**Notice of Public Hearings and Availability of Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**

Notice is hereby given that Public Hearings will be held by the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) on August 16 and 18, 2011 to obtain comments and input on the proposed Atlanta BeltLine project. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR part 771, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with MARTA, and in partnership with Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI), has prepared a Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Atlanta BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia.

The Atlanta BeltLine is a proposed fixed guideway transit and multi-use trails system with a corridor of approximately 22 miles encircling central Atlanta. Tiering will allow the FTA and MARTA to focus on those decisions that are ready for this level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to support future right-of-way (ROW) preservation. These decisions include selection of either Modern Streetcar or Light Rail Transit technology as the transit mode; selection of a general alignment of new transit and trails and establishment of the ROW needs.

Ten Transit Build Alternatives are considered in this Tier 1 DEIS, formed of five alignments and two technology modes. For the most part, the proposed alignments of the Trail Build Alternatives, of which there are three alternatives, are adjacent to and in the same ROW as the Transit Build Alternatives. The No-Build Alternative is a baseline alternative that provides a basis of comparison with the Build Alternatives.

The Transit Build Alternatives share certain characteristics, such as the need for coordination with the freight railroads; however, other characteristics such as connections to key destinations or the amount of in-street running alignment set the transit alternatives apart from one another. Likewise, the Trail Build Alternatives share certain characteristics, such as consistency with the Atlanta BeltLine vision; however, other characteristics such as preserving the ability to keep transit and trails together set the trail alternatives apart from each other. The Tier 1 DEIS identifies strategies for avoiding or minimizing environmental impacts as the Atlanta BeltLine project design advances.

**DATES**

**Written comments on the Tier 1 DEIS are requested by** **September 17, 2011**. **Public Hearings are** **scheduled for August 16, 2011 and August 18, 2011.**

The date, times, and locations for the public hearings are as follows:

**Public Hearings 1 & 2**:

**Tuesday, August 16, 2011 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**All Saints’ Episcopal Church, 634 West Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308**

**Public Hearings 3 & 4**:

**Thursday, August 18, 2011 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Hagar CTM Building, 19 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd., NW, Atlanta, GA 30314**

The locations of the Public Hearings are accessible to persons with disabilities. If translations, signing services or other special accommodations are needed, please contact the Project Hotline at (404) 5242070 or for hearing impaired TDD (404) 848-5665 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

**COMMENTS**

Written, phoned or faxed comments on the Tier 1 DEIS should be submitted to the attention of: Johnny Dunning, Jr., Project Manager, MARTA, Office of Transit System Planning, 2424 Piedmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30324-3330. Email: dwa\_beltlinestudy@bellsouth.net. Telephone: (404) 524-2070; FAX: (404) 848-5132. Request for copies of the Tier 1 DEIS can be made to the same address.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Information on the project can be obtained on the project website at <http://www.itsmarta.com/Beltline-Corr.aspx> and the Tier 1 DEIS is available online at <http://www.itsmarta.com/uploadedFiles/About_MARTA/Planning/Beltline_Corr/Atlanta_BeltLine_DEIS_FTA.pdf>.

Copies of the Tier 1 DEIS can also be viewed at the following locations:

* MARTA (2424 Piedmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30324);
* Atlanta BeltLine Inc. (86 Pryor Street SW, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30303);

**Downtown**

* Central Library (One Margaret Mitchell Square, Atlanta, GA 30303)
* Auburn Avenue Research Library (101 Auburn Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30303)
* City of Atlanta Bureau of Planning (55 Trinity St., SW, Suite 3350, Atlanta, GA 30303)
* Fulton County Government Center, Department of Public Works (141 Pryor St., SW, Atlanta, GA 30303)
* Downtown Transportation Management Association - Central Atlanta Progress (50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 110, Atlanta, GA 30303)
* Atlanta Regional Commission (40 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303)
* Atlanta Housing Authority (230 John Wesley Dobbs Ave., Atlanta, GA 30303)

**Northside**

* Buckhead Area Transportation Management Association (3340 Peachtree Rd., Ste. 1640, Atlanta, GA 30326)
* Buckhead Library Branch (269 Buckhead Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305)
* Peachtree Library Branch (1315 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309)
* Midtown Alliance (999 Peachtree St., Ste. 730, Atlanta, GA 30309)

**Northeast**

* Martin Luther King Jr. Library Branch (409 John Wesley Dobbs Ave. NE, Atlanta GA 30312)
* Ponce de Leon Library Branch (980 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE, Atlanta GA 30306)

**Southeast**

* Kirkwood Library Branch (11 Kirkwood Rd. SE, Atlanta GA 30317)
* Thomasville Heights Library Branch (1700 Thomasville Dr. SE, Atlanta, GA 30315)
* Georgia Hill Library Branch (250 Georgia Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30312)
* East Atlanta Library Branch (400 Flat Shoals Ave., SE Atlanta, GA 30316)

**Southwest**

* Stewart-Lakewood Library Branch (2893 Lakewood Ave, SW, Atlanta, GA 30315)
* West End Library Branch (525 Peeples Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30310)
* Southwest Library Branch (3665 Cascade Road, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331)
* Georgia Stand Up (501 Pulliam Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30312

**Westside**

* Washington Park Library Branch (1116 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Atlanta, GA 30314)
* Dogwood Library Branch (1838 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy., Atlanta, GA 30318)

**Regional**

* Urban Land Institute (300 Galleria Parkway, SE, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30339
* Fulton County Government Service Center, Department of Environmental & Community Development (5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30336)