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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Monday, January 27, 2025

Council for Quality Growth Announces its 2025 Board of Directors Chaired by Clyde Higgs

Atlanta Beltline President & CEO Sets Strategic Direction for Council's 40th Year

ATLANTA, GA – The Council for Quality Growth formally announces its 2025 Board of Directors and Officers. The 2025 Board was ratified at the Council's 39th Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, held December 17, 2024 at Cherokee Town Club. The Council was joined by over 200 of its members, state legislators, and local elected leaders to welcome the new leadership and present legislative priorities to the Georgia General Assembly. Courtney English provided welcome remarks on behalf of the City of Atlanta and Mayor Andre Dickens. State Senator Brandon Beach and State Representative Spencer Frye also provided brief remarks on behalf of their legislative bodies. The Council for Quality Growth also unveiled an anniversary logo to celebrate this 40-year milestone in 2025.

The Council's outgoing 2024 Chair, Sally Riker, VP of Strategy and Growth at Atlas, handed off the gavel to the new 2025 Chairman of the Board, Clyde Higgs, President & CEO of the Atlanta Beltline, Inc. Higgs is the 38th Chairman of the Council for Quality Growth. He has been part of the Council Board's Executive Committee since 2021 and has played an integral part in the organization's strategic planning over the last three years.

Higgs addressed the full Board of Directors at their first official convening of the year last Friday, January 24th and set his strategic priorities and direction for the Council in its 40th year. "Our platform for moving forward is driving growth," he stated, "growth of our membership, growth of our programs, and growth of our impact on this region." He discussed his Executive Committee's intention to programmatically curate the organization's offerings and advocacy to better serve its members, generate exponential growth, and fuel long-term sustainability in 2025.

The Council's core mission is to promote balanced and sustainable growth across metro Atlanta in a way that provides an economically competitive edge and sets the region up for long-term success. The Council delivers this mission to its members and the regional development industry through advocacy, information, and education.

Higgs is looking forward to how the Atlanta Beltline and the Council for Quality Growth will continue to partner on development issues in 2025. He recalled the establishment of the Beltline's Special Service District (SSD) in 2021. "I'd like to acknowledge the Council for putting their neck out in the early stages of the SSD. This organization was among the first to publicly support what later became the most important funding source in the Beltline's history," Higgs said. The Council works closely with member companies and like-minded organizations to advocate at the local, regional, and state level on key issues that affect development. "Making sure we can get behind key pieces of legislation – from trees to transportation – is going to be helpful in making sure our region grows appropriately," said Higgs.

Higgs joined the Atlanta Beltline in 2015 and became President & CEO in 2019. In the 6 years since, the Beltline has seen \$9 billion in economic development, completed 11.3 miles of trail of the 22-mile Beltline mainline loop and 10.3 miles of connector trails, and created or preserved more than 4,100 units of affordable housing in the Beltline Tax Allocation District. Higgs is determined to complete the loop alongside many other local

development projects in time for the 2026 World Cup. Much of his career has focused on establishing and expanding working relationships across public and private sectors. He brings decades of experience in economic development, government relations, funding, and strategic planning to the Council's Board leadership. He was recently named "Most Admired CEO" by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* and included in *Georgia Trend's* "100 Most Influential Georgians." Higgs has been a well-known advocate for small and minority businesses across the region, providing support and resources for many along the Beltline today. His civic involvement extends to many other Boards and organizations, including that of the International Economic Development Council, HouseATL, T&M Associates, and the Mayor's Cabinet.



*From left: Sally Riker (2024 Chair), Michael Paris (President & CEO),
and Clyde Higgs (2025 Chair)*

The Council for Quality Growth is fortunate to have had Clyde's service and leadership on its Board of Directors since 2019. "We are really looking forward to Clyde's energy and guidance this year," said Michael E. Paris, President & CEO of the Council. "His expertise of bringing the public and private sectors together for a common goal makes him uniquely positioned to lead the Council. It's a big year for us, and a big year for the Beltline, and we're ready to get to work."

