

2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

2.1 OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder and public involvement was recognized as an essential component of the I-20 East TOD Community Plan from the project's beginning. One key initial task was to identify three main guiding principles to inform methods and activities of the involvement program. These principles were mutually agreed upon by MARTA, DeKalb County, the project team, stakeholders and the public; documented in the engagement strategy for the study; and used to monitor the effectiveness of the program. The principles are:

- Establish meaningful ongoing, two-way communication between MARTA, DeKalb County, the stakeholders, and the public.
- Inform the public of the progress of the study and of new opportunities to participate in the planning process.
- Inform and involve stakeholders in setting the project's goals and objectives, determining its potential outcomes, and directing its implementation once this effort has concluded.

With these guiding principles in mind, a dialogue with stakeholders and the public was initiated early and continued throughout the study. Development and implementation of a comprehensive and far-reaching outreach approach, using a combination of online and in-person tools, allowed multiple two-way engagement opportunities and promoted inclusion of residents, businesses, developers, elected officials, and agency and municipal planning staff. The connections established and nurtured through the study are expected to continue beyond completion of the I-20 East TOD Study and will be beneficial as the recommendations are implemented and future initiatives are introduced.

As shown in the list below, a wide range of formats, meetings and interactive strategies comprised the overall public and stakeholder involvement process.

- Four Advisory Committee meetings
- Two online surveys
- Three developers Forums
- Two stakeholder interviews
- Four stakeholder workshops
- Four public meetings
- Six pop-up meetings and kiosk displays
- Selected other public involvement strategies.

The following sections provide a summary of each of these strategies, focusing on the level of participation, the topics introduced and issues discussed, and the specific outcomes and recommendations that emerged from each strategy.

2.2 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

2.2.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC)

An Advisory Committee was convened at the start of the project, to serve as one key vehicle for connecting and communicating with project stakeholders.. The AC comprised stakeholders from state, regional and local agencies, as well as business people and residents appointed by MARTA and DeKalb County. The committee met a total of four times throughout the project to identify issues and opportunities in the study area, provide feedback on public and stakeholder engagement and the planning process, and collect project information to share with the communities and agencies they represented.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #1 - JULY 27, 2017

The first AC meeting was held during the Corridor Visioning phase. A total of 26 stakeholder representatives from the public and private sectors attended, including several DeKalb County agencies and interest groups. An overview of the project was presented, along with study objectives and desired outcomes. Educational material on TOD was included, as well as initial findings from the market assessment and transportation patterns in the corridor. The meeting included a facilitated discussion on corridor vision, issues and opportunities. Lastly, participants were asked to commit, as committee members, to providing insight and feedback, engaging and educating their constituents, and helping identify champions for the project. The study approach to public involvement was adjusted in response to information gathered at this meeting. An open house and survey were added to the start of the public involvement program to involve the community in the visioning process and to educate the public about the purpose of the Community Plan. At the committee's urging, the study team began coordination with the City of Stonecrest.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #2 - DECEMBER 13, 2017

The second Advisory Committee meeting was held on December 13, 2017, following the first round of public open houses, business and community surveys, and Developers Forum. A total of six participants, all from public agencies, attended the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to review the results of public engagement to date; present initial findings on corridor conditions, such as zoning, community facilities and resources, connectivity and barriers, pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, station area opportunities, and density precedents; present the team's proposals for station area land use typologies, including general land use and development characteristics; and collect feedback from the group, specifically, whether the ideas presented so far were realistic and appropriate. From discussions at this meeting, the study team began to reach out to landowners at station areas.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #3 - APRIL 25, 2018

The project's third Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 25, 2018 during the station area planning phase. A total of thirteen attendees were present and represented such organizations as DeKalb County, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), neighborhood and business groups, and the Partnership for Southern Equity. The attendees provided feedback on the materials for the public workshop. Input from this meeting was used to prepare for the Public Design Workshop the following day. The study team developed a glossary to explain the TOD and planning-related terms used by the Community Plan. Materials regarding the connection between density and successful transit were prepared for the public workshop.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #4 – JUNE 19, 2018

The project's fourth Advisory Committee meeting was held on June 19, 2018. A total of 11 attendees were present and represented such organizations as DeKalb County, MARTA, ARC, GDOT, City of Stonecrest, Decide DeKalb, and NAACP. The attendees were provided an update on the status of the project; results from the April public workshops; overviews of draft I-20 corridor-wide strategies and station-by-station approaches; a deeper analysis of the design concepts for the priority stations of Indian Creek and Stonecrest; and an overview of the initial zoning review and analysis. Attendees were then asked to give feedback on potential challenges to implementation. Input from this meeting was used to fine tune materials for the Public Open Houses in August 2018. The study team also began coordination with the then-new DeKalb County Transit Master Plan and the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan.

