

Infrastructure  
Public Safety  
Quality of Life

Athens-Clarke County  
**SPLOST**  
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX  
ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Improving  
Community  
Life

# SPLOST.com

...with wide-eyed wonderment, toddlers sit around a special nature table, enthralled by a snapping turtle.

...traffic congestion on one of the busiest thoroughfares in the community is eased by the construction of a state-of-the-art overpass system that reroutes drivers more conveniently to their destination.

...the presence and efficiency of police officers is enhanced when these valuable public servants are allowed to drive cruisers home.



...fire safety becomes state-of-the-art for area citizens when new stations are built and equipped.

...enthusiasts for the arts are culturally enriched with the addition of unique center filled with special exhibitions and programs.

...a major retail street renown for intense flooding during rainstorms becomes a safer roadway for travelers during inclement weather.

...the giggles of a tiny ballerina as she pirouettes her way into a world of self-confidence fill the room of a community dance center.

...the serenity of nature inspires a jogger as he runs on scenic greenway trail.

Sound like a utopian community?

Actually, this community is real. It's YOUR community, YOUR town...YOUR Athens-Clarke County. And you made all these important scenarios, and more, happen because of your willingness to support SPLOST.



Lyndon House Art Center gallery



Fire Training Center

## ACC Unified Government

### Mayor & Commission

Heidi Davison, Mayor  
Charles Carter, District 1  
Harry Sims, District 2  
George Maxwell, District 3  
John Barrow, District 4  
David Lynn, District 5  
Carl Jordan, District 6  
Kathy Hoard, District 7  
States McCarter, District 8  
Tom Chasteen, District 9  
Cardee Kilpatrick, District 10

## SPLOST Citizens Advisory Committee

Terry Trotochaud, Chairman  
Diane Bell  
Cardee Kilpatrick  
Dr. Dwight Coulter  
Leroy Dukes  
Robert K. Duncan  
George Maxwell  
Melvin Geter  
Patricia Harrison  
Albert Ike  
Jane Kidd  
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Dedication festivities were held November 23 at Fire Station #3 in Five Points.

## What is SPLOST?

On November 2, 1999, voters approved the SPLOST 2000 (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) referendum, which allowed for the continuation of a one-cent sales tax to fund a diverse list of 40 community projects. It follows SPLOST IV, which was voted on in 1994 and funded a package of 29 community projects over five years using an extra penny in sales tax. Previous SPLOST campaigns provided for the restoration of the historic *Morton Theatre*, the creation of *The Classic Center*, expansion of the *landfill*, establishment of a *regional library*, and the addition of *an annex and parking deck to the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse*.

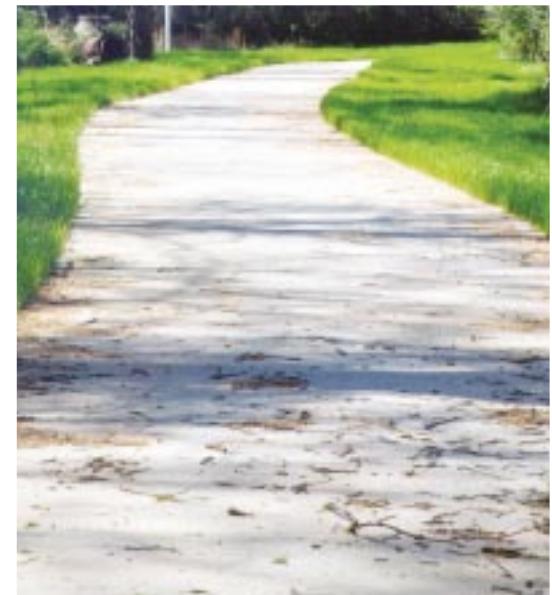
Georgia law allows local jurisdictions to use SPLOST proceeds for capital improvement projects that would otherwise be paid for with general fund and property tax revenues. In some cases, the cost for these community enhancement projects would present too great a burden to the taxpayers to ever be undertaken. In other cases, the projects would be completed, but at a much higher cost to the community.

By using SPLOST funding to pay for improvements to our public safety, infrastructure, and quality of life, Athens-Clarke County enhances and improves the life of the community.

