



Atlanta Connected

e-Newsletter

First BeltLine TAD Funding Approved

On Aug. 18, the Atlanta City Council, with the overwhelming support of the Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee, voted to authorize the first BeltLine Tax Allocation District (TAD) bonds in excess of \$100 million. This first TAD funding will continue to fuel progress all around the BeltLine, as we prepare to open the first section of trail, continue with land use, park and greenspace planning, fund affordable housing and community benefits initiatives—and complete the first crucial acquisition of transit right-of-way. View WSB-TV's coverage of the BeltLine moving forward by clicking [here](#).

The BeltLine Is Happening

The BeltLine and its partners and communities will celebrate several key steps forward this fall:

- the opening of the West End Trail; and
- groundbreaking for the Historic Fourth Ward Park.

Please mark your calendar for the BeltLine 5K and West End Community Celebration. The race will start at a completely renovated Gordon White Park, wind through the Historic West End neighborhood, and finish on the newly constructed BeltLine trail. Race registration begins at 8:30 on Saturday, October 18th. After the race, stay at Gordon White Park and enjoy an inclusive Community Celebration hosted by several neighborhood organizations. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the race.

More details will follow soon regarding an October groundbreaking for the Historic Fourth Ward Park.

And please mark your calendar to participate in a clean-up of the Northeast Transit Corridor on Nov. 8!

Councilmembers Partner with the BeltLine to Host Community Meetings

On August 28th, Atlanta City Councilmember Carla Smith (District 1) joined Atlanta BeltLine Inc. in hosting a BeltLine Community Planning Event at the Emmaus House Study Hall in Southeast Atlanta. Community members took advantage of the opportunity to have a first-hand look at the recently completed Heritage Communities of South Atlanta Final Draft Plan and Master Park Plan for discussion and comment.

In June, Councilmember Joyce Shepherd (District 12) hosted a similar event, and more than 70 community members participated. ABI President and CEO Terri Montague says as more BeltLine projects come on line there will be more and more community meetings, eventually they will overlap each other as we continue to build on our commitment to inform the stakeholders and provide as many opportunities as possible for engagement.

Trash to Treasure

The Georgia Chapter of the International Interior Design Association's 3rd annual Trash to Treasure event will benefit the BeltLine. This art auction and fundraiser event on September 18th is intended to increase awareness and raise money toward public art for the BeltLine. It will feature environmental art from regional artists as well as a guest appearance by Ryan Gravel whose 1999 Georgia Tech thesis inspired the BeltLine. For more information, please click [here](#).

BeltLine 101 Sessions Offered Around the BeltLine

Would you or someone you know benefit from an overview of BeltLine basics? The BeltLine Partnership is hosting neighborhood meetings around the BeltLine to continue to educate the community. Upcoming sessions include:

Westside - Tuesday, September 9th 6:00pm
Location - Hands on Atlanta , 600 Means Street, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30318

Northside - Wednesday, September 10th 6:00pm
Location - Piedmont Hospital - 77 Building, Classrooms 4-5, 1968 Peachtree Rd, NW 30309

Southeast - Tuesday, September 16th 6:00pm
Location - Zoo Atlanta - Ford Conference Room, 800 Cherokee Ave, SE, Atlanta, GA 30315

Southwest - Saturday, October 18th 12:00pm
Location - West Hunter Street Baptist Church, 1040 Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, SE, Atlanta, GA 30310

Northeast - Thursday, October 23rd 6:00pm
Location - City Hall East - 1st Floor, 675 Ponce de Leon Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30308

Please look for information on future meetings in next month's newsletter.

