

# We want to hear from you.....

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## Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Board of Directors

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The Honorable LaChandra Butler Burks President, Atlanta Board of Education District 5	The Honorable Emma Darnell Fulton County Board of Commissioners District 5	Clara Axam Director Atlanta Office, Enterprise Community Partners Board of Directors, MARTA	Elizabeth "Liz" Coyle Community Representative

**Atlanta BeltLine Inc. (ABI)**, an affiliate of the Atlanta Development Authority, is the entity tasked with planning and executing the implementation of the BeltLine in partnership with the BeltLine team including City of Atlanta Departments. Its functions include specifically defining the BeltLine plan; leading efforts to secure federal, state and local funding; continuing the BeltLine community engagement process; and serving as the overall project management office to execute the 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 on the BeltLine to the Atlanta City Council, Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County, the three taxing authorities that authorized the BeltLine TAD legislation in 2005.

Visit us  
online

[www.BeltLine.org](http://www.BeltLine.org)

### About the BeltLine

The BeltLine has the extraordinary potential to transform the City of Atlanta. The BeltLine 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 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 BeltLine will serve as a model of environmental sustainability, effective land use and historic preservation.

Atlanta, GA 30303  
Suite 200  
86 Pryor Street SW

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### From the desk of the President and CEO:

The BeltLine's strong momentum from 2008 has carried over into 2009. The opening of the first segment of trail in the West End, the ground breaking for Historic Fourth Ward Park, the sale of the first BeltLine TAD bonds, and the acquisition of Northeast transit corridor were all major steps forward for the project.

Stakeholder support of the BeltLine has recently been tested and remains as strong as ever. When the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Amtrak intervened with BeltLine transit activities on the recently purchased Northeast Corridor, the community response was overwhelming, including strong support from Mayor Shirley Franklin, City Council, Congressman John Lewis, Senator Johnny Isakson, Neighborhood Planning Units, and 300 people attended a rally on the tracks behind Piedmont Park on January 31. Subsequently, Amtrak, GDOT, ABI, the City of Atlanta, MARTA, the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Transit Implementation Board and others have agreed to take 30 days to review the viability of existing routing alternatives for Amtrak and commuter rail.

Community interest remains high as master planning continues - Neighborhood Planning Units are reviewing five of the 10 subarea plans before City Council votes on their adoption. The planning process continues for subarea 6 in the Northeast. Downpayment assistance is now available from the BeltLine Affordable Housing Trust Fund for residents buying homes along the BeltLine, and we have submitted requests to the federal government for stimulus, transportation and community development funding. To help ensure meaningful public participation in BeltLine planning and implementation, we welcomed aboard our new Director of Community Engagement, Beth McMillan. We also welcome our new Senior Landscape Architect, Kevin Burke. Every day we make progress and gain new partners. Visit us online at [www.BeltLine.org](http://www.BeltLine.org) for updates and to find ways to get involved.

Terri Y. Montague



## BeltLine Master Planning Moves Forward "Several communities on the BeltLine are about to take a major step forward."

Several communities on the BeltLine are about to take a major step forward. After 18 months of planning meetings and discussions, five of the 10 subarea master plans are on their way to Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU) and then to City Council for approval. Each master plan addresses land use, transportation, parks and recreation, public art, and historic preservation in a comprehensive way.

Through the months of January and February, staff from Atlanta

BeltLine, Inc. and the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Planning has been presenting the plans to NPUs seeking their comments and approval for the following subareas: 2- The Heritage Communities of South Atlanta; 3- Boulevard Crossing; 5- Freedom Parkway; 7-Northside-Peachtree-Piedmont; and 9-Upper Marietta-Westside Park. ABI plans to present the finalized plans for City Council adoption by April 2009.

The master plan for Subarea 6 – Monroe-Piedmont – is nearing the

end of its planning process and is expected to move into the adoption process this summer. Subarea 1 – West End – just began the planning process, and ABI is preparing to start the planning process in the remaining subareas later in the year.

Once all of the subarea master plans are complete they will fit together seamlessly to form one master plan for the entire BeltLine, which will shape how the project develops over the next 25 years and beyond.

### Rendering of Westside Reservoir Park in Subarea 9



## BeltLine Transit Update

In January, GDOT and AMTRAK intervened in the abandonment of the Northeast BeltLine rail corridor with the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB),

threatening momentum and implementation for the BeltLine project. The Northeast Corridor right-of-way (ROW), which has been out of active service for over

eight years, accounts for nearly 20% of the 22-mile BeltLine loop. The property adjacent to the ROW includes Piedmont Park, the jewel of the city's park system.

The BeltLine vision includes transit, trails and greenspace, creating a new public realm for the city of Atlanta and generating significant economic development producing tens of thousands of jobs throughout the BeltLine's boundaries.

