

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF SAVANNAH
AS AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR, AS RECOMMENDED
BY THE SENATE IT CORRIDORS STUDY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Georgia Legislature created the Senate Information Technology Corridors Study Committee in 2017 to study and make recommendations to the Legislature for the establishment of corridors in Georgia that would directly foster the growth of information technology in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Study Committee received testimony during meetings across the State, and concluded that IT Corridors “can be successful when there is buy-in in the local community, including business community, local governments, and school districts; and where conditions are present that allow for the IT industry to flourish;” and

WHEREAS, the Savannah City Council has shown its support for such an initiative by adopting a strategic plan in 2017 that specifically targets as priorities the high-tech industry for economic growth and development of broadband infrastructure throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the Study Committee concluded that a Technology Corridor would allow the Board of Regents and local school districts within the corridor to focus on programs that allow students to be more prepared for the 21st Century economy; and

WHEREAS, the Study Committee concluded that a Technology Corridor would create a platform for companies, business leaders, and civic leaders to create a collaborative environment; and

WHEREAS, the Study Committee concluded that a Technology Corridor would create a vehicle for the State of Georgia to provide funds to allow for better marketing of areas naturally leading their sectors; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah area has developed as a national leader in logistics due to the dramatic expansion of the Georgia Ports and its growing importance to the American economy, in addition to the region’s superior interstate, rail and airport infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Study Community identified Savannah and the surrounding area as one of two corridors in Georgia that “could immediately benefit substantially” from an IT Corridor program, with the Savannah initiative focused on “logistics technology innovation;” and

WHEREAS, the Study Committee recommended that the Legislature move this process forward by creating an advisory committee “to allow for creation of future grant programs (and) look for ways to better coordinate with industry leaders.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Savannah City Council urges the Georgia General Assembly to adopt the recommendations of the Senate Information Technology Corridors Study Committee, and work with leaders from the Savannah area to develop a program focused on logistics technology innovation. Such a designation will further develop Georgia as a leader in the information technology sector, and diversify the State's growing economy.

Approved this 1st day of February, 2018.

Eddie W. DeLoach, Mayor

Clerk of Council