BeltLine Affordable Housing Advisory Board Releases Draft Master Plan

The BeltLine Affordable Housing Advisory Board (BAHAB) has worked diligently with the community and partners for over a year to develop draft recommendations for Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. and the Atlanta Development Authority. On August 19th, the recommendations were presented to the public at a citywide hearing at Margaret Mitchell Library. The recommendations as outlined details plans for long-term affordable housing along the BeltLine that:

- Provide balance between targeting lower-income households and providing more units by targeting relatively higher income households
- Facilitates housing near jobs for working families who are otherwise priced out of this close-in housing market
- Serve as a catalyzing agent for the revitalization of communities along the BeltLine redevelopment area that have experienced disinvestment and decay
- Support the mitigation of involuntary economic displacement of existing residents

Funds that could support these recommendations will be generated by a city requirement that 15 percent of tax allocation bond proceeds go toward addressing affordable housing needs managed through the BeltLine Affordable Housing Trust Fund. In the first five years it is anticipated that 18 million dollars will be made available for affordable housing and over the 25 year life of the project, the amount available will increase six-fold to 120 million dollars resulting in an estimated 2,800 or more affordable housing units.

Atlanta BeltLine Inc. President and CEO Terri Montague commended the BAHAB members for their commitment to the project and for creating a plan that adds another dimension to what the BeltLine will bring to the Atlanta community.

Understanding the need and concern of stakeholders to address and limit anticipated economic displacement around the BeltLine, the BeltLine Partnership is working with a variety of non-profit organizations, universities and the City of Atlanta to identify tools to assist residents impacted along the BeltLine.

The Affordable Housing Draft Master Plan is in its final editing stage, comments from community meeting attendees is being added. The plan is available for review at www.beltline.org.

The BeltLine Environmental Impact Study Team Hosts First Sessions for Public Input

Atlanta BeltLine Inc. and MARTA recently hosted the first round of public meetings for the BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study. The study will evaluate how the transit and trails within the BeltLine railroad corridor may be constructed with the least possible environmental impact and address key planning decisions such as whether the facilities will be a light rail or trolley and how the trail and transit facilities will share the, at times narrow, BeltLine corridor. The first round of meetings focused on getting public input on the goals and objectives for transit and trails, the need for these types of improvements and the transit and trail routes to be reviewed in the study. These meetings are known in federal terms as Scoping meetings, since they allow the public and agencies to provide input on the scope of the study prior to the beginning of any detailed technical analyses. Two meetings were held in each of the four quadrants of the City between August 19 and August 21.

The opportunity to comment is still available. Comments will be accepted through September 22, 2008. All responses will be incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Study document that will be presented to the federal government. Documents are available for review and comments are accepted on the MARTA website at <http://www.itsmarta.com/newsroom/beltline.html> or by calling (404) 524-2070.

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. and MARTA are partnering to conduct the two year study in compliance with the statutes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). If approved, the study preserves the options to secure both state and federal funding for the transit and trails planned along the corridor.

Honorable Mentions

On August 29, Atlanta Journal-Constitution reporter Paul Donsky wrote, "After decades of population decline, the city of Atlanta is growing again.... The godfather of infill projects, of course, is Arthur Stirling, a mini-city built on the ashes of a massive steel plant near Midtown. But smaller nodes are taking shape across the area. Hot spots include industrial stretches along DeKalb Avenue and Memorial Drive east of downtown and the Huff Road corridor in northwest Atlanta. Atlanta's Beltline project, which aims to redevelop aging rail corridors into a loop of transit, trails and parks, is expected to spark similar development."

In her final column after 27 years at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, on August 31, Maria Saporta envisioned Atlanta's future with "people on sidewalks, hopping on streetcars, enjoying parks, living in town centers connected by transit and greenways." She quoted Arthur Blank: "We've got to invest in Atlanta" - in projects like the BeltLine. "The choice we have is that we can become an average city or a great city."

And in an August 30 Atlanta Journal-Constitution report of the completion of the final mile of the popular 61.5-mile Silver Comet Trail, Ed McBrayer, executive director of the PATH Foundation, which led and implemented the ambitious project, said: "It is a wonderful milestone for us. But we're so busy getting new projects going, including the Beltline, that we'll only have a short time to sit back and enjoy having completed this awesome project."

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