

February 28, 2008, Issue #5

**What you missed... February 7, 2008
Is Traffic Grid-Locking Atlanta's Growth?**



Speakers at the luncheon, with Heather Rich

On February 7th, CREW members and guests gathered at the Ritz Carlton Downtown to hear from three people "in the know" about Atlanta's traffic.

Moderator, Monte Wilson, Senior Vice President and Director of Planning at HOK, began the discussion with a few insightful statistics. It seems that while Atlanta has enjoyed the 4th highest growth as a city in the United States, we also have had the 4th lowest growth in infrastructure. The population escalation in our city is heavily taxing our existing roads, highways and public transit systems.

Sam Olens, Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and Atlanta Regional Commissioning Chairman, added that we are losing business in Atlanta because of the traffic problem. He says that although state and economic development officials are working hard, "it's time to stop planning and start moving dirt". According to Olens, there are a significant number of people who are ready and able to invest in our state; we need to work out the finances and get going with the plans that are already in place.

Dr. Beverly Scott, the new CEO of MARTA, agreed with Olens saying, "We cannot have the belief that we will continue to grow the city without significant investment in our infrastructure". In the late 60s and 70s, she says Atlanta was on track with the premier transit systems in the U.S such as Washington, DC and San Francisco. However, while those cities have continued to invest and grow their transit lines, Atlanta has

not. According to a federal funding comparison, because these other cities continued to build, they were able to leverage up to \$2.7 billion over our region resulting in a "lost opportunity" for our city.

Dr. Scott offered some potential solutions to solve the Atlanta traffic woes including the expansion of MARTA north of Sandy Springs, the development of an extensive streetcar network to fill in the gaps in bus and rail lines and increased investment in our existing infrastructure to be funded by an increase in the state sales tax. Wilson mentioned instituting distance-based fares on MARTA throughout the region similar to those already in place in cities like New York and London. The panel concurred that the local and regional government will have to take the lead in getting our transportation problems solved.



Moderator, Monte Wilson, Senior Vice President and Director of Planning at HOK



Programs Committee Member, Beth McClurg of Cushman & Wakefield

2008 CREW Scholarship

Congratulations to the 2008 CREW Atlanta Annual Scholarship Recipient, Barbara Daymude! Barbara is a GSU student. Her parents, Tom and Kathy Daymude,

joined her at the luncheon. Chris Smith with Holder Properties & Nancy Norman with The Staubach Company were the sponsors this year.



CREW Atlanta Thanks Our 2008 Sponsors:

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**Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, March 6, 2008**

*****REGISTER HERE!*****

"No Water, No Problem? Commercial Real Estate Surviving the Drought"

Registration: 11:30 a.m.
Program: 12:00-1:30 p.m.
103 West
103 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta GA 30305
\$45.00 CREW Members, \$65.00 Guests
*Reservations not cancelled by NOON, Monday, March 4, 2008, will be charged.

**CREW University
Wednesday, March 19th**

8:00 am - 12:30 am
Nadia Bilchik Seminar, Members Only
Parc Community Buckhead
Registration opens March 1st

**Coming Next Week...
Call for CREW Awards Nominations!**

Be thinking about your nominations. Categories are:
New Member of the Year
Distinguished Achievement
Member-to-Member Business
Economic Improvement
Humanitarian
Career Advancement for Women
Industry Innovator
Local Champion of the Year
Organization of the Year

2008 Capital Campaign Update

The CREW campaign continues its remarkable path upward! As of this week, we have reached 85% of our goal....and that means we only have 2 more floors to go on CREW Tower! We have achieved 100% of our chapter sponsorship goal, and currently have reached 75% of our Event Sponsorship goal and 70% of our member pledges goal. Great effort on all fronts! And don't forget to check to see if your company offers a matching gift program....any questions, contact Capital Campaign Manager Leslie Burke at 770-395-8637.