

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

City Kicks off New Zoning Ordinance Project for Downtown

The City of McDonough is beginning the process of writing a new zoning ordinance for its Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. The new ordinance will be aimed at maximizing McDonough's opportunities to attract mixed-use and quality in-fill development; improve connections to recreational amenities near the Town Square; and enhance street and sidewalk appearance, safety and connectivity.

The first step in the process actually began in June of this year with a series of "Visioning Workshops" led by Atlanta Regional Commission staff. The next step will be to conduct the last of the Visioning Workshops from December 5-7. That workshop will include a public presentation the evening of December 6 during which ARC will hand the process off to City staff and the consulting team hired by the City to assist them.

The City staff expects writing the new ordinance to take about four months and conclude in late March or early April, 2012. The process will be guided by a steering committee made up of a cross-section of business, civic and neighborhood representatives. As part of developing the ordinance, planners will also be conducting "focus groups" with a variety of stakeholders and holding several public information and input open houses. The City plans to announce the dates for those events at the December 6 presentation.

The Atlanta Regional Commission awarded the City of McDonough a matching grant for the work through its Livable Communities Initiative (LCI). The City has hired an interdisciplinary team led by the Lawrence Group to assist them in drafting the ordinance. The ordinance is the latest in the City's efforts to implement its LCI Plan, which it put together in 2004.

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