2.2.2 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS SURVEYS

Two online surveys were developed to solicit input that could be used to inform goals and priorities for the TOD strategy and to collect feedback on the proposed desired outcomes. The surveys were conducted from November through mid-December 2017. The first survey sought input from the business community and asked respondents about the nature of their business and their thoughts on economic development, redevelopment, and the impact of transit and TOD on their business. The second survey was directed at residents of the corridor, stakeholders, and the general public. It sought help identifying study area assets and challenges, as well as the attitudes toward and desires for development in the corridor and at the proposed station areas.

The surveys were promoted widely throughout the study area. Fliers and postcards were distributed at corridor businesses, and emailed to the project database; a link to the survey was posted on MARTA and DeKalb County social media outlets. Paper versions of the surveys were also available at first round of public open houses in November, 2017. As a special incentive for participation, MARTA offered 30-day MARTA Breeze cards to winners of a random drawing of respondents. A total of 288 responses were received for the community survey, and a total of 25 responses were received for the business survey.

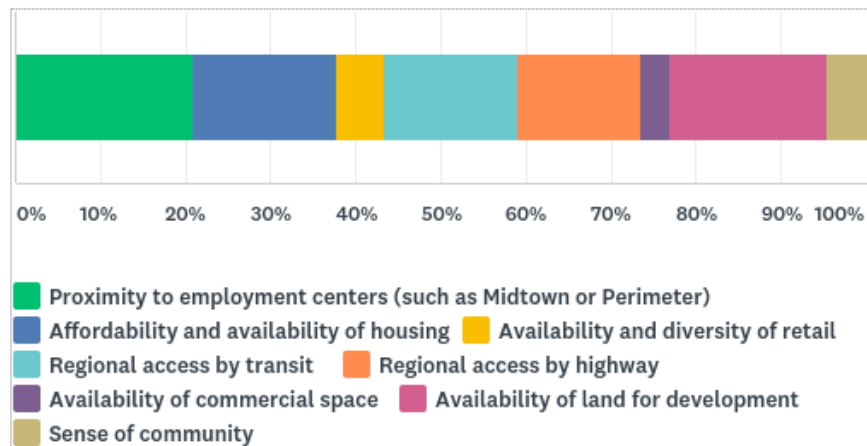


Figure 2-1: Responses to "What is the I-20 East Corridor's top asset?"

Highlights of the Community Survey results include:

- Top assets of the I-20 East Corridor: proximity to employment centers (such as Midtown and Perimeter) and availability of land for development.
- Top challenge in the I-20 East Corridor: transportation issues (traffic, access to transit, etc.)
- Top categories for jobs needed in the corridor: technology and professional.
- Future types of development desired: greenspace; film/TV studio; retail; healthcare/medical; manufacturing/light industrial; technology campus/incubator; class A office space; and residential.
- Top objective for this study: Institute economic development programs and initiatives to create jobs and encourage businesses to locate in the corridor.

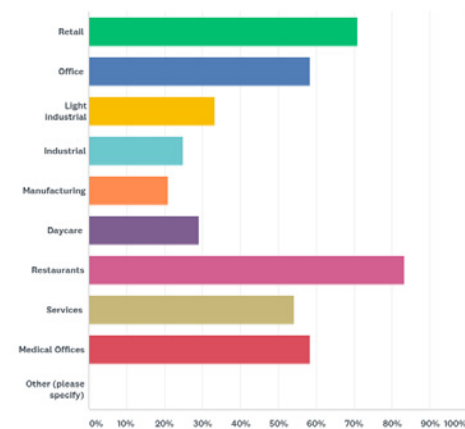


Figure 2-2: Responses to "What type of business would complement yours?"

