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# From the Chairman of the Board:

It is with great pleasure that we introduced Paul Morris as the new president and CEO of Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. in July from North Carolina. He brings 30 years of experience in all of the disciplines related to the Atlanta BeltLine program. His addition to the team will continue to move the program forward on all fronts - transit, trails, parks, affordable housing, economic development, brownfield remediation, public art - and will help us complete the Atlanta BeltLine vision. Please help us welcome him to Atlanta.

-John Somerhalder

#### From the President and CEO:

Over the last two months I have gotten to know the team and learn more about this exceptional program - I am humbled every day that I have the honor to work on the Atlanta BeltLine on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta. I am proud to call Atlanta my new home and I intend to get to know each of the unique Atlanta BeltLine communities intimately in the years ahead. I look forward to working with members of the community, stakeholders and this exceptional team as we progress the Atlanta BeltLine.

—Paul Morris



#### SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR TRAIL RIBBON-CUTTING



Pictured above: The Southwest Connector ribbon-cutting. Photo credit: Kwadwo Atta.

With over 100 neighbors, cyclists, walkers, runners, police officers, special guests, and Atlanta BeltLine supporters in attendance, the Southwest Connector Trail dedication was a huge success! The ceremony took place next to Beecher Hills Elementary School on August 10, 2013, right after students came back to school with a new amenity in their backyard. Special thanks to the PATH Foundation, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Watershed Management for partnering with Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. for this dedication, and to all others that made this event possible.

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## PATH FORCE PATROLS THE ATLANTA BELTLINE



Pictured above: Lieutenant Jeff Baxter, Commander of the Path Force

In July, Mayor Kasim Reed and Police Chief George N. Turner introduced the Path Force. This dedicated unit of the Atlanta Police Department is comprised of 15 officers, all military veterans, and three supervisors. The Path Force is on duty seven days a week, patrolling the three open trails on the Atlanta BeltLine, the interim hiking trails and adjacent parks and neighborhoods. The unit is funded by a \$1.8 million U.S. Department of Justice COPS grant received in 2012.

Led by Lt. Jeff Baxter, these officers primarily patrol on foot and bicycle, and will eventually have off-road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles.

Together with the Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. is committed to ensuring the continued safety of Atlanta BeltLine users. ABI has faciliated several upgrades to the Atlanta BeltLine Eastside Trail. More than 20 light fixtures have been added or improved with the help of Georgia Power. Mile markers also aid in the quick response of the Path Force to emergency calls. This lighting and mile marker signage system will continue to be enhanced and extended along the entire 22-mile

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## SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR TRAIL, cont'd



Those in attendance included Reverend Gerald Durley, Pastor Emeritus at Providence Missionary Baptist Church, who opened with a rousing invocation, and Council Member Lamar Willis, who served as the emcee. Mayor Kasim Reed also delivered remarks, along with Atlanta City Council President Ceasar Mitchell, and the celebratory mood didn't end with Reverend Damon Williams' benediction. The crowd stuck around long after the ribbon cutting. Walkers, joggers and bicyclists were waiting eagerly to break in the trail on its inaugural day.

Beecher Hills Elementary School was really hopping at the dedication – the kids at the ceremony were treated to a big bounce house, and a DJ hosted a dance party for folks of all sizes.

Lt. Baxter and the Atlanta Police Department's Path Force joined the dedication, as well as some four-legged APD "officers" - the APD mounted patrol.

The Southwest Connector Trail is phase 1 of a 4.5 mile spur trail that will eventually connect the Westview Neighborhood to the Atlanta BeltLine. The trail allows for improved access to Beecher Hills elementary school, connecting the existing Lionel Hampton Trail with Westwood Avenue. The Southwest Connector Trail, along with the Eastside Trail, the West End Trail and the Northside Trail, will bring the total of permanent trails to nearly seven miles along and near the Atlanta BeltLine corridor.

## MEET PAUL MORRIS



Paul Morris, President and CEO of Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., and Valarie Wilson, Executive Director of The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership.

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. is thrilled to welcome our new President and CEO, Paul Morris. Mr. Morris brings a wealth of exprience to ABI. Over his nearly 30-year career, Mr. Morris has worked in consulting and line management roles focusing on transportation, urban redevelopment, natural resource management, public parks, and the development of corporate and institutional facilities throughout the United States and

Prior to joining ABI, Mr. Morris served as Deputy Secretary for Transit for the North Carolina Department of Transportation where he directed the more than 900 employees and \$800M budget of the state's multi-modal divisions. Previous to that role, he worked with a number of consulting and investment firms including Parsons Brinckerhoff, Cherokee Investment Partners and his own firm, McKeever/Morris, Inc. He was president of Greenleaf Strategies, a strategic planning, design and project management consultancy to government and the private sector.