The 2025 Officers of the Board are Gerald McDowell of the ATL Airport CIDs as Vice Chair, Rob Garcia of Pinnacle Financial Partners as Treasurer, and Ellen Smith of Parker Poe as Secretary. Sally Riker, the outgoing 2024 Chair, will continue to serve among the Council's executive leadership as Immediate Past Chair. The 2025 Board of Directors will consist of 93 voting members and 3 appointed or ex-officio seats.



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The Council also welcomed 7 newly elected Directors that will each serve a two-year term starting in 2024, including:

- Mason Berryman, Principal Engineer, Geo-Hydro Engineers
- Cedric Clark, President, Southeastern Engineering, Inc.
- Stanley King, Founder & CEO, S.L. King & Associates
- Matt Kraczon, Associate, PGAL
- Brian McHugh, Senior Transit Project Manager, HDR Inc.
- Shayla Nealy, Principal, Public Policy & Programs, Stantec
- Chris Sizemore, Founder & Partner, INCISIVE

The Council for Quality Growth's full 2025 Board of Directors is included below.

Photos from the Council's 39th Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception can be viewed here:

<https://www.councilforqualitygrowth.org/view-photos-from-the-39th-annual-meeting-legislative-assembly/>

About the Council for Quality Growth

The Council for Quality Growth is a trade organization that works to ensure continued growth and economic success for generations to come by providing advocacy, information, and education to its members. For 40 years, the Council has been committed to the mission of promoting balanced and responsible growth and is proactively involved in the formulation of policy and legislation critical to the growth and development industry. The Council addresses, head-on, strategic economic planning, infrastructure needs, and tough quality-of-life issues throughout the metro Atlanta region and state. Visit www.councilforqualitygrowth.org for more.

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2025 Board of Directors Listing

Chair

Clyde Higgs

Vice Chair

Gerald McDowell

Treasurer

Rob Garcia

Secretary

Ellen Smith

Chairmen Emeritus

Thomas J. Andersen
W. Wade Beavers
James B. Braden
Bryan J. Cohen
Scott Condra
J.R. Connolly
Paul Corley
Steven E. Gaultney
Michael L. Guynn
Doug Jenkins
Tim Lowe
Frank B. McGowan
Richard L. Porter
S. Brent Reid
Allen M. Richardson
Forrest Robinson
David Seago
T. Michael Tennant
A. Ray Weeks, Jr.
Thomas W. Wheeler
Glenn S. White

W. Kerry Armstrong
Bryan Batson
Brandon L. Beach
Josh Belinfante
Mason Berryman
Simon H. Bloom
Riley Blount
Kali Boatright
Kelley Brown
Rick Brownlow
Chuck Button
Daniel Buyers
Carla Carraway
Stacey Chapman
Cedric Clark
Audra Cunningham
Laurel David
Alyssa Davis
Dorian DeBarr
G. Douglas Dillard
Albert G. Edwards
Ernest Ellis
Jennifer Fennell
Terry Fox
Rob Garcia
Katie Gately
Melody Glouton
Robin Godwin
Collie Greenwood
Nathan Hammond
Ann Hanlon
Debra Henson
Clyde Higgs
Wayne Hill
Hamilton E. Holmes, Jr.
Douglas R. Hooker
Kimberly A. Hudgins
Bryan A. Jackson
Ashley Jenkins
Stanley L. King
Andrew Kohr
Matt Kraczon
Steven J. Labovitz
Sarah-Elizabeth Langford
Michael Leithead
Tad Leithead
Greg Lewis
Melinda Little
Andy Macke
BJ Martin
Nick Masino
Keith Mason
Sharon Mason
Wayne H. Mason
Gerald McDowell
Brian McHugh
Chuck Meadows
Kim Menefee
Pamela Monastra
Emory Morsberger
Alvin P. Nash
Shayla Nealy
Kevin Norton
Trey Paris
Tim Perry
Fabricio Ponce
Gerald L. Pouncey, Jr.
Kristy Rachal
Sara Ray
Matt Reid
Sally Riker
Emily Ritzler
Malaika Rivers
Anna Roach
John F. Robbins
Rob Ross
Teddy Russell
Christie Sims
Chris Sizemore
Ellen W. Smith
Garen Smith
Pamela J. Smith
Woody Snell
Randy Strunk
Tracy R. Styf
Michael L. Sullivan
Robert J. Svedberg
Jim Teel
Kate Triplett
Alex Warner
Seth G. Weissman
David Welch
Greg Williams
R. Kyle Williams
James Willmer
H. Mason Zimmerman

