

NEWS RELEASE

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ATLANTANS' TOP BELTLINE PRIORITIES: REDUCING GRIDLOCK, IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT

*Survey: 70 percent believe BeltLine will be completed,
8 in 10 say it will accomplish most important goals*

ATLANTA – (May 22, 2007) A little more than six months into the ambitious 25-year Atlanta Beltline project and the reality is beginning to set in. This visionary, one-of-a-kind rail/trail, parks and mixed development plan to link 45 urban neighborhoods will ease transit and help the environment.

That was the message gleaned from a poll of 600 city residents. Asked the question, “How important is it that the BeltLine reduce traffic gridlock?” some 95 percent answered in the affirmative. Seventy-eight percent said it was very important, while another 16 percent deemed it was somewhat important.

These results mirrored those on the topics of parks, greenspace and protecting the environment. Ninety-five percent said it was important that the BeltLine protect the environment, while 90 percent said it was important that the Beltline create new parks and greenspace.

When asked if they thought the BeltLine, with its 22 miles of transit, complete with street cars or light rail, would come to fruition, a full 70 percent answered they believed it was likely. In the data breakout, about 24 percent thought it was certain to happen, while approximately 46 percent said it was somewhat likely. Only about 17 percent said it was somewhat unlikely.

“The people of Atlanta, as they learn more about the BeltLine, are getting excited about the possibilities,” said Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. “Atlantans are confident that once it’s fully developed, the BeltLine will transform the Atlanta that we know. This visionary development will ease traffic congestion, increase greenspace and affordable workforce housing opportunities and improve the quality of life for generations to come.”

Creating new jobs and managing growth all along the BeltLine drew lots of interest. Ninety-one percent of those surveyed said it was important that the BeltLine provide good jobs to people who need them. Almost as many of those polled, 89 percent, said the BeltLine should ensure geographic balance in the city’s future growth.

Lastly, on the issue of workforce affordable housing around the BeltLine, 62 percent of respondents said it was very important and 25 percent said it was somewhat important that the BeltLine make new homes available that the average wage-earner could afford.

The BeltLine Module poll was conducted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia as part of the City's Citizen Satisfaction Survey (CSS), which has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. For more on the CSS results, please visit:

http://www.atlantaga.gov/client_resources/mayorsoffice/citizen%20satisfaction%20survey0307final.pdf

The Atlanta BeltLine is a \$2.8 billion redevelopment project that will shape the way Atlanta grows over the next 25 years and beyond. The project proposes a network of public parks, multi-use trails and transit along a historic railroad corridor circling downtown and connecting many neighborhoods.

Key attributes of the BeltLine include:

- Nearly 1,300 acres of new greenspace and parks
- 33 miles of multi-use trails
- 22 miles of transit
- Approximately 30,000 new jobs in 20 economic development areas
- 5,600+ affordable workforce homes
- Touches and connects 45 neighborhoods
- Investments in pedestrian access, streetscapes, public art, historic preservation and environmental cleanup

The next meeting of the Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Board will be Tuesday, May 29, from 2-4 p.m. in the Board Room on the third floor of the Atlanta Development Authority at 86 Pryor St., Atlanta, GA 30303-3131.

For more information about the BeltLine, please visit www.beltlinecommunity.org.

Please make note of our new address:

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