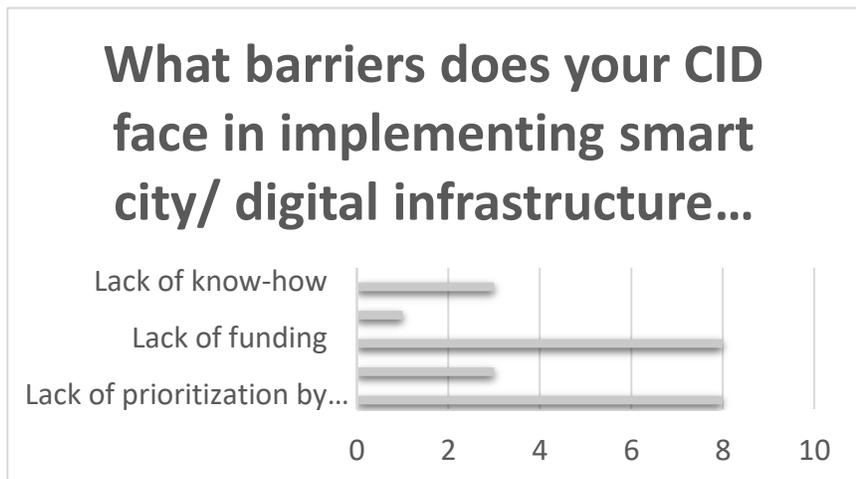




The metro Atlanta region has been experiencing growth and changing business landscapes in the last three decades. One contributing factor has been Community Improvement Districts (CID). CIDs are a form of business improvement districts (BID), where a majority of concerned property owners within a defined geographical region agree to impose additional taxes or fees upon themselves to fund public services. The first CID formed in 1988 and by 2020 there are over 30 active CIDs in the metro Atlanta area.

There has undoubtedly been a collective effect on the metro Atlanta region from the economic activity of CIDs. However, there has been little research done on CIDs and their ability to influence the economy, the business sector, innovation, and community services. In this internship, I worked to gather, and present research conducted by our team. The team consisted of Smart Cities and Inclusive Innovation, the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development and Lexicon Strategies. I benefited from working around a dedicated team of academics and professionals – who were willing to share their professional knowledge and expertise with me.

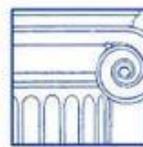
The aim of my work was to manage the CID Phase 1 report. This included a process of collecting online survey information, conference interviews, and public records to gather all relevant information and data on CIDs. This data was then analyzed and presented in a final report. The goal of the report was to uncover relevant information on CIDs that is useful to CIDs and all other interested parties, as well as, discover questions for further research on CIDs and their affect on the metro Atlanta region.



I am extremely grateful to have worked on this project and the internship experience has overall been rewarding. This has been a gratifying learning opportunity to not only sharpen my soft skills but also, develop professional experiences that will benefit my career. My mantra entering the internship was a quote by Vincent Van Gogh, “I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in

order to learn how to do it” and several months later I can proudly say I have accepted challenges and feel more confident in my professional abilities.

Rachel Muller



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Central Georgia, Inc.