

THE DEKALB COUNTY FISCAL IMPACT MODEL

LOCATION DeKalb County
 TIMEFRAME November 2014
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Recently, there have been several major annexations as well as efforts to create new cities within DeKalb County. These actions have had, or will have, significant impacts on the financial situation of several county funds. In the past, estimates of potential lost revenues have been calculated, but the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) has had no systematic way of estimating the true fiscal impact of these actions – both on county revenues and county expenses.

In response to a request for proposal published by the BOC, researchers with the Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI²) and the Center for Geographic Information Services have developed a GIS-based fiscal model that will help DeKalb County examine the fiscal impact of any proposed municipal annexation or incorporation within the County. Specifically, the model calculates the fiscal impact on the three funds that provide services to unincorporated DeKalb County – the Designated Fund (Fund 271); the Unincorporated Fund (Fund 272); and the Police Fund (Fund 274).

Once all the revenues and expenses for each block group were calculated, the net revenue was calculated for each block group. Within the Designated Fund, based on 2013 data, there were 165 block groups that had positive net revenues (i.e., revenues within the block group exceeded expenditures) and 115 block groups with negative net revenues.

Within the Unincorporated Fund, based on 2013 data, all 280 unincorporated block groups had positive net revenues (i.e., revenues within the block group exceeded expenditures). For the fund, total revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately \$65 million. Of that amount, 25 percent was transferred to the Designated Fund and 75 percent was transferred to the Police Fund.

Within the Police Fund, based on 2013 data, there were 88 blockgroups that had positive net revenues (i.e., revenues within the block group exceeded expenditures) and 192 block groups with negative net revenues.

