



**Downtown Development Authority
of Augusta, Georgia**

**Director's Report
February 2016**

Active ED Projects

905 Broad Street
1162 Broad Street
912 Ellis Street

Loan approved April 16th/\$250,000 (extension until April 2016)
Loan in Underwriting at GCF/\$250,000
Loan closed Oct. 29th/\$250,000

Other

Met with three interested property owners for GCF Loans. Total of approximately 30,000 SF and \$650,000 in loan requests. Letters of Intent forthcoming.
Boots Factory Ribbon Cutting on January 13, 2016. 85% leased.
Working with Fruitland Vodka for rental space downtown.
Showing available sites to prospective Brewery.

Pilot SPLOST Project

Springfield Park application approved by Board.
Old Town Wayfinding Signage Project completed.
Art the Box: Electrical Signal Art Project: Project completed

SPLOST VI Project/Riverwalk

MOU has been executed and received.
Meeting held January 13th with Cooper Carry, Parks & Rec., Canal Authority and Administrator's office to coordinate efforts.
Cooper Carry will finalize plan and complete budgets.
Next Step: ARC Commission Approval, Design Work, & Procurement Process.
SPLOST Reimbursement has been submitted to Finance Department.

Downtown Programs

Retail Strategy

Working with two local developers on mixed-use projects.
Jimmy John's will be in town next week to look at sites.
IHOP has expressed interest and possible sites are in the works.
In communication with Barberito's and locating possible sites as well as a visit.
Newk's is interested in Augusta and will follow-up in February.

Working very closely with a Brewery who wants to make a site selection by Spring 2016.
Working with Kroger and Wal-Mart Neighborhood stores.
Assisting with Discovery Plaza, Woolworth, and Paine College (old Wife Saver property on 15th).
Adding Laney-Walker Corridor to the strategy and in the process of completing a building inventory and possible sites.
RS has hired Tetrad for Demographic Reports. Tetrad works for retailers such as Costco and J. Crew.
Reports are much more detailed and sophisticated. Updated and in portal for distribution.
RS working on a strategy for property owners who have not bought in to the retail vision for downtown.
Focus will remain on regional restaurants and retail brands.
Working closely with Affordables Apparel who will have a pop-up store March 4-5th at 600 Broad.
Site visit 2/12/16.
Wade Robinette will be in Augusta March 10th.
Next Steps: Update Available Properties Inventory

Grant Projects

James Brown Blvd. Phase 1

Project is 95% completed with minor brick work and pre-punch list items to be completed.
Final Walk-Thru will then be scheduled and misc. outstanding items completed for approval by GDOT.
Contract extended until December 2016/approved by Commission/Commissioner Fennoy
Ribbon Cutting event will be scheduled at project completion

James Brown Blvd. Phase 2

Meeting with Marshal Stroup 2/10/16 to discuss project overview and next steps.
Letter of Intent has been received.
Paper work has been submitted to City to create a purchase order.
Detailed Project Schedule forthcoming (2016 Design, 2017 Right-of Way, 2018 Field Construction).
LAP and PDP training March 29th-30th in Atlanta and April 19-20th in Macon.
Project Budget \$589,500
Draft RFQ for Design work completed. Next Step: To Procurement for Qualification process.

Parking

Recommended parking management strategy included in Downtown Mobility Concept Plan.
Small sub-committee has met to work on smaller solutions such as the ordinance and off-street parking.
Trip to Savannah/Residential, Employee and Mobility components of overall strategy.

Website

Website design underway/City will host our site.
ED video completed.
Retail Strategies is working on retail component for new site.

Jones Street Alley

MOU has been executed and received.

Working with Steve Cassell to schedule a design meeting with Cranston and key City employees.
DDA will oversee design of the project which includes new paving, a loading zone, dumpster farm.
A revised parking lay-out will provide 25 additional spaces.
Project scope is Macartan to James Brown. Alley will become one-way to vehicular traffic.
Design Budget: \$28,967.50
Letter of Intent to Proceed has been signed.
Next Steps: Preliminary Design and approval by Commission.

Office Inventory

Underway to determine existing condition and future needs in the core.
Information gathering 75 percent completed.
State of Office Space Webinar-research determining current state and future trends.

Laney-Walker Corridor

Working with HED on a retail strategy and other development opportunities.
Project includes available properties and sites inventory.
Meeting with Wade Robinette March 10th.

Other:

Working with city ED Committee on James Brown Statue and other initiatives.
DAP Meeting will be scheduled once appointees are recommended and approved.
2015 Audit underway.
Available Properties Inventory Update underway.
2015 Statistics Report for DCA underway.
2016 DDA Operating Budget competed for Board Approval.
Red Carpet Meeting 2/3/16
Unisys Ribbon Cutting 2/1/16
ARC Board Meeting 2/5/16
Chamber Board Meeting 1/26/16
Savannah Trip 1/22/16
Trip to Columbia