The success of the SPLOST programs is directly affected by the hard work of citizen volunteers and community participation. The Athens-Clarke County Commission appointed 33 community members to craft the program for the 1994 referendum and 22 members to craft the program for the 1999 referendum. Eleven members of the SPLOST committees continue to work with ACC staff and elected officials as the SPLOST Citizens Advisory Committee since the referendums were passed. Additionally, community meetings are an integral component of many SPLOST projects. For SPLOST IV alone, over 80 public forums and more than 40 Citizen Advisory Committee meetings have been held.

### Key to Reading the Project Summaries

IV#	SPLOST IV and the project number
2000#	SPLOST 2000 and the project number
IV#/2000#	Continuation of SPLOST IV into SPLOST 2000 and the project number



A path winds through the North Oconee River Greenway.

## Athens-Clarke County SPLOST IV & SPLOST 2000 Projects

### Infrastructure

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### Quality of Life

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### Public Safety

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Take a look at the improvements that have been made to YOUR town because of SPLOST...

# Infrastructure ACC SPLOST

Webster's defines infrastructure as, "...an underlying foundation...the basic installations and facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community depend, such as roads, transportation, communication systems, etc."

Thanks to SPLOST, Athens-Clarke County is assured a quality infrastructure. From roadway improvements to enhanced storm drainage systems, bridge expansions, and more, SPLOST allows the physical mechanics of our community to operate at peak performance. While the charm of The Classic City will always be an attraction, its systems will not become archaic.



## IV-1/2000-20 Areawide Storm Drainage Improvements

**Project Status:** In Progress

Repair and upgrade storm drainage systems including culvert improvements, open channel improvements, water detention, and other related facilities within Athens-Clarke County. This study identifies and analyzes existing basin problems and makes prioritized recommendations for corrective measures including additional property acquisition and right-of-way required.

## IV-2 Tallassee/Oglethorpe at Mitchell Bridge

**Project Status:** Complete

Widen, realign and reconstruct Tallassee Rd./Oglethorpe Ave. from two lanes to three, realign the sharp curve on Oglethorpe Ave., and relocate Mitchell Bridge Rd. intersection. This project consists of the widening of Tallassee Rd. west of Mitchell Bridge Rd. to west of Knottingham Dr.

## IV-3 Nowhere Road Bridges

**Project Status:** Complete

Replacement of substandard bridges at East Sandy Creek and Noketchee Creek and realign dangerous curve on Nowhere Rd. This project includes construction for the replacement of substandard bridges and approaches on Nowhere Rd. at East Sandy Creek and Noketchee Creek.



## IV-4/2000-21 Local Road Resurfacing

**Project Status:** In Progress

This project increases the number of miles of roads that are resurfaced annually through the State of Georgia Department of Transportation L.A.R.P. program. This project consists of the resurfacing and repair of existing public roads throughout Athens-Clarke County. The resurfacing of public roads is based on the pavement condition ratings resulting from regular field inspections.



## IV-5/2000-26

### Downtown Infrastructure Improvements

**Project Status:** Complete

Resurfaces streets with low curbs, repairs broken sidewalks, replaces aging inadequate storm sewers, and corrects drainage problems.



## IV-6/2000-25 General Intersection Improvements

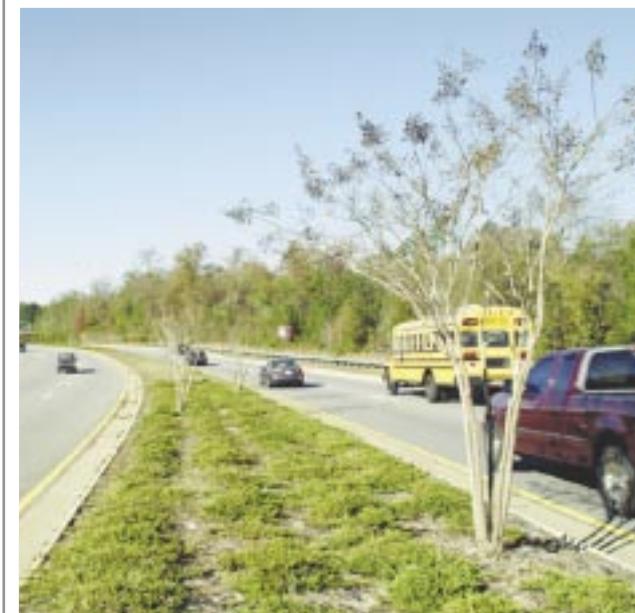
**Project Status:** In Progress

Improve intersections throughout Athens where increased traffic flow causes congestion during peak periods. The project description consists of three intersection improvement projects: 1. Indian Hills Dr. and Winterville Rd. at Spring Valley Rd., 2. Moss Rd. and Athena Dr. at Spring Valley Rd., and 3. Winterville Rd. at Nellie B. Ave. All of the selected intersections are in areas where there are existing safety, operational, and/or congestion concerns.

