

# **2021 Cobb County Annual Report**



# Cobb County Board of Commissioners



**Chairwoman**  
**Lisa N. Cupid**

This year started with the afterglow of the Braves World Championship still shining throughout Cobb. We are thankful for the opportunity to host thousands of fans to celebrate together as a community, and I'm grateful to our public safety and other county staff who kept everyone safe.

I came into office in the midst of a COVID pandemic surge, which presented this board with once-in-a-generation challenges. We quickly transitioned to keep the business of the county moving by using virtual meetings and helped roll out COVID vaccination efforts which included a call center and later testing sites.

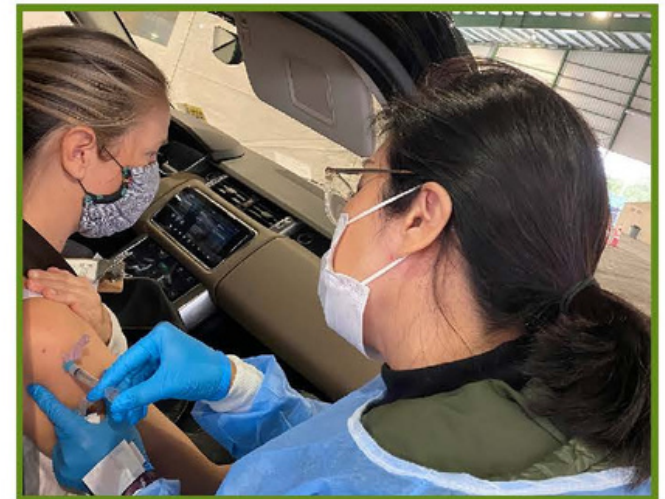
Our efforts to get rental and utility assistance to those impacted by the pandemic received national attention, with our Chief Magistrate working with our non-profit partners to distribute nearly \$40 million to more than 2500 families in need. The county's performance enabled us to apply for even more pandemic aid. Despite the pandemic, Cobb's economic engine remained strong. We posted a 5% increase in our tax digest, with our most significant gains in the residential sector. Income from title ad valorem tax and the CARES ACT helped strengthen county coffers, while more jobs and businesses moved to the county. Select

Cobb helped us to attract or retain more than 3400 jobs in 2021. This all helped Cobb County receive a triple AAA bond rating for the 25th consecutive year.

Cobb's Board took steps to take care of our own. Recognizing the heroic commitment of men and women in public safety, commissioners for the first time funded our "step-and-grade" program which provides a stable salary and reliable pay increases to our personnel in Public Safety.

Results of the 2020 Census came in showing Cobb is the 3rd most populous county in the state with an increasingly diverse population. This presents challenges for us to represent an ever-changing group of voices. But this year has a historic county commission in Cobb, the first all-female board led by the first African American Chairwoman. This has convinced me with all of you, with all of us working together, our best days remain ahead of us.

#TeamCobb





# Cobb County Board of Commissioners



**Keli Gambrill**  
*District 1*

As we transition from the pandemic restrictions to returning back face to face, Cobb County has continued to serve the residents of our community with the outstanding Public Safety, DOT road maintenance and our PARKS Department with their creative programming. While

I have highlighted just three of Cobb's department, each plays an important role in keeping our community a great place to live, work and play and to that I am very thankful.

What will 2022 look like for constituents of District 1 – we have seen movement in the legislature for the cityhood movement. Only time will tell how that will affect us and the rest of the county.

No matter the outcome of this decision, I am honored to serve as your District 1 Commissioner and will continue to represent your voices on all matters.



**Jerica Richardson**  
*District 2*

My first goal coming into office was to have a more Connected Cobb. This goal was to have stronger communication and collaboration between the community and the county. Based on the input the community gave during the Priorities Tour, we focused on nine community priorities: overcoming the pandemic; public safety;

fiscal responsibility; environment; mobility; library revitalization; planning and affordability; youth, diversity and inclusion and recreational and community-based services. With my amazing Community Cabinet, we were able to work on 23 initiatives that aligned with our community priorities. (Info on D2Cobb.com)

One of the biggest challenges District 2 faced last year was the flooding. The floods resulted in severe damages for many homes. I am now working on initiatives that will mitigate such issues in the future. Our most exciting project is the Bridge to Success project that started last August. Together with WorkSource Cobb, we have created a project that focuses on financially helping struggling families.

