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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**OFFICE OF DESIGN POLICY & SUPPORT
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

FILE P.I. #0013103 **OFFICE** Design Policy & Support
Fulton County
GDOT District 7 - Metro Atlanta **DATE** March 24, 2014
Belt Line Corridor Multi-use Trail and Streetscapes
- ROW

FROM  for Brent Story, State Design Policy Engineer

TO SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT APPROVED LOCATION & DESIGN REPORT

Attached is the approved Location and Design Report with Notice of Location & Design Approval for the above subject project.

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

Glenn Bowman, Director of Engineering
Joe Carpenter, Director of P3/Program Delivery
Genetha Rice-Singleton, Assistant Director of P3/Program Delivery
Albert Shelby, State Program Delivery Engineer
Bobby Hilliard, Program Control Administrator
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Attn: Systems & Classification Branch
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Charles Robinson, Project Manager
BOARD MEMBER - 5th Congressional District

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE P.I. No. 0013103, Fulton County OFFICE Program Delivery
BELT LINE CORRIDOR MULTI-USE TRAIL
& STREETSCAPES - ROW

FROM Albert V. Shelby, III, State Program Delivery Engineer DATE March 14, 2014
Albert Shelby

TO Brent Story, P.E., State Design Policy Engineer
Attn: Dave Peters

SUBJECT Request for Location and Design Approval

Description and Project Proposal: The proposed Southwest Trail project, a 3.51 mile portion of the larger Atlanta BeltLine multi-use trail project, would construct a multi-use trail along the Southwest Corridor of the Atlanta BeltLine Corridor from Lena Street to University Avenue (see attached Figure 1) in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. The full build out of the Atlanta BeltLine is a system of transit and trails that would form an approximate 22-mile loop within the City of Atlanta.

This project, the Southwest Trail, would begin at Washington Park in Southwest Atlanta at the terminus of Lena Street and would continue to the southeast along an existing out-of-service railroad right-of-way (ROW) for approximately 1.54 miles, to just south of Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard. At Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard the trail would exit the rail corridor and run along a new sidewalk for .046 mile, and connect to an existing trail that parallels White Street for approximately 0.7 mile. Utilizing an existing ramp up to Lawton Street, and then would run along Lawton Street for 0.13 mile and ultimately return to the Atlanta BeltLine corridor. For the remaining 1.09 miles, the trail would continue in the Atlanta BeltLine corridor to University Avenue.

With the exception of the existing trail along White Street, the project would construct a 14-foot wide multi-use trail with two-foot wide shoulders and a 10-foot vertical clear zone. The project would involve the replacement of the existing former rail bridge over Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and would utilize existing underpasses under Westview Drive, Interstate 20, Lucile Avenue, Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, Lawton Street and Murphy Avenue/Lee Street. Trail construction would also include at-grade trail crossings at the trail's intersections with Allene Avenue and White Street. Concrete retaining walls with granite fascia would be constructed at various locations along the alignment in order to minimize impacts to property adjacent to the rail corridor, while not precluding the implementation of streetcar in the future. Existing and proposed ROW width varies. Invest Atlanta will be acquiring 4 parcels for this project.

Concept Approval Date: 02/06/2013, Revised Concept Report Submitted 01/09/2014

Concept Update: The project limits were extended from Allene Avenue to University Avenue. The project now includes an exception between Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard and Lawton Street as described in the TIGER V Grant Application. The lateral offset between the trail edge and face of wall was reduced from 3-feet to 2-feet.

Environmental Document Type, Approval Date & any Reevaluations:
Categorical Exclusion for Early Right-of-Way Acquisition (October 22, 2013).

Public Involvement:

Public Information Open House Results:

- Meeting Held: January 14, 2014 at 1191 Donnelly Avenue, Atlanta, GA
- The total number of comments received: 55
- Report the number of comments opposing or supporting the project (briefly summarize),
- The total number of attendees including any public officials in attendance, and
- Public Officials included Council Member Cleta Winslow and Atlanta BeltLine Board Member Kathy Woolard.
- There were no changes made to the project as a result of this Public Information Open House.

