



Preliminary conceptual rendering of the Atlanta BeltLine corridor at Ponce de Leon Avenue. Credit: Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. and Perkins+Will/Field Operations

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About the Atlanta BeltLine

The Atlanta BeltLine has the extraordinary potential to transform the City of Atlanta. It will combine parks and greenspace, transit and trails, transportation and pedestrian access, affordable workforce housing and public art along 22 miles of historic rail segments that encircle the urban core. The Atlanta BeltLine will ultimately connect 45 neighborhoods. As one of the most comprehensive economic development efforts ever undertaken in the City of Atlanta and the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment currently underway in the U.S., the Atlanta BeltLine will serve as a model of environmental sustainability, effective land use and historic preservation.

Atlanta BeltLine Inc. (ABI), formed by the Atlanta Development Authority, is the entity tasked with planning and executing the implementation of the Atlanta BeltLine with partners including City of Atlanta Departments. Its functions include specifically defining the Atlanta BeltLine plan; leading efforts to secure federal, state and local funding; continuing the community engagement process; and serving as the overall project management office to execute the Atlanta BeltLine plan, including the coordination of planning and execution activities with other City of Atlanta departments and managing all vendors and suppliers. Atlanta BeltLine Inc. is also responsible for tracking and reporting progress to the Atlanta City Council, Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County, the three taxing authorities that authorized the BeltLine TAD legislation in 2005.



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From the desk of the President and CEO:

At this time of year we have so many reasons to give thanks. First and foremost, we are thankful for your support. Community support has been absolutely critical to our success in 2010, as has the tremendous support from our public officials and partners in the private and nonprofit sectors. We are also thankful to have such a dedicated, incredible team, working tirelessly to deliver the Atlanta BeltLine to you with speed, precision and care.

Under Mayor Kasim Reed's leadership we have taken the project to new heights in 2010. As we approach 2011, we expect more great developments and activities to share with you. Be on the lookout for spring festivities celebrating the openings of Boulevard Crossing Park, D.H. Stanton Park and Historic Fourth Ward Park. Check out Atlanta's first public skate park that received a generous grant from legendary skateboarder, Tony Hawk. Join us next summer as we open up the Eastside Trail, one of the most talked about segments to date. And this is only the beginning.

One of the great things about the Atlanta BeltLine is that there is always something new just around the corner. We are always seeking out new innovations to enhance the developments, whether with solar panels at our parks or community programs like *Art on the Atlanta BeltLine* which united a variety of Atlanta neighborhoods. While the planning process is still underway, we will continue to provide sustainable resources and community events that reconnect Atlanta with its railroad history and facilitate its journey into the future.

In this edition of the newsletter, we highlight the outstanding strides that have been made throughout the year. With significant growth and development of our trails and parks, adoption of additional master plans, advances in corridor design, and ever-increasing support from Atlanta communities, the Atlanta BeltLine's momentum is stronger than ever. As always, we encourage you to get involved, volunteer, attend events and help shape your neighborhoods through Study Groups and other opportunities. Please visit us online for the most up to date information on all of these exciting new developments and programs at www.BeltLine.org.

-Brian Leary



Construction Begins on the Eagerly Anticipated Eastside Trail

On October 30, Atlanta City Council President Ceasar Mitchell and Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves presided over the groundbreaking for the Eastside Trail.

WSB TV anchor/reporter Jovita Moore emceed the event with more than 150 members of the community in attendance as well as stakeholders from the City, Fulton County, partner organizations such as the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, the PATH Foundation, Trust for Public Land, Trees Atlanta, Park Pride and many

others. The trail is being funded primarily through generous donations from Kaiser Permanente and the Sarah and Jim Kennedy/PATH Foundation. The new 14-foot wide concrete multi-use trail marks the first phase in developing the Atlanta BeltLine corridor into a new public space that will ultimately include a new pedestrian-friendly transit system and linear park.

This segment of the Eastside Trial will be two-and-a-half miles in length,

starting at the tip of Piedmont Park at 10th Street and Monroe Drive and ending at DeKalb Avenue. It will connect Piedmont Park, the new Historic Fourth Ward Park and the Freedom Park Trail and runs through the neighborhoods of Virginia-Highland, Poncey Highland, Old Fourth Ward and Inman Park.

Construction is now underway and will continue through the summer of 2011, when it is anticipated to open to the public.



Rendering of the Eastside Trail just north of Freedom Parkway. Credit: Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. and Perkins+Will/Field Operations



City and County officials, neighborhood residents and Atlanta BeltLine partners break ground on the Eastside Trail. Credit: Marc Mauldin

Kudzu Removal Just Got Greener... and Cuter



One of the Atlanta BeltLine's cutest helpers dining on 1.5 acres of kudzu to make way for Boulevard Crossing Park. Credit: Christopher T. Martin

Kudzu remains an ever-present nuisance as the Atlanta BeltLine develops, but with the help of Trees Atlanta, a new solution has eaten away at this intrusive overgrowth. During the month of October, Trees Atlanta hired a herd of 24 goats to feast on one-and-a-half acres of invasive kudzu at Boulevard Crossing Park in Southeast Atlanta.

