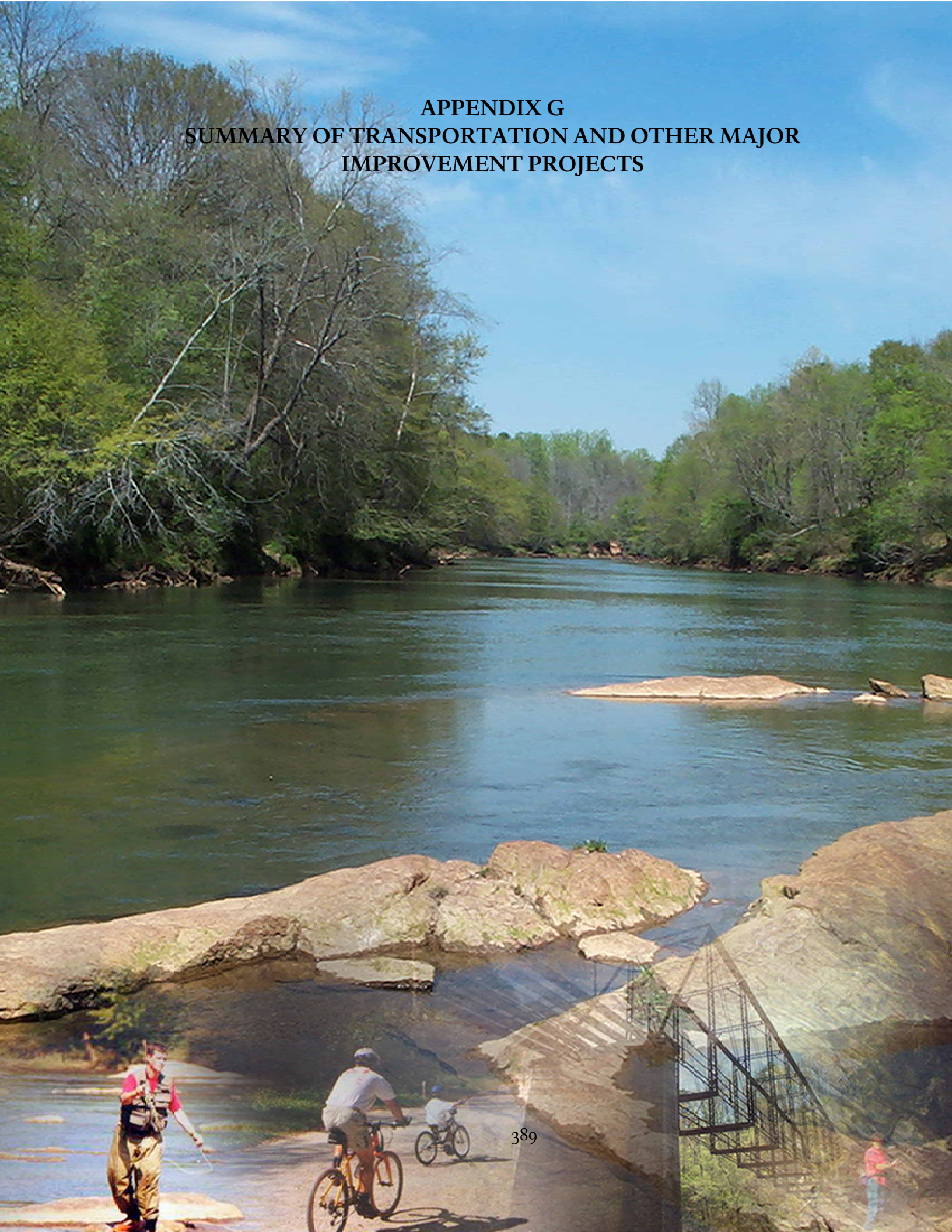


APPENDIX G
SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER MAJOR
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



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APPENDIX G: SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER MAJOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), FY 2006-2011, prepared by the Atlanta Regional Commission for the Atlanta Region (ARC 2006c), identifies transportation capacity improvements that are scheduled for construction in the area during the next five years. A complete listing of these projects can be accessed at www.atlantaregional.com.