## IV-8/2000-18 Bridge Rehabilitation

**Project Status:** Complete

Upgrade overall safety of most bridges in Athens-Clarke County to improve them before major failures occur. This project consists of bridge repair rehabilitation work identified by the Georgia Department of Transportation bridge survey conducted in 1993 and increases the number of bridges and their safety guardrails that are improved and brought up to current standards annually.



## IV-9 Epps Bridge Parkway

**Project Status:** Complete

Local share of right-of-way commitments allows construction of a four-lane divided entrance, with sidewalks and bike paths, into Athens-Clarke County from SR316. This project is a partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

## IV-18/2000-22 Dirt Roads Program

**Project Status:** In Progress

Upgrade approximately 20 existing dirt roads to residential paved standards, eliminating the need for constant repairs. The project consists of providing paved surfaces on existing public dirt roads throughout ACC. Roads included in this project are identified in the revised ACC Transportation and Public Works dirt roads program.

#### 2000-34. Classic Center Parking Deck & Pedestrian Plaza

Project Status: **Complete**

This project consists of a shared parking deck of approximately 450 spaces. In addition, it includes provisions for future retail space within the parking deck, a covered connector between the parking deck and the Classic Center, plazas, conveying systems such as elevators, and necessary renovations to the Foundry Street portion of the Classic Center.



#### IV-20 College Station Road Gateway Corridor

Project Status: **Complete**  
Enhance the appearance and function of this corridor by improving the landscaping, creating separate lanes for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and linking it with the Oconee River Greenway. Improvements include: East Campus Rd. at College Station Rd. intersection improvement component, Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing and signalization, and connectivity of Multi-modal Transportation Facilities.



#### IV-21 Multimodal Transportation Center

Project Status: **In Progress**

Facility will be utilized by city and university bus services, taxis, airport shuttles, limousine services, pedestrians, and cyclists; improve ride share opportunities; and plan for the possibility of commuter rail service.

#### IV-22/2000-23 Barnett Shoals Widening & Drainage

Project Status: **In Progress**

This project will advance identified road projects in the ACC Commission approved long-range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program through conceptual design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.



#### 2000-11 Airport Land Acquisition

Project Status: **Complete**

This project consists of acquisition of approximately 40 acres of land necessary to construct the future Airport Commercial Terminal Facility with an entrance from US Highway 78. The mission of this project is to acquire land adjacent to the Athens Airport and ACC Correctional Institute for construction of a future Commercial Terminal Facility.

**Working together works.**



2000-19 Bicycle Transportation Improvements

**Project Status:** In Progress

The goal of the project is to provide for the planning, design and construction of the initial phase of a Comprehensive Bicycle Route System by utilizing existing roadways and by construction of new bicycle friendly bridges in Athens-Clarke County. It connects principal attractions (schools, shopping, and recreational areas) with residential areas.



2000-27 Neighborhood Traffic Management

**Project Status:** In Progress

This project consists of the installation of traffic calming devices on local residential streets in Athens-Clarke County. Specific projects have been developed jointly with neighborhoods and the Traffic Engineering Division of the Transportation and Public Works Department and presented to the Mayor and Commission for final approval.

2000-24 Sidewalks & Other Improvements

**Project Status:** In Progress

This project consists of the design, construction and/or improvements of such items as: sidewalks, access ramps, pedestrian signals and crossings, school zone crossings, and general pedestrian improvements.

Specific projects have been developed on a yearly basis and prioritized utilizing a ranking system.



2000-35 Classic Center Energy Management & Improvements

**Project Status:** Complete

This project consists of the installation of a control system for the mechanical systems, allowing the ability to better manage energy. It also includes replacement of existing dividing walls in the ballroom with higher rated acoustical walls and the purchase of lighting instruments for the theater.

2000-36 Classic Center Surface Parking Lot

**Project Status:** Complete

This project consists of the acquisition of necessary land, design and construction of a surface parking lot for approximately 150 spaces near The Classic Center.

**“Without  
a sense of  
caring, there  
can be no  
sense of  
community.”**

– Anthony J. D'Angelo

# Quality of Life ACC SPLOST

How can our lives be cultivated and enriched? How can we assure that our children's minds will be opened to valuable experiences?