Why? Goats offer a low-impact, effective alternative to multiple treatments of herbicides. Using the goats allowed Trees Atlanta and the Atlanta BeltLine to drastically reduce the amount of chemicals used in Boulevard Crossing Park while testing the effectiveness of this alternative method to remove kudzu. At the rate the goats eat, approximately 150-200 square feet per day, the 1.5 acres were cleared within three weeks.

While the goats have moved onto their next job, there is potential for their return to help clear more land along the Atlanta BeltLine and for visitors to watch them work.

Environmental Impact Statement Public Meetings Coming Soon

The Federal Transit Administration, at the request of MARTA and Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., is conducting a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a critical study needed to advance Atlanta BeltLine transit and make the project eligible for certain types of federal funding. The purpose of the study is to examine environmental impacts more broadly, and specifically to determine the alignment for transit and trails and the

technology that will be used for transit- light rail or modern streetcar. The study began in 2008 and has had several rounds of public input. The final public meetings will be held to solicit feedback from the community in early 2011. Please check www.BeltLine.org for information regarding upcoming public meetings.

New Master Plans Adopted in Subareas 1 and 10

As Atlanta continues to grow, the Atlanta BeltLine is providing the framework encouraging smart growth that will support the blossoming trails, parks and transit designed to enhance the city's sustainability and economic vitality. Throughout 10 subareas, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. is developing master plans that address land use, transportation, parks and greenspace, public art and historic preservation. Communities within each subarea provide input at Study Group meetings designed to incorporate their hopes for the redevelopment project in their neighborhoods.

Master plan adoption is critical for the momentum of the Atlanta BeltLine to continue creating a seamless, unifying resource for city residents. As of December 6, seven out of the 10 master plans have been adopted by the Atlanta City Council, marking significant advances toward the project's development.

Recently adopted Subarea 1 in Abernathy-Cascade in the Southwest includes concepts for property owners to redevelop the Kroger Citi-Center area by using the grocery store as an anchor and increasing short-term residential and retail development in the existing parking lot. The plan also calls for mixed-use development along Warehouse Row and the expansion of Enota Park into a 10-acre neighborhood park with a new playground, community garden and picnic grove, event lawn, basketball court and more!

Subarea 10 in Boone-Hollowell on the Westside includes plans to restore the historic Maddox Park and expand it on the south and west sides; to enhance recreational and

topographical conditions; develop a greenway with multiuse trails for the Proctor Creek corridor; and guide future transit-oriented redevelopment in the Boone and Hollowell areas.



The adopted master plan for Enota Park, a proposed 10-acre park in Southwest Atlanta in Subarea 1, located just south of I-20.

For information on events, study groups and volunteer opportunities, visit Calendar.BeltLine.org.

Staff News

Nate Conable has been promoted to Director of Transit and Transportation for Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Previously, Nate had served as Senior Project Manager since joining Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. in 2006. Nate has led ABI's efforts on transit and transportation since its founding.



Nate Conable, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.'s Director of Transit and Transportation

Earlier this year, Rukiya Eaddy was promoted to External Affairs Manager. Previously, she had served as Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.'s Community Engagement Advocate since 2007. She was instrumental in implementing the Community Engagement Framework for the Atlanta BeltLine, which was legislatively mandated by Atlanta City Council.



Rukiya Eaddy, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.'s External Affairs Manager



Historic Fourth Ward Park's beautiful storm water retention facility that will alleviate chronic drainage problems in the area.



Construction of D.H. Stanton Park's pavilion is one of many new features of this beautiful greenspace



The lights are on! Historic Fourth Ward Park Phase I at night. The park is using special LED lights that are more energy and cost efficient- and look beautiful!



The bowls in the new skatepark are beginning to take shape. Be on the lookout for a grand opening in spring 2011!

Adopt the Atlanta BeltLine!

Since its inception, community involvement has helped the Atlanta BeltLine take shape. Now, with the help of Park Pride, the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership and Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. the Adopt-the-Atlanta BeltLine program is available to you! The Atlanta BeltLine is a new public resource for Atlanta, and by adopting a segment, residents can feel ownership and pride by taking a direct role in caring for this new resource. Adopting the Atlanta BeltLine takes only a monthly commitment to maintaining greenspace through weeding and invasive plant removal, cleaning benches and signage, reporting vandalism or maintenance concerns and picking up litter. We encourage groups to take part and find a segment of the Atlanta BeltLine you'd like to care for and help make this project truly belong to those whom it will most benefit.



To learn more about volunteer opportunities and the Adopt-the-Atlanta BeltLine program, please visit adopt.BeltLine.org. Other volunteer projects will be determined as the Atlanta BeltLine progresses – the scope of the adoption program will evolve along with the Atlanta BeltLine.



Atlanta residents committed to keeping the City clean join the Atlanta BeltLine in one of the many clean-up volunteer days available.

Photo credits: Christopher T. Martin



Newly installed solar photovoltaic panels will make D.H. Stanton Park energy cost neutral. D.H. Stanton Park is the first park in Atlanta to use this technology and one of the first in the entire country.