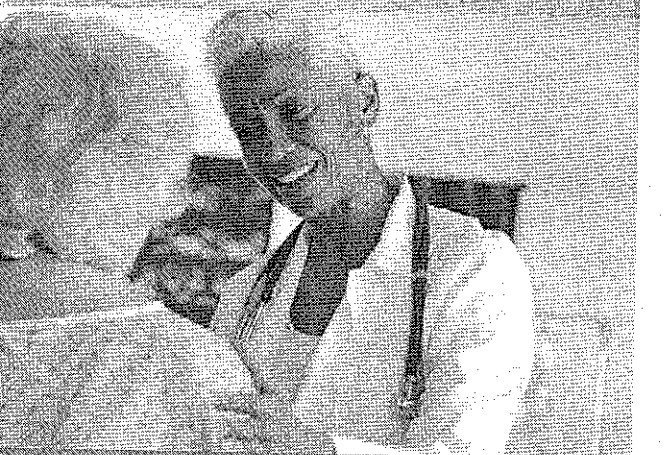
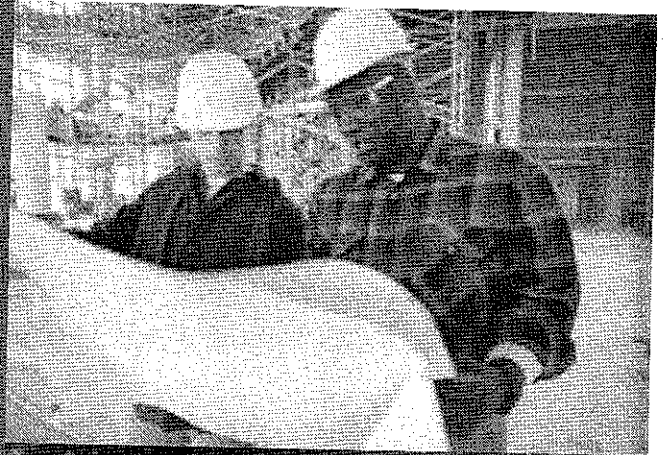


Transition Report

Presented to CEO-Elect Burrell Ellis

*DeKalb County, Georgia
December 19, 2008*



**“BUILDING A NEW CONSENSUS
FOR A BETTER DEKALB”**



PEACHTREE DEKALB AIRPORT (PDK)

Findings

1. The Subcommittee finds that Peachtree DeKalb Airport (PDK), Georgia's second busiest airport, is a sound business operation. As an enterprise fund, PDK is self sufficient. PDK makes contributions to the County's general fund. These contributions are supposed to be related to the PDK's use of the resources of other county departments. PDK expressed concern that its payments to the County's general fund are in excess of its actual utilization of the related departmental services.
2. It is obvious that an airport is an intensive land use. PDK exists in the middle of a residential community. While there is an advisory committee, PDK's presentation and information known generally by members of the Subcommittee leads to the conclusion that there is, at best, a poor relationship between PDK and the surrounding neighborhoods. PDK stated that it does not have a community relations plan, and the Subcommittee is concerned that there appears to be an inadequate commitment to find common ground and make progress on issues of mutual concern to PDK and the surrounding neighborhoods. The Subcommittee believes that the preparation of a substantial and well detailed community relations plan is imperative.
3. PDK expressed the need for the preparation of an airport overlay district by the Planning and Development Department, in conjunction with PDK, for the adoption and implementation of land use policies and guidelines that harmonize the needs and concerns of PDK and the surrounding neighborhood. However, by its very nature, the preparation of such an overlay district would involve the joint input and dialogue of PDK and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Recommendations

1. The CEO should direct his appropriate staff to conduct a review of best practices of airports located in residential communities.
2. The CEO should direct PDK, within the first 100 days of his administration, to submit for his review and comment a detailed community relations plan.
3. In the first year of his administration, the CEO should commission an independent study to ascertain the economic impact of PDK to DeKalb County, to determine whether the relocation of PDK to another site within the county would be feasible, and to determine whether the redevelopment of PDK would provide greater economic benefit to the County than the present operation.
4. The concept of an airport overlay district merits consideration, but until some progress can be made on improved airport/neighborhood relations, this project should be on hold.