



Candler Road Arterial Rapid Transit (ART)

Recommended Locally
Preferred Alternative (LPA)

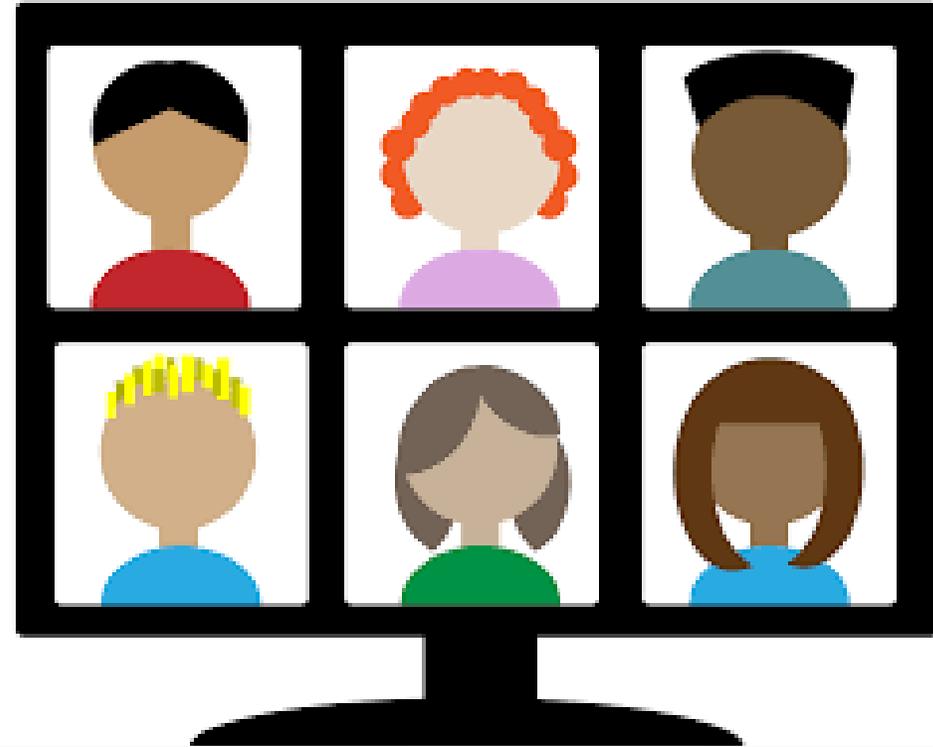
May 2023



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Virtual Meeting Format

- Event Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- Please use the **Q&A Section** to submit your project specific questions or comments. We will address as many questions/comments as time will allow.
- If you miss any details during the presentation, it will be posted on MARTA Candler Road ART’s project website.
- For additional information on the MARTA Candler Road ART project visit, <https://www.itsmarta.com/candlerART.aspx>



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Purpose & Need

- Deliver **Arterial Rapid Transit (ART)** service to DeKalb County's Candler Road corridor as promised in the RTCAA 15th Amendment
- Advance the ART program by providing **fast, frequent, and reliable** transit service on proven high-ridership corridors
- Advance **prosperity, connectivity, and equity** for a more livable Atlanta region



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

What is ART?



Fast, frequent service on existing high-density, mixed-use arterial corridors



Short wait times



Operates in mixed-traffic with other vehicles



Traffic signal priority at congested intersections



Enhanced stop amenities



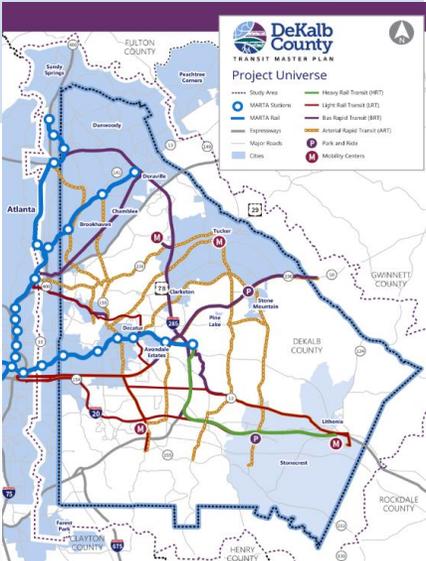
Candler Road ART – Locally Pref. Alternative

Project History

2019

DeKalb Transit Master Plan (TMP)

- DeKalb TMP recommended ART along Candler Road



2020

MARTA's 15th Amendment

- MARTA advances 2 ART's and 2 transit hubs identified in DeKalb County TMP



2022-2023

Public Engagement & Analysis

- 6 public & stakeholder meetings.
- Technical analysis conducted.



