



September 6, 2022

Commissioner Jeff Rader
Board of Commissioners
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030
jrader@dekalbcountyga.gov

Re: "Paths to Economic Development" White Paper

Dear Commissioner Rader:

Three Points Planning is pleased to submit this proposal to DeKalb County and the Path Foundation to conduct a research project on the economic opportunities associated with multi-use/bicycle/pedestrian paths. As local governments grapple with creating "connected" communities to improve quality of life, they look for synergies throughout the built, natural, social, and economic environments. Originally designed for recreation and transportation, multi-use/bicycle/pedestrian paths have impacted much more than their original intended uses. This research project, as outlined below, will examine previous studies and best practices for trail oriented development impacts which may inform DeKalb County and the Path Foundation's future trail initiatives.

Project Team:

Lynn Patterson, PhD, Principal Investigator
Nancey Green Leigh, PhD, FAICP, Project Advisor
Aaron Beattie, Research Intern

Research Scope:

Over the past decade, research has identified a positive relationship between bicycle/pedestrian paths and economic development. A number of benefits can accrue from this relationship which can include, but are not limited to: increased property values, new investment, employment, wages, resident health, housing opportunities, reduced transportation costs, transit routes, and greenhouse gas reductions.

The proposed research project will provide a literature review of relevant studies examining the relationship between bike/ped infrastructure and resultant economic development opportunities. It will include best practice examples from across the United States and Europe, illustrating the use of bike/ped projects and their economic development outcomes. Discussion of the metrics used to measure infrastructure impacts will be included.

The research findings are intended to provide evidence and insight to the County to support future investment for design, acquisition of land, and construction of bike/ped paths across the County which may stimulate much needed development.



Schedule of Work:

- **September 20, 2022**

Kick off meeting with DeKalb County and the Path Foundation

- **November 1, 2022**

Draft of the literature review and best practices to the County and the Path Foundation

- **November 15, 2022**

Feedback from DeKalb County and the Path Foundation on draft white paper

- **December 23, 2022**

Final White Paper and Presentation to the County

Project Deliverables:

- Draft White Paper
- Final White Paper
- Power Point Presentation

Project Cost:

The cost of the study is \$30,000. The fee is inclusive of all meetings, research time, consultations, writing, drafts, presentation, travel, and the final document.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 404.205.0123. We look forward to working with your office to provide support for bike/ped path projects as economic development influencers.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Patterson, PhD
Principal