The following is a summation of all the comments and responses made:

1. **How is the project funded?** It is funded by the Atlanta BeltLine Tax Allocation District, philanthropic donations, existing federal funding and by an \$18 million TIGER V Grant award.
2. **Will Atlanta BeltLine Inc. (ABI) encourage Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) participation with the construction of the trail?** ABI's procurement process has DBE participation goals that every contractor must meet or exceed. All potential contractors must be registered and prequalified with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).
3. **How is the First Source Job Program Monitored?** It is monitored internally by ABI, and it is also monitored externally by GDOT and the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA).
4. **Will the trail extend to Atlanta University Center or Atlanta Area Tech?** The Westside Trail will run inside the former rail corridor between Washington Park and University Avenue. Future spur trails may extend to the AUC or Atlanta Area Tech campuses, but are not included within the scope of this project.
5. **How is the Atlanta BeltLine addressing the stray animal problem, specifically feral cats?** ABI partners with animal agencies and/or advocacy groups to assist in handling matters concerning stray animals along the Atlanta BeltLine.
6. **How many temporary or permanent jobs have been completed thus far by the Atlanta BeltLine?** Approximately 250 construction jobs have been created/preserved

as a part of Atlanta BeltLine construction activities. We are currently working to calculate the number of jobs that have been created as part of private investment within the Atlanta BeltLine planning area.

7. **What are the project limits for the trail?** The trail will start at Washington Park and will end at University Avenue.
8. **Are there plans to invest into Washington High School as a part of this project?** The resources utilized for this project are exclusively for trail construction. School repairs and improvements are handled by the Atlanta Public School System.
9. **How was this trail segment selected for the Tiger V Grant?** The Westside Trail project best met the criteria for a TIGER V grant and was already identified as a priority project for the Atlanta BeltLine. The Tiger V Grant helped expedite the trail by two to three years.
10. **Didn't the original trail proposal design connect to Maddox Park?** While future extensions of this project will include a connection to Maddox Park, this project as submitted in the grant proposal only included the section of the Atlanta BeltLine that runs from Washington Park (Lena St.) to the Adair Park neighborhood.
11. **Did ABI complete environmental impact assessments completed for this project?** Yes.
12. **How will your work on Proctor Creek as a part of this trail construction impact Washington High School?** We will be managing the storm water and improving the storm water conditions within the corridor, and we are addressing any impacts to Proctor Creek. Washington High School is up-stream from the Atlanta BeltLine (water from the Atlanta BeltLine flows away from the school). As such, this project will have no impact on Washington High.
13. **Where the trail leaves the corridor, and goes along White Street are there future plans for redevelopment?** The adopted Subarea 1 Master Plan, developed by ABI and the City's planning department with the community, outlines the redevelopment vision for this quadrant. Redevelopment of private properties will depend in part on the actions of private investors and developers.
14. **How can residents get jobs along the BeltLine?** Through our First Source Jobs Program, we identify the type of jobs expected to be created by a particular project (e.g. park, trail, transit, etc). ABI then work with the Atlanta Work Force Development to provide job training to Atlanta BeltLine residents. Once a construction contractor is secured and if they hire anyone new, they have to demonstrate a good faith effort in first hiring from the pre-trained workers from the Atlanta BeltLine neighborhoods.
15. **Will residents be displaced by the construction of the Westside Trail?** No. There is one vacant residential property that will have to be purchased for this project.
16. **What is the right-of-way acquisition process?** It is the process of identifying adjacent properties along the corridor where we may need a temporary construction easement which allows the contractor to access private property for a specific period of time (e.g. backyards) to build the trail). Property owners are compensated for granting that access.
17. **How long is the construction period?** Construction is expected to take approximately 2 years.
18. **Will the part of the hiking trail behind White Street remain accessible to the public?** Trail usage in the section is currently restricted with heavy duty gates in order

to limit unauthorized motor vehicles from utilizing the trail.

19. **Will the trail have an access point at Kroger City Shopping Center?** Yes. There will be a ramp connecting Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard and the corridor.
20. **Will there be a dog park on the Westside Trail?** No.
21. **Will the Annie Casey Foundation Site be a part of this project?** That site is beyond the boundary of this specific project but will be part of future trail and corridor development. It is adjacent to a section of the rail corridor that is currently owned by CSX.
22. **Will the trail be accessible for public use during construction?** As with any construction site, construction site safety is the requirement and priority of the contractor. Trail usage during the construction period will be prohibited.
23. **What part of the Westside Trail project will be constructed first?** Once a contractor is hired we will determine the approach and order of construction activities. We will host additional public meetings to share more specific construction details.
24. **Will parking be built to accommodate trail users?** No additional parking will be constructed as part of this project beyond the on street and other parking that is currently available.
25. **How will ABI address homeowner displacement as result of rising property taxes?** (e.g Land Trusts) We hope that property values will rise for surrounding homeowners as a result of an improving regional economy, neighborhood conditions, and the Westside Trail. Improving property values strengthen the primary asset in our neighborhoods, our homes and land. Rising property values naturally result in increasing property taxes. Some homeowners – especially elderly residents on fixed income – while the value of the home is increasing, this may make it challenging to pay the annual tax bill. When the homeowner cannot pay the annual property tax bill, this can, in some cases, lead to displacement. Given that the Atlanta BeltLine TAD area does not include single family neighborhoods, ABI cannot address this issue directly. We do, however, work to connect neighborhoods to other resources and efforts that address displacement. For example:
 - the Fulton County Board of Assessors currently has an underutilized program to assist with this issue. Senior Citizens earning under \$39,000 annually are eligible to freeze the amount of City of Atlanta and Fulton County property taxes to prevent escalation. Please call (404) 612-6440 for additional information about how to apply.
 - the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership has worked to create the Atlanta Land Trust Collaborative. This organization is still in its early phases, and one of its stated goals is to mitigate displacement outside of the tax allocation district. To help support or shape the Land Trust Collaborative 's efforts, please see <http://www.atlantaltc.org/>.
26. **What material will be used to construct the trail?** Will runners be taken into consideration? The trail will be constructed with concrete, similar to other segments of the Atlanta BeltLine already constructed. ABI is evaluating several shoulder treatments to provide a soft surface for joggers and residents.
27. **Will Maddox Park be improved as a part of the Westside Trail Project?** The funding for this project is limited to the Westside Trail only.
28. **Will there be similar planting on the Westside Trail as they are on the Eastside?** The Westside Trail will receive the same quality of landscaping as the Eastside Trail.
29. **What work will be done to restore mature trees along the Westside Trail?** ABI and

