Setting Course for EXPANDED TRAILS

As visitors continue to enjoy the several completed trail segments, anticipation builds for the next phases of planning, design, and construction on interim trails.

TRAILS

Southside Trail
- The 4-mile trail is officially open for use in its interim condition
- A 0.75-mile stretch, called Southside Trail-West, will go into construction later this year
- BUILD Grant submitted for $16 million in funding towards construction
- Improvements will soon be underway to Bill Kennedy Way between the Eastside and Southside Trails

Eastside Trail Extension
- The southern extension opened on July 11.

Northeast Trail
- Georgia Power will pave the middle segment of this trail and design work continues on the southern and northern segments.

Westside Trail Extension
- ABI will select a team to design a northern extension of the Westside Trail to Hollowell Pkwy near the Bankhead MARTA station.

PARKS

Expanding the Greenspace

Boulevard Crossing Park
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. has completed conceptual design for Boulevard Crossing Park—a 20+ acre greenspace on the Southside Trail. The conceptual design will then go into design development.

In this edition:
TRAILS // BOULEVARD CROSSING PARK // PRESIDENT & CEO CORNER // ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT // AFFORDABLE HOUSING // #BELTINECHARM // DOCKLESS MOBILITY DEVICES // NORTHEASTTRAIL // ART ON THE ATLANTA BELTLINE // MASTER PLANNING BELTLINE CONNECTIONS BLOG SERIES // NEW ABI TEAM MEMBERS
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Moving Ahead with Critically Needed Affordable Housing

- Currently, the publicly announced affordable housing pipeline is 951 affordable units contained within 10 different newly planned developments, many of which are expected to close from late 2019 – middle 2020.
- One new development (1031 Tucker Avenue) is a collaboration with the Atlanta Land Trust. When completed, it will have 23 new homeownership units constructed under a Land Trust model that ensures permanent affordability for each unit.
- Adair Court, a new housing development with 77 affordable units for seniors, will be completed in October.
- City of Atlanta released its One Atlanta: Housing Affordability Action Plan, which provides a roadmap for the City to achieve four expansive affordable housing goals:
  1. Create or preserve 20,000 affordable homes by 2026 and increase overall supply
  2. Invest $1 billion from public, private, and philanthropic sources to produce and preserve affordable housing
  3. Ensure equitable growth for all Atlantans and minimize displacement
  4. Support innovation and streamline processes
- ABI had an active role in crafting the development of the Plan and will continue its engagement during the implementation stage.
- ABI continues its analysis and planning around a limited demonstration tax relief program, which is designed to provide relief for certain at-risk homeowners who might be subject to displacement due to rising taxes.
- ABI will be reconvening its Affordable Housing Working Group to review and analyze affordable housing progress by ABI since the release of the Final Report in August 2018.

(Thoughtful) Walkers and Riders Welcome

The Atlanta BeltLine is a transportation corridor with multiple modes of use in a welcoming community space. On January 7th, 2019, the Atlanta City Council passed Ordinance 18-0-1322 (atlantaga.gov/government/departments/shareable-dockless-mobility-devices), which allows the use of shareable dockless mobility devices on Atlanta BeltLine trails and in City parks. ABI, the City, and APD have partnered to create a safe and enjoyable experience for all people—whether on foot or on wheels.

On June 21st, the City of Atlanta implemented a Reduced Speed Zone along the portion of the Atlanta BeltLine Eastside Trail between Monroe Drive and DeKalb Avenue to ensure safe operations of shareable dockless mobility devices during congested periods. Within the Reduced Speed Zone, devices are geofenced and limited to 8 mph on weekday evenings and nights (Mon–Thurs, 6PM–6AM), weekends (Fri at 6PM–Mon 6AM), and state holidays (georgia.gov/popular-topic/state-holidays) (6AM–6PM).

On July 19th, the City of Atlanta established parking/no parking zones along the Atlanta BeltLine. This limits the number of devices that can be parked in the permissible zones and aims to reduce clutter and improve parking behavior along the trails.

The measures being implemented by the City, ABI, and APD are an initial step toward improving safety and etiquette on the Atlanta BeltLine. We invite feedback as additional regulations are formulated.

Enjoy the BeltLine: Safely and Courteously

Over the summer, ABI held three Awareness Days along the Atlanta BeltLine to renew efforts around safety and etiquette on the trails. Awareness Days are a component of #BeltLineCharm, an etiquette campaign that is a playful take on southern hospitality, emphasizing courtesy towards others.

