



**Downtown Development Authority
of Augusta, Georgia**

**Director's Report
May 2015**

Active ED Projects

905 Broad Street	Loan approved April 16 th in the amount of \$250,000
334 Greene Street	Loan closing held January 29 th with ribbon cutting
1022 Broad Street	Loan closed May 6 th in the amount of \$185,000
1033 Broad Street	Loan in Underwriting at GCF
1162 Broad Street	Loan in Underwriting at GCF

Loan(s) for Approval

Boots Factory	Completed for Approval by DDA/New Business
---------------	--

Other

Green Loan Funds has been converted to a Rebate Program/Working with Weed Elementary
Woolworth Building purchased/TR Ready/In conversations with Retail Strategies
1022 Broad Street/Sweet Sticks/Opened April 3rd
The Hive, on 10th Street (Former Rooster's Beak), opened May 8th
1002 Broad has been leased/New restaurant to open summer 2015
Discovery Plaza/DDA and Retail Strategies are working with Dennis Trotter on retail portion of the project
Canal Side Grand Opening is scheduled for June

Pilot SPLOST Project

Springfield Park application approved by Board
Olde Town Wayfinding Signage Project completed
Art the Box: Electrical Signal Art Project:
Jury Selection held April 24th with a project completion of May 29th and Unveiling Ceremony First Friday in June

SPLOST VI Project/Riverwalk

Contract received from Cooper Cary for review and approval

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 \$36,000

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

Raising \$8,500 from private partners for Housing Demand Feasibility Report

Vacant Building Inventory updated

Housing Inventory for Broad Street Corridor completed

Downtown Historic Property Values Comparison completed

Downtown Activity Report for 2014 completed

Partnering with ARC on available office space and private investment stats

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

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 late June

All submittals 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

Completed for 2015

Parking

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

Working with City Administrators Office on next steps

Scope included in Downtown Concept Plan

Other

Audit Completed

2015 Operating Budget Completed

Decade in Review Power Point Presentation completed

Board Retreat held in February

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

SB 63 (Beers Job Bill) passed

HB 308 (Historic Tax Credits Bill) passed

ARC Ribbon Cutting for 600 Broad April 3rd

Working with City Administrators office on solutions for Downtown Cleanliness