Thank you to our amazing staff at Cobb, to my office interns and cabinet members who make our programs possible. Most importantly, thank YOU, our community members, for your encouragement and willingness to work towards a more Connected Cobb!

# Cobb County Board of Commissioners



**JoAnn Birrell**  
*District 3*

2021 has been another challenging year. My heart and prayers go out to those that lost friends and family. I am truly grateful for our county departments, first responders, public safety personnel and health care workers who never stopped during this pandemic.

Some quick highlights for the year: We distributed CARES funds for businesses, rental and food assistance, assistance for Cobb and Marietta schools. We unveiled the sign for the long-awaited Cobb County Veterans Memorial Park. We broke ground on Police Precinct 6 in District 3 and Gritters Library. I finally graduated from Honorary Commanders this year after cancellations due to the pandemic. The Braves won the World Series after just five years from opening day in Cobb in 2017.

We have a great deal to be proud of and thankful for in Cobb. I am eager to advocate for the 2022 SPLOST projects in District 3 and I look forward to working with the county and community to accomplish even more in 2022.

Thank you to all who have made these accomplishments possible.



**Monique Sheffield**  
*District 4*

I am proud to share some wins from 2021 and moving D4-ward. Notable highlights included passing the county's budget without increasing the millage rate; disbursement of \$30 million dollars to help stabilize families and businesses through the COVID pandemic; potential purchase of 20 acres for the future site of

the Milford-Osborne recreational facility.

I noted the three inaugural events we started in 2021: A Career Fair and Tenant Forum; Path to Homeownership symposium; and Trunk or Treat for the Milford-Osborne community. District 4 received 67 zoning applications. Development is trending towards mixed-used development. There were three approved Class A apartments in Austell and Mableton, and one condo community in Austell. All of the multi-family developments include commercial and retail. The remaining applications are for single family dwellings.

In the coming year, I will be focused on improving the quality of life for the residents of District 4 with a push for better housing and safety; improved transit and transportation; and establishing more greenspace, parks and trails for all to enjoy.







In 2021, Cobb earned the highest credit rating available. The nation's top three bond rating agencies, Fitch Ratings, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, reaffirmed Cobb County's "Triple A" bond rating for the 25th consecutive year. The ratings stem from reviews of financial management plans, adopted budgets and comprehensive annual financial report.

The 2021 tax digest was successfully submitted in a timely fashion to the Department of Revenue. With a 6% higher tax digest than 2020's digest.

Tax Assessors mailed more than 250,000 assessment notices to owners of taxable real property in Cobb County and updated web services to enable more online interaction.

Community Development began using new software to streamline processes and track Code Enforcement ordinance cases. The Business License and Development and Inspections divisions are also using this program to manage business compliance cases, business license online applications, online permitting services, and email communications.

Neighborhoods are being served by a new Code Enforcement Officer who was assigned to address all sign ordinance violations.

Business Licenses renewed online increased. More than 1 million dollars in occupation tax was collected.

Five Design Overlay District projects met requirements and were approved by Cobb County's Plan Review One-Stop-Shop.

The Union Field Fortifications at Henderson Road were added to the Cobb County Register of Historic Places.

Cobb's Geographic Information System added visualizations of the hotspots for permitting and inspections so Community Development can visually track building trends.

Tourism remained one of the largest industries



in Cobb, employing more than 26,000 people and contributing about \$1.8 billion to the economy.\*

During the pandemic, 87 sporting events, youth and adult, came to Cobb County, leading to more than 75,000 booked hotel room nights.\*\*

Cobb Travel & Tourism launched its 'Cobb is Ready' campaign to let travelers know that Cobb is prepared for their return.

This campaign effort builds on the success of last year's 'Hello Again' campaign, which reintroduced Cobb's attractions and amenities to visitors and residents.

Partnering with Expedia, Cobb Travel & Tourism put a national spotlight on the unique attractions, dining, and entertainment options that make Cobb an excellent destination.

The Expedia campaign generated strong returns of more than 26,000 room nights.\*

Cobb Travel & Tourism's marketing reach grew with Travelcobb.org seeing more than double the traffic seen in 2020.

*\*Robert Lann - Economic Impact Group - 2020 report*

*\*\* Fiscal Year 2021 (Oct 2020 - Sept 2021)*

Cobb County reached platinum status as an Atlanta Regional Commission Green Community thanks to Keep Cobb Beautiful and the Sustainability, Waste and Beautification Department.

