Agenda & Introductions

- Environmental study process and update
- Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) analysis for the Northeast zone
- Evaluation criteria and measures
- Development of alternatives
- Alternatives considered in the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Information session
- Next steps
Study Process and Update
Environmental Study Process

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

**Tiering**

**Present**

**Tier 1 Analysis**
- Address broad, overall corridor issues to define Right-of-Way needs:
  - Transit and Trails Alignment
  - Conceptual Design
  - Mode Type (LRT, Streetcar)

**Future**

**Tier 2 Analysis**
- Address:
  - Site Specific Impacts
  - Cost and Mitigation Measures
  - Detailed Analysis
Accomplishments

- Scoping Meetings and Summary Report
- Purpose and Need
- Northeast Zone Reports
- Existing Conditions Report
- Evaluation Criteria Document
- Public Workshop Series
GEPA Analysis for NE Zone
What we heard – EER public review

- 32 Attendees at May 14, 2009 Public Hearing

- Public comments:
  - Protect wildlife and plants
  - Minimize visual impacts to parks and neighborhoods
  - Minimize noise/vibration impacts to historic properties
What we heard – EER agency review by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

- Air Protection Branch
  - Identify air quality impacts due to construction
    - Response: Post-GEPA, more detailed project development will identify construction elements, support transportation conformity requirements
  - Coordinate NEPA documents through Georgia State Clearinghouse
    - Response: Clearinghouse will be consulted during NEPA
What we heard – EER agency review by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

- Watershed Protection Branch
  - Identify impacts to existing infrastructure for wastewater collection/disposal
    - Response: Post-GEPA, more detailed project design will support wastewater generation analyses

- Consider wastewater impacts due to growth/redevelopment
  - Response: Post-GEPA, more detailed project design will support refinement of *BeltLine Redevelopment Plan* (2005) data determining no significant effects to wastewater facilities
GEPA Analysis for NE Zone

What we heard – Cultural resource review by State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

- Found significant impacts to:
  - Historic Railroad Resources (of the Northeast Zone)
  - Orkin/Rollins building
GEPA Analysis for NE Zone

Next Steps

- Decisions:
  - Recommend the “Build” alternative as the preferred alternative
  - Recommend a preference for Transit-Trail Alignment Option 2 (Plasters Ave./Piedmont Rd./Garson Dr. to Lindbergh Center MARTA)

- Issue a *GEPA Final Decision Document* to EPD
  - Highlight necessary EER revisions
  - Respond to comments received
  - Summarize environmental effects
  - Summarize project benefits/economic impacts
  - Outline the joint decisions by MARTA and Atlanta Development Authority
Evaluation Criteria and Measures
Evaluation Criteria and Measures

Suggested additions and changes from TAC & Citywide/SAC meetings

- Connect other modes of transit to BeltLine stations and trails
- Provide for safety and security
- Coordinate with existing planning efforts
- Minimize negative “quality of life” impacts
- Improve travel time and connections to major destinations
Suggested additions and changes from TAC & Citywide/SAC meetings, cont.

- Foster positive effects on the environment
- Encourage economic and land development
- Keep capital and operating costs low
- Be attentive to seniors and disabled
Development of Alternatives
Public workshop feedback

- Local service for BeltLine transit emphasizing neighborhood accessibility to stations
- Transit & trail alignments should run parallel to maximum extent possible
- Transit should connect to MARTA rail & buses, and Peachtree Streetcar
Public workshop feedback

Complementary planned transit services:

- TPB Concept 3 Regional Transit Vision
- Connect Atlanta Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Highlights of alignment input

- Alignment south of I-85/ Buford Highway
- Tunnel connection between Inman Park & Reynoldstown
- Alternative connections to West End
- Other streets to connect to Ashby MARTA station
- Alignment serving Atlantic Station and Amtrak
Development of Alternatives

Feasibility screening factors

- Public and stakeholder input
- Physical constraints, utilities, & right-of-way
- Service effectiveness and efficiency
- Environment and community impacts
- Cost
- Traffic and parking conflicts
- TAD & Redevelopment Plan
- Safety and security
Alternatives Considered
Alternatives Considered

Items currently under consideration:

- Trails alternatives
- Transit alignment alternatives
Trails alternative
Option A
Trails alternative
Option B
Trails alternative
Option B
Trails alternative Options A & B
Transit Alignment Concept 1 - CSX
Transit Alignment
Concept 1 - CSX

Marietta Blvd. Connectivity Alignment
Transit Alignment Concept 1 - CSX

Howell Junction Connectivity Alignment
Transit Alignment Concept 2 - NS
Transit Alignment Concept 2 - NS
Transit Alignment Concepts 1 & 2
- CSX & NS
Transit
Connectivity alternatives
Review:

- Alignment alternatives
- Connectivity alternatives
- Station locations
Next Steps
Next Steps

- Document alternatives considered for EIS
- Evaluate alternatives
- Complete Tier 1 EIS
- Identify a preferred alternative