



Felicia Franklin
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Board of Commissioners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Partnering collaboratively with local government and non-profit officials, Clayton County receives Atlanta Regional Commission Grant to improve pedestrian walkways

Tara Gateway Study slated to include pedestrian safety recommendations along the corridor, improving access to existing and planned bus routes funded with \$400,000 grant.

(JONESBORO, GA) – The Atlanta Regional Commission recently awarded Clayton County, which includes both Jonesboro and Lovejoy, a \$400,000 Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Grant to fund and support the development of pedestrian friendly walkways alongside Tara Boulevard and Upper Riverdale Road - roadways which have been determined to be part of the Top 10 most fatal roadways in Georgia.

Created as a way to reduce vehicle miles traveled and improve air quality, the Atlanta Regional Commission's LCI grant incentivizes local jurisdictions to re-envision their communities as vibrant, walkable places that offer increased mobility options, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and providing improved access to jobs and services.

Since 2000, the LCI program has invested \$312 million in more than 120 communities throughout the Atlanta region, helping fund planning studies and the construction of transportation projects such as sidewalks and intersection improvements, to bring those visions to life. The Atlanta Regional Commission board has allocated \$600 million through 2050 for transportation projects resulting from completed LCI studies.

“So many families have been shattered at the cause of dangerous roadways without adequate safety measures in place to keep pedestrians safe,” said Felicia Franklin, Clayton County Board of Commissioners. “With these grant funds from The Atlanta Regional Commission and its Livable Centers Initiative, Clayton County is one step closer to safer more pedestrian friendly communities that encourage outside activities - safely.”

During 2021, Commissioner Franklin hosted a vigil to bring awareness to traffic fatalities at the cause of Clayton County roadways – at that time, 25 individuals, 11 of them pedestrians.

Collaborative efforts and partnerships formed and launched with Shannon James, president and CEO of Aerotropolis, Ricky Clark, city manager for the City of Jonesboro, and Marci Fluellyn, councilwoman for





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the City of Lovejoy – advocating for continuous sidewalks, better lighting, cross walks, pedestrian bridges, and cameras.

“We’re greatly appreciative for the collaborative effort of our entire community in seeking and securing this grant to improve our roadways,” said Commissioner Franklin. “Thank you to the Atlanta Regional Commission and its’ Livable Centers Initiative for providing funds that help to propel pedestrian safety efforts in Clayton County forward. It’s our goal to continue to connect and collaborate with community partners and leaders, further expanding our visions and plans for safe roadways for pedestrians and their families.”

Funds will support the Tara Gateway Study, examining three land use locations along Tara Boulevard, Upper Riverdale Road, and both Jonesboro and Lovejoy. The study is slated to include pedestrian safety recommendations along the corridor which will improve access to existing and planned bus routes.

“The collaboration in this project shows our residents the amazing energy and ingenuity of their leaders whose goal is to represent them in excellence,” said Marci Fluellyn, councilwoman for the City of Lovejoy. “Coming together to do what needs to be done for a job well done. The result of this project will be something residents can not only be proud to have in their community for years to come, but they can also look forward to the improved quality of life it will bring.”

For more information about the LCI initiative, visit www.atlantaregional.org.

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About Commissioner Felicia Franklin

Felicia Franklin serves as District 3 Commissioner of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners. Actively engaged, Commissioner Franklin serves as the vice-chairwoman of the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority, representing District 10, vice-chairwoman of the International Economic Development Task Force, vice-chairwoman of the Transit/Rail Subcommittee on the Transportation Steering Committee, and holds the distinction of Certified Commissioner by the University of Georgia Carl Vinson institute and ACCG Policy Committee. She is a graduate of the University of Miami’s renowned School of Business, specializing in both real estate and insurance.