**Platinum**  
ARC Green  
Community

Keep Cobb Beautiful was recognized with the State of Georgia Governor's Circle Award and the Keep America Beautiful President's Award.

Keep Cobb Beautiful collected 120,054 pounds of litter with the Adopt-A-Mile program and enrolled 122 Adopt-A-Mile groups county-wide.

KCB recycling and disposal events, a favorite of Cobb residents, received materials dropped off from 3,500 cars. More than 92,000+ lbs. of paper was collected and shredded. Events brought in 22 tons of metal, 14.5 tons of electronic waste, 59,800+ Hefty EnergyBags

## Environment

and 1,700+ pounds of Medication.

The Cobb County Water System and its supply partner, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, met all drinking water standards. The Water System's rates remain the lowest in Metro Atlanta, and the utility maintained its AAA credit rating from all three of the top bond rating agencies (Fitch IBCA, Standard & Poors, and Moody's Investor Services).

The Water System received these industry recognitions:

- 2021 Georgia Association of Water





Professionals (GAWP) Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence Award for water, wastewater and watershed education programs.

- These facilities received 2021 GAWP Gold Awards for complete and consistent NPDES Permit Compliance during the calendar year 2020: Noonday Creek, Northwest Water Reclamation Facility, R.L. Sutton Water Reclamation Facility, the South Cobb Water Reclamation Facility
- 2021 GAWP Platinum Award recognizing excellence in management, operation and maintenance of the water distribution system.
- 2021 GAWP Gold Award recognizing excellence in management, operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection system.
- 2021 WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**\$7.2m**  
rental assistance  
programs

An extreme rainfall caused flash flooding in locations throughout the county. The Water System's Stormwater Division identified repairs required on stormwater infrastructure.

The Department of Transportation

Cobb-Douglass Public Health Staff began administering the COVID-19 vaccine to residents in January and continued to offer COVID-19 testing.

In September, public health reported Cobb had surpassed the 50 percent mark of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 51 percent are fully vaccinated (57 percent with one shot).

Senior Centers provided more than 600 people with vaccination doses (single/double dose and booster). Of those, 16% also received transportation to these clinics.

Cobb County's COVID-19 call center opened to help residents get information about services and the vaccines and assist

in making vaccination appointments. Funding for the call center came from the federal CARES allocation sent to Cobb County in 2020.

The EMS Division operated a 24-hour hotline for public safety personnel to answer questions and direct personnel to testing and treatment. CCFES began vaccinating public safety employees and later all county employees, their families, and retirees. EMTs and paramedics vaccinated nearly 4,000 people.

Cobb's Board of Commissioners approved the use of ERA2 funds to add \$7.2 million





to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. They also added a supplemental \$2 million to the program after being listed as a high need jurisdiction.

The Department of Transportation installed mask and hand sanitizer dispensers on buses and transit to comply with the Transportation Security Administration's federal face mask mandate.

The library system continued to provide twice-monthly drive-through food pantries. Residents received a box of fresh produce and non-perishable foods. Each event served an average of 220 families. Several library branches served as collection points for MUST Ministries food bank on an ongoing basis. Six Library locations hosted free Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) events for Cobb children, serving more than 36,000 meals. The Recreation Unit assisted with the distribution of a meals for kids' program, feeding kids throughout the community. This program lasted for eight weeks and more than 50,000 meals were served.

The Office of the District Attorney pursued restorative justice through an enhanced diversion program and the implementation of an Early Intervention Court.

The office partnered with other departments to create and open a record restriction help desk called the Second Chance Desk, the first of its kind in the state of Georgia.

Attorneys tried eight murder trials resulting in convictions on all cases including the three co-defendant case in Brunswick, Georgia where Ahmaud Arbery was murdered. Special victim prosecutors brought more than fifteen cases to trial.

The District Attorney applied for and received a grant for a Family Advocacy Center. It provides services for victims, survivors, and families of domestic violence, child and elder abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

The District Attorney's office is coordinating the Opioid Project to combat the opioid epidemic. A team is working to improve system response through law enforcement and data collection.

## Judicial

The District Attorney's office participated in the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, SAKI, which investigates unsolved cold case sexual assault charges through DNA testing. Investigators and prosecutors were able to identify and arrest a suspect in a thirty-year-old assault case.