The Quality of Life portion of Athens-Clarke County SPLOST funds ensure cultural opportunities are met in our community. Whether it be the construction and maintenance of parks and playgrounds, funding to expand programs at the Sandy Creek Nature Center and the Lyndon House, or creating trails and paths through the North Oconee River Greenway, SPLOST improves and enriches our quality of life.



## IV-7 Environmental, Natural Sciences & Appropriate Technology Center (ENSAT)

**Project Status:** Complete

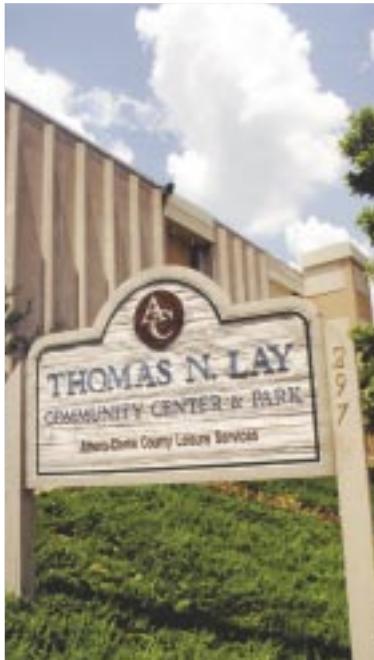
Building of an outdoor oriented, multipurpose facility with classrooms, live animal enclosures, and interactive exhibits related to natural science and the environment at Sandy Creek Nature Center.

## IV-11/2000-13 Park Facilities Improvements

**Project Status:**

**Complete**

Repair and upgrade current Leisure Services Department and arts and environmental facilities to ensure that major infrastructure problems and repairs related to public safety and accessibility are addressed. SPLOST funds have been used to complete as many of the renovations, additions and new structures as possible.



## IV-12/2000-33 Library Resource Centers

**Project Status:** Complete

This project allows library materials to be purchased for Athens, Winterville, and learning center outreach locations. The resource centers are located at the Lyndon Arts Center, the Sandy Creek Nature Center (ENSAT), East Athens Community Center, and Lay Park Community Center. The SPLOST funds identified for this project are used for resource materials and supporting furniture, fixtures, & equipment to be utilized at learning center outreach locations.

**IV-16-17/2000-30  
Oconee River Greenway-Heritage Trail**

**Project Status: In Progress**

This phase of the Greenway project added three pedestrian/bicycle bridges over the North Oconee River, an Interpretive Center at the Chicopee Complex, and continued connection of the Greenway through Dudley Park to Oconee St. and on to Williams St., where it will connect with the University of Georgia campus at East Campus Rd.



**Oconee River Greenway Phase I North  
Project Status: Complete**

Acquired and appropriated the development of the wetlands and bottom land tracts along the North Oconee River which will provide a variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, and safe alternative transportation including pedestrian and bicycle paths.



## IV-28/2000-29

**Southeast Clarke County**

**Community Park**

**Project Status: Phase I – Complete, Phase II – In Progress**

The acquisition and development of a community park that includes athletic fields, passive recreation facilities, and an outdoor environmental area.

The community park is approximately 125 acres in size.

#### 2000-30 Greenway Land Acquisition

##### Project Status: In Progress

This project consists of the acquisition of properties on the North Oconee River. Parcels provide stream buffer, recreational access to the river, and/or Greenway opportunities. Purchases were approved in advance by the Mayor and Commission.

#### IV-19 Neighborhood Park Development

##### Project Status: Complete

This project is an agreement with the Board of Education for the development of neighborhood parks at 17 existing school sites, which offer a range of recreation, arts, and environmental education. This project provides recreational amenities on elementary and middle school sites to allow extended use of the school grounds as neighborhood parks during non-instructional

times of the day and year and also functions in concert with school activities.



#### IV-26 Hull Street Complex

##### Project Status: Complete

Purchase and renovation to the 4-acre Christian College of Georgia block on Hull St., including the Wray-Nicholson house, for community multi-use facilities. It consists of the acquisition of several historic cottages along Hull St.



#### IV-23 Renovation and expansion of Lyndon House Arts Center

##### Project Status: Complete

Renovation and expansion of the Ware-Lyndon House to meet the increased community demand for arts education, exhibition space, community based programs, and resource services. This project is divided into two main phases: Phase 1 – new annex, Phase 2 – historic Lyndon House rehabilitation.