the design team have made every effort to avoid adversely impacting the mature trees in the Westside Corridor. We will continue to work with the selected contractor to ensure that the maximum number of trees remains unharmed. However, some trees will need to be removed in order to construct the trail. The number of new trees planted will exceed the number of trees removed for this project, exceeding the tree recompense requirements as outlined by the City of Atlanta.

- 30. What can the community do to support the project?** There are myriad of volunteer opportunities to get involved in that support the Atlanta BeltLine. For more information visit beltline.org/getinvolved
- 31. How can the community help to get funding for the project?** The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership spearheads private fundraising for the Atlanta BeltLine and provides opportunities for people to donate at a variety of levels. For more information visit beltline.org/member.

Consistency with Approved Planning:

The design description as presented herein and submitted for approval is consistent with the revised Concept Report.

Recommendations:

CONCUR: *Alan Bonner*
Director of Engineering

APPROVE: *Bill R. M. M.* *3/24/14*
Chief Engineer Date

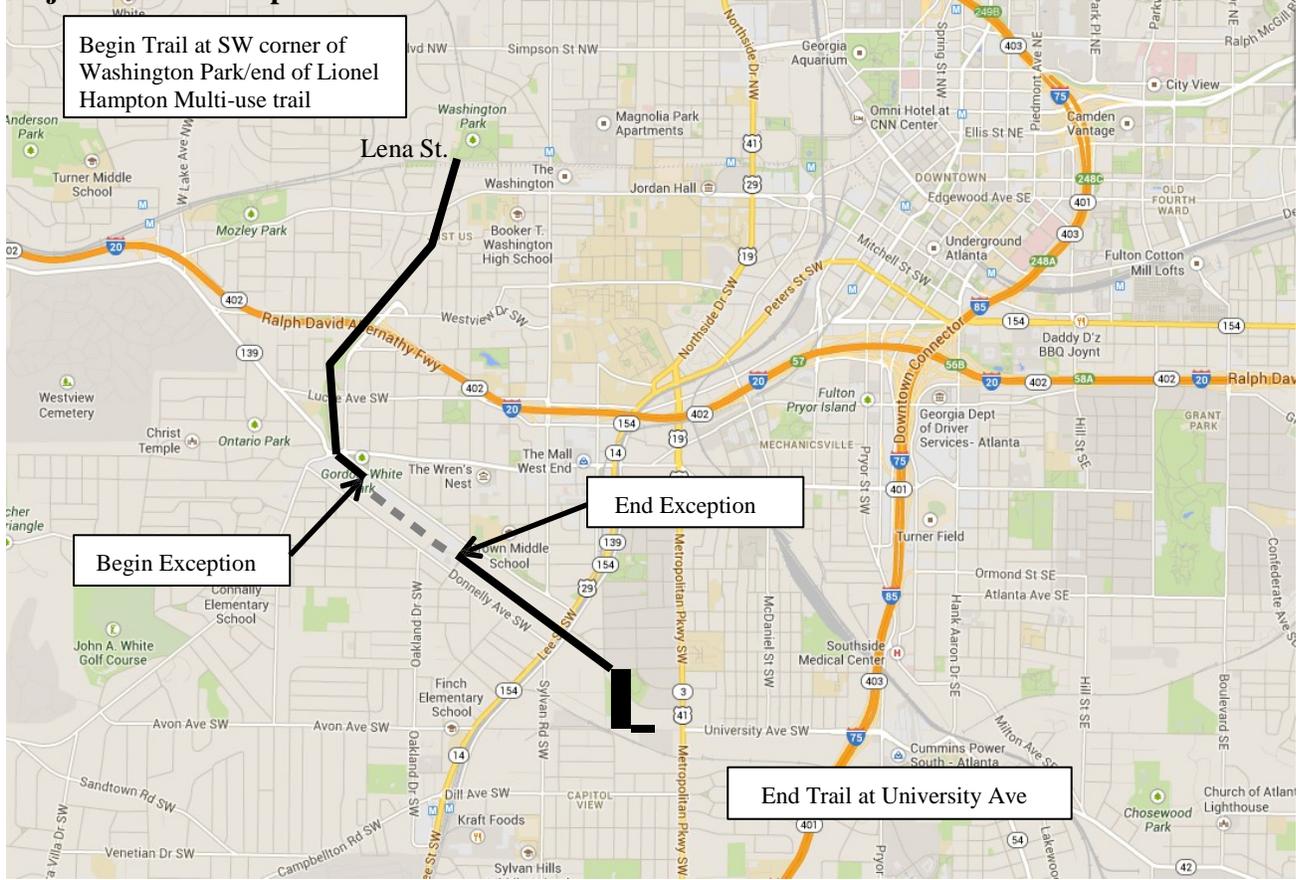
DATE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL: *March 24, 2014*

