



Westside Trail Open House – January 14, 2014
Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How is the project funded?** It is funded by the Atlanta BeltLine Tax Allocation District, philanthropic donations, existing federal funding and by an \$18 million TIGER V Grant award.
- 2. Will Atlanta BeltLine Inc. (ABI) encourage Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) participation with the construction of the trail?** ABI's procurement process has DBE participation goals that every contractor must meet or exceed. All potential contractors must be registered and prequalified with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).
- 3. How is the First Source Job Program Monitored?** It is monitored internally by ABI, and it is also monitored externally by GDOT and the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA).
- 4. Will the trail extend to Atlanta University Center or Atlanta Area Tech?** The Westside Trail will run inside the former rail corridor between Washington Park and University Avenue. Future spur trails may extend to the AUC or Atlanta Area Tech campuses, but are not included within the scope of this project.
- 5. How is the Atlanta BeltLine addressing the stray animal problem, specifically feral cats?** ABI partners with animal agencies and/or advocacy groups to assist in handling matters concerning stray animals along the Atlanta BeltLine.
- 6. How many temporary or permanent jobs have been completed thus far by the Atlanta BeltLine?** Approximately 250 construction jobs have been created/preserved as a part of Atlanta BeltLine construction activities. We are currently working to calculate the number of jobs that have been created as part of private investment within the Atlanta BeltLine planning area.
- 7. What are the project limits for the trail?** The trail will start at Washington Park and will end at University Avenue.
- 8. Are there plans to invest into Washington High School as a part of this project?** The resources utilized for this project are exclusively for trail construction. School repairs and improvements are handled by the Atlanta Public School System.



- 9. How was this trail segment selected for the Tiger V Grant?** The Westside Trail project best met the criteria for a TIGER V grant and was already identified as a priority project for the Atlanta BeltLine. The Tiger V Grant helped expedite the trail by two to three years.
- 10. Didn't the original trail proposal design connect to Maddox Park?** While future extensions of this project will include a connection to Maddox Park, this project as submitted in the grant proposal only included the section of the Atlanta BeltLine that runs from Washington Park (Lena St.) to the Adair Park neighborhood.
- 11. Did ABI complete environmental impact assessments completed for this project?** Yes.
- 12. How will your work on Proctor Creek as a part of this trail construction impact Washington High School?** We will be managing the storm water and improving the storm water conditions within the corridor, and we are addressing any impacts to Proctor Creek. Washington High School is up-stream from the Atlanta BeltLine (water from the Atlanta BeltLine flows away from the school). As such, this project will have no impact on Washington High.
- 13. Where the trail leaves the corridor, and goes along White Street are there future plans for redevelopment?** The adopted Subarea 1 Master Plan, developed by ABI and the City's planning department with the community, outlines the redevelopment vision for this quadrant. Redevelopment of private properties will depend in part on the actions of private investors and developers.
- 14. How can residents get jobs along the BeltLine?** Through our First Source Jobs Program, we identify the type of jobs expected to be created by a particular project (e.g. park, trail, transit, etc). ABI then work with the Atlanta Work Force Development to provide job training to Atlanta BeltLine residents. Once a construction contractor is secured and if they hirer anyone new, they have to demonstrate a good faith effort in first hiring from the pre-trained workers from the Atlanta BeltLine neighborhoods.
- 15. Will residents be displaced by the construction of the Westside Trail?** No. There is one vacant residential property that will have to be purchased for this project.



- 16. What is the right-of-way acquisition process?** It is the process of identifying adjacent properties along the corridor where we may need a temporary construction easement which allows the contractor to access private property for a specific period of time (e.g. backyards) to build the trail). Property owners are compensated for granting that access.
- 17. How long is the construction period?** Construction is expected to take approximately 2 years.
- 18. Will the part of the hiking trail behind White Street remain accessible to the public?** Trail usage in the section is currently restricted with heavy duty gates in order to limit unauthorized motor vehicles from utilizing the trail.
- 19. Will the trail have an access point at Kroger City Shopping Center?** Yes. There will be a ramp connecting Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard and the corridor.
- 20. Will there be a dog park on the Westside Trail?** No.
- 21. Will the Annie Casey Foundation Site be a part of this project?** That site is beyond the boundary of this specific project but will be part of future trail and corridor development. It is adjacent to a section of the rail corridor that is currently owned by CSX.
- 22. Will the trail be accessible for public use during construction?** As with any construction site, construction site safety is the requirement and priority of the contractor. Trail usage during the construction period will be prohibited.
- 23. What part of the Westside Trail project will be constructed first?** Once a contractor is hired we will determine the approach and order of construction activities. We will host additional public meetings to share more specific construction details.
- 24. Will parking be built to accommodate trail users?** No additional parking will be constructed as part of this project beyond the on street and other parking that is currently available.

25. How will ABI address homeowner displacement as result of rising property taxes? (e.g Land Trusts) We hope that property values will rise for surrounding homeowners as a result of an improving regional economy, neighborhood conditions, and the Westside Trail. Improving property values strengthen the primary asset in our neighborhoods, our homes and land. Rising property values naturally result in increasing property taxes. Some homeowners – especially elderly residents on fixed incomes – may have difficulty paying the annual tax bill even though the value of the home is increasing. When the homeowner cannot pay the annual property tax bill, this can, in some cases, lead to displacement. Given that the Atlanta BeltLine TAD area does not include single family neighborhoods, ABI cannot address this issue directly. We do, however, work to connect neighborhoods to other resources and efforts that address displacement. For example:

- the Fulton County Board of Assessors currently has an underutilized program to assist with this issue. Senior Citizens earning under \$39,000 annually are eligible to freeze the amount of City of Atlanta and Fulton County property taxes to prevent escalation. Please call (404) 612-6440 for additional information about how to apply
- the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership has worked to create the Atlanta Land Trust Collaborative. This organization is still in its early phases, and one of its stated goals is to mitigate displacement outside of the tax allocation district. To help support or shape the Land Trust Collaborative’s efforts, please see <http://www.atlantaltc.org/>.

26. What material will be used to construct the trail? Will runners be taken into consideration? The trail will be constructed with concrete, similar to other segments of the Atlanta BeltLine already constructed. ABI is evaluating several shoulder treatments to provide a soft surface for joggers and residents.

27. Will Maddox Park be improved as a part of the Westside Trail Project? The funding for this project is limited to the Westside Trail only.

28. Will there be similar planting on the Westside Trail as they are on the Eastside? The Westside Trail will receive the same quality of landscaping as the Eastside Trail.

29. What work will be done to restore mature trees along the Westside Trail? ABI and the design team have made every effort to avoid adversely impacting the mature trees in the Westside Corridor. We will continue to work with the selected contractor to ensure that the maximum number of trees remains unharmed. However, some trees will need to be removed in order to construct the trail. The number of new trees planted will exceed the number of trees removed for this project, exceeding the tree recompense requirements as outlined by the City of Atlanta.



30. What can the community do to support the project? There are myriad of volunteer opportunities to get involved in that support the Atlanta BeltLine. For more information visit beltline.org/getinvolved

31. How can the community help to get funding for the project? The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership spearheads private fundraising for the Atlanta BeltLine and provides opportunities for people to donate at a variety of levels. For more information visit beltline.org/member.