Volunteers wore #BeltLineCharm t-shirts and held new etiquette signs with fun, simple reminders encouraging positive behavior on the trail for all users. Representatives and staff were on-hand to answer questions and provide information. The Atlanta BeltLine’s trail rules and full suite of signs are posted at: www.beltline.org/etiquette

COMMENTS CAN BE SENT TO:
City of Atlanta Office of Mobility Planning at: mobility@atlantaga.gov
Department of Public Works by dialing: 311
APD’s Path Force Unit at: 404-546-7284
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. at: info@atlbeltline.org
PRESIDENT & CEO CORNER

As we near the end of the third quarter, I am extremely proud of all that Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.’s staff has accomplished so far in 2019.

We have taken important steps forward with infrastructure and economic development projects, while also advancing our efforts with affordability, equity, and inclusion.

In the past year, we have defined what equity means to ABI, established an equity vision statement, developed a racial equity action plan, and completed a series of equity and inclusion training sessions for all staff.

Equity and affordability are dependent upon three critical components of the BeltLine vision: housing, jobs, and transit. Our intense focus on housing affordability in collaboration with our partners has resulted in nearly 1,000 affordable homes in the development pipeline, which represents a significant leap forward.

Job creation is another vital aspect of an affordable city, and we are projecting 18,000 permanent jobs created around the Atlanta BeltLine.

With transit development, we continue to strive daily to identify funding mechanisms, in addition to the More MARTA sales tax, to build out the 22-mile loop of transit around the Atlanta BeltLine. Even as micromobility options continue to grow, we will not lose sight of the original intent of the Atlanta BeltLine – as a light rail transit corridor that can link neighborhoods, connect people, and take them where they want to go.

Finally, the safety of BeltLine residents and visitors has always been our highest priority. We continue working closely with the City’s Department of Planning and the Atlanta Police Department to ensure the safety of all users within our corridor.

I am thrilled and grateful for the opportunity to lead this legacy project for the City of Atlanta. I look forward to seeing you out enjoying one of our open parks or trails.

Clyde Higgs
President & Chief Executive Officer

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Progress & Highlights

Activities to advance the Integrated Action Plan and ABI’s programmatic objectives of job attraction and new private investment or support are ongoing. Recent activities include:

ADVANCING MURPHY CROSSING
• The RFP for activation of the Murphy Crossing 20-acre site closed in February. The process is underway with confidential evaluation and deliberation, and will be updated once a selection is made. This project will focus heavily on jobs and workforce housing. The process is continuing with confidential evaluation and deliberation, and will be updated when a selection is made.

CONDUIT ACTIVATION
• Activities are ongoing as our selected management firm, eX2 Technology, works to attract users for our infrastructure. This project advances ABI’s ability to support technology, innovation, jobs, and bridging the digital divide.

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT
• Two businesses have been targeted for the façade improvement pilot program. Artists will be designing and implementing improvements in support of distressed commercial areas. We anticipate visible improvements to be completed in the October timeframe.

EXISTING INDUSTRY UPDATE:
ONE-ON-ONE OUTREACH
• 1,080 business contacts made on a rolling year over year basis (via scheduled phone call or in-person meeting)

• 585 business engagements took place during 2019

• 167 business engagements took place in June and July 2019

ACTIVITIES
• Westview business resource event: Ujamafest “Hustle & Grow,” where Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. CEO Clyde Higgs served as a panelist.

• Business Association meeting: connection point between ABI’s Economic Development department and the various Business Associations around the Atlanta BeltLine.

• Business engagement focused on Atlanta BeltLine Lantern Parade participation.

• Partnership development with the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council. ABI nominated businesses exceeding the $1M revenue threshold for collaboration with large Atlanta metro businesses.

Economic Development Metrics

Est. 11,200 PERMANENT JOBS through the end of 2015, toward a goal of 30,000 permanent jobs by the year 2030 (source: On the Map ~ U.S. Census Data)

Estimating 18,000 jobs... **Your source Census Data is experiencing delays with updates and projections through 2017. However, Census Data staff has communicated that an update to these numbers should occur around the end of the 3rd quarter

Est. 33,450 ONE-YEAR CONSTRUCTION JOBS through the end of 2017, toward a goal of 48,000 one-year construction jobs by the year 2030

$4.7 BILLION estimated in new private investment since the beginning of the project, toward a goal of $8 billion in private construction.
Endless ways for Atlanta to make lasting connections.

The Atlanta BeltLine is a dynamic and transformative project featuring a new transit system, multi-use trails, greenspace, and affordable workforce housing along a 22-mile loop of old rail lines that encircle the urban core. It will better connect neighborhoods, improve travel and mobility options, spur economic development, offer unprecedented exposure to unique public art installations, and elevate the overall quality of life in the city.
NORTHEAST TRAIL UPDATES

ABI is currently designing two major segments of the Northeast Trail. The southern segment is between the current end of the Eastside Trail at 10th Street and Monroe Drive north to Westminster Drive. The northern segment is between Mason Street and Lindbergh MARTA station. This design phase will include a regional trail network connection between the BeltLine and PATH400 as an integral aspect of the Northeast Trail project.