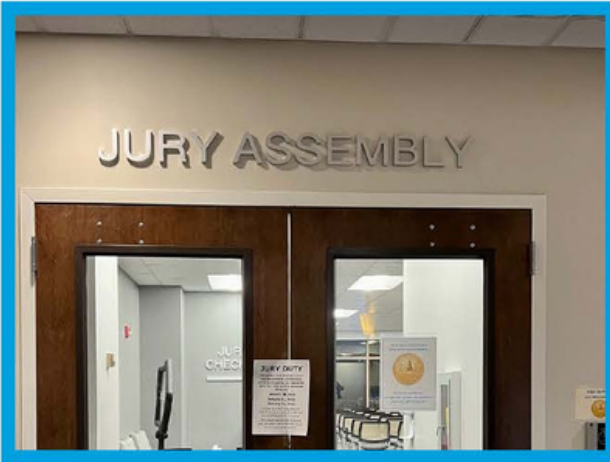
After reopening, Superior Court conducted 31 trials with no COVID interruptions. In addition to resolving thousands of cases through non-jury hearings in person and on Zoom, the Court also settled more

**50K**  
meals served  
in 8 weeks





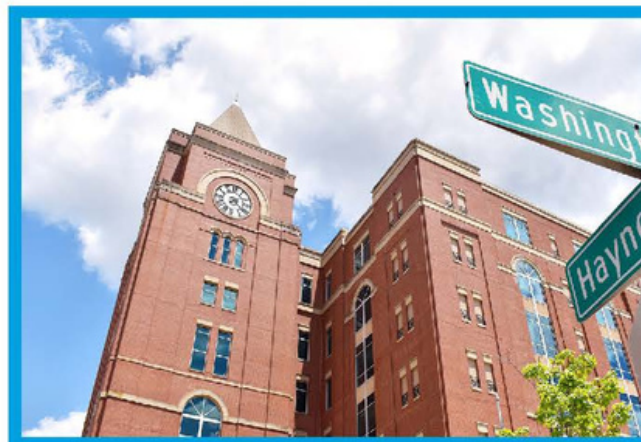
# Judicial



The entire Cobb Judicial Circuit received implicit bias training focused on how to identify and address issues of unconscious bias.

Probate Court heard emergency matters, including guardianship matters related to COVID-19, both remotely and in-person, as circumstances dictated. Officials developed safety measures that allowed the court to perform constitutionally mandated court functions.

The License Division has served more than 18,000 weapons carry license applicants, the most in the history of the court.



than 400 cases through alternative dispute resolution and finalized 140 adoptions.

Accountability Courts had 41 participants graduate from the program, nationally recognized program as a Model Court. The state's Council of Accountability Court Judges recognized Superior Court's Veterans Treatment Court program as a Model Court.

The Superior Court was a statewide leader in conducting virtual court hearings and was recognized for its efforts including an award for equipping every Cobb County courtroom with audio-visual technology.

PARKS Signage and Wayfinding Design Standards improved usability by adding entranceway signs enabling users to see the amenities that are offered. The design standards were paid for out of our SPLOST 2016 program.

The Natural Resources department expanded community gardens in the Fair Oaks Park, Riverside Neighborhood Community, and Mabry Park. The department hosted the grand opening of the Bullard House located at Green Meadows Preserve.

Natural Resources stocked ponds with bluegill and catfish for fishing. Pond aeration systems were added at several parks to enhance water quality and fish habitat.

Discovery Park at the River Line opened, and will connect to the Chattahoochee Riverlands Pilot Project, a 100-mile trail through the county.

To enhance hunting safety, the application for hunting check-in was updated to display a real-time



# Recreation



hunting map for permitted hunters.

The See, Click, Fix app was rolled out, allowing park visitors to report repair requests and other issues they see.

Cobb PARKS partnered with the Atlanta Hawks to renovate the game room inside the Ron Anderson Recreation Center.

The Atlanta Hawks provided toys for 250 families for the State Farm/Atlanta Hawks Holiday Giveaway.

PARKS converted more natural grass fields to

synthetic turf, for easier maintenance and can be used all year without damage.

The Cultural Affairs Unit offered more than 1,000 programs, workshops, special events, classes, drive in movies, and online workshops, engaging more than 30,000 patrons.

New, creative programming successes include Jurassic Journey, Escape Rooms and art gallery shows. The new escape room generated more than \$10,000 in a 10-week period.

