



**Lakewood Trail Concept Design
Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Notes**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019
9 – 10:30AM**

John C. Birdine Neighborhood Center – 215 Lakewood Way SW, Atlanta, GA 30315

Project Team Attendees:

Andrew Kohr (POND)	Mia McKinney (Nickel Works)
Aubrey Sabba (POND)	Nicole Hall (Nickel Works)
Kemberli Sargent (City of Atlanta)	Pete Pellegrini (PATH)

SAC Attendees:

Akeasha Branch, Live Nation
Carla Smith (Representative), Atlanta City Council
Charles Jenkins (Wife), Betmar La Villa
Chris McCord, NPU-Y
Harriett Rondowsky, Neighborhood Business Owner
Jeff Delp, South Atlanta Neighborhood Association
Joyce Sheperd, Atlanta City Council
Lisa Haygood, Carver YMCA
Randy Veal, Lakewood Heights Neighborhood Association
Rev. Daniel Dickson, Joyland Neighborhood Association
Tina Arnold, Park Pride

Notes:

I. Project Overview

a. History/Background

- i. This study came from the community's desire to have a trail connection. The process is to consult the big picture feedback and information from current and previous studies (Subarea 2 Beltline Master Plan, 2013 LCI, 2018 South Atlanta Plan, and the 2018 Park Pride South Atlanta Park Vision Plan) and move the trail connection forward toward real implementation.

b. Goal

- i. The goal of this study is to develop a preferred trail connection. Part of the process is community engagement and a GDOT concept report.

c. Existing Information

- i. Maps (included) show information from previous and existing studies. Our efforts are to listen and gather information to verify and/or corroborate what

previous plans show. The map provided by the project team does not show proposed alignments – that’s why we’re here to engage the community and learn what they would like to see happen.

1. Some alignments are as recent as six months, providing up-to-date information for the project team.
- ii. Potential funding sources for construction (years from the present process) include City of Atlanta, PATH and GDOT.

II. Committee Overview

a. *Expectations*

- i. Meet four (4) times, in advance of engaging the general public, over the next six (6) – seven (7) months.
- ii. Committee members should provide timely and critical feedback and share information with their respective groups/organizations.

b. *Communications*

- i. Email with our engagement and/or project team (primarily Nickel Works)
- ii. Project Website (coming soon; will share the link when the page is complete)
- iii. Feed project information through your (SAC) listservs and community periodicals

III. Data Collection

a. *Main Objectives*

- i. How beholden are we to existing plans/ideas? Context beyond existing plans?
- ii. What do we need to know about Lakewood Amphitheater, South Bend Park, Pryor Street (usage, safety, culture/history)?
- iii. What does the greenway connection to ABI (Atlanta Beltline Inc) mean to you?
- iv. What is the expected value-add along the trail beyond financial impacts?

b. *Group Discussion*

i. Design

1. **Q:** How are materials selected?
 - a. **A:** PATH process is state-of-the art.
2. Will there be two (2) trails or one (1)?
 - a. **A2:** The long-range approach is to have a main trail with spurs and catalyst areas. Potentially, could turn in to more than one. This process will validate and test short-term and long-term ideas for stakeholders to choose.
3. Amenities
 - a. Lighting
 - b. Benches (creates community)
 - c. Manage etiquette and usage two ways through:
 - i. Interpretive signage and physical direction
 - ii. Managing and stewardship (see: Silver Comet Trail, John’s Creek Multi-Use Trail)

ii. Trail Location

1. **Q:** Will the trail go through Arthur Langford Park (ALP)?

- a. **A:** At a high level, the trail is designated to route through the park and will work around existing conditions.
- b. **A2:** It will connect people to the area making ALP an attraction along the trail.
- c. **A3:** The Highpoint neighborhood historically does not want a trail as reflected in ABI Subarea 2 Master Plan; there is room along Pryor to create a trail and bypass the neighborhood.

iii. Maintenance and Upkeep

1. **Q:** How does the maintenance and upkeep plans affect citizen tax dollars, and who maintains it?

