

John Somerhalder Succeeds Ray Weeks in Leading BeltLine Partnership Four others, including BeltLine Visionary Ryan Gravel, Join the Board

Atlanta, GA, Feb. 13, 2009 – The BeltLine Partnership board of directors this week approved a new slate of directors that addresses succession from the non-profit organization's founding chairman A. Ray Weeks, Jr., and provides it with critical leadership in several areas of expertise. Succeeding Weeks, who will continue to serve as one of four BeltLine Partnership Capital Campaign co-chairs, is AGL Resources CEO John Somerhalder. Joining Somerhalder in beginning three-year terms on the board will be:

- Ryan Gravel, Perkins & Will Urban Designer, whose Georgia Tech graduate thesis and subsequent advocacy for his vision led to the BeltLine;
- Charlie Shufeldt, Retired Executive SunTrust Bank Vice President;
- Curley Dossman, Georgia-Pacific Foundation President; and
- Phil Rubin, rDialogue CEO.

“As the BeltLine Partnership matures from the start-up phase of the BeltLine, we are fortunate to add to the board increasingly diverse and deep skill sets,” said Weeks. “We are particularly fortunate to bring to the organization the world-class level of leadership of John Somerhalder.”

The board also approved creation of three new vice chair positions with accountability for: finance, in which Shufeldt will serve; marketing and communications, in which Rubin will serve; and community outreach, in which Mtamanika Youngblood, Annie E. Casey Foundation Director of Neighborhood Transformation, will serve.

“In the wake of Ray’s transition from serving as not only chairman of the board of the BeltLine Partnership and co-chair of the capital campaign, but also of the leadership he has provided to the BeltLine since Mayor Shirley Franklin first turned to him, we required an enhanced board structure to account for the many roles he played for the organization and the BeltLine overall,” said BeltLine Partnership Executive Director Valarie Wilson.

With these additions to the board, three other members have completed their service to the board: Archibald “Archie” B. Hill, III, Christopher Glenn Sawyer, and Timothy C. Tuff. Continuing their service to the board are:

- Clara Hayley Axam, Enterprise Foundation Project Director;
- Dr. Gerald Durley, Providence Missionary Baptist Church of Atlanta Senior Pastor;
- Ralph G. Edwards, Jr., EBS Real Estate Investments Managing Director;
- William C. Fowler, CBF Realty Owner;
- Samuel G. Friedman, AFCO Realty Chairman;
- Henry “Greg” D. Gregory, Jr., IDI Vice Chairman/CEO;
- Helen Davis Hatch, Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates, Inc. Principal;
- Richard L. Holmes, Georgia Power Senior Vice President;
- David Anderson Hooker, Center for Working Families, Inc. VP of Community Building;
- Philip I. Kent, Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc. Chairman and CEO; and
- Joerg G. Matthiessen, Boston Consulting Group SVP and Managing Officer; and
- Mtamanika Youngblood, Annie E. Casey Foundation Director of Neighborhood Transformation.

The BeltLine Partnership is a non-profit organization committed to raising funds from private and philanthropic sources to support the BeltLine; working with neighborhoods, community organizations, faith organizations, businesses and other groups to raise general awareness and broad-based support for the BeltLine; and serving as a catalyst to mobilize resources to address the social concerns raised by new development around the BeltLine.