

May 20, 2021

CEO Michael Thurmond  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, Georgia. 30030

Dear CEO Thurmond:

On behalf of the board of the Druid Hills Civic Association, I ask for your favorable consideration of the gateway rehabilitation project that we have submitted for County SPLOST funding through our District Commissioner Jeff Rader. The project: rehabilitation of the historic 1911 railroad bridge on Ponce de Leon Avenue just west of the juncture of Ponce and Scott Boulevard. This bridge is our eastern gateway to Druid Hills, as well as a significant gateway as one travels eastward from the City of Atlanta into DeKalb County.

The Association commissioned and funded a professional assessment of the condition of the bridge with the support of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA). That report outlines the steps that need to be undertaken to restore the bridge to its original look. This project is shovel-ready! The report can currently be found on our website [druidhills.org](http://druidhills.org).

We continue to work with the Georgia DOT to find alternatives to the placement of signage directly on the bridge as well as addressing vehicular speed and other traffic issues along Ponce de Leon in response to the Road Safety Audit (RSA) done by GDOT in 2015.



This photo shows the current dilapidated state of our bridge, an excellent example of the reinforced concrete arch bridge. As the report states, *The Druid Hills Railroad Bridge is a significant example of its type/design and is among the oldest extant reinforced-concrete bridges in the Georgia Historic Bridge Inventory. It is one of the few reinforced concrete arch bridges in the Inventory with decorative detailing.*

The following photo indicates the kind of restoration which can be achieved for our eastern gateway.



We believe we have an excellent candidate for SPLOST funds and appreciate your consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Van Biesel'.

Van Biesel, Chair  
Druid Hills Civic Association  
PO Box 363  
Decatur, GA 30031