#### IV-13/2000-28

#### East Athens Community Park

##### Project Status: In Progress

These projects are funding a community park - approximately 125 acres in size - at the intersection of the Perimeter and Peter Street to serve the East Athens community. Several competition recreational fields and parking lots are being constructed as part of the initial facilities.

#### 2000-14 Memorial Park Operating Center

##### Project Status: In Progress

The project includes the renovation of the existing operations center facility and construction of a new facility comprised of multipurpose community/educational



#### Memorial Park Operating Center (cont.)

space, administrative offices, meeting spaces for park staff, restrooms and kitchen spaces, space for Athens Creative Theatre, and approximately 40 additional parking spaces. It also consists of preparing a general plan for Memorial Park, identifying all future areas of development.



#### IV-27 Bishop Park Tennis Center

##### Project Status: Complete

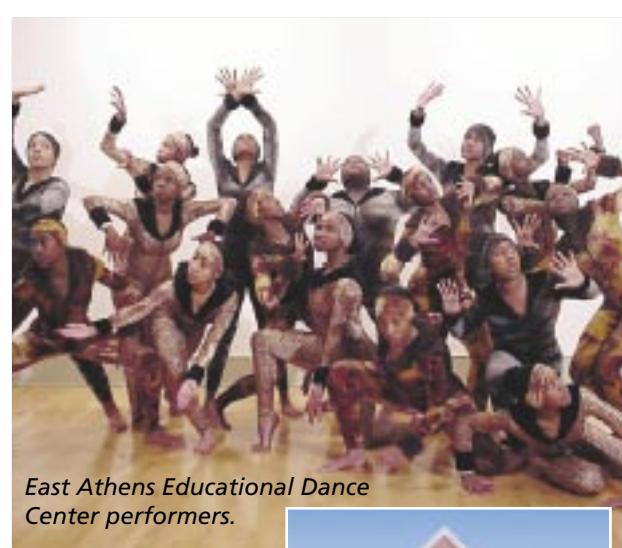
Construct two covered tennis courts for the public's use, and for league development, special events, and instructional classes. The semi-enclosed tennis facility has been designed to be a multi-purpose facility that supports numerous Leisure Services Department's planned outdoor activities.

#### 2000-31 Winterville Park & Other Improvements

##### Project Status: Complete

This project consists of the demolition of old facilities and the installation of new playscapes, a new restroom and BBQ facility, and other improvements to the existing city park. The existing playscape was well past its useful life span and was demolished. Two new playscapes have been installed. In addition, the project includes the installation of a permanent safety-playing surface. The project also includes the installation of security lighting, landscaping, benches, and retaining walls or other drainage improvements.

# Quality of Life ACC SPLOST



East Athens Educational Dance Center performers.

## 2000-32 East Athens Educational Dance Center

**Project Status: In Progress**



This project consists of studios, performance rehearsal areas, male and female dressing rooms, restrooms, administrative offices, a break room, conference rooms, storage, and kitchen space. It will also include necessary parking and other site infrastructure. The project is located in the East Athens community.



## 2000-37 Taylor Grady House Renovations

**Project Status: In Progress**

This project consists of the renovation of the major mechanical / electrical / plumbing and telephone systems, as well as the installation of a new fire alarm and sprinkler system. It also includes renovations to the interior walls and ceilings, exterior walls, doors, windows, and other areas. Structural repairs will be completed as necessary. An appropriately designed landscape and irrigation system are also included.

## 2000-38 Family Protection Center

### **Project Status: In Progress**

The mission of this project is to provide a single location/facility for collaborative services between multiple agencies that work with child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases. This project consists of a new facility that is proposed to include a forensic medical examination space, protective services space, interview rooms, counseling rooms, victim witness services space, and other public spaces such as restrooms, waiting areas, volunteer, and maintenance. It also includes all necessary site infrastructure, parking, and landscaping.



## 2000-40 Lyndon House Arts Center Improvement

### **Project Status: Complete**

This project consists of the acquisition of certain tracts of land along the Sandy Creek Greenway (Cook's Trail). The project preserves both the integrity of the existing trail and reduces the impact on sensitive wetland environments.