Highlights of the Business Survey results include:

- Top corridor attractors for business: Access to I-20; availability of space; and good customer base.
- Top desired uses to complement existing businesses: restaurants; retail; services; medical; and office.
- Transportation-related considerations were rated "Very Important" for respondents, including: access to an interstate; access to a transit station; and shorter commute times for employees.

2.2.3 DEVELOPERS FORUMS

The development community was an important partner in the crafting and successful implementation of a TOD strategy for the I-20 East corridor. Developers and economic development groups were engaged in a series of three Developers Forums. At the forums, developers were invited to discuss candidly the challenges they encounter in the study area and their ideas for potential solutions; opportunities they see in the corridor; and their feedback on the study's outcomes.

DEVELOPERS FORUM #1 – NOVEMBER 8, 2017

The first Developers Forum was held on November 8, 2017. A dozen developers and economic development groups were represented, including the East Metro CID, Decide DeKalb, Integral and Seven Oaks Company. Attendees were given an overview of the project and TOD concepts and then asked to share their impressions of development along the corridor; suggest ways to make the corridor more attractive to developers; share ideas on how to support future TOD; and discuss ways to address equity issues. Attendees suggested that the community be educated about TOD and its benefits, and reassured that vulnerable communities would be protected. As a result of this forum, the study team:

- Sought a vision that would support development along the entire corridor through the creation of destinations along its entirety
- Considered adding as a final deliverable materials that would market the vision for the corridor to developers.
- Included the identification of priority catalyst developments
- Explored developer incentives that would help overcome the inadequacy of the existing market.
- Confirmed that equity concerns are a real issue; developer suggested land banks and property tax abatement to retain affordability

DEVELOPERS FORUM #2 – JUNE 18, 2018

On June 18, 2018, a second Developers Forum was held, with six attendees from the development community participating, including representatives from ADP Solutions, HJ Russell and Company, Integral, Stryant Investments, and Stream Realty. Project staff from DeKalb County and MARTA were present as well. The attendees viewed a presentation that included a detailed update on the status of the project; results from the April 2018 public workshop; overviews of draft I-20 corridor-wide strategies and station-by-station approaches; and an overview of the initial zoning review and analysis. Attendees were then asked to give feedback on potential challenges and strategies for implementation; improvements and investments to make development more feasible; and catalytic projects/early wins.

Attendees noted several challenges, including water and sewer infrastructure capacity and cost of improvements; the DeKalb County School District's historic reluctance to participate in Tax-Allocation Districts; uncertainty of station implementation timing and realistic development timeframe; and antiquated parking requirements. Regarding zoning, the developers suggested universal TOD zoning to make station requirements consistent, and emphasized the need to communicate fairness. They also proposed that a streamlined zoning process would reduce the need for multiple meetings with the community on desired development and would also speed up implementation. They further suggested that early catalytic projects include job centers with office space, but that not be limited to office-based jobs should. Attendees also advocated for clear definition of the public and private sectors' roles, and advised that investment should be concentrated in areas that will have the greatest returns. The study team focused the Lithonia Industrial Boulevard station area on its role as a freight corridor, envisioned as a workforce center where the ridership consists mainly of employees. The study team agreed to direct residential development to other stations.

DEVELOPERS FORUM #3 – OCTOBER 3, 2018

A third Developer's Forum was held on October 3, 2018. This meeting was attended by East Metro CID, Capital Residential and Seven Oaks Company. The purpose of this forum was to discuss the range of potential implementation strategies and get input on what economic development incentive tools might be successful in the I-20 corridor. The attendees expressed enthusiasm for TOD development in the corridor, particularly the opportunities that exist at the Indian Creek and Stonecrest station areas, and declared a willingness to participate in further discussions with DeKalb County, MARTA, and the City of Stonecrest. The study's funding and financing team used the developer input to determine which development incentives would be feasible in the corridor.

