

Pedestrian bridge in the works

Developer Gary Eubanks building over CSX tracks

By Jon Gillooly

jgillooly@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA — Marietta developer Gary Eubanks says his faith in the city prompted him to begin constructing an open-air pedestrian bridge over the CSX railroad tracks northwest of the Marietta Square.

In August, Eubanks began construction on the bridge from the Marietta Station complex on Church Street, to what is now a parking lot on Polk Street. Ultimately, Eubanks plans to build an office building and parking deck on that site.

The bridge, four stories tall and 94 feet long, will be accessible on either side by elevators and stairways. The covered walkway will have walls of chain-link fencing. Eubanks estimated the bridge will be completed by March, and said it will be open to the public during business hours.

Asked how much the bridge is costing him, Eubanks said, "A lot." He said it will be the only privately-owned pedestrian bridge across the railroad line from Atlanta to Chattanooga.

And, he hopes, it will not end up as a bridge to nowhere.

In 2005, Eubanks presented plans for an office building, called the Atlanta Northern



Staff/Thinh D. Nguyen

Marietta developer Gary Eubanks is in the process of constructing an open-air pedestrian bridge over the CSX railroad tracks northwest of the Marietta Square.

Building, and adjoining, 160-space parking deck on the Polk Street site. The office building will be at least 2.5 stories tall, and perhaps 3.5 stories, he said, with 11,000 square feet of class A office space on each story.

Although Eubanks has been approved for a \$600,000 tax allocation district subsidy for that building, the project won't be coming out of the ground anytime soon, he said.

That's partly a result of the economy, he said.

But Marietta officials also had packaged the financing for Eubanks' TAD with the much larger \$78-million TAD for a mixed-

use project presented by Pacific Group to redevelop what is now the Wynhaven Apartments on Powder Springs Street. But Pacific backed out on that project when it became tied up in court, city officials say.



Mayor Bill Dunaway

Marietta Mayor Bill Dunaway said Eubanks would still get his city financing, although he could not say

when.

And Eubanks said he believes that, which is why he went ahead with the bridge.