Managing Director, Development Partner
President
Executive Director
Attorney
Principal Engineer
Partner
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs
President & CEO
Program Director
Senior Consultant

Partner & Senior Vice President
President
Principal | Senior Vice President
President
EVP & Chief Administrative Officer
Partner
Executive Director
President
Partner
Founder & CEO
President & CEO
Gwinnett District Manager
President
Atlanta President
Client Partnerships Lead
Partner
Executive Vice President
General Manager & CEO
President
Executive Director
VP, Sr. Business Development Director
President & CEO
Business Development Executive
Associate

Vice President
Vice President, Program Management
Director of Government Affairs
Founder & CEO
Principal
Director of Business Development
Senior Partner
Executive Director
Principal
Executive Director
Senior Vice President
Vice President of Government Affairs
Vice President of Client Services
Director of Operations
President & CEO
Founder
President & CEO
President
Executive Director
Senior Transit Project Manager
Chief Strategy Officer
Executive Director
Vice President
Executive Director
Principal
Principal, Public Policy & Programs
VP, Land Acquisitions & Development
Managing Director, Government Affairs
Managing Partner
Managing Director
Senior Partner
Region External Affairs
President & CEO
Business Development
VP of Strategy + Growth
Planning & Environment Manager
Executive Director
Executive Director
Managing Director
Senior Vice President
President
Vice President
Founder & Partner
Partner
Vice President, Land Acquisition
President & CEO
President
Vice President
Executive Director
President & CEO
Principal
Regional Vice President
Engineer
VP of Economic Development
Partner
President
Regional Manager
Partner
Principal
Senior Vice President

Pope & Land Enterprises, Inc.
Atlanta Gas Light
True North 400
Robbins Ross Alloy Belinfante Littlefield LLC
Geo-Hydro Engineers
Bloom Parham, LLP
AT&T
Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce
Turner & Townsend Heery
Jacobs

McWhirter Realty Partners
Precision Planning
CROFT
Southeastern Engineering, Inc.
T. Dallas Smith & Company
The Galloway Law Group LLC
Sugarloaf CID
Decide Dekalb Development Authority
Dillard Sellers
CERM
FS 360
Jackson EMC
Fox Building Company
Pinnacle Financial Partners
HFA AE
Andersen, Tate & Carr
Atlanta Commercial Board of REALTORS
MARTA
Hammond Engineering, Inc.
Perimeter CIDs
AtkinsRéalis
Atlanta Beltline, Inc.
Atlas Technical Consultants
Pieper O'Brien Herr Architects

HNTB
H.J. Russell & Company
Gas South
S. L. King & Associates
Pond & Company
PGAL
Dentons
Development Authority of Fulton County
Leithead Consulting
Lilburn CID
Selig Enterprises
Comcast
CERM
W&A Engineering
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
KWM Capital Management
Cobb Chamber of Commerce
Mason Family Management Companies
ATL Airport CIDs
HDR, Inc.
Ohio River South
Cumberland CID
Clark Construction
Gateway 85 CID
Parallax Advisory Group
Stantec
Empire Communities
Freeman Mathis Decisions
North American Properties
VHB
Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP
Georgia Power
Douglas County Chamber of Commerce
The Winter Companies
Atlas Technical Consultants
WSP
Chamblee Doraville CID
Atlanta Regional Commission
Granite Properties
Kimley-Horn
Russell Landscape Group, Inc.
Hussey Gay Bell
INCISIVE
Parker Poe
Pulte Group
Smith Real Estate Services, Inc.
Lynwood Development
Columbia Engineering
Town Center CID
American Council of Engineering Companies
TVS
Goodwyn Mills Cawood
Kimley-Horn
Forsyth County Chamber
Weissman PC
Robinson Weeks Partners
Kaiser Permanente
Williams Teusink
Willmer Engineering
Pope & Land Enterprises, Inc.

PROMOTING BALANCED AND
RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

COUNCILFORQUALITYGROWTH.ORG

Updated 12/17/2024

93 Voting Members
96 Total Members