



# Street Scenes

## **EAST BROAD ST. PUBLIC MEETING & SITE TOUR**

**Mon., Nov. 29**

**Classic Center -  
Foundry Street  
Warehouses**

**4:00-6:30 p.m.**

**(Site Tour @ 4:15 p.m.)**

## ***East Broad Street road work starts in Dec.***

The East Broad Street corridor from Foundry Street to Willow Street will undergo a series of upgrades beginning in December 2004 that are scheduled to last until approximately October 2005.

A public meeting will take place on Monday, November 29 at the Classic Center Foundry Street Warehouses from 4:00-6:30 p.m with ACC staff and project managers. At 4:15 p.m., weather permitting, staff will lead a walk-through of the site area to discuss areas affected and changes.

These improvements are in conjunction with the construction of the SPLOST Multimodal Transportation Center (MMTC) project behind the Classic Center Parking Deck.

The MMTC will provide a new location for Athens Transit System buses to interconnect with taxi services, the North Oconee River Greenway, the UGA Transit System, the Classic Center Parking Deck, and other modes of transportation. It will also provide a larger sheltered location for riders waiting on bus transportation.

During roadway construction on the East Broad Street area, lane restrictions, detours, road closures to through traffic, and other measures will be instituted at various times. Access to businesses and residences will be provided at all times and through traffic will allowed as much as possible. However, motorists may wish to seek alternate routes when possible.

Following is a breakdown of the improvements taking place between Foundry Street and Willow Street.

### **• Stormwater Improvements**

- Complete upgrade of the area stormwater system - which collects the SE quadrant of all of downtown's stormwater runoff - will control the



*A composite of two photos taken from the Classic Center Foundry Street Parking Deck showing the work area for the Multimodal Transportation Center. Off to the right is East Broad Street.*

water that flows down the street to the river.

### **• Utility Improvements**

- A 12" water main will improve the water distribution system
- Power lines will be relocated
- Sewer lines will be replaced
- Gas lines will be replaced

### **• Roadway Changes**

- *Hickory Street:* This new road connects East Broad St. to the MMTC and Willow St.
- *East Broad Street:*

- Road widening to include turn lanes into parking deck and new Hickory Street
- 5' bike lanes on both sides
- Street repair, replacement, and resurfacing

### **• Foundry Street**

- Conversion into a one-way street between Oconee St. and E. Broad St., allowing only for a turn onto Foundry St. coming up the Oconee St. hill driving west towards downtown

### **• Streetscape Improvements**

- Improved sidewalks and crosswalks
- Street light installation

### **• Signalization Improvements**

- New traffic lights at the Foundry Street and Hickory Street intersections
- New pedestrian crossing signals at both intersections

For more information about the work, contact John Lukens in the SPLOST Program Management Office at 613-3025.

## **SPLOST 2005 funds downtown projects**

The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) 2005 Program was approved by ACC voters and includes a series of projects related to downtown. Initial project descriptions are available at [www.splost.com](http://www.splost.com). Collection for SPLOST 2005 will begin in April as a continuation of the current 7% sales tax.

**Downtown Parking Deck:** A mixed-use parking facility on West Clayton St.

**Business Corridor Infrastructure Improvements:** Continues similar SPLOST IV & 2000 work to improve roadway, sidewalk, drainage, and water systems in downtown. The next phase is planned for Clayton St.

**Classic Center - Foundry Street Warehouses:** Renovation and expansion of the warehouses behind the Classic Center.

**Classic Center - Theater Package:** Repairs and renovations to the Classic Center Theater facility.

**Pulaski Creek Greenway & Park:** Seeks to convert an abandoned and historic passenger rail line along Pulaski Creek into a park tying into areas along Dougherty St. and other locations.

# Possible Ordinance Changes for Downtown Sidewalk Signs & Merchandise Displays

The Athens-Clarke County Mayor and Commission are studying a series of proposed revisions to the sidewalk ordinance that would apply to the Central Business District in downtown Athens. The current sidewalk ordinance prohibits any ongoing sidewalk use for signs or displays; these revisions are designed to allow some use for the continued growth and vitality of downtown business while balancing pedestrian safety in public areas and specific concerns of people with disabilities.

The Athens Downtown Development Authority (ADDA) proposed some initial guidelines after a series of stakeholder roundtable sessions in September and October. After revision by Athens-Clarke County staff based on **existing** codes, those suggested guidelines and the modifications suggested by ACC staff were presented to the Mayor and Commission at the November 9 Work Session. The Mayor and Commission are scheduled to consider these guidelines at the November 18 Agenda Setting Session for a vote at the December 7 Regular Session. Public comment will be heard on this item at both meetings.

A fact sheet with the proposed guidelines is available on the Athens-Clarke County Web site ([www.athensclarkecounty.com](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com)) or through the Athens-Clarke County Public Information Office. All provisions, guidelines, and proposed fees are staff recommendations only and are subject to approval by the Mayor and Commission.

The sidewalk use permits would be administered by the Athens-Clarke County Central Services Department, which coordinates sidewalk café permitting, vending space permitting, and special event permitting in downtown Athens. It is proposed that the added costs to the Unified Government for this new service should be passed on to applicants through permit fees. Based on initial estimates, this cost will be approximately \$100. Therefore, the **proposed** annual permit fee is \$100.

In an effort to obtain feedback from as many stakeholders as possible, written comments regarding the guidelines will be accepted through Tuesday, November 23 through an online comment form at [www.athensclarkecounty.com](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com), by e-mail at [info@athensclarkecounty.com](mailto:info@athensclarkecounty.com), by fax at 706-613-3026, or by mail to the Public Information Office (P.O. Box 1868, Athens, GA 30603). Questions may be directed to the Public Information Office at 706-613-3795.



Athens-Clarke County  
Public Information Office  
P.O. Box 1868  
Athens, GA 30603