With such significant public and private investments already made in the BeltLine, the civic and community response in support of the project has been strong and clear. After learning of the actions by GDOT and Amtrak, Mayor Franklin wrote a letter to Congressman John Lewis, asking for his assistance. The City Council passed a resolution in support of the BeltLine, and several Neighborhood Planning Units, grassroots and community organizations have written letters in support of the BeltLine to legislators and the Governor. Congressman Lewis wrote a letter to Amtrak, and Senator Johnny Isakson has also been actively involved in support of the project. The BeltLine Partnership has mobilized private support from the business and philanthropic community and over 300 people attended a rally in support of the BeltLine on January 31 on the BeltLine tracks next to Piedmont Park.

On February 2, ABI, ADA, City of Atlanta, GDOT, AMTRAK, MARTA, Atlanta Regional Commission, Congressman John Lewis' office and others met and the involved parties agreed to work together over a 30 day period, beginning February 6, to review the viability of existing routing alternatives for Amtrak and commuter rail in order to accommodate the needs of the BeltLine vision, intercity and high speed rail in the region.

ABI and MARTA are also continuing to conduct the environmental impact studies for the BeltLine corridor, which will include more meetings with the community in the spring to discuss findings regarding existing conditions in the corridor and options for different technologies and alignments of transit and trails.

# Downpayment Assistance

## Now Available to Live on the BeltLine!



The BeltLine Affordable Housing Trust Fund is up and running! With the support of the Urban Residential Finance Authority, downpayment assistance ranging from 10 to 20 percent of purchase price is available to qualified buyers for homes and condos located in the BeltLine tax allocation district. For more information about the downpayment program, visit [www.BeltLine.org](http://www.BeltLine.org) or call Tracey Powell at (404) 614-8280.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## February-April 2009

Date	Time	Meeting/Event	Location
02/26/09	6:00-8:00 PM	BeltLine Quarterly Briefing	Atlanta Public Schools Auditorium, 130 Trinity Ave. SW, 30303
03/09/09	6:00 PM	Community Development/ Human Resources Committee Public Hearing	Atlanta City Hall 55 Trinity Avenue, 30303
03/10/09	6:00-7:00 PM	Westside BeltLine 101	Hands On Atl. 600 Means St., 30318
03/11/09	4:00-6:00 PM	BeltLine Affordable Housing Board Meeting	86 Pryor Street SW, 30303
03/11/09	6:00-7:00 PM	Northside BeltLine 101	Piedmont Hospital, 1948 Peachtree Rd., 77 Building, Classroom 4
03/12/09	6:00-7:00 PM	Northeast BeltLine 101	City Hall East - 675 Ponce de Leon Ave., Ponce Park Office, 1st floor 30308
03/14/09	9:00-12:00 PM	Brown Middle School Wildlife Triangle Tree Planting	Meet at Rose Circle Park on White Street
03/14/09	12:00-1:00 PM	Southwest BeltLine 101	West Hunter Street Baptist Church 1040 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd., 30310
03/17/09	6:00 -7:00 PM	Southeast BeltLine 101	Zoo Atlanta - 800 Cherokee Ave., SE, Ford Room, 30315
04/07/09	8:30-10:30 AM	ABI Board of Directors Meeting	86 Pryor Street SW, 30303
04/07/09	4:00-6:00 PM	BLP Board of Directors Meeting	50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1045, 30303
04/18/09	9:00-12:00 PM	Earth Day: Invasive Plant Removal in the BeltLine Arboretum	Meet at Gordon White Park

## Beth McMillan

### Director of Community Engagement

Beth McMillan joined Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. as Director of Community Engagement in December 2008. Her responsibilities include coordination of all aspects of community input and the participation of all impacted BeltLine communities. Beth was formerly the Director of Planning and Zoning for the City of East Point, Ga. where she managed a department of 15 employees engaged in the planning, zoning, inspection, licensing and permitting functions for the City. Previously, Beth served for 17 years in planning in different responsibilities in the Fulton County Department of Environment and Community Development. Beth is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University (formerly Clark College) where she majored in Economics, and continued her graduate study in the field of Economics at Atlanta University. Beth currently resides in East Point with her husband and has two daughters.

## Kevin Burke Senior Landscape Architect

Kevin Burke, who joined Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. in January 2009 as Senior Landscape Architect, has more than twenty-five years of professional experience on a range of institutional, roadway, college and university, and park projects. Prior to joining ABI, Mr. Burke was employed from 2005-2008 by the

Massachusetts Turnpike Authority as a Project Engineer and landscape architect, and between 1994 and 2004, Mr. Burke was a key member of the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel, "The Big Dig," landscape architectural team.

Mr. Burke has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Utah State

University, in Logan, UT, is a Registered Landscape Architect in New York and New Hampshire, is CLARB certified, and is a NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association) Accredited Organic Land Care Professional.

## BeltLine Projects Underway

February 2009

