BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study

Public Workshop

April/May 2009
What Will We Be Doing At Tonight’s Workshop?

Agenda

- BeltLine Project Overview
- Breakout Sessions to Discuss Service Types and Project Alignments
- Summary of Comments from Breakout Groups
- Next Steps
What is the Project About?

- Rail Transit System
- Multi-use Trails
- Parks and Public Spaces
- Streets and Streetscapes
- Economic Development and Housing
BeltLine Project Overview

How Did We Get to This Point?

- 1999: Georgia Tech Thesis (Ryan Gravel)
- 2000: MARTA Inner Core Feasibility Study
- 2001: Trust for Public Land “Emerald Necklace” Study
- 2002: BeltLine Redevelopment Plan
- 2003: City of Atlanta - Tax Allocation District (TAD) Feasibility Study
- 2004: BeltLine Partnership established by the City of Atlanta
- 2005: Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) established under the Atlanta Development Authority
- 2006: BeltLine Five-Year Work Plan
- 2007: BeltLine Detailed Screening Analysis
- 2008: ABI Master Planning Process (ongoing)
BeltLine Project Overview

Environmental Study Process

- Summer 2008: Notice of Intent
- Fall 2008: Scoping
- Spring 2009: NEPA
  - Scoping Summary Report
  - Purpose and Need Statement
  - Tier 1 Draft EIS
- Summer 2009: Existing Conditions Report
- Fall 2009: Evaluation Criteria Report
- Winter 2009/2010: Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Plan
- Spring 2010: Tier 1 Final EIS
  - Public Hearing
  - Alternatives Evaluation Report
  - Record of Decision
  - Public Workshops

Atlanta BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study – April/May 2009 Workshops
BeltLine Project Overview

Environmental Study Outcomes

- Develop transit and trail alignment and connections
- Identify and preserve station location areas
- Document environmental impacts
- Refine capital and operating costs
- Determine transit service features
BeltLine Project Overview

Environmental Study and Subarea Master Planning

Master Plans
- Parks / Greenspace
- Trail Alignment Alternatives
- Access Points / Transit and Trails
- Street Framework
- Historic Resources
- Development Patterns

EIS Process
- Conceptual Engineering
- Environmental Impact
- Transit and Trail Service Features
- Mobility Impacts
- Capital and Operating Cost

Outcome of EIS
- Transit Alignment
- Transit Characteristics
- Station Location Areas
- Trail Alignment
- Corridor Design
What Improvements Are Being Considered?

Trails Element

- 33 miles of multi-use trails including spurs
- Accommodates bicyclists and pedestrians
- Connects to 40 parks and several other trails
BeltLine Project Overview

Trail Features

Multi-Use Trail
Accommodates Bicycles and Pedestrians

Portland, OR
BeltLine Project Overview

Trail Alignments
BeltLine Project Overview

Trail Alignments
BeltLine Project Overview

Trail Alignments
BeltLine Project Overview

Trail Alignments
What Type of Transit Service is Best for the BeltLine?

**Local service**
- Extensive coverage
- Shorter trips
- Slower speeds
- Smaller and lower capacity vehicles
What Type of Transit Service is Best for the BeltLine?

**Regional service**
- Fewer stops and less coverage
- Longer trips
- Faster speeds
- Larger and higher capacity vehicles
BeltLine Project Overview

What Improvements Are Being Considered?

BeltLine is just one part of a much larger system which includes:

- Heavy Rail
- Commuter Rail
- Light Rail
- Streetcar
- Express and Regional Bus
BeltLine Project Overview

What Improvements Are Being Considered?

Transit Element

- Rail transit in exclusive right-of-way and mixed traffic
- 41 Potential BeltLine Stations
- Connects to MARTA rail stations
- Uses high capacity transit technology
BeltLine Project Overview

Transit Features

Rail Transit
In Exclusive Right-of-Way

Bilbao, ES
BeltLine Project Overview

Project Alignment and Station Locations
BeltLine Project Overview

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Project Alignment and Station Locations
Breakout Session at Tonight’s Workshop

Breakout Group Discussion Questions

- What type of transit service is best for the Beltline?
  - Fewer stops with faster service?
  - More neighborhood access with slower service?

- Are there other alignments and station areas for transit and trails we should consider?

- Issues and concerns we should consider in evaluating the project?
Breakout Session at Tonight’s Workshop

Breakout Group Resources

- Facilitator to lead discussion
- Staff to record comments
- Video, images and maps show proposed alignments
- Background on existing conditions and subarea master plans
BREAKOUT SESSION
How Will the Results of Tonight’s Workshop be Used?

Next Steps

- Refine alternatives for EIS
- Identify alignment and station options for feasibility review
- Identify issues of concern for consideration in the EIS
- Incorporate results into the Evaluation of Alternatives
- Present the results to the public for more review and comment
Project Meetings

- Technical Advisory Committee Meetings
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings
- Citywide Conversation of Transit and Trails Meeting
- Public Workshops
  - April 13th Southeast
  - April 16th Northeast
  - April 23rd Southwest
  - April 27th Westside
  - May 4th Northside
How Can I Stay Involved?

- Future Workshops and Public Meetings
- Get on our Mailing List
- Project Newsletters
- Project Website
  www.itsmarta.com/newsroom/beltline.html
- Comment Cards

Thank You For Your Time and Help on This Important Project!