2023

MARTA Board Committee Action

- MARTA Board considers the LPA recommendation to advance to preliminary design.



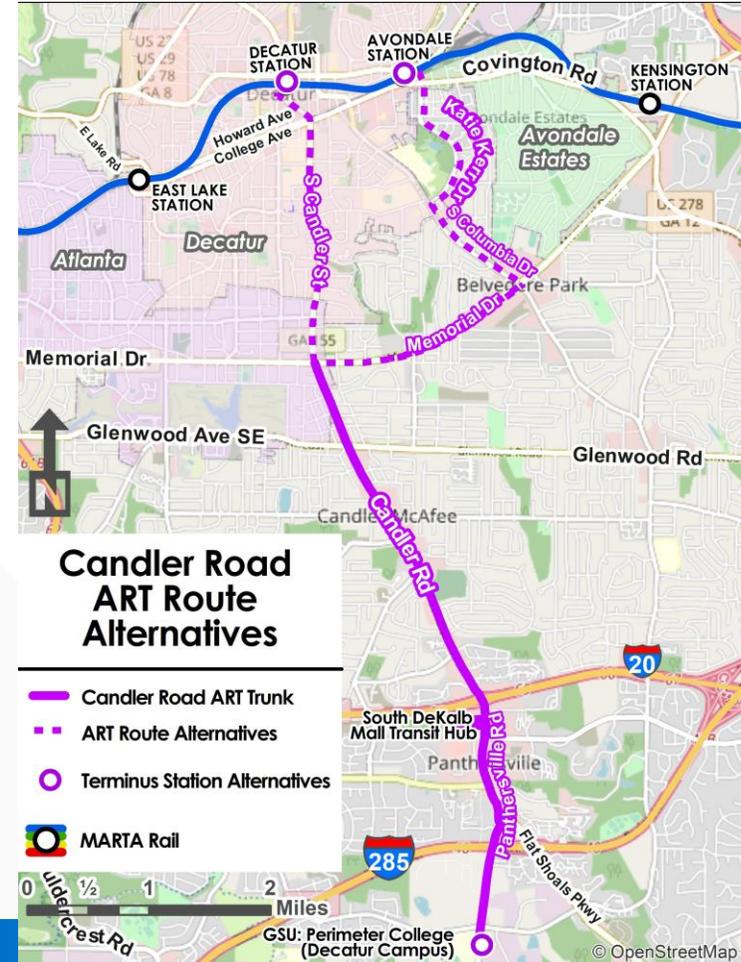
May 17, 2023



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Routing & Route Alternatives

- The Candler Road ART will have its southern terminus at the GSU-Decatur Campus at Panthersville, and serve the future South DeKalb Transit Hub at the Gallery at South DeKalb.
- There are two alternatives for the northern terminus:
 - The **Decatur alternative** uses South Candler Street in the City of Decatur to terminate at **Decatur Station**
 - The **Avondale alternative** uses Memorial Drive, South Columbia Drive, and Katie Kerr Drive to terminate at **Avondale Station**.



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Public Engagement

- Public Forums (in-person and virtual) were held in late October 2022.
- An online survey (Oct. 2022 to Feb. 2023) asked respondents their preference for Decatur vs. Avondale alternatives
- Focus groups were held periodically and asked about their LPA preferences:
 - South DeKalb Senior Center (December 2022)
 - Calm Candler civic safety group (February 2023)
 - New Life Church MARTA riders focus group (March 2023)



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Technical Analysis

- Routing and station location workshops were held with MARTA staff in Sept. & Nov. 2022.
- A Technical Corridor Tour covering the Candler Road ART route alternatives was conducted on Jan. 12, 2023, with participants from MARTA's Dept. of Planning.
- A Bus Operator Focus Group with MARTA drivers was held on Feb. 22, 2023. Bus operators who drive existing MARTA Routes 15, 21, and 114 provided insights and feedback on the Decatur and Avondale alternatives.



