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January 2021 Newsletter

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Happy New Year from Metro South CID!

The Metro South CID board of directors and staff would like to wish you a very happy and safe New Year!

The CID is already hard at work on new projects to maintain the district's status at one of the best places to do business in metro Atlanta, such as the Freight Cluster Plan, the Cedar Grove bridge construction and more.

In last month's newsletter, MSCID president Emory Morsberger released "2020 in Review," a letter to reflect on a successful year in the district and preview what is sure to be a thriving 2021! Visit the CID's [website](#) to read the letter and learn more about past and ongoing projects.

[Read Emory Morsberger's MSCID "2020 in Review"](#)

DeKalb County Voters Key in Georgia's Senate Runoff Races



Picture credit: Champion Newspapers

All eyes were on Georgia as the country anxiously watched DeKalb County voters help confirm Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff as the winners of the Senate runoff elections, switching control of both the Senate and House of Representatives to the Democrats.

More than half of DeKalb County voters cast their ballots during the early voting period or via absentee ballots. Every vote counts and your voices were heard.

Read more about the election results in The Champion Newspaper [article](#).

[Learn More in The Champion Newspaper](#)

DeKalb County Launches Mobile Wellness Units to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic

DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond and Dr. S. Elizabeth Ford, district health director, recently announced the launch of two step vans funded with federal CARES Act money that are owned and deployed by the DeKalb County Board of Health. Two additional vans and six mobile medical units are also now in operation.

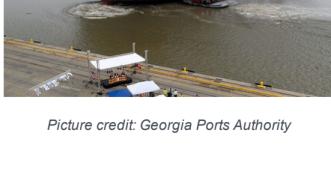


The vans, equipped with medical equipment and examination rooms, will provide nutritional and healthcare services to help address the continuing pandemic and improve the health of the County's more vulnerable populations. Learn more in the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#).

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the Georgia Department of Public Health [website](#) or call 888-357-0169.

[Read More in the AJC](#)

The Latest in Logistics



Picture credit: Georgia Ports Authority

Despite Challenges, Georgia Ports Reached Milestones in 2020

Despite unprecedented challenges in 2020, the Georgia Ports Authority's (GPA) and its partners reached many milestones, seeing advances on major infrastructure projects.

From historic achievements for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) to the opening of the Mason Mega

Rail and other infrastructure improvements, Georgia's deepwater ports continue to drive the state's economy.

Learn more on the Georgia Ports Authority [website](#).

The Race to Make Electric Delivery Vans

The trend to cut a company's carbon footprint is gaining popularity. On the heels of Tesla's electric cars and SUVs, companies like Workhorse Group are aiming to corner the market on electric delivery vans. The company employs less than 130 people, yet its stock has risen sevenfold in 2020 due to investors believing that electric vehicles are here to stay. In fact in early January, the 113-year-old vehicle manufacturer, GM, announced a logo redesign to accompany [its focus on electric vehicle production](#).



Picture credit: Evan Taylor/Don't Blink

Amazon, UPS, FedEx and owners of big delivery fleets like Anheuser-Busch have begun to outline strategies to cut carbon emissions. Tesla itself is in the process of designing a battery-powered semi-truck. Read more about the road to electric delivery vehicles in this Atlanta Business Chronicle [article](#).



Picture credit: Logistics Management

Institute for Supply Management Semiannual Report Points to Manufacturing and Services Sector Growth in 2021

Economic improvement is expected going into 2021, according to the Institute for Supply Management semiannual economic forecast, with an estimated 6.9% annual increase in manufacturing revenue, a 3.2% increase in service production capacity and 3.5% rise in raw materials

pricing.

With improved profit margins, gains for wages and employment are also expected. Read the full report [here](#).

MSCID Project Updates

Cedar Grove Bridge

On Tuesday, November 10, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners approved \$4.1 million for the Cedar Grove bridge construction and the necessary improvements along the alternate route that will be temporarily used during the bridge closure. The CID would like to thank Commissioner Larry Johnson for his hard work on quickly mobilizing DeKalb County on this project, for without these critical funds the reconstruction would not be possible. The bridge repair will be a design-build project to help construction move as efficiently as possible.



The CID has requested detour signage be placed throughout the area to better inform and direct truck drivers with this area, and we are working to improve infrastructure and landscaping along the alternate route to better accommodate increased traffic while the bridge is being rebuilt.

Visit the MSCID [website](#) to view the list of road network improvements submitted to DeKalb County and a map that details the preferred alternate route for traffic based on the bridge closure.



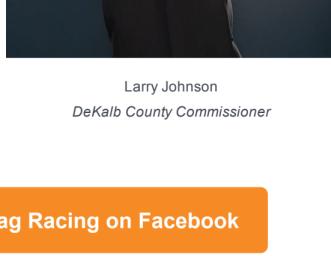
Freight Cluster Plan

The Metro South CID board is looking forward to working with Metro Analytics this year as the consultant firm for the CID's Freight Cluster Plan. This plan will provide detailed insight into the area's current and future freight activity in order to address transportation planning, traffic operations and related planning.

Seeking Solutions for Drag Racing in DeKalb County

On January 21, DeKalb County Commissioner Larry Johnson held a virtual discussion and public Q&A via Facebook Live regarding possible solutions for the growing issue of drag racing in the County.

Guests in the discussion included Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Senator Emanuel Jones, Bobbie Sanford and members of the DeKalb County Department of Public Safety.



Larry Johnson
DeKalb County Commissioner

Visit Commissioner Johnson's [Facebook page](#) to listen to a full recording of the event.

[Listen to Solutions for Drag Racing on Facebook](#)

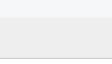
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