

7.0 NEXT STEPS

The Existing Conditions and Future Trends Report provides background information on demographic trends, key environmental features, land uses and transportation in the Clifton Corridor. It is critical to identify and understand the opportunities and constraints associated with a major transit initiative as the project advances through the AA process. The results of the report will confirm a set of specific problem statements that will help develop preliminary goals and objectives, and purpose and need. These goals and objectives will form the basic evaluation criteria against which alternatives will be analyzed. As the project moves forward, the community will be regularly consulted for guidance in establishing the goals and objectives of the study. The subsequent section summarizes the stakeholder coordination activities specific to the existing and future conditions assessment. Documenting public outreach efforts will be an ongoing process and will be included as part of all subsequent reports.

7.1 Stakeholder Coordination and Public Involvement

Stakeholder input was used to supplement data collection and assist in the identification of preliminary needs for the corridor. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is comprised of planners and technical staff from DeKalb County, Cities of Atlanta and Decatur as well as regional and state agency partners. The TAC's main purpose includes input and exchange of technical data and to ensure consistency with respective agency policies and initiatives. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) is comprised of leaders from civic and neighborhood associations, residents and business owners of corridor. The SAC's role is to provide a high level assessment of study recommendations for consistency with community goals and perspectives.

As part of the community outreach program, kick-off meetings for the TAC and SAC were held in the fall of 2009. The second TAC meeting is scheduled to be on December 14, 2009. The purpose of this meeting is to gather input from the TAC on data collection activities, existing and future conditions findings, travel demand model refinement activities, draft problem statement, and potential goals and objectives.

Other coordination efforts completed to date and/or are currently in progress include the following:

- Coordination meetings with FTA
- MARTA Board and CCTMA Briefings
- DeKalb County Commissioner interviews with Gannon, Rader and Johnson
- City of Atlanta Briefing with Planning and Public Works
- City of Decatur Commission and Mayor Briefing
- Published 1st Factsheet and Newsletter
- Social Media – Facebook Page with project factoids updated biweekly and MARTA Clifton Corridor Webpage www.itsmarta.com/clifton-corr.aspx
- First Round of Public Meetings to be held in March 2010