- a. **A:** Depends on the alignment. If the trail is on Pryor, City of Atlanta Department of Public Works will maintain. If it is through a park, the City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation will maintain though their budget fluctuates. Greenhouse Crew (higher level for ABI).
- b. **A2:** The community can also chip in the pursuit of grants/partnership with organizations. Good for the community to take ownership and pride. (Ex. Regular users of the South Bend Dog Park contribute for utilities and to keep the park maintained.)
- c. **A3:** PATH maintains the trail while under warranty (~1-2 years) and works with the City of Atlanta to set precedents.

iv. Safety Concerns

1. **Q:** What happens to the trail at night?

- a. **A:** It depends on who maintains the Trail. City ordinance is 6AM – 11PM, PATH is dawn to dusk.
- b. **A2:** For bike commuters, if trail is closed at dusk, it shuts down the first and last mile connectivity from transit too early

2. Community Desires

- a. Security cameras
- b. Protocol for reporting maintenance needs

3. Southtowne/Southbend: regular users are taking issue with tire/trash dumping, driving onto trails. Need more rocks to better prevent trail drivers.

- a. **Document/Chronicle Success:** Community-led tire clean-up event (leverage other community led efforts to maintain area)

v. Parking/Transportation:

1. **Q:** How can you drive to trail and walk?

- a. **A:** Great for people close, but the trail will become an attraction and there may be a need for people to drive in. Will require defined trailheads with clear parking.

2. Councilwoman Sheperd commence parking and traffic study in the area.

vi. Housing/Neighborhood

1. There are too many gas stations and package stores. Councilwoman Sheperd imposed a 3-month moratorium on gas station development near Pryor and University—more proactive rezoning to come with Federal Opportunity Zone impacts. MRC zoning in the main commercial areas per ABI recommendation.
2. Senior center high rise by Lakewood Amphitheater needs a greenspace. Presently, seniors walk around a hodge podge” trail that needs real design.
3. ABI Subarea 2 Master plan recommends multifamily development near Slater Elementary.

vii. Cultural Components

1. South ATL Park (Old Clark College)
 - a. Magnolia trees
2. Southbend
 - a. 1st Waterworks
 - b. Creek Indians
 - i. Clays
 - ii. Military camp
3. Raceway
 - a. Evil Knievel
 - b. Burt Reynolds film
 - c. Nascar roadway
4. Joyland
 - a. Historically black community
 - b. Waterfall
 - c. Old airport on hill
5. Farmland with 100 hogs
6. Old Fair grounds
7. Skate Park
8. Brown’s Mill Food Forest
9. Boating at Lakewood (near amphitheater, see: 2013 Lakewood LCI Plan)

viii. Branding/“It” Factor

1. Identify a component/feature of the trail that will stand out and create momentum, impact, secure grants and funding
2. Need additional studies
 - a. Greenspace
 - i. Featured tailgating
 - ii. Outside concerts
 - b. Floodplain
3. Bring watershed management into the conversation early to deal with Lakewood Lake and Southbend Park Streams

ix. Committee Core Objectives

1. Cultural preservation
2. Transportation & connectivity

3. Preserve greenspace
4. Public safety
5. Maintenance
6. Attraction/destination
7. Technical coordination with municipal departments

IV. Next Steps

- a. *Tentative Schedule* (Meeting Notices and Fliers will be sent via e-mail)
 - i. PM #1: 2/28/19 (Evening)
 - ii. SAC #2: 3/26/19 (Lunchtime)
 - iii. PM #2: 3/28/19 (Evening)
 - iv. SAC #3: 4/30/19 (Lunchtime)
 - v. PM #3: 5/2/19 (Evening)
 - vi. SAC #4: 6/11/19 (Lunchtime)

- b. *Project Phasing*
 - i. Feedback/what we heard
 - ii. Potential “it spots”
 - iii. Tradeoffs/funding
 - iv. Expectations
 - v. Last preferred alternatives

- c. *Action Items*
 - i. Contact others for SAC participation
 1. Senior citizen high-rises
 - a. Betmar Villa
 - b. South of Pryor Circle near Ashview
 - c. Columbia Residential
 2. St. Paul Church/St. Peter’s
 3. Invest ATL/Visitor’s Bureau
 4. Screen Gems

 - ii. Develop Subcommittees
 1. Historic Preservation and Culture
 2. Transportation & Connectivity
 3. Community Leadership/Events