

## 7.0 COORDINATION AND COMMENTS

### 7.1 Study Coordination

During early project development, MARTA and ABI contacted a number of agencies, including federal, state, and regional/local governments and regional/local planning agencies, and asked for their comments on the proposed action.

MARTA invited potential consulting parties to comment on the Atlanta BeltLine Northeast Zone project in accordance with Section 12-16-4(b) of GEPA. These agencies included:

- National Park Service (Southeast Regional Office);
- Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Regional Office of Environment)
- USEPA Region 4;
- USGS;
- Atlanta Regional Commission;
- Georgia Forestry Commission;
- Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and
- City of Atlanta Department of Planning and Community Development.

MARTA requested the potential consulting parties to provide information on any known project-area conditions of concern within the vicinity of the Northeast Zone via a letter dated September 26, 2008. MARTA and ABI did not receive comments from most of these agencies. Appendix B includes correspondence from responding state agencies. Additionally, the Georgia EPD provided guidance on matters of GEPA policy and procedure as well as EER methodology.

There was close coordination with the Georgia SHPO and other agencies with an interest in cultural resources during the surveys for archaeological and historic resources. The study team met with the Atlanta Urban Design Commission (AUDC) in late August and September 2008 to discuss their efforts in identifying and surveying historic resources around the entire BeltLine Corridor. The AUDC provided copies of their survey reports, maps and building summaries, and additional background research materials, which assisted with resource identification.

In addition, the study team met with the Georgia SHPO on several occasions while preparing the EER. Meetings with SHPO staff allowed the study team to introduce the project and discuss the environmental study process, cultural resource survey methodologies, design considerations, survey reports, methodologies for assessing effects, and conceptual planning of selected areas along the Northeast Zone.

MARTA and ABI initiated the BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study in July 2008, holding meetings in July and August 2008 to discuss the corridor, including the Northeast Zone. Input from stakeholders and the public assisted in refining the purpose and need

statement and study goals and objectives, while identifying social, environmental, and economic issues of concern.

MARTA and ABI promoted the upcoming availability of this EER and the Public Hearing during a “Citywide Conversation on Transit and Trails” and a series of target audience briefings and BeltLine public workshops throughout Atlanta. MARTA and ABI held these meetings between March and May 2009.

MARTA and ABI convened a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to guide the overall environmental study process. The SAC assists in generating participation from the public at large and reviews study findings. The TAC provides a forum for coordination at key study milestones and works through detailed technical issues associated with the study and the proposed project.

Coordination of these agencies and additional stakeholders in the Northeast Zone and throughout the BeltLine Corridor will continue as planning and design for the project progresses.

## 7.2 Public Comments

MARTA, in coordination with ABI, will advertise the availability of this EER and will hold a Public Hearing during the public comment period for the EER.

The scheduled date and time for the Public Hearing is May 14, 2009, from 6:30-8:30 PM. The public hearing location is:

Hillside, Inc.  
1301 Monroe Drive NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306

Persons may address comments concerning this EER to either of the following:

Mr. Henry Ikwut-Ukwa  
Manager – Planning Initiatives  
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)  
2424 Piedmont Road, N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30324-3330

OR

Mr. Nathan Conable  
Senior Project Manager, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.  
Atlanta Development Authority  
86 Pryor Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Interested persons may submit electronic comments via the BeltLine Environmental Corridor Study website (<http://www.itsmarta.com/newsroom/beltline.html>).

After reviewing comments received during the comment period, MARTA and Atlanta Development Authority (via ABI) will issue a Notice of Decision, recommending an

alternative and an alignment option for transit and multi-use trails. MARTA and ABI will advertise the decision in the legal organ of Fulton County and forward the decision to the director of the Georgia EPD.

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