Attachments:

- Sketch Map
- Cost Estimate
- Notice of Location and Design Approval

Project Number: 0013103
P. I. Number: 0013103
County: Fulton – City of Atlanta

Project Location Map



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Existing West End Trail

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE Project No. NA
P.I. No. 0013103 County Fulton
Belt Line Corridor Multi-Use Trail & Streetscapes - ROW

OFFICE Right of Way

DATE 2/27/2014

FROM  Howard P. Copeland, Right of Way Administrator

TO Charles Robinson, Project Manager

SUBJECT Cost Estimates

Mgmt LET Date: NA

Mgmt R/W Date: NA

Attached is a current detailed cost estimate that we received that will be utilized for Right of Way authorization.

ROW Phase: 2014 \$17,070,000.00

Attached Cost Estimate \$19,240,000.00

Right of Way funding cannot be requested until the cost estimate has been approved by the Chief Engineer.

Timely submission of the cost estimate and timely approval notification is critical to maintaining the Right of Way authorization schedule. If you have any questions please call Floyd J. Williams at 404-347-0191.

NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL

FULTON COUNTY - P. I. NUMBER 0013103

Notice is hereby given in compliance with Georgia Code 22-2-109 and 32-3-5 that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the Location and Design of this project.

The date of location approval is: **March 24, 2014**

The proposed Southwest Trail project, a 3.51 mile portion of the larger Atlanta BeltLine multi-use trail project, would construct a multi-use trail along the Southwest Corridor of the Atlanta BeltLine Corridor from Lena Street to University Avenue (see attached Figure 1) in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County Georgia. The project spans through Land Lots 105, 106, 115, 116, 118, 119, 139, 140, and 141. The full build out of the Atlanta BeltLine is a system of transit and trails that would form an approximate 22-mile loop within the City of Atlanta. This project, the Southwest Trail, would begin at Washington Park in Southwest Atlanta at the terminus of Lena Street and would continue to the southeast along an existing out-of-service railroad right-of-way (ROW) for approximately 1.54 miles, to just south of Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard. At Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard the trail would exit the rail corridor and run along a new sidewalk for .046 mile, and connect to an existing trail that parallels White Street for approximately 0.7 mile. Utilizing an existing ramp up to Lawton Street, and then would run along Lawton Street for 0.13 mile and ultimately return to the Atlanta BeltLine corridor. For the remaining 1.09 miles, the trail would continue in the Atlanta BeltLine corridor to University Avenue. With the exception of the existing trail along White Street, the project would construct a 14-foot wide multi-use trail with two-foot wide shoulders and a 10-foot vertical clear zone.

With the exception of the existing trail along White Street, the project would construct a 14-foot wide multi-use trail with two-foot wide shoulders and a 10-foot vertical clear zone. Construction should begin in the third quarter of 2014. Significant construction activities include the replacement of an old railroad bridge that crosses Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and the construction of retaining walls along the project property boundaries.

Existing and proposed ROW width varies. Invest Atlanta will be acquiring 4 parcels for this project.

Drawings or maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Atlanta BeltLine Inc.:

Catherine Owens
cowens@atlbeltline.org
86 Pryor Street, Suite 300
404.477.3003

Any interested party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and requesting in writing to:

Catherine Owens
cowens@atlbeltline.org
86 Pryor Street, Suite 300
404.477.3003

Any written request or communication in reference to this project or notice SHOULD include the Project and P. I. Numbers as noted at the top of this notice.