The Drive-thru Fall Festival increased attendance, attracting more visitors than 2020 with 3,700 bags of goodies handed out.

Jennie T. Anderson Theatre reopened its doors in April. The theatre garnered national recognition, winning 15 trophies in the Broadway World Regional Awards.

Mable House Amphitheatre entertained crowds at 17 shows with more than 30,000 attendees.



## Sample Cobb Property Tax Bill

Homestead Exemptions:

\$10,000 County BOC / \$10,000 Schools

Based on residential home with market value of \$325,000

<b>County Schools (BOE)</b>	<b>\$2,268.00</b>
<b>Maintenance &amp; Operations</b>	<b>\$2,268.00</b>
<b>County Government (BOC)</b>	<b>\$1,374.00</b>
<b>General Fund (M&amp;O)</b>	<b>\$1,015.20</b>
<b>Fire District Fund (Fire)</b>	<b>\$343.20</b>
<b>Debt Service Fund (Bond)</b>	<b>\$15.60</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,289.40</b>

<b>(BOE) 62.27%</b>	<b>\$2,268.00</b>
<b>(BOC) 37.73%</b>	<b>\$1,374.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,642.00</b>

Other exemptions include BOC Floating Homestead Exemption & BOE Exemption for homeowners over 62







The Atlanta Braves brought the playoffs and World Championship to Cobb, and the games also brought record-breaking crowds into Battery Atlanta and required a full contingent of police, deputies and firefighters. The subsequent parade and celebration packed the Cumberland area and challenged Cobb leaders to quickly design a crowd control and security plan.

Traffic Operations staff and road maintenance crews teamed up with Public Safety staff, GDOT personnel, and other agencies to plan, permit, monitor and implement traffic control during the parade. Transit staff also provided additional bus service during the postseason

to help get fans to the games. Nearly every department chipped in to make the celebration a safe and joyous occasion.

Fire Station 17 and Fire Station 7 builds were completed. Fire 12 will be replaced with more adequate working, training and living space.

The Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services Special Operations Division purchased numerous pieces of equipment including two rescue vehicles.

## Total Operating & Capital Budgets

Atlanta	
DeKalb	
Fulton	
Gwinnett	
COBB	
<b>City of Atlanta</b>	<b>\$ 2,393,119,432</b>
<b>DeKalb County*</b>	<b>\$ 1,617,524,605</b>
<b>Fulton County*</b>	<b>\$ 1,112,450,155</b>
<b>Gwinnett County*</b>	<b>\$ 1,911,698,604</b>
<b>COBB COUNTY</b>	<b>\$ 1,104,709,314</b>

\*FY 21 amounts, FY 22 not yet available



The department:

Used 2016 SPLOST funds for the new Fire Training Administration/Classroom facility. Accepted a donation of a water rescue boat and equipment from United States Department of the Interior National Park Service - Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. Accepted a donation of an electric vehicle from the City of Acworth Police Department. Purchased two replacement ladder apparatus, one replacement engine per our replacement schedule and purchased one additional engine. Purchased one quick response vehicle to replace a reallocated vehicle.



Fire responded to more than 60,000 calls. The Fire Investigations Unit was requested 149 times. Cobb County Fire Emergency Services responded to 32,970 medical calls. 52% of the total incidents for CCFES are medical.

The Fire Marshalls Office showed a 77% increase in total revenue from new fees for new construction inspections, false alarms, and other charges.

The Fire Department Technical Rescue Teams were able to purchase upgraded personal gear and specialized tools for Urban Search and Rescue incidents. The transition of gasoline-powered hydraulic

Performance Measures	2021
<b>911 calls</b>	<b>390,086</b>
<b>Admin calls</b>	<b>263,396</b>
<b>Total calls dispatched</b>	<b>900,592</b>
<b>Outgoing calls</b>	<b>247,110</b>
<b>Total calls for service</b>	<b>526,283</b>
<b>Abandoned calls</b>	<b>7,113</b>
<b>Open Records Requests</b>	<b>7,366</b>
<b>Call answer time % (&lt;15 seconds)</b>	<b>84%*</b>

extrication tool conversion to battery-powered tools began to decrease operational costs.

The Medical Examiner's office worked closely with Cobb Douglas Public Health to identify COVID positive cases in all decedents coming through the autopsy suite.

CDPH was able to work with the ME's office due to a grant awarded from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the Centers for Disease Control.