- ABI has hosted two Study Group community engagement meetings (on November 8th, 2018 and June 25th, 2019) and has narrowed the number of alignment alternatives to the two finalists that garnered the most community support.
  - Concept Alignment B, which uses the southwestern Wye Bridge over Buford Highway. It generally runs along the edges of the Armour/Ottley Industrial Area, Peachtree Creek, Passion City Church, and Garson Drive, to get to MARTA Lindbergh Station.
  - Concept Alignment E, which use the northeastern Wye Bridge over Buford Highway. It generally runs east of and parallel to the MARTA heavy rail corridor all the way to MARTA Lindbergh Station.

- Analysis continues to identify the locally preferred alternative that will be carried into the design phase.
- See the Concept Alignments at beltline.org/meetings. Search under “Past Meetings,” and then June 25th, 2019.

ART ON THE ATLANTA BELTLINE

Fall Gets Off to a Creative Start!

BeltLine Walls—the mural component of the exhibition—is now complete on the Northeast Trail by Mason Fine Art.

The tenth annual Lantern Parade takes place on the Eastside Trail on September 21st.

A City for All—the sculpture component of the exhibition—will be installed by October 2019. Stay tuned for a guided walking tour.

BeltLine After Dark x Music in the Park—a performance component of the exhibition—takes place on the Westside Trail on October 18th and 19th.

Visit art.beltline.org for full schedule, list of artists, and map.

PLANNING

Updating the Master Plans

The goal of the 10 Subarea Master Plans is to implement the Atlanta BeltLine Redevelopment Plan in the context of each unique community and the geography around the BeltLine. The original Subarea Master Plans were adopted by City Council approximately 10 years ago. About a year and a half ago, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) started the process of updating Subareas 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10. Through a series of public meetings and small neighborhood meetings, ABI is engaging the public to gather feedback that will help inform the master plan update.

The purpose is also to get the community’s help in prioritizing recommendations for land use (e.g. mixed use, housing, commercial services), mobility (e.g. transit, trails, sidewalks, bikes and trails), historic preservation, and parks & greenspace. In fall of 2019, ABI staff will take the next steps of presenting recommendations for Subarea Master Plans 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10 to the adjacent communities, and then proceed to the NPU’s in the 1st quarter of 2020.

Additionally, the Subarea 1 Master Plan is currently underway, and is being developed in conjunction with the West End LCI update and the Office of Zoning Development. This study is scheduled to conclude in the fall of 2019. To view past meeting materials visit: beltline.org/meetings

ABI will issue RFPs in the 4th quarter of 2019 to identify consultants that will assist with the Master Plan Updates for Subareas 4, 6, 7, and 8.
BeltLine Connections is a new blog series featuring stories of service by ABI’s staff that highlight important issues facing Atlanta communities. Here is a summary of the first post:

The “summer slide” is a phenomenon that results in students’ inability to retain up to two months’ worth of material learned during the school year, and disproportionately impacts students from lower income households. Addressing this is essential for pursuing equity in the City of Atlanta, and a summer program trying to do exactly that can be found in the heart of the BeltLine geography.

Emmaus House in Peoplestown offers a summer reading program for students and operates just two blocks from D.H. Stanton Park and the Southside Interim Trail. On average, 85% of their scholars maintain or advance their reading level after six weeks. This summer, Beth McMillan, ABI Vice President of Planning and Engagement, was invited to participate in a “Read Aloud” session with students in the program. ABI also sponsored the program’s end-of-summer cookout, creating an opportunity to connect with community members in a new way, while building a foundation for future partnerships with these BeltLine neighbors.

Visit beltline.org/beltlineconnections to read the full article!

A Warm Welcome to Our New Team Members

(In order of appearance)

Ruben Brooks,
Chief Operating Officer
Aasia Mustakeem,
General Counsel
Kim Wilson, R.A.,
VP of Design and Construction
Kristen Mansfield,
LRA, Senior Landscape Architect
Hope Gist,
PE, Civil Engineer
Nancy Newell,
PE, Civil Engineer

Board of Directors

The Honorable
Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor, City of Atlanta

John W. Somerhalder, II
Chairman, President and CEO, AGL Resources, Retired

The Honorable
Natalyn Archibong
Vice Chair, Atlanta City Councilmember, District 5

Ayana Gabriel
Secretary, Community Representative, Program Officer, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Dallas Clement
Treasurer, Atlanta BeltLine Partnership Appointee, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Cox Enterprises

Michelle E. Nelson
Invest Atlanta Appointee, Executive Talent Engagement and Operations Leader, EY

Ernestine Garey
Invest Atlanta Appointee, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Atlanta Housing

The Honorable
Cynthia Briscoe Brown
Atlanta Board of Education, Seat 8 At-Large

The Honorable Lee Morris
Fulton County Commissioner, District 3

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