2.2.4 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

To complement the perspectives heard from the Advisory Committee meetings and Developers Forums and gain a broader understanding of the area's opportunities and challenges, stakeholder interviews were conducted as part of the planning process. The interviews provided an opportunity to discuss issues and opportunities in the corridor with individual stakeholders. Interviews were conducted with Decide DeKalb and the Housing Authority of DeKalb County. The study team gained an understanding of the need for more workforce housing in the county, and incorporated DeKalb County's existing economic development incentives into the plan.

2.2.5 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

A series of stakeholder workshops were held to actively engage key stakeholders in the planning, design, and decision-making process for the I-20 East TOD Community Plan. These workshops enabled a more detailed discussion of the study's analysis and outputs, such as the market assessment, vision themes, development opportunities, and potentially catalytic areas, and to vet station area proposals based on viability and alignment with organizational goals.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP, DEKALB COUNTY – APRIL 4, 2018

On April 4, 2018, a stakeholder workshop was held with staff from DeKalb County Planning, Decide DeKalb and the Atlanta Regional Commission. The purpose of the workshop was to present a project status, station TOD typologies, and the station area analysis. A station area working session followed, with a discussion on the desire and readiness of the TOD in the corridor. Among the topics discussed were the physical suitability of the station area; current plans in place; and market strengths, including current issues, opportunities and incentives. Also discussed were potential local champions.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP, CITY OF STONECREST – APRIL 5, 2018

On April 5, 2018 a stakeholder workshop was held with staff from City of Stonecrest. The purpose of the workshop was to present a project status, station TOD typologies, and the station area analysis. A station area working session followed, with a discussion on the desire and readiness of the TOD at the Panola Road, Lithonia Industrial Boulevard and Mall at Stonecrest stations. Among the topics discussed were the physical suitability of the station area; market strengths, including issues and opportunities, and potential local champions.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP, DEKALB COUNTY - APRIL 24, 2018

A stakeholder workshop was held on April 24, 2018 with City of Stonecrest staff, area property owners, Discover DeKalb, and Atlanta Sports City. Attendees were presented with a status update on the project, station TOD typologies, and station area analysis; the presentation was followed by a discussion of issues, opportunities, current plans and proposals, and future potential of the stations areas located within the City of Stonecrest, including Panola Road, Lithonia Industrial Boulevard, and Stonecrest Mall.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP, DEKALB COUNTY AND CITY OF STONECREST - OCTOBER 4, 2018

A stakeholder workshop was held on October 4, 2018 with staff from DeKalb County Planning and City of Stonecrest, including Mayor Lary and Stonecrest Economic Development Authority. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss potential economic development implementation tools and strategies. The City and the County discussed the current state of development in the corridor, what tools are currently offered, and opportunities and constraints on developing new tools and strategies..

2.2.6 PUBLIC MEETINGS

A series of public open houses were held at critical milestones in the study's development. The first round of open houses focused on TOD education and visioning; the second round was a hands-on interactive exercise for station area planning; the third round sought input on the approaches and draft proposed plans for each of the station sites; and the fourth round presented the final comprehensive I-20 East TOD strategy. The meetings were advertised through a variety of means, including local newspaper advertisements, paper and electronic fliers and postcards, social media posts, DeKalb County and MARTA communication channels, and stakeholder groups.

ROUND 1 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES: NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2017

Public open houses were held in the corridor on November 8 and 9, 2017, at the Lou Walker Senior Center and the Community Achievement Center. The senior center meeting, which was held in the daytime, had 139 attendees; the evening meeting drew 43 attendees. Attendees included members of the general public, county and City of Stonecrest staff, elected officials and other stakeholders.

Each open house included four information stations: . An Overview Station contained a study area map, timeline, and transit funding educational information. An I-20 East TOD Community Plan Overview Station included the study purpose; goals and schedule; benefits and basics of TOD, and Atlanta-based examples. A Visioning Station offered boards with aerial views of stations, where attendees were asked to mark their preferred land uses and development types for each of the station sites . Finally, a MARTA Service Station was staffed by MARTA to provide information, answer questions, and collect input about existing MARTA service. Comment forms and paper copies of the community online survey were also made available.



