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## ARC Awards Six Communities Funds for LCI Supplemental Studies

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(ATLANTA - June 22, 2007) Six communities received supplemental study grants totaling \$165,000 from the **Atlanta Regional Commission's** Livable Centers Initiative (LCI), a program promoting quality growth by encouraging greater mobility and livability within existing centers and corridors.

The grantees include **Alpharetta** to study downtown circulation, **Atlanta** to assess parking along the Midtown Mile, **Decatur** to study affordable housing, **Griffin** to identify improvements to bolster downtown connectivity, the **Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District** to develop an overlay district and **Riverdale** to support implementation of its transportation master plan.

The award-winning LCI program was created in 1999 to help local jurisdictions better link transportation improvements with land use development strategies to create sustainable, livable communities that help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Some communities seek grants from the LCI Supplemental Study Program to help bridge the gaps between plan development and implementation. Once the studies are completed, communities are eligible to apply for additional funding to implement their LCI plans.

The City of Decatur and Midtown Alliance were grandfathered into the LCI program in 2001, while Alpharetta was grandfathered in 2006. The cities of Griffin and Riverdale received LCI grants in 2006, while Gwinnett Place received its grant in 2001.

"This program further reinforces ARC's commitment to making regional communities more livable," said Dan Reuter, Chief of ARC's Land Use Division. "The region's LCI communities have shown great commitment to developing innovative plans, but sometimes additional studies are needed to implement those plans. That's where the LCI Supplemental Study Program comes in."

LCI has awarded more than \$115 million since its inception in 1999, including nearly \$7 million in study grants and more than \$107 million in transportation funding. The program awards up to \$1 million annually in study grants for 10 years and \$500 million for transportation funding in LCI areas.

LCI plans in the implementation stage include 724 development projects that will add more than 62,000 new homes, 9,000 hotel units, 11.5 million square feet of commercial space and 40 million square feet of office space. Of the 79 areas that have completed LCI studies, almost two-thirds of the communities have put in place new design guidelines, four in 10 created special LCI zoning districts and more than a third adopted affordable or senior housing policies. The transportation projects and LCI developments cut vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled by up to 25 percent, while increasing transit ridership and opportunities and reducing air pollution.

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