The TIP identifies 839 transportation projects totaling \$8.2 billion to be funded in the Atlanta region through 2011. Approximately 25% of the funding is designated for adding roadway capacity, 20% for transit, 18% for roadway upgrades, 17% for expansion of high occupancy vehicle lanes, 8.2 % for roadway system maintenance, and 5.8% for pedestrian and bicycle facilities (Atlanta Regional Commission 2005a). Forsyth County (not an Atlanta Regional Commission member-county) has also identified long range transportation projects that will be needed in the future. Projects that are scheduled for construction in the study area include, but are not limited to, the following:

Road Projects

- I-285 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes (0 to 2 lanes)
- I-285 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- I-75 HOV lanes (0 to 2 lanes)
- I-75 Truck Only lanes (TOL)
- I-75 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- I-85 North HOV lanes
- I-20 HOV lanes
- GA 400 Collector Distributor System
- GA 400 Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Monitoring
- Morgan Falls Pedestrian Bridge Crossing from GA 400 to Lower Roswell Road
- Chattahoochee Circle to Roberts Drive
- Papermill Road over Sewell Mill Creek Bridge Replacement

Road Widening Projects

- Old Alabama Road from Jones Bridge Road to GA 141/Medlock Bridge Road
- McGinnis Ferry Road from the Chattahoochee River to Sargent Road
- Johnson Ferry Road from Chattahoochee River to Abernathy Road

Abbotts Bridge Road at Parsons Road

Abbotts Bridge Road at Boles Road

Medlock Bridge at Abbotts Bridge Road

Dunwoody Place near Vickery Creek and Island Ford

McGinnis Ferry Road from Gwinnett County Line to McFarland Road (2 to 4 lanes)

GA 120/Abbotts Bridge Road from State Bridge Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
(2 to 4 lanes)

Transit Projects

Bus rapid transit service along I-75 North and I-285 North

Selected elements of the Belt Line multimodal transportation corridor

Continued expansion of the GRTA regional express bus program, including park and ride lots and shelters

Ongoing improvements and expansion of MARTA rail and bus services

People mover near the Cumberland Mall/Cobb Galleria area

Express bus service to selected new rail stations

Expansion of local bus service in the study area, particularly in Gwinnett and Cobb County

The Atlanta Regional Commission adopted the Atlanta Region Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways Plan in September of 2002. In this plan, there are more than 1,000 miles of additional bike and pedestrian facilities proposed within the 10 county planning area totaling \$400 million in project costs. In addition, there are also a number of bicycle and pedestrian projects in the study area that are scheduled for construction in the next five years. Due to the large number of bicycle and pedestrian projects included in the TIP, a small sampling of projects located in the proximity of the park are listed below:

Bicycle Projects

Western Gwinnett Bikeway (Peachtree Industrial Boulevard)

Suwannee Creek Greenway Expansion

Big Creek Greenway Expansion

McGinnis Ferry Road Multi-Use Walk/Bikeway (Chattahoochee River to Old Alpharetta)

Chattahoochee River Greenway (Buford Dam Road to McGinnis Ferry)

Akers Mill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Old Alabama Road from Riverside Drive to Market Boulevard

Riverside Drive from Johnson Ferry to I-285

Willeo/Azalea/Riverside from Cobb County line to GA 400

McGinnis Ferry Road from the Chattahoochee River to Sargent Road

Johnson Ferry and Roswell Roads from Hildebrand to Johnson Ferry / Roswell to Abernathy Road

Cobb County recreational trails to connect proposed East Cobb Trails, the proposed Wildwood Trail, the programmed Interstate North Parkway Trail, and the proposed Mountain-to-River Trail.

