



Questions and Answers
Second Quarterly Briefing of 2020
6.11.2020

- 1. Q: I'm looking for updates regarding the Northwest portion of the Beltline, specifically the Marietta Blvd between Donald Lee Pkwy and West Marietta St.**

A: This portion of the trail, Segment 3, is being completed in partnership with the PATH Foundation. The trail is close to 100% design; the Department of Watershed management is currently doing a large project on Marietta Blvd, and traffic is limited to one southbound lane. We must wait for the Department of Watershed to finish their project before proceeding. We are anticipating that work will start in early 2021. Once this work is started, we anticipate construction will take 9-12 months to complete.

- 2. Q: Are there any updates on the Westside Quarry Park?**

A: Westside Quarry Park is being led by the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation. The second and final phase is due to be completed by the end of the year.

- 3. Q: What is the specific reason that the Murphy Crossing Request for Proposal (RFP) was pulled? Did you feel that the developer wouldn't be able to deliver in the current economic climate?**

A: The main driver for pulling that RFP was based on the economic environment that we are in right now. We want to make sure we are curating something that will serve the community for a long time.

- 4. Q: Will the RFP process (POST-receipt of proposals) be more transparent than the last round? Will more be shared with the community on an ongoing basis?**

A: Yes. We plan on having full engagement with the community. We will memorialize conversations from the past and reach out to the community to have conversations. We still must ensure the RFP process is fair to ensure there are no outside influences on the process. We will be implementing some innovations to ensure there is full input from the community.



5. Q: Will there be any new or additional guidelines for the Beltline with the state opening on June 16th?

A: Even though the state is opening back up, we are still asking everyone to obey the tenets of social distancing. There are certain times of high traffic on the BeltLine with lots of trail usage, generally between 4 pm and 8 pm. Part of our guidance is to inform residents and users of the lower traffic times. We suggest people follow the basic recommendations of public health experts such as washing your hands and using face coverings. We will continue to follow these guidelines even as the state reopens.

6. Q: How are you engaging the businesses along the east side trail to practice social distancing?

A: Our guidance is the same as our standard guidance to encourage businesses and their patrons to maintain appropriate social distancing, keep their hands clean, and do their part to protect their health and the health of others.

7. Q: What is the status of ANY rail on the Beltline?

A: We are working closely with the City of Atlanta and More MARTA for the first extension of transit in the More MARTA Program. We hope to start geotechnical work, which includes utility relocation, for the East Extension sometime in the next 3 months or so. Though you may not see dirt being turned, many of the necessary agreements are moving.

8. Q: Will there be affordable housing on the North side of the BeltLine? The proposed housing is concentrated in certain areas.

A: Yes, we are looking throughout the BeltLine to establish affordable housing. We are identifying parcels that can be purchased for affordable housing on the North and Westside.

9. Q: Are the affordable units [planned at] the West End Mall [created] in partnership with the redevelopment of the mall? Nothing has happened with the mall which is why I ask. If the mall is not redeveloped, will the units be constructed?

A: It is our understanding that the developer, Elevator City Partners, is moving forward with the redevelopment. We are eager to hear what their new timeline is. The first phase will be affordable housing.



10. Q: How can the communities assist in increasing urgency and resource dedication for transit initiatives?

A: The communication from BeltLine Rail Now has been helpful. Helping the general public understand the connectedness to all the things we do is very important, employment, transit, and housing are all connected.

11. Q: Are there any other options for funding the Southeast segment other than the federal funding being pursued?

A: Yes, we try to use various funding sources such as the Tax Allocation District, federal funding, and philanthropic funding.

12. Q: What is the difference between "BeltLine transit route" and "BeltLine multi-use path" on the subarea maps?

A: Trail and transit will be next to each other on a portion of the corridor. Past Quarry Park and Marietta Blvd., trail and transit will divert because the corridor is more congested. A planning study will be conducted in the next year.

13. Q: I'm interested to know when the Westside Reservoir Park is expected to open.

A: The project is funded by the City and a gift from the Arthur Blank Foundation. The first phase is nearing completion and the second phase should be completed Spring/Summer of next year.

14. Q: Are there plans for re-routing industrial trucks and large-vehicle traffic on sections sharing transit and trail paths? Like Marietta Blvd.

A: Currently, Marietta Blvd. is a 5-lane road. The plan is to take 2 lanes out of service. Routing vehicles is a function of the City's Departments of Public Works and Department of Transportation. You may share your ideas with us, and we will pass them along to the City, or you may reach out to either of those departments directly.

15. Q: Given the newly acknowledged need to be far more aggressive in advancing social justice and equity goals, how will ABI develop new initiatives in these areas?



A: Many challenges we have in our country are systematic and structural. We are evaluating our policies and procedures to determine how we can be more responsive to community needs. We have engaged the Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative to engage minority owned businesses along the BeltLine. We have aggressive goals on engaging minority businesses that can be partners as we build out the BeltLine. You can view our mission statement on equity and inclusion at <https://beltline.org/the-project/project-goals/equity-and-inclusion/>.

16. Q: What can investors do to be involved? Are there any programs or grants where investors can work with communities in and around the Beltline to assist with the next steps of the projects?

A: There a couple of things investors can do. They should evaluate the community that they are interested in investing in to ensure we are establishing developments and outcomes that are beneficial to neighborhoods around the Atlanta BeltLine.

We do not have specific funding that supports real estate around the BeltLine. Our partner organizations such as Invest Atlanta could have funding that supports small investors.

We have a robust community engagement program that can help understand the needs of the community. The economic development team has lots of partners, so we can connect investors with partners that can help.

17. Q: What can neighbors do to make the Southside Trail East safer for walking, such as smoothing out the gravel, etc. while we wait for funding for construction?

A: We don't have additional funding in our maintenance agreement for additional grading/smoothing at this time. Neighbors can email Kevin, Director of Design, at kburke@atlbeltline.org for specific sections or areas of special concern.



18. ABI can push for 60% or 40% AMI. The reality is that 80% AMI is simply not realistic for beltline neighborhood residents. Is this a conversation ABI is willing to have?

A: We recognize the urgency to focus on affordable housing for families earning up to 60% of Area Median Income (AMI) in addition to 80% and other bands.

We always encourage developers to have a lower level of AMI. 80% is the level set by the City's Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance, so we do not have the power to change the City's ordinance. 80% translates to the \$50,000 level for many workers who need

affordable housing as well. Much of the housing we have supported has been at 60% AMI, but we are also encouraging 80%. We work with agencies, like Atlanta Housing, and other partners to target lower AMIs.

19. Q: Are there any updates on the Southside trail between Glenwood and Boulevard? Is paving coming soon? Is fiber being laid down now?

A: We continue working on design for that section, but construction is pending funding and does not have a precise timeline. We are currently under construction on the western portion of the Southside Trail (between University Avenue and Pittsburgh Yards). Fiber is being laid along the corridor, even in its interim state.

20. Q: Will there be ample trail lighting at dusk?

A: There will be lighting on all paved multi-use trails, but not on the interim trails.