

**Director's Report
March 2015**

Active ED Projects

905 Broad Street	Revised loan application in underwriting at GFC
334 Greene Street	Loan closing held January 29 with ribbon cutting
1022 Broad Street	Loan approved by DDA/In underwriting at GCF
1033 Broad Street	Loan approved by DDA/In underwriting at GCF
1162 Broad Street	Loan approved by DDA/Loan submitted to GCF

Loans in the pipeline

Boots Factory	912 Ellis Street/20 apartments/\$250,000
DUO Salon	923 Broad Street

Other

Green Loan Funds has been converted to a Rebate Program/Working with Weed Elementary
Continued interest and site activity for the proposed hotel site/Investor in town for site visit February 25
Working with Retail Strategies on site visits/Bloc Global in town March 19
Woolworth Building purchased/TR Ready/in conversations with Retail Strategies
1022 Broad Street/Sweet Sticks/Skateboard shop opening soon
Ashton Brooke Ltd. at 12 9th Street has opened
Kawa Japanese Restaurant has opened at 1135 Broad Street
Etched Memory at 1124 Broad Street
J Interiors has opened at 752 Broad Street
Eric Kinlaw is opening a second restaurant, The Hive, on 10th Street (Former Rooster's Beak)
1002 Broad has been leased, new restaurant to open after Masters
Working with Davis Beman on Lamar Building/Property package completed/ NY Developer visit rescheduled for early April
Discovery Plaza/we (with Retail Strategies) are working with Dennis Trotter on Retail portion of the project

Pilot SPLOST Project

Springfield Park application approved by Board
Olde Town Wayfinding Signage Project completed
Art the Box: Electrical Signal Art Project: 3 Committee Meetings have been held. Commission approved \$17,000 in additional funds for the project. Nine of the boxes will be downtown. Press release issued this week, call for artists underway, jury selection April 24; project completion May 29

SPLOST VI Project/Riverwalk

RFP draft completed
Committee meeting held March 11
\$600,000 in SPLOST 6 Funds is available/Request for funding underway
Committee meeting held July 17 at 2 p.m./RFP draft approved

RFP has been forwarded to procurement for Spring release

Downtown Programs

Retail Strategy

Retail Strategies made contact with Which Wich and Dunkin Donuts in 2014. The market was approved by the franchisee and corporate at both companies. Retail Strategies shared several sites to the real estate directors to identify the best positioning. A final site was chosen and a local brokerage group (Jordan-Trotter) is putting together the 3400 SF development at 1640 Walton Way. Both businesses are expected to be operational by late June with 45 employees.

Market Analysis has been updated for 2014 and ready for DDA Website

Private sponsorships raised to-date in the amount of \$31,000

Tour of Downtown Augusta for Investors is underway

Working with Discovery Plaza on retail element

Developed relationships with local brokerage community

In conversations with key property owners and stakeholders

Scheduling meetings on behalf of Downtown Augusta for ICSC Conference in Las Vegas in May

Other

Vacant Building Inventory updated

Housing Inventory for Broad Street Corridor completed

Downtown Activity Report for 2014 will be completed in April

Partnering with ARC on available office space and private investment stats

Retail Update given to Augusta-Richmond County Commission on January 26

Grant Projects

James Brown Blvd. Phase 1

Three Team Meetings have been held since the groundbreaking in November

Construction 40 percent completed with an anticipated completion date of June 9, 2015

All submittal to city have been approved

Working with City on tree issues for the project (removal and replacement)

James Brown Blvd. Phase 2

Awaiting PI Number

James Brown Blvd. Phase 3

Awarded TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant for Phase 3 for new improvements from Twiggs Circle to Laney Walker Blvd.

GDOT to program funds into STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program)

Awaiting contract from GDOT

GRU DAY

Resumed in February

Planning for April underway

Parking

Concerns and comments from community forums were taken back to Commission January 12

Other

Audit Underway

2015 Operating Budget Completed

Decade in Review Power Point Presentation is completed and ready to present to Commission

Following SB 63 closely (new business)

Board Retreat held in February

Next Steps: Develop a Fundraising Strategy and Complete Incentives for Retail and Small Business Development (by committee)