Cobb County's increase in deaths began in 2020, showing a 25% increase in cases since COVID began.

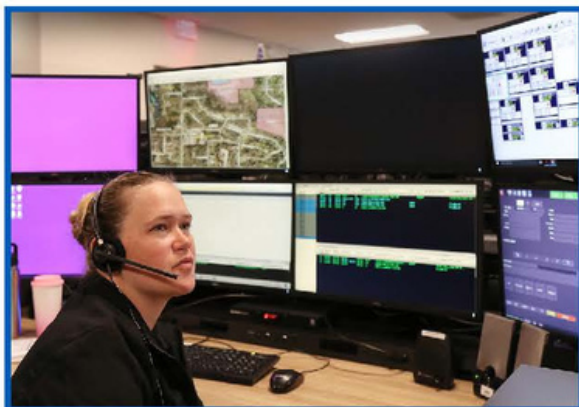
2019: Number of deaths 1611

2020: Number of deaths 2177

2021: Number of deaths 2142

The new Cobb Police Headquarters opened after the building was purchased and renovated with a \$16M allocation from the 2016 SPLOST. The police department consolidated several units under one roof: Central Records, County Permits (liquor licensing), Internal Affairs and Recruiting (Police and Fire), Crimes Against Persons (Robbery, Homicide), Crime Scene Unit, Technology-Based Crime Unit, Violent Crime Bureau (VIPER, SWAT), Crime Analysis (with a real-time Crime Center being completed), and Police Administration (Chief, Deputy Chiefs).

A new Bearcat armored vehicle for SWAT operations was acquired. The SWAT Unit received new ballistic vests for all members to replace expired equipment. The department







transitioned to the new Taser 7 and purchased several Flock License Plate Readers. A second crisis intervention team was added with an officer and a clinician. The partnership was officially named PATH: Partnership for Assistance, Treatment and Health.

Cobb County Police Department broke ground on Precinct 6. This project is funded by a 2016 SPLOST.

The Evidence Unit completed its move to a new facility that has been enhanced with the purchase of Tracker evidence Software.

The Cobb County Sheriff's Office rolled out an action plan to transform the agency. The

office ended its agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, hired the first Hispanic community liaison and expanded the Community Engagement unit.

The Sheriff's Office also:

Implemented 24/7 mental health support and access for detainees and provided detainees with a plan of action upon release

Connected detainees to education and life skills programming

Set record recruitment and hiring goals, with more than 1,000 applicants received

Improved external communications by launching a new website, hosted quarterly community meetings and created a community advisory council

Purchased and hired new K-9s and invested



in new cars and equipment for the K-9 unit

Cobb Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) updated the Emergency Operations Center with new COVID-safe workstations and flooring, funded by CARES.

This year, Cobb County contracted with BOLD Planning to deliver an approved FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan update for the County and its participating jurisdictions.

The 911 Emergency Communications Department maintains compliance with federal and state licensing and provides radio programming and support across Cobb County and its regional partners.

## Full-time Government Employees

Atlanta	8435
DeKalb	6409
Fulton	4476
Gwinnett	5166
COBB	4461*

\*Cobb figures = FY 21, other jurisdictions = FY 20





Cobb Emergency Communications has maintained Agency Training Program Certification, a Project 33 Initiative, from the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International.

Cobb DEC successfully completed its seventh assessment for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, maintaining 100% compliance.

The Cobb DEC maintains a partnership RapidSOS, an emergency technology company that delivers accurate location and life-saving rich emergency data to better respond to incidents. It also receives information from UBER's 911 assistance feature.

E911 Communications upgraded the As-

set Management Software which tracks and maintains data on all radios used in Cobb and Bartow Counties. This was part of the 2016 SPLOST Public Safety Countywide Improvement Projects.

Cobb County Animal Services brought in more than 7,000 animals. About 6,000 of those were dogs and cats while the remainder were other domestic animals, farm animals and wildlife.

Cobb County Safety village served as an educational resource to more than 28,000 school children in virtual and hybrid programs. Glock and Piedmont Injury Law sponsored new education spaces.

The annual Truck-a-Palooza brought in more than 3,000 people to experience emergency and safety vehicles.

More than 250 people attended Camp Puzzle for children and adults on the autism spectrum. Three Family Fun and Safety Day events were held, attracting about 950 people.