Mr. Morris has worked on several projects of national significance, such as the World Trade Center Memorial in New York City, the Columbine High School Memorial in Colorado, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

Mr. Morris has served more than 40 organizations from local neighborhood associations to state legislative committees. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon and graduate certificate in Zoning, Planning and Development from Harvard University. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Society of Landscape Architects, where in 2003 he served as national president. Mr. Morris currently lives in Atlanta and is married with two children.

## PATH FORCE PATROLS, cont'd



**Pictured above:** The Atlanta Police Department Path Force, officially introduced on July 26 of this year.

loop. ABI has also partnered with Trees Atlanta to prune trees and clear invasive growth along the trail, improving lines of site and increasing ambient lighting in the corridor. The Atlanta Police Foundation (APF) is installing cameras procured by ABI that will feed into APD's citywide system. All future trails built in the Atlanta BeltLine corridor will include lighting, surveillance cameras and mile markers. APD has been active in this design process and has hosted training for crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) at its headquarters. ABI and APD will continue to work closely on the design and implementation of future segments of the Atlanta BeltLine.

## ANOTHER GREAT RACE AT THE SW 5K

The 2013 Atlanta BeltLine Running Series is moving at a great pace, with a strong start out of the gate at the Northside 5k in April, and an energetic follow-up with the Southwest 5k on July 13. The race ran along the West End Trail, taking runners on both paved and unpaved portions for an all-terrain experience. Everyone was in on the fun at the Southwest 5k, with a team challenge and a 1k Youth Fun Run, so don't leave anyone home for the next race in the series! The inaugural Southeast 8k takes place on September 28 at Boulevard Crossing Park. Visit run.beltline.org for more details.



#### **STAFF NEWS**

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. is pleased to welcome the following staff:



Kwadwo Atta, Senior Transit Project Manager. Kwadwo has over fourteen years of experience in Transit services, Engineering Design

and Construction Management. Some of his employment highlights include working as the Program Manager responsible for delivering DeKalb County's and the Perimeter CID's construction program and managing most of the new roads and streetscape projects around the Perimeter Mall in Dunwoody.



Meghan Injaychock, Landscape Architect. Meghan Injaychok joined ABI as a fellow in 2011 and her accomplishments

earned her a contract position in 2012. Now an official member of the team, Meghan helped to create the Eastside Trail mile marker system, accomplished several signage campaigns, managed the Perkerson Park Splashpad addition and managed and designed the Lang Carson Park Weatherby St. extension in the Spring of 2013.



Tanya James, Executive Assistant to President & CEO Tanya James has 25 years of experience in executive-level support and office

operations. Her experience spans from the area of education in Fort Lauderdale, Florida to internal auditing and finance for the City of Atlanta and its utility, Watershed Management. Tanya brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and looks forward to working with the Atlanta BeltLine Team.



Tracey
Weatherspoon,
Executive Assistant
to Chief Operating
Officer. Tracey
Weatherspoon joined
the team with over

15 years of experience as an Executive Assistant. Prior to her tenure at ABI, Ms. Weatherspoon has served as an Executive Assistant and Department Coordinator to C-level Executives in a wide range of business sectors. Ms. Weatherspoon is a native of Atlanta, Georgia where she is a part of event forums, outreach programs and extensively serves in her community.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Date</b> 9/11/13	<b>Time</b> 8:30-9:30 AM	Meeting/Event ABI Executive Committee Meeting	Location 86 Pryor Street, 30303
9/12/13	6:30-8 PM	NE Study Group: Proactive Rezoning	25 Boulevard NE, 30312
9/13/13	7-9AM	Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable	634 West Peachtree Street, 30308
9/23/13	6:30-8 PM	Westside Grp: Proactive Rezoning	2315 D.L. Hollowell Pkwy NW, 30318
9/24/13	5-11 PM	Atlanta BeltLine Night at the Braves	755 Hank Aaron Dr, 30315
9/28/13	9 AM-12 PM	Atlanta BeltLine Southeast 8k	Boulevard Crossing Park, 30315
10/9/13	8:30-10 AM	ABI Board of Directors Meeting	86 Pryor Street, 30303
10/24/13	6:30-8PM	SW Study Group: Urban Ag	770 Deckner Ave SW 30310
10/28/13	6:30-8 PM	Westside: Grp: Proactive Rezoning II	732 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. NW 30318
11/13/13	8:30-9:30 AM	ABI Executive Committee Meeting	86 Pryor Street, 30303

For more details on upcoming events, please visit: events.beltline.org.

Art on the Atlanta BeltLine performances are taking place in September and October! Check out the events calendar or art.beltline.org/schedule/ for detailed performance info!