Figure 2-3: Round 1 Public Open House

Attendee feedback included: a need for transportation to transit within the station area, including sidewalks connecting to existing schools, community facilities and bike paths; desire for improvement in the quality of the retail in the station areas; request for inclusion of affordable and senior housing; need to improve safety and security; request for improvements to existing infrastructure; and desire for high-quality development with an attractive look and feel.



Figure 2-4: Round 2 Public Design Workshop

ROUND 2 - PUBLIC DESIGN WORKSHOP: APRIL 26, 2018

A Public Design Workshop was held on April 26, 2018; there were 85 participants. The attendees viewed a presentation that included a status update on the project and review of its objectives, descriptions of TOD, its benefits, characteristics, and how it might be applied in the corridor. Attendees were then invited to participate in guided table discussions for each of the station areas. Each table was staffed by a designer who helped participants craft a vision and drew sketches of how future development might be shaped.



Figure 2-6: Round 2 Public Design Workshop

The resulting station visions and sketches displayed creativity incorporated many of the principles of TOD. While the specifics differed slightly from table to table, overall, attendees were seeking development that is high-quality, safe, well-connected to the surrounding areas with sidewalks and trails, and that provides much-needed amenities in the project area, such as grocery stores, sit-down restaurants, and specialty services. In addition, pedestrian bridges across I-285 at the Indian Creek and Covington Highway stations were suggested. Concerns were also raised about increased traffic, especially in proximity to residential areas, and the need for increased security against crime. The specific station area designs and connectivity wants/needs gave designers a starting point for creating renderings, building massing diagrams, and showing specific land use compositions.

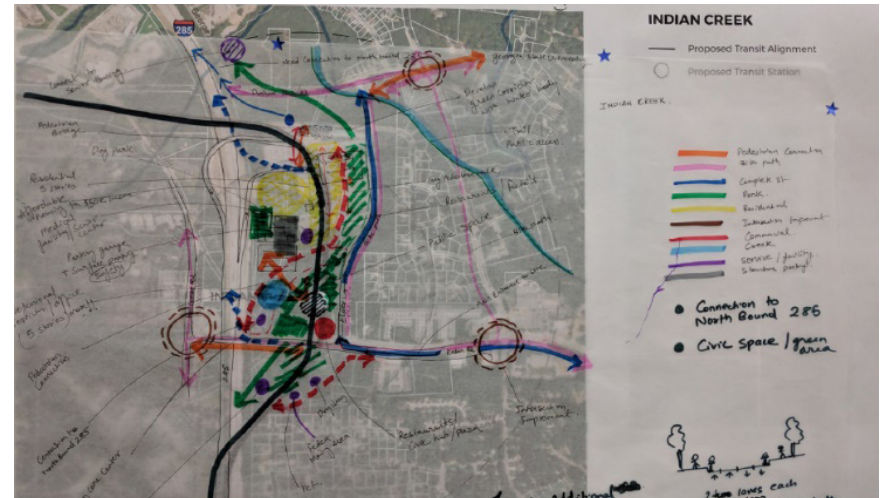


Figure 2-5: Public Open House Station Vision Sketches

ROUND 3 - PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES: AUGUST 28, 2018

Two Open Houses were held on August 28, 2018 at Stonecrest Library (daytime) and Porter Sanford Performing Arts Center (evening). A total of 97 individuals attended the open houses. Among the attendees were staff and elected officials from the City of Stonecrest; staff from DeKalb County; developers; business owners; citizen activists; and residents of the area. Through an open house format, the attendees were provided an update on the status of the project; overviews of draft I-20 corridor-wide strategies and station-by-station approaches; design concepts for the stations; and an introduction to the discussion of Equitable TOD. Additionally, representatives from the DeKalb County Transit Master Plan project were available to provide information on the study and collect input via an online survey. Following the open houses, a project website (www.I20etod.com), was launched to house project information such as background; the latest project fact sheet; meeting display boards; and a survey on Equitable TOD.



Figure 2-7: Indian Creek Station Area Aerial View

ROUND 4 - FINAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE: DECEMBER 10, 2019

The Plan held its final public open house from 4:30 to 6:30 on December 10, 2019, at the Maloof Auditorium in Decatur. Among the approximately 20 attendees were DeKalb County staff, representatives from other government agencies, members of the DeKalb County NAACP, and local residents. Through an open house format, the attendees were reminded of the project's goals and history, and the community vision for each station was presented, along with the steps necessary for implementation. Following the meeting, project materials and final plan document were available from the project website.