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Candler Road LPA Evaluation

- Evaluation criteria categories:
 - Ridership Potential
 - Speed & Reliability
 - Costs
 - Stakeholder Feedback
 - Long Range Plans
 - Equity Impacts
 - Economic Development Potential



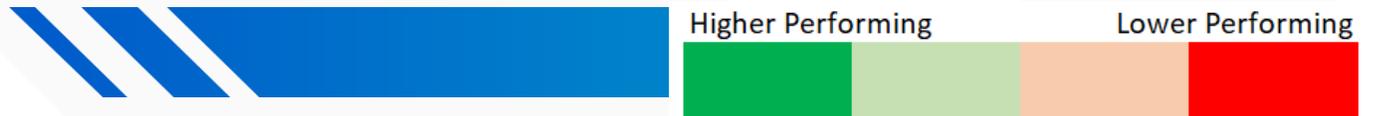
Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Final Scoring and Selection

LPA Selection: Avondale

- The **Avondale Station alternative** was determined to deliver a faster and more reliable trip, serving more riders and a higher share of vulnerable populations.
- The **Avondale Station alternative** also integrates better with MARTA and DeKalb County’s long-range plans, and has the potential to encourage more economic development.

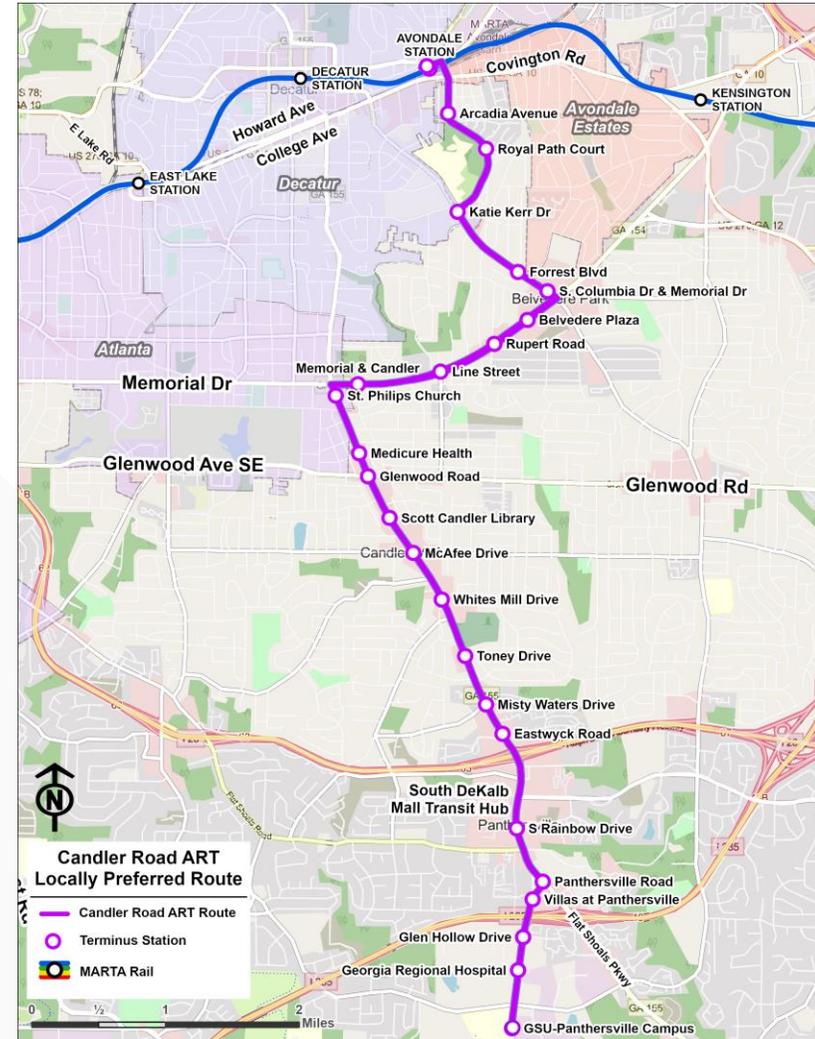
<i>Evaluation Category</i>	Decatur Station Alternative	Avondale Station Alternative
Ridership Potential	6.8	8.3
Speed & Reliability	7.0	13.0
Cost	8.4	6.6
Stakeholder Feedback	6.5	8.5
Long Range Plans	2.0	8.0
Equity Impacts	6.1	8.9
Economic Development Potential	2.6	7.4
TOTALS:	39.4	60.6



Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative

Summary of Evaluation & Analysis

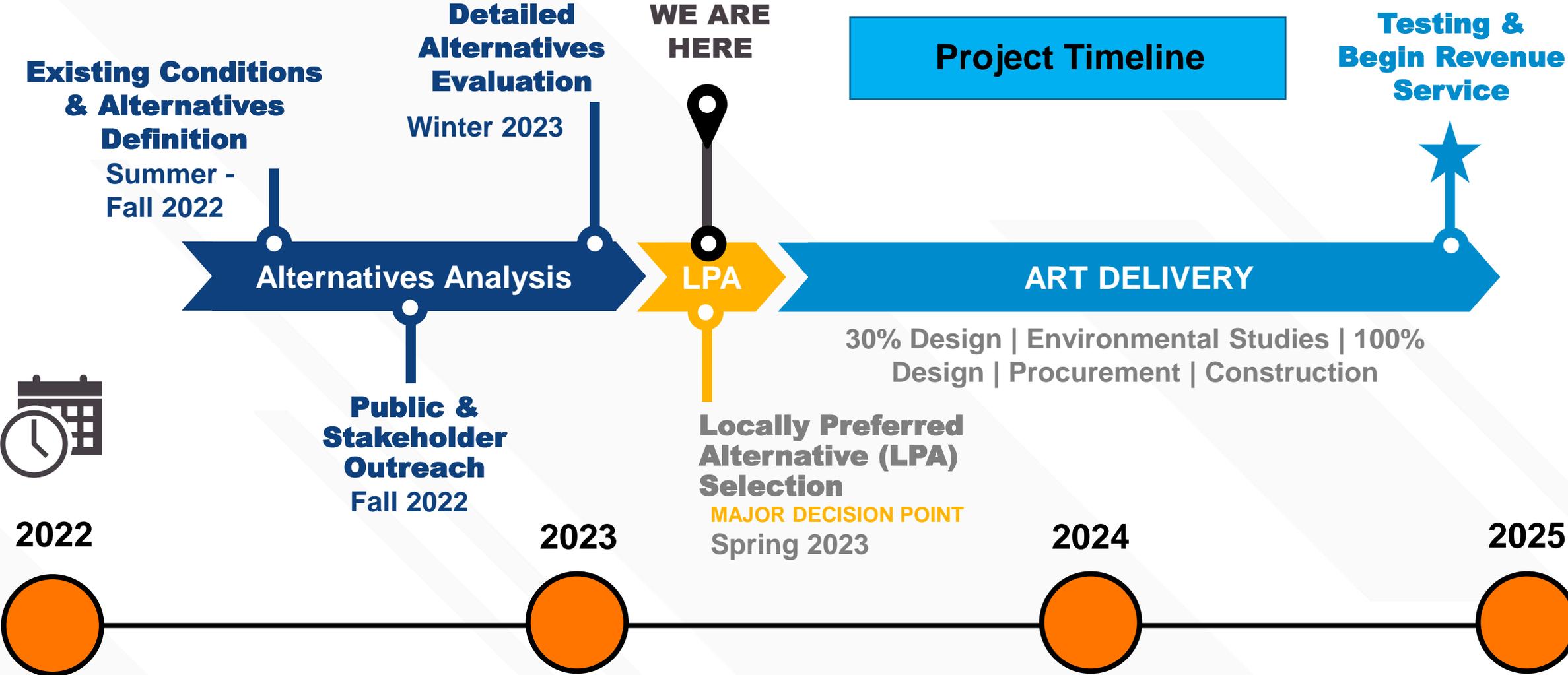
- The **Decatur Station alternative** scored higher in the **Costs** category, with a lower overall capital cost and lower annual operations & maintenance costs, and was favored by respondents to the online survey (186 total responses to the Decatur vs. Avondale question)
- The **Avondale Station alternative** scored higher in all other evaluation categories, and delivers a higher projected annual ridership and more fare revenue as compared to the **Decatur alternative**.
- The **Avondale alternative** faces less peak-hour congestion that would interrupt the trip schedule, more multi-lane route miles, and no at-grade rail crossings.
- The **Avondale alternative** serves a higher percentage of vulnerable populations in the *Equity Impacts* category.



Candler Road ART – Avondale Alternative Summary

Ridership	827,200 Projected annual riders 19% Increase over local bus route annual ridership
Speed & Reliability	14.8 MPH average speed along corridor 29% Faster than local bus route average speed
Cost	\$41.7M in capital costs \$ 1.6M in operations & maintenance costs annually
Stakeholder Feedback	366 Survey total respondents 6 Stakeholder meetings
Long Range Plans	 Included in 2019 DeKalb Transit Master Plan
Equity Impacts	29% low-income residents in Avondale corridor 50% people of color residents in Avondale corridor
Economic Development Potential	10,723 ft of commercially zoned frontage along route  More TOD potential than Decatur alternative

Candler Road ART – Locally Preferred Alternative



2022

2023

2024

2025

Discussion

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Thank You