More than 950 8th grade students participated in the STEM program, UL Xplorlabs Fire Forensics, a week-long fire forensic hands-on experience.

## Public Services

The Elections and Voter Registration department conducted a special election and implemented new procedures to fill a House District vacancy.

The department conducted general elections for five municipalities and a referendum special election for the Cobb and Marietta school districts.

The department purchased specially-designed, lockable carriers to hold the voting system components and provide a more secure way of storing and transporting the equipment. The carriers were used in the House District special election and then implemented countywide.







The former Mansour Center is being renovated for the Elections Department, consolidating all divisions into one central location.

Senior Services provided:

14,962 meals to 256 clients at the three Neighborhood Senior Centers

21,232 one-way transportation trips to 304 clients

67,000 home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) to 390 clients

5,945 hours of in-home services (personal care, homemaker and respite) to 123 clients

2,580 produce boxes and 830 shelf-stable meals boxes for 6 senior high-rise senior communities (315 clients)

Senior Services was able to provide rental,

mortgage, and utility assistance to 89 individuals, totaling more than \$76,000, thanks to a grant helping these seniors to remain in their homes.

Partnering with Claris, Senior Services distributed 80 tablets to clients to help bridge the digital divide. Of those, 62% reported feeling more connected with family and friends during the pandemic.

80 durable medical equipment items from Friends of Disabled Adult & Children (FO-DAC) were distributed to the community

Senior Services partnered with GoodR for six months to distribute 4,277 grocery boxes to homebound seniors. 330 seniors received fresh produce as part of a collaboration with local farmers.

Cobb Libraries saw the completion and re-opening of the Charles D. Switzer Library in downtown Marietta following a major renovation. The Switzer Library renovation project was completed with funds from 2011/2016

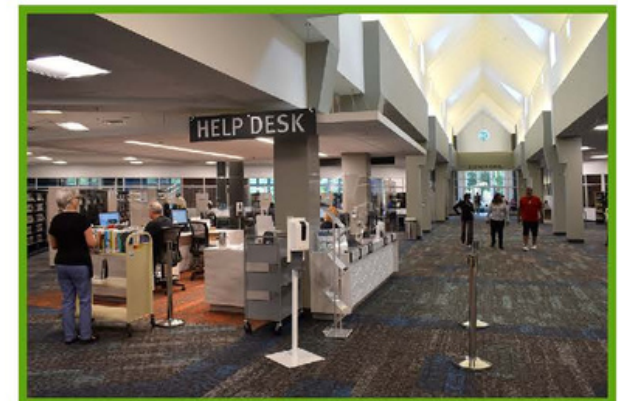
**67K**  
Meals on Wheels  
delivered

SPLOST monies plus an additional state grant for a total of \$8 million.

Construction began on the new Gritters Library and is projected to be completed in 2023. The new library was approved with SPLOST 2016 and GPLS funding.

South Cobb Regional Library completed a major renovation.

Three Cobb libraries held clinics for the national non-profit Vision To Learn which was able to provide free eyeglasses to nearly 100 children.



# Public Services



Libraries worked with Commissioner Richardson to create a Business Incubator area on the cobbcat website.

In June 2021 the Bookmobile launched, Cobb Marietta Project Lit to distribute gently used books in historically underserved communities.

Library staff was honored for supporting the Cobb County Complete Count Committee for

promoting participation in the 2020 Census.

The Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties conducted the Digital Counties Survey 2021 and identified Cobb County as a winner, ranking in the top ten for the size of the county.

Systems installed and implemented by Information Services:

A new Cobb library website

A new police recruiting website

A new Cobb Fire recruiting website.

A new online tax assessment appeal process, streamlining the process for users.

Upgrade to 911's computer aided dispatch system and 911 phone system

## Metro Atlanta Millage Comparisons

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Atlanta*</b>	22.63	--	20.35	19.73	19.77
<b>DeKalb**</b>	20.81	20.81	20.81	20.81	20.81
<b>Fulton***</b>	15.49	--	14.06	14.39	13.94
<b>Gwinnett**</b>	13.51	13.32	13.32	14.71	14.71
<b>COBB**</b>	9.85	11.45	11.45	11.45	11.45

\* Incorporated City of Atlanta in Fulton County

\*\* UnIncorporated \*\*\* Incorporated City of Johns Creek



Police Warrant Anywhere system which enables police officers to video-conference from their vehicles to request warrants from judges.

