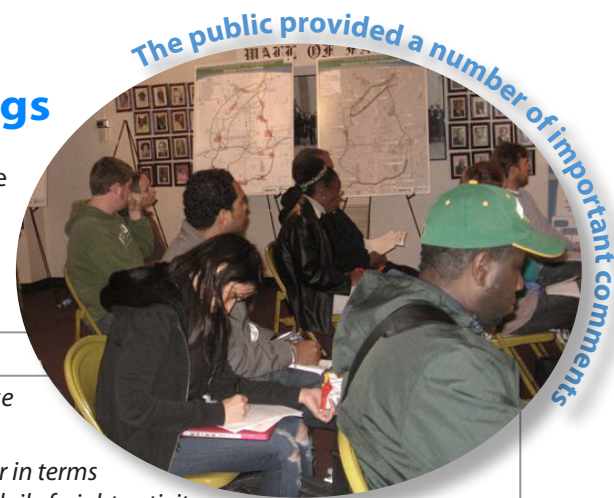


Hot Topics from the Public Meetings

The table below highlights a sampling of the comments made during the meetings on implementation of the BeltLine project, operation challenges, and preference for the transit and trails routes.



IMPLEMENTATION	
Freight-Related Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider what happens if there is no compromise on the BeltLine's use of the freight rail corridors Evaluate use of CSX versus NS freight rail corridor in terms of implementation challenges and impacts to daily freight activity
Environmental Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the creation of possible water storage locations along the BeltLine Determine if any prehistoric impacts exist within the corridor (i.e. along Peachtree Creek)
Property-Related Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine locations for affordable housing Determine property impacts
OPERATION	
Modern Streetcar (MSC) or Light Rail Transit (LRT)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a need for flexibility and integration with other systems for both MSC and LRT Determine the cost difference between MSC and LRT LRT seems to provide the greatest and most efficient connections to other proposed transit systems Determine how MSC is affected by street traffic Decide between dedicated lanes or shared lanes (i.e.. along Marietta Boulevard)
Relation to Existing MARTA Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine if the potential for 24-hour MARTA rail service (including the BeltLine) would affect freight rail negotiations Improve connectivity to MARTA, including MARTA's bus service Weigh the financial advantage for constructing BeltLine transit versus expanding existing MARTA rail services
ALIGNMENT PREFERENCE	
Transit Alignment Preference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider alternatives and conceptual station locations that support projected population growth, including students General satisfaction with Best Performing Alternative (CSX Transit with Trail A and B hybrid) Preference for CSX alternative – it connects well with Howell Station and provides greater opportunity for development, and aligns well with the trail alignments The Marietta alignment provides better access to Westside Park than Howell Junction alignment The NS alignment has fewer environmental impacts than the CSX alignment An infill station at West End is less of a priority over the BeltLine serving the West End MARTA station directly Preference for BeltLine connection to King Memorial – provides better accessibility to landmarks such as the King Center, etc. Consider a second BeltLine or another transit service in the other corridor (whichever is not picked)
Trail Alignment Preference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider advancing both Trail Alternatives A and B Trails align better with CSX alignment Trail A appears to have issues in utilizing the active freight corridor, while Trail B has better neighborhood connectivity Consider mixing and matching trail alternatives

BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study Fall 2009 Public Meetings Wrap-Up & Where We Go From Here

You Spoke, We Listened

Community engagement is one of the BeltLine's objectives. Public meetings provide vital information to use in the project's planning, design, and engineering outcomes.

Study Group Public Meetings

MARTA and ABI held a series of meetings that included an open house and break-out group discussions in November 2009 to:

- Update the public on the study status
- Present evaluation results
- Solicit feedback from the public on the analysis of potential transit and trails routes and transit technology



The transit and trails routes evaluated prior to the meeting are shown on Pages 2 and 3. The "Hot Topics" section on Page 4 provides a brief recap of comments received from participants at the fall meetings.

The presentation and display boards from the meetings can be found online at: www.itsmarta.com/Beltline-Corr.aspx or eis.beltline.org

WHAT IS THE BELTLINE CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY?

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) are preparing a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to examine the impacts of building transit and trails facilities in the 22-mile BeltLine Corridor. The study will address potential cultural and environmental impacts. The EIS results from a multi-tiered (Tier 1 and 2) analysis process, which is a key step in turning the BeltLine dream into reality.

A Tier 1 EIS more precisely defines the right-of-way required to build transit and trails in the BeltLine Corridor. As a result, MARTA/ABI will be better positioned to preserve this right-of-way. The study is conducted in accordance with guidelines established in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) in order to protect eligibility for federal and state participation in funding for this project in the future.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT - PUBLIC HEARINGS

Revisions are being made to the transit and trails routes using information and responses gathered from the public meetings. This insight along with additional technical work will help to complete the BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study with a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The final Tier 1 EIS will aid decision-makers to preserve right-of-way for transit and trails routes.

We heard you. Now come see what it has turned into!

The public will be able to review the Draft EIS and attend Public Hearings to discuss the findings of the study. The Public Hearings are tentatively scheduled for the summer, so keep your eyes open for details of time and location. Announcements will be made via the web, through email, and in numerous publications around the City.

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