



Cleveland Avenue Corridor Study Kick-Off Meeting

Thursday, September 6th at 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Rosel Fann Recreation Center

365 Cleveland Avenue SE Atlanta, GA, 30354

Meeting Summary

The Cleveland Avenue Corridor Study Kick-Off Meeting commenced at approximately 6:40 PM. 56 members of the public were in attendance, along with Council Member Joyce Sheperd with several aides, and five members of the Bureau of Planning project team.

Flor Velarde, Assistant Director for the Bureau of Planning called the meeting to order, provided introductory notes, and introduced Atlanta City Council Member Joyce Sheperd, who provided a history of and introduction to the Cleveland Avenue Corridor Plan.

Jonathan Gelber, senior planner with the Bureau of Planning and project manager for the Cleveland Avenue Corridor Plan, presented the following agenda with the assistance of Keri Stevens (Bureau of Planning) and Pat Smeeton (Jordan, Jones & Goulding-transportation consultant to the Bureau of Planning).

A copy of the presentation can be obtained upon request from the Bureau of Planning. All meeting materials will be posted to the project web site as soon as the web site is up and running.

Agenda

1. Introduction

- Opening notes by Council Member Joyce Sheperd
- The Livable Centers Initiative program
- Project history and process overview
- Goals of the Project
- Planning Process Overview

2. Study Context

- Review of previous & current plans
- Demographics
- Transportation

Land Use

3. Exercise:

Visual preference survey - Meeting participants were asked to rank fifty photographs of urban scenes in relation to whether the images shown are consistent with that participants hope to see in the Cleveland Avenue Corridor. Results will be presented at the second public meeting.

4. Closing

Further opportunities for public involvement:

- Tentative date for second public meeting (Existing Conditions Assessment): October 18, 6:30 PM, Rosel Fann Recreation Center
- Tentative date for third public meeting (Visioning Workshop): November 17, 9:00AM, Rosel Fann Recreation Center
- Fourth Meeting (Recommendations & implementation plan) January '08
- Fifth meeting (Draft Plan) February '08
- Focus groups, advisory committee, stakeholder interviews in progress.
- Web site to be launched soon

5. Breakout Exercise & Free Discussion:

Questions & Comments

The planning team took questions and comments from the audience for approximately 20 minutes. Below is a summary of questions and comments:

- Pay special attention to floodplain, watershed, and sewage infrastructure issues.
- Pay special attention to historic resources, especially the Jeremiah Gilbert house memorial.
- Address truck & freight traffic issues.
- Consider other transportation initiatives, such as Atlanta-Chattanooga high-speed rail connection.
- Enhance existing grocery stores with amenities, improved design, and better products.
- Repair sidewalks in poor condition (specific locations provided)..Corridor lacks continuous sidewalks.
- Address quality-of-life issues
 - Crime
 - Code enforcement
 - Create a sense of a safe community.
- Consider recently announced Gas Pipeline in East Point.
- **Q:** How will Metropolitan Parkway TAD (Tax Allocation District) affect property owner's taxes? **A:** TAD will not in any way impact tax collection or individual property owners. TADs impact only the way that tax money is allocated. Council Member Sheperd will present more information on the TAD at the next meeting.

- Provide more retail opportunities- similar to the Edgewood Retail District.
- Address narrow street widths.
- Economic incentives may be necessary to encourage major retail tenants.
- Address trash and sanitation issues
- Public safety is an issue- Businesses must pay for extra security & lighting to be feasible.
- Vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties are a threat to the neighborhood.
- Corridor needs improved identity and character to attract investment.
- Provide corridor with gateways.
- Improve bus stop locations and amenities.
- Improve transportation infrastructure
 - Road and sidewalk condition.
 - Road width
 - Traffic signals and signal timing
 - Line-of sight & visibility
 - Interstate access & safety at ramps.

The meeting was dismissed at approximately 8:30 PM.

Thanks to all who participated.

For more information

For more information call the Bureau of Planning
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