Audiovisual equipment installed enabling jury trials to return to Superior Court with social distancing protocols.

A new video wall in the Emergency Operations Center.

A new Jury Management system for Superior



# Public Services

and State Courts. Second

A new police evidence management system

A new Axon body-worn camera and Taser systems in the Sheriff's Department.

Multi-factor authentication county-wide, increasing cyber-security.

Extension Master Gardener volunteers logged more than 17,000 volunteer hours. Natural Resources processed 1,200+ soil and water samples at the University of Georgia.

The Family and Consumer Science Department provided a monthly virtual Kids in the Kitchen youth cooking program reaching more than 1200 children and their families.



It hosted 48 educational programs including green cleaning, canning, and food preparation for county residents

The 4-H Youth Department provided youth educational programming for 1656 Cobb County youth and led science lessons in 18 county schools.

4-H hosted monthly Adulting 101 programs to more than 75 youth to teach life skills.

Fleet Management opened its new car and light-duty shop. This 35,000 square foot facility is designed to be an energy-efficient repair facility. The facility was funded by the 2016 SPLOST.

Fleet Management added 8 propane, 23 hybrid, and 10 electric vehicles to the county's fleet in 2021, bringing on the road totals to 39 propane, 81 hybrid and 45 electric vehicles fleet wide. Fleet Management

was awarded for green innovations, ranking 10th in the 2021 National Association of Fleet Administrators Green Garage Contest.

**17K**  
volunteer hours by  
Master Gardeners



The Department of Transportation began using a new citizen reporting tool, SeeClickFix.

DOT received Cartegraph's 2020/2021 High Performance Operations Award for leveraging software in developing a proposed resurfacing budget for the 2022 SPLOST program.

As traffic volumes returned to pre-pandemic levels, DOT staff retimed several corridors.

Traffic operations staff completed 18 signal warrant studies and 15 left-turn protection studies, designed six new traffic signals and five new "vehicle approaching when flashing" devices, established a new traffic signal pre-



# Transportation



ventative maintenance order to increase efficiency and restriped approximately 46 miles of public roadways.

Mobility SPLOST, was presented to the public for feedback via an online survey, virtual meetings, town halls and pop-up events.

Road Maintenance crews completed 21 large-scale drainage infrastructure replacements for a cost savings of \$2.1 million and completed 7,654 work orders. Traffic Operations staff completed 2,234 work orders.

For the 2016 SPLOST Program, 278 projects have been identified. Construction has started on 250 projects, and 220 projects have reached completion.

Cobb County International Airport received \$82,116 in federal and state grants to design the rehabilitation of Taxiway B and the airport will compete for future federal and state grants to fund the construction of the \$1.4 million project.

A Georgia sponsored study of Economic Impact of Airports in Georgia concluded that Cobb County International Airport contrib-



utes \$129,338,300 to the economic activity of the local economy (ranking #5 of the 94 general aviation airports in Georgia).

There are 703 full-time jobs due to airport activity, while another 251 full-time jobs in the community are due to indirect airport economic activity.

## Metro Area Sales Tax Comparison

Atlanta	8.9%
DeKalb	8% (Not Atlanta)
Fulton	7.75% (Not Atlanta)
Gwinnett	8%
COBB	6%

**220**  
projects  
completed



# County Manager



It is because of your commitment to service excellence and servant leadership that we have made such an impactful difference in the way we provide our services.

As you reflect on the many accomplishments shared in this 2021 Annual Report, I hope you will take pride in the work you do on a daily basis. For all of your hard work, passion and willingness to push through and stay with us, I am grateful and thankful. Throughout a pandemic, we provided health and safety measures, equipment, Covid-19 tests, vaccines and we implemented plans and strategies to keep our workforce and residents safe.

tions, and community/civic partners to ensure resources needed were accessible. Thank you for continuing to work in tandem with our municipalities and all of our valued partners.

I look forward to working with you next year to accomplish even more. Together, we can do anything!

Jackie R. McMorris  
County Manager

I offer my sincerest gratitude to each of our employees for all that you have done, given, and sacrificed over the past 18 months as we have navigated through some of the most challenging times of our lives.

As I think about all that we have accomplished, I am tremendously proud and humbled to work alongside some of the most talented, professional and dedicated employees.

Your cooperation, understanding and support certainly contributed to our collective success.

In addition, we worked collaboratively with area businesses, non-profit organiza-