Pedestrian Projects

GA 400 from Alpharetta City Limit to the Chattahoochee River

Chattahoochee River from Riverside Road to Gwinnett County Line

Hermi's Bridge at Chattahoochee River

Roswell Road from I-285 south to Mt. Paran Road

Abbott's Bridge Road at Parsons Road

Chattahoochee River on Rogers Bridge Road to Bell Road to McGinnis Ferry Road

Jones Bridge Road at Sargent Road

Lower Roswell Road from Davidson Road to Timber Ridge Road and Willeo Road @ Fulton County Line

Cobb Galleria Parkway from Ackers Mill Road to I-75 North Overpass

Akers Mill Road from Cumberland Blvd. to I-75 North

Cobb Parkway US 41 from Circle 75 Parkway to Akers Mill Road

East Cobb Trail along State Route 120 Roswell Road to Providence Road near merchant walk to Fulton County Line

Interstate North Trail from Bob Callan Trail (formerly known Rottenwood Creek Trail) to Fulton County Line

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROJECTS

The National Park Service has programmed for funding a number of projects. The majority of these projects include facility maintenance and improvements, boat ramp improvements, rest rooms, additional parking spaces, non-impervious trail improvements, exotic species control efforts, and other similar types of projects. These projects are programmed for different locations throughout the park corridor and are not concentrated in any one area. Compliance activities with regard to these activities and other planning efforts would also be conducted.

OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE METROPOLITAN REGION

Located outside the park are geographic areas of rapidly growing Forsyth, Gwinnett, North Fulton and Cobb Counties, Georgia. Of regional consequence are regional private economic and public infrastructure development trends in the Georgia 400 Sub Area whose epicenter is the Chattahoochee River drainage basin as it winds through metropolitan Atlanta. A review of studies related to regional trends for residential, commercial – office and industrial construction in this described sub area, including Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), administered by the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, is provided in the paragraphs that follow. The following text provides a summary of the trends used as the basis for the cumulative impacts scenarios described in this GMP. An overview of the growth trends and sample projects is described below based upon The Economic Base Report of the Northern Sub Area Georgia 400 Study.

Residential - “The number of housing units in the Northern Sub Area is projected at 493,836 in 2001 and 608,749 in 2006 (Source: ESRI Business Information Services). This represents a growth of 31.6% between 2000 and 2006. In the GA 400 Corridor, the number of housing units is expected to increase from 128,136 to 168,242 over the same period, representing a growth of 31.3%....Since 1995, metropolitan Atlanta has led the nation in the number of housing units authorized by building permits.....Gwinnett, Fulton and Cobb have the largest share of building permits since 1995.”

Office - “The northern office markets have added more square feet of space than any other market (in metro Atlanta) between the first quarter of 1999 and the 1st quarter of 2002. The growth rates experienced in these other markets have also been very high.”

The cumulative impact on the park regarding other actions by private development is 40,000 new housing units constructed in the North Sub Area Ga 400 Study Area and is further impacted as the leading area for construction of office and retail space since 1995.

Developments of Regional Impact

Under the Georgia Planning Act, development projects that are likely to have an impact beyond the host local government jurisdiction are subject to review as Developments of Regional Impact (DRI). These specific large scale development projects were reviewed as they potentially impact the park. In 2002, over 200 DRI were reviewed statewide. Ninety projects were specific to the counties surrounding the park as well as nearby DeKalb County. DRI projects are delineated into types of development, regions and square footage. The office space developments are all greater than 400,000 gross square feet. The commercial developments are greater than 300,000 gross square feet. Wholesale and distribution developments are greater than 500,000 gross square feet. Hospitals have more than 300 new beds. Housing has greater than 400 new lots or units. Industrial has more than 500,000 gross square feet and employ more than 1600 workers covering more than 400 acres.

There are 18 categories of DRIs and include mixed use developments (400,000 square feet and 120-acres), hotels (400 rooms plus) and wastewater facilities (expansion by at least 50% from existing structures). In the 90 approved DRI projects in 2002, all of these DRI categories described above have been constructed in the counties surrounding the park. Thirteen DRI

projects in the counties surrounding the park were complete or pending in 2002 (Source: ARC 2002 Developments of Regional Impact Status) including: Worldspan at Cobb Galleria, MBNA America Operations Center in Cobb County, Logust Grove Station and Indian Creek in Gwinnett County, and the Cauley Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Fulton County. In addition, DeKalb County is redesigning the raw water pump station located on the Chattahoochee River.

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