

**The executed Resolution
will be submitted to ARC
on March 4th.**

**CITY OF KENNESAW
GEORGIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-_____

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPORT FOR THE LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE
(LCI) PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION AND COMMITTING THE REQUIRED
MATCHING FUNDS**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNESAW,
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw supports regional efforts to create vibrant, walkable communities with increased mobility options that will enhance access, improve safety and reduce dependence on automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw is committed to enhancing walkability through a well-planned system of pedestrian linkages that will promote quality of life and sense of place among residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw aims to stimulate economic growth by identifying potential catalytic areas along Cobb Parkway, with the vision of encouraging development that seamlessly integrates with and feeds into the city's downtown, thereby creating a more cohesive and economically vibrant urban core; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw is dedicated to fostering compatible land uses that complement the downtown area, through the development of a robust commercial corridor and gateway access that will serve as a welcoming entry point to the city, enhancing both aesthetic appeal and functional connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw is committed to ongoing outreach and planning efforts, actively engaging the public in the planning process

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Kennesaw City Council does hereby RESOLVE to support the application for planning funds through the Livable Center Initiative (LCI) program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will set aside the required 20% matching funds, totaling \$40,000, as a major step in preserving the health, well being and economic vitality of our community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Kennesaw City Council on this ____ day of March 2025.

ATTEST:

CITY OF KENNESAW

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

Derek Easterling, Mayor



**Kennesaw Development
Authority**

Richard Blevins
Antoinette Griffin
Chris Davis
Keith Palmer
Justin Crocker
Matt Riedemann
Kevin Tidwell

February 25, 2025

Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree ST NE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Letter of Commitment - City of Kennesaw – Kennesaw Development Authority
Livable Centers Initiative Study Application 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Kennesaw Development Authority (KDA) is excited to support the submission of the Livable Center Initiative (LCI) application to the Atlanta Regional Commission. This initiative aligns with our vision of promoting economic development within the City of Kennesaw for the benefit of its citizens and to promote an overall better standard of living, and we are fully committed to its success.

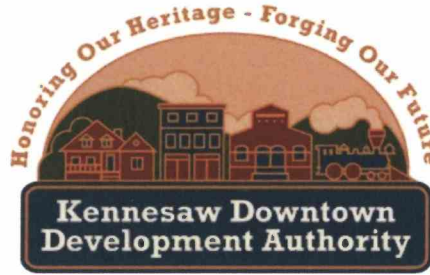
Funding assistance through the Livable Center Initiative (LCI) is anticipated to bring significant benefits to our community. The primary objective of the study is to explore options for connectivity while encouraging development that seamlessly integrates with and feeds into the city's downtown, thereby creating a more cohesive and economically vibrant urban core. These solutions will enable the KDA to further support economic growth and development in the City of Kennesaw.

We greatly appreciate the Atlanta Regional Commission's consideration of the application and look forward to the opportunity to work together to bring this vision to fruition.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Respectfully,

Richard Blevins, Chairman of the Kennesaw Development Authority



February 3, 2025

Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree ST NE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Letter of Commitment - City of Kennesaw
Livable Centers Initiative Study Application 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority (KDDA) is proud to support the City of Kennesaw's Livable Center Initiative (LCI) application to the Atlanta Regional Commission. This initiative aligns with our mission to create a vibrant downtown, with the assistance of the downtown community, in order to unite and establish viable businesses while maintaining our sense of community and historic heritage. The city's vision for expanding connectivity and creative placemaking further supports KDDA's mission and we are fully committed to its success.

Funding assistance through the Livable Center Initiative (LCI) is anticipated to bring significant benefits to our community. The primary objective of the study is to explore options for connectivity while encouraging development that seamlessly integrates with and feeds into the city's downtown, thereby creating a more cohesive and economically vibrant urban core. These solutions will enable the city to reimagine the Cobb Parkway Commercial Corridor, enhance connectivity to our downtown area, and establish a true gateway for the City of Kennesaw.

Over the years, the city has made significant improvements to downtown by implementing findings from the LCI study conducted in 2015. We believe this new study will continue to enhance the well-being of our residents and foster a more vibrant city. With a proven track record of collaborating with regional partners to achieve common goals, we are confident that this study, with the support of the Livable Center Initiative, will be another successful endeavor.

We greatly appreciate the Atlanta Regional Commission's consideration of the city's application and look forward to the opportunity to work together to bring this vision to fruition.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Respectfully,

Mark Allen
Chair, Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority

TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY



February 18, 2025

Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree ST NE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Letter of Support – City of Kennesaw Livable Centers Initiative Application

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Town Center Community Improvement District (CID), I am pleased to express our support for the City of Kennesaw's application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant funding.

The Town Center CID has a long-standing commitment to fostering regional collaboration and supporting projects that drive economic development, improve transportation infrastructure, and enhance the overall quality of life. We believe that this study will provide valuable insights and strategies that will complement ongoing efforts in the Town Center area and beyond.

We commend the City of Kennesaw for its leadership and dedication to this initiative and fully support its request for LCI funding. We look forward to continued collaboration and the positive impact this study will have on our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important application. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy Styf". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tracy Styf
Executive Director

Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree ST NE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303



To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Vanita Keswani and I am the Education and Exhibits Manager at Smith-Gilbert Gardens, the City of Kennesaw's botanical garden. I also serve as the Public Art Program Coordinator for the City. I am in a unique position which allows me to foster community engagement and public art at the Gardens and extend the programs into the city.

I have lived in Kennesaw since 2007 and have seen incredible growth within the community through new development, focused leadership towards connecting spaces and building culture. Upon my employment with the City of Kennesaw, I was eager to contribute my background to help initiate creative placemaking. As a longtime resident, I have seen residents yearn for a collective identity rooted in a positive future. I am an alum of ARC's Art Leaders of Metro Atlanta program and a participant in the Creative Placemaking summit. I have been fortunate to witness the storytelling and culture building of communities by artists, arts organizations and city governments. The impact of the arts is invaluable in bringing our residents and visitors together to share experiences that inspire vitality. The City believes in this philosophy as well as it has recently appointed a staff member to work with multiple departments to give cohesive efforts to arts programming.

The City of Kennesaw is rich in partnerships with Kennesaw State University and local arts organizations. Leaning into visual and performing arts, we have seen relationships grow between artists and the community. As an arts incubator, the Gardens' partnership with KSU's Theatre and Performance Studies Department has led to original, immersive theatre performed for families at the Gardens and in local city parks. Our Garden sculpture exhibits, which include Metro Atlanta artists, students from K-12 schools and KSU sculpture students have also expanded a footprint into downtown. These are just the beginning steps into creative placemaking. The more we engage our community in everyday interactions with the arts, the more they will feel a sense of place. Learning new ways to begin conversations and create a mindful plan for engagement is an ongoing process that brings innovation through the arts. There has never been a better time for this connectivity.

I highly recommend the City of Kennesaw as a site for the Livable Centers Initiative Study. We are at a pivotal point of infrastructural and cultural changes that could greatly benefit from the guidance of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Sincerely,

Vanita Keswani

Education and Exhibits Manager, Smith-Gilbert Gardens
Arts Program Coordinator, City of Kennesaw
vkeswani@kennesaw-ga.gov