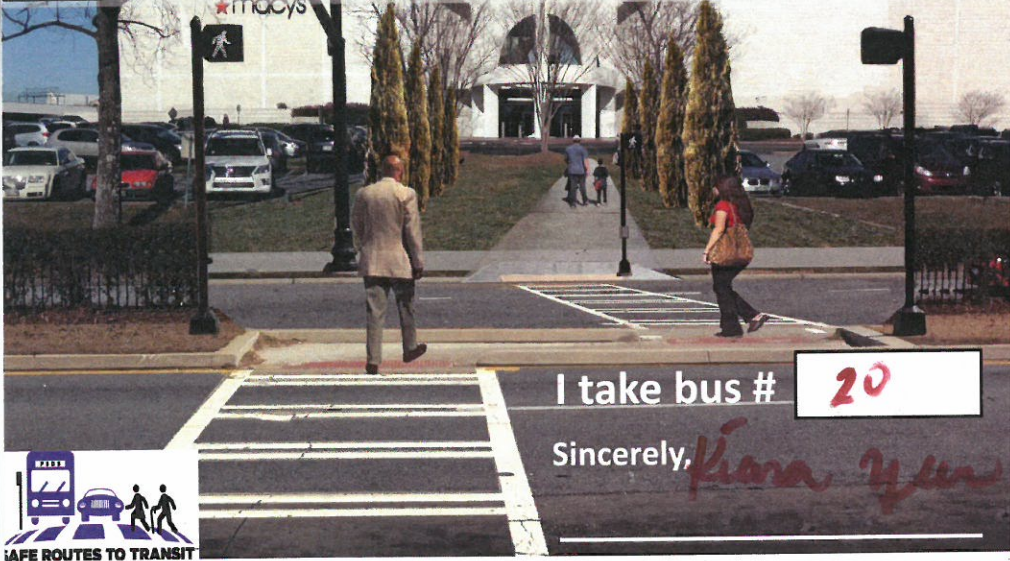
I take bus # **50**

Sincerely, *[Signature]*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus # **20**

Sincerely, *[Signature]*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus # **10**

Sincerely, *[Signature]*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus # **12**

Sincerely, *[Signature]*











**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus # **10, 12**

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

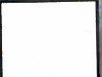
★macy's



I take bus # **12**

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus # **[Blank]**

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!

★macy's



I take bus # **10/50**

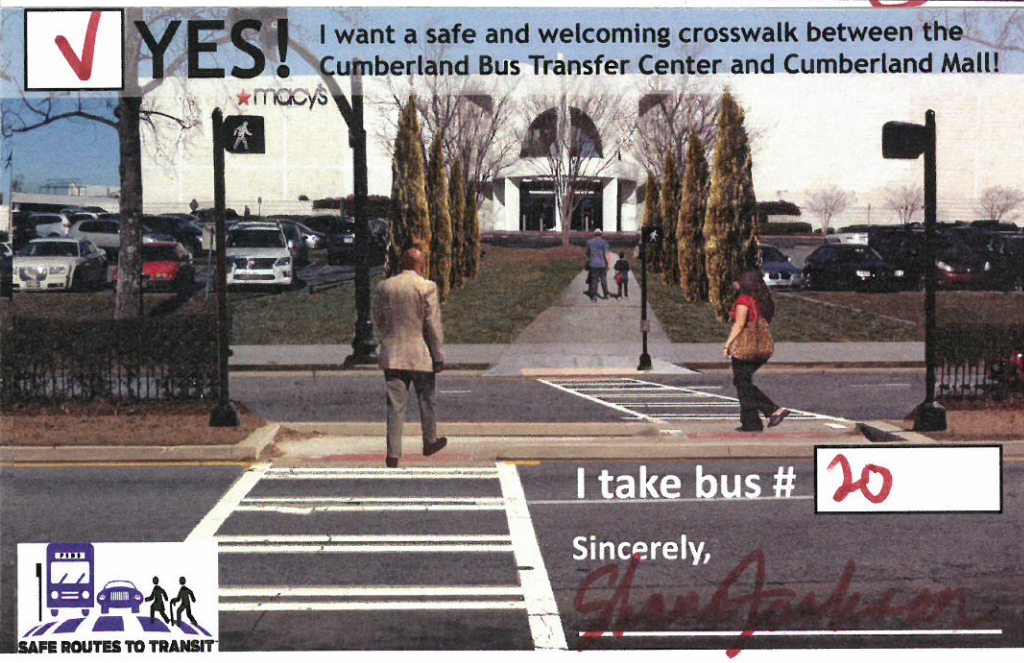
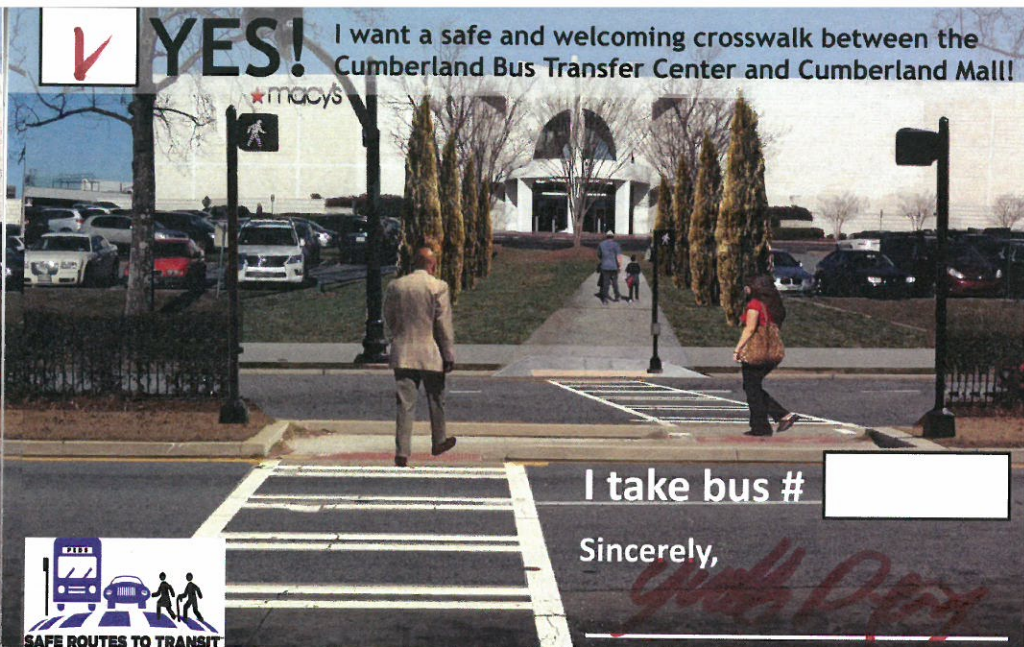
Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*













 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!




I take bus # **14A**  
Sincerely,

 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!




I take bus # **10 Art Center**  
Sincerely,  
*Oliver White*


 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus # **20**  
Sincerely,  
*Mayme Sparks*

 **YES!** I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus #   
Sincerely,  
*Wendy Cost*





**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus #

20

Sincerely,

*Carry Taylor*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus #

50

Sincerely,

*Jucky*



**YES!**

I want a safe and welcoming crosswalk between the Cumberland Bus Transfer Center and Cumberland Mall!



I take bus #

10

Sincerely,

*[Red scribbles]*