 $Bustours and walking tours take place every Friday and Saturday morning—please visit {\color{red}tours.beltline.org} for more information and to register.}$ 

 $\label{lem:weights} \textbf{We're looking for volunteers!} \ Volunteer training is offered each month on the second Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 PM and the third Friday from 12-1 PM in the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership offices at 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 910, 30303. Visit volunteer. beltline.org for more information on ways to get involved.$ 

#### **BRAVES NIGHT**



On September 24, join the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership for a night with the Atlanta Braves – always a favorite annual event for friends of the Atlanta BeltLine! Your Atlanta Braves will face off against the Milwaukee Brewers following a reception for Atlanta BeltLine supporters on the Homeplate Patio. The reception begins at 5 p.m., followed by a pre-game parade around the field. Game time is 7:10 p.m. Come cheer on your Atlanta Braves while supporting the Atlanta BeltLine! Find more information and purchase tickets through the events calendar at braves. beltline.org.

Pictured: Everyone had a blast walking Turner Field at the 2012 Atlanta BeltLine Braves Night.

## **FALL FELLOWS**

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. also provides invaluable work experience to graduate students by actively involving them in all aspects of work underway on the program. ABI welcomes its 2013 Fall Community Engagement Fellow, Lauren Borchard. Lauren spent her childhood in a small farming town in California and moved to Atlanta to attend Emory University where she majored in political science. She went on to work for the 2008 Barack Obama Presidential Campaign followed by a stint with the Democratic National Committee as a community organizer in DeKalb and Fulton Counties. Lauren is currently enrolled at the University of Georgia and is earning a master's degree in environmental planning & design.

# ART ON THE ATLANTA BELTLINE 2013

Art on the Atlanta Beltline has returned as Atlanta's largest temporary public art exhibition, showcasing over 70 innovative works of performance and visual art from new and returning artists. The temporary installations feature the work of established and emerging artists along eight miles of the Atlanta BeltLine corridor. If you haven't marked your calendars for the remaining performances yet, do it now! Performances will take place over the weekends of September 21 & 22, 28 & 29, and October 12 & 13.

Since its inception in 2010, the exhibit has grown by over 40%. This year is shaping up to be the most spectacular yet with more than 70 visual and performance pieces selected, including works of sculpture, dance, murals, theater, outdoor concerts, parades, performance art, and others. This is also the first exhibition in which the Eastside Trail, opened in October 2012, is officially open for the duration of the project.

Art on the Atlanta BeltLine is made possible by support from our generous community partners, donors, and sponsors. Special thanks go to the Office of Cultural Affairs, Fulton County Arts Council, the Sarah Giles Moore Foundation and our presenting sponsor for the fourth consecutive year, U.S. Micro.



**Pictured above:** Object of Ma(tt)n, by William Massey



# WHAT'S HOT ON THE ALTANTA BELTLINE BLOG?



Here are some of the most popular articles on the Atlanta BeltLine blog. For the full versions and more, **visit beltline**. **org**.

Eastside Trail Extension: Streetscape Improvement Concepts Along Wylie Street http://bit.ly/13mCijC

As part of the design process for the extension of the Eastside Trail, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. is working with the City of Atlanta to improve the experience along Wylie Street for both cyclists and pedestrians between now and the implementation of transit.

Southwest and Southeast Corridor Design Update http://bit.ly/13jFrOB

Corridor design establishes the basis for all future Atlanta BeltLine design and construction, including elements of engineering, streetscapes and landscape design, historic preservation, public art locations and, of course, transit, trails and greenspace.

Utility Work Underway for Connection between Eastside Trail and HFWP http://bit.ly/11J6FND

Utility boring has started at the future "Gateway" connection, a planned path that will connect Historic Fourth Ward Park with the Eastside Trail. Georgia Power, Comcast, and AT&T will bury the utility lines near the Angier Springs access point to the Eastside Trail in preparation for the Gateway.

Local Artist Commissioned to Construct Railroad Artifact Sculpture on the Atlanta BeltLine http://bit.ly/15tDeTu

Art on the Atlanta BeltLine will be adding a 23-foot tall Corinthian column, weighing over 13 tons, to its year-round art collection. Artist Phil Proctor envisioned the column, created out of railroad artifacts, to represent Atlanta's architectural and railroad history.

**10th Street Cycle Track** http://bit. ly/1aJi8me

A partnership between the City of Atlanta, the PATH Foundation, and the Midtown Alliance has facilitated the construction of Atlanta's first "cycle track," a two-way bike lane on 10th Street near Piedmont Park, between

Monroe Drive and Charles Allen Drive. The cycle track connects to the Atlanta BeltLine's Eastside Trail at Monroe Drive.

## **ABOUT US**

The Atlanta BeltLine is the most comprehensive transportation and economic development effort ever undertaken in the City of Atlanta and among the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment programs currently underway in the United States. The Atlanta BeltLine will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails, transit and affordable housing along an historic 22-mile railroad corridor circling downtown and connecting many neighborhoods directly to each other. Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) is the entity tasked with planning and executing the implementation of the Atlanta BeltLine in partnership with other public and private organizations, including City of Atlanta departments and The Atlanta Belt Line Partnership. For more information on the Atlanta BeltLine, please visit: www.beltline. org.

#### **CONTACT US**

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#### SOCIAL MEDIA







@AtlantaBeltLine

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