I-20 East Transit Initiative

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
December 4th and 6th, 2012

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
December 5th, 2012
Introductions
Purpose of Today’s Meeting

• Present refinements made to the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) since its adoption in April 2012 by the MARTA Board
• Discuss the environmental review phase of the project
• Share what we heard at the Public and Agency Scoping Meetings
• Describe some of our preliminary environmental findings
Two Components

1. 12 mile extension of existing MARTA heavy rail transit (HRT) from Indian Creek Station to Mall at Stonecrest in eastern DeKalb County

2. 12.8 miles of new bus rapid transit (BRT) in HOV and general use lanes from Five Points Station Wesley Chapel Road
Adopted LPA
Refinements to the LPA

• Refinements to HRT Component:
  – Alignment changed from primarily aerial to now include subsurface alignment as well
  – Minor alignment shifts to maximize use of GDOT right-of-way
  – Covington Highway Station location changed, alignment shifted to west side of I-285 to encourage redevelopment around station
  – Indian Creek Station alternatives being explored
Refinements to the LPA

- Refinements to BRT Component:
  - HOV interchanges at Gresham Road and Candler Road better defined
  - BRT station at Moreland Avenue added
  - Routing into downtown Atlanta determined
Ridership modeling updated to reflect refined LPA and new 2040 model:

- **Adopted LPA Ridership (2030)**
  - Projected Daily Boardings: 28,700
  - Projected New Daily Transit Riders: 6,400

- **Refined LPA Ridership (2040)**
  - Projected Daily Boardings: 58,740
  - Projected New Daily Transit Riders: 23,500
Updated Cost Estimates:

**Capital**
$1,930M

**Right-of-Way**
$110.4M

**Annual Operations and Maintenance**
$18.0M
Environmental Review Process
Environmental (NEPA) Studies

HRT Component of LPA – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- EIS is required for the new construction or extension of fixed rail transit facilities
- EIS is required for any major federal action that may significantly affect the environment
- Results in a Record of Decision (ROD)

BRT Component LPA – Environmental Assessment (EA)
- EA is used to determine if an EIS is necessary
- If there is no significant effect to the environment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) results
EA Study Area

BRT offers limited-stop service in shared or exclusive right-of-way, usually with dedicated stations, and pre-boarding fare payment.
Public and Agency Scoping
What is Scoping

• 1st step in the NEPA Process

• Goal: Gather public and agency input on:
  • Project Purpose and Need
  • Alternatives to be studied
  • Community issues and resources

• Comments gathered through October 15 through:
  • Three Public Scoping Meetings and two Agency Scoping Meetings held in September
  • Comment Sheets distributed at the meetings and other locations
  • Online Survey
  • Written comment submitted via email and letter
Scoping Meetings

Public Scoping Meetings

• September 10, 2012 at Trees Atlanta
• September 11, 2012 at Porter Sanford III Performing Arts and Community Center
• September 13, 2012 at Lou Walker Senior Center

Agency Scoping Meetings

• September 25 and 26, 2012 at MARTA Headquarters
## Comments Received

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Comment Sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Scoping Meetings</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Comment Sheets, Other Locations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number Responding</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
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What We Heard

• Feedback on LPA
  • Rail alignment, BRT routing, station locations

• Transportation Concerns
  • Traffic congestion near stations

• Environmental Concerns
  • Noise impacts, ecological impacts, others
Environmental Studies
Environmental Studies

- Environmental Justice
- Wildlife and Habitat
- Wetlands and Streams
- Visual and Aesthetic
- Soils and Geology
- Farmland
- Energy
- Hazardous Materials
- Safety and Security
- Construction Impacts
- Secondary and Cumulative Effects
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Economic Impacts
- Relocations/Displacements
- Neighborhoods
- Community Facilities
- Visual and Aesthetics
- Parks, Recreation Areas
- Air Quality
- Noise and Vibration
- Water Quality
- Floodplains
Preliminary Findings - Ecology

Streams

– 21 perennial streams in study area
  • Snapfinger, Pole Bridge, Cobb, Indian, Shoal, Doolittle, Doless, and Sugar Creeks
– 29 intermittent streams

Wetlands/Open Waters

– 7 wetlands for total of 6.83 acres
– 3 open waters for total of 10.62 acres
Threatened and Endangered Species

Known T&E Species in Study Area

- 2 federally protected species
- 7 state protected species
  - Altamaha Shiner (fish) found in Snapfinger Creek

Results of field studies

- Snapfinger Creek suitable habitat for Altamaha Shiner
  - This stream will be bridged and will thus cause no impact
- No suitable habitat for any other federally or state listed protected species
Inside I-285 Perimeter

Broad range of historic districts and individual resources

Including:

• Grant Park
• Inman Park
• Kirkwood
• East Atlanta Village
• Ormewood
• Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company
Outside I-285 Perimeter

Mid-twentieth century historic districts comprised mainly of Ranch house subdivisions:

- Pendley Hill (I-285)
- Glenwood Estates (I-285)
- Magnolia Gardens (I-285)
- Mayfair Subdivision (I-20)
Preliminary Findings – Environmental Justice

Minority Population
## Preliminary Findings – Environmental Justice

### Minority Population

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<th>I-20 East Corridor</th>
<th>Metro Atlanta</th>
<th>State of Georgia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>438,362</td>
<td>4,112,200</td>
<td>8,186,500</td>
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<td>Minority population</td>
<td>365,248</td>
<td>1,650,200</td>
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<td>Percent Minority</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
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Preliminary Findings – Environmental Justice

Low Income Population
## Preliminary Findings – Environmental Justice

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<td>Total households</td>
<td>150,249</td>
<td>1,505,564</td>
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<td>Low-income households</td>
<td>22,085</td>
<td>160,362</td>
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<td>Percent low-income households</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
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Stay Informed

- Next TAC Meeting to be held prior to the Public Hearings in spring 2013
- Project Website: http://www.itsmartat.com/i20-east-corrr.aspx
- Questions?

### I-20 East Transit Initiative Environmental Schedule

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