## 2000-15 Athens Welcome Center – Group A

### **Project Status: Complete**

This project consists of renovations and additions to the existing Athens Welcome Center (Church-Waddel-Brumby House) located at the intersection of Thomas and Dougherty Streets. It includes the construction of an appropriately designed stand-alone building, which houses ADA accessible restrooms and information / video space (providing interpretation of Athens and the Church-Waddel-Brumby House Museum), administrative office and storage space, and re-working of the existing grounds to provide additional parking and historically appropriate garden landscaping.



# Public Safety ACC SPLOST

Safety and protection are the most basic services the citizenry of a community depend on from their government. It is critical that technology is available and safeguards are in place to meet such needs. It is in this vein that SPLOST funds are dedicated to upgrading, developing, and maintaining fire and police protection, EMS resources, and public safety facilities. It's just another way SPLOST is working in our community.

## IV-10 Jail Infirmary Project Status: Complete

Build an infirmary in accordance with Federal Court Order to provide medical care for the inmates of the Athens-Clarke County Jail. The jail infirmary project consists of construction of a one-story, 6,421 square foot annex and a 325 square foot renovation to the existing jail.



## 2000-2 Police East & West Sub-Stations

### Project Status: In Progress

Consists of the construction of two new Police Department Substations. Each Substation is comprised of space for the command staff, clerical / support staff, sworn staff, and other support spaces. The East Substation provides service to the East Athens area. The West Substation provides service to the Western areas of Athens-Clarke County.



## 2000-3 Fire Station #3, #4 & #8

### Project Status: Complete

Consists of the reconstruction / relocation of local Fire Stations # 3, #4 and #8 – including land acquisition, design, and other related costs to meet the approved facilities design and location standards.



## IV-14 Building and Partial Radio System Project Status: Complete

Construct an additional space for 911 center operations, and purchase an 800 MHz radio system to provide effective communication between police, fire, EMS, corrections, public works, and other emergency services.

This project is comprised of a county-wide 800 MHz trunk radio system and an expansion to the existing police administration and operations building. The radio system consists of three radio tower sites, a communications center, mobile and portable radios, microwave equipment, standby generators, simulcast control equipment, and repeater interface units.

## IV-29 Landfill Close-out and Groundwater Protection Project Status: Complete

This project includes the closure and groundwater protection at the old landfill as required by state and federal regulations. The scope of this project is to identify and implement the most appropriate measures and actions for the closure and capping of the old pre-Subtitle "D" section of the ACC Landfill and any necessary remedial actions associated with impacted groundwater in compliance with appropriate state, federal, and local regulations consistent with sound environmental practices.



## 2000-1 Police Vehicle Program

### Project Status: In Progress

An assigned vehicle program for the Athens-Clarke County Department of Police Services Uniform Division. It includes the purchase of approximately 100 vehicles for the purpose of improving effectiveness and efficiency of the provision of policing services. SPLOST is currently working with the Police Department to receive bids on the FY04 funded vehicles package.



## IV-14 Building and Partial Radio System Project Status: Complete

Construct an additional space for 911 center operations, and purchase an 800 MHz radio system to provide effective communication between police, fire, EMS, corrections, public works, and other emergency services.

This project is comprised of a county-wide 800 MHz trunk radio system and an expansion to the existing police administration and operations building. The radio system consists of three radio tower sites, a communications center, mobile and portable radios, microwave equipment, standby generators, simulcast control equipment, and repeater interface units.

## 2000-4 Fire Apparatus and Equipment

### Project Status: Complete

Includes the purchase of a new fire pumper truck for Fire Station #3, a fire pumper truck for Fire Station #4, and a fire pumper truck for the City of Winterville.



#### IV-15 Fire Training Center

##### Project Status: Complete

Construct a comprehensive Fire-Training Center to serve professional firefighters in Athens-Clarke County and the surrounding areas. The training center includes a two story, four room, 1,200 square foot burn building, a four story drill tower with standpipe connections on each level, a sprinkler system on the first floor, a flammable liquid pit, a drafting pit, and a classroom training building designed for future growth.



#### 2000-5 Public Utilities-Water Enhancement Strategies

##### Project Status: In Progress

Consists of the installation of water transmission and distribution lines and fire hydrants along major roadways. Designed to help strengthen and/or improve Athens-Clarke County ISO ratings through the strategic placement of system connections and the installation of new fire hydrants and/or replacement of older fire hydrants. It maximizes the capacity of the public water distribution system and provides portable water supply and improved fire protection within areas of Athens-Clarke County not presently served by the public utility system, particularly the northern areas of the county.

#### 2000-7 Corrections Center Food Preparation Facility & Other improvements

##### Project Status: In Progress

To improve operational efficiency, the Athens-Clarke County Jail and Corrections Department will combine food preparation. The facility will provide meals for inmates and/or detainees, including those in holding cells at the Courthouse. The new facility will be approximately 8,000 square feet and be located on the Lexington Rd. Public Safety Campus. It will include the purchase of all necessary food preparation equipment, utility and roadway infrastructure improvements, and necessary parking.

#### 2000-8 Environmental Compliance & Remediation

##### Project Status: Complete

Consists of the development and implementation of a remediation plan for the Willow St. incinerator. It also involves of the assessment of ground water, surface run-off, and soil impacts at various Athens-Clarke County properties and the design and implementation of corrective actions as necessary to comply with local, federal, and state risk reduction standards and local regulations.

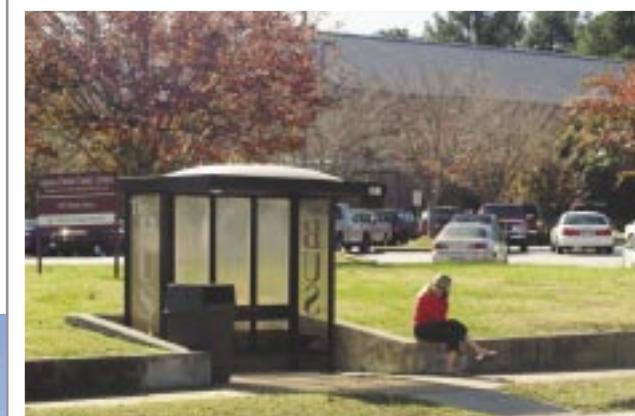


## Improving elements of a community, improves the whole community.

#### 2000-9 Airport Water Main

##### Project Status: Complete

This project consists of an extension of an appropriately sized water main from the South Runway Safety Area to the North Terminal. It provides water flow necessary to meet fire flow regulations for current and proposed future airport development and Winterville Rd. area. The project is connected to the infrastructure improvements identified as part of the Corrections Center Food Preparation facility located at the Lexington Rd. Public Safety Campus.



#### 2000-16 Bus Stop Improvements

##### Project Status: In Progress

This project consists of the upgrade and improvement of major transit stops along the Athens Transit Bus System routes. The improvements for these transit stops will be evaluated for their specific needs. It improves the pedestrian infrastructure, makes riding The Bus more comfortable, and works to improve the marketability of transit by enhancing ridership and reaching out to new customers.

#### 2000-10 Airport Sanitary Sewer

##### Project Status: Complete

This project consists of an extension of a sanitary sewer line from US Highway 78 to the Airport North Terminal area. It provides necessary connection to the Athens-Clarke County sanitary sewer system to serve the current and proposed future airport development.

**SPLOST**  
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

# Athens–Clarke County

- Clarke County was founded in 1801 and the City of Athens was chartered in 1806. The City of Athens and Clarke County merged in 1991 and operates as the 28th consolidated city-county government in the U.S. and the third in Georgia.



- Athens–Clarke County is the smallest geographic county in the state at 122 square miles, located 60 miles northeast of Atlanta.
- The population of Athens–Clarke County is 101,489 according to the 2000 Census, which includes UGA students residing in Clarke County.
- Athens–Clarke County is the 14th most populous county in the state of Georgia.
- Athens–Clarke County serves Northeast Georgia as a regional center for employment, commerce, and recreation.



*Downtown infrastructure improvements.*



[www.athensclarkecounty.com](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com)  
[SPLOST.com](http://SPLOST.com)

## The Classic City

- Numerous historic neighborhoods and commercial districts; three house museums
- Northeast Georgia's cultural, shopping, medical, professional, and educational hub
- The University of Georgia, the nation's first state-chartered university (1785)
- The Classic Center: 50,000+ sq. ft. meeting/exhibit space and 2,000+ seat performing arts theatre
- A musical Mecca that spawned R.E.M., the B-52s, Widespread Panic, and numerous other acclaimed acts
- The Southeast's largest and most concentrated collection of gardens and specialty nurseries
- The only double-barreled cannon in the world
- America's first garden club
- The original Constitution of the Confederate States of America
- The Morton Theatre, an early vaudeville theatre built, owned, and operated by an African-American
- One of only 11 United States Naval museums in the country
- The state of Georgia's official art museum and botanical garden