Figure 2-8: DeKalb District 4 Community Break fast Kiosk

2.2.7 KIOSKS

Kiosks provided opportunities for the project team to interact informally with corridor residents and stakeholders. Kiosks were set up throughout the study area at various points in the study process to publicize the study, inform attendees about the process, and to receive feedback from community members about their vision for development. Materials presented at the kiosk included a map of the project study area, project fact sheets, and public meeting announcements.

DEKALB DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER STEVE BRADSHAW'S COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: JANUARY 31, 2018

Approximately 50 people attended the quarterly breakfast hosted by Commissioner Bradshaw. Participants learned about the project and were asked to share their vision for the I-20 East corridor. The breakfast meeting was held near Indian Creek Station, so most of the conversation centered on this station area. The project team used Avondale Station's TOD plans as a point of reference.



Figure 2-9: Stonecrest Library Kiosk

STONECREST LIBRARY: FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Approximately 17 people visited the kiosk. Comments included: use Stonecrest Mall as an initial mixed use development site to encourage economic growth; multifamily housing is good, please provide housing for different age groups; and, consider bus connectivity from the station areas to other key locations, like residential subdivisions and direct access to the North/South line.



Figure 2-10: Commissioner Mereda Johnson and Congressman Hank Johnson at the Lithonia Old School Fish Fry Kiosk

LITHONIA OLD SCHOOL FISH FRY: JUNE 30, 2018

Approximately 15 people visited the kiosk, including elected officials US Congressman Hank Johnson, State Representative Vernon Jones, DeKalb Commissioner Mereda Johnson, DeKalb Commissioner Gregory Adams, and Lithonia Mayor Deborah Jackson. Feedback included: general support of station area concepts; use Stonecrest Mall to create economic stability; and multifamily housing around the station areas will be important.

DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: JULY AND AUGUST, 2018

Staff attended the community council meetings for districts 3, 4 and 5 (in the study area) to advertise the upcoming public meetings and provide exposure for the project. The community councils are volunteer citizens appointed by the Board of Commissioners (BOC); they provide zoning recommendations to the BOC. Approximately 100 people attended the

three meetings. Comments included enthusiasm for renewed economic vitality in the study area and an eagerness to see transit implemented along the I-20 corridor.

INDIAN CREEK MARTA STATION KIOSK EVENT: 7:00 AM TO 9:00 AM, AUGUST 24, 2018

Staff handed out more than 100 newsletters to MARTA riders at the Indian Creek station. The outreach was designed to bring awareness to the study process and encourage participation in the August 28th public meetings. Staff heard that riders wanted a mix of commercial, residential and retail uses at the station. There was support for multifamily housing options and providing pedestrian connections to surrounding residential areas. At the station, riders urged more lighting and maintenance of current parking capacity.

LOU WALKER SENIOR CENTER: AUGUST 16 AND 23, 2018

Staff attended the senior center during lunchtime to advertise the August open houses and provide exposure for the project. Approximately 25 folks engaged with staff at the kiosks. Attendees had questions about the timeline for the project; MARTA service routes; and the amenities that could be located at the station areas. Attendees were excited at the possibility of having more retail options and destinations in the corridor.

The Kingsgate Homeowner's Association and the Communications Workers of America hosted a gathering to allow the project team to provide information on the I-20 East TOD and DeKalb County Master Transit Plan projects. The TOD team provided collateral materials, discussed the preliminary project recommendations of the TOD plan, and addressed next steps with the attendees.

2.2.8 PROJECT DATABASE

The project team developed a contact database of interested parties to receive information about the project, including fact sheets and newsletters, and promotion of upcoming events, public meetings and surveys. The database includes residents, agency and local planning staff, participants at kiosks and meetings, businesses and economic development groups, neighborhood associations; residents; employers; and other interested stakeholders.

2.2.9 COLLATERAL MATERIALS

Two versions of a fact sheet, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) handout, meeting fliers, postcards and display boards were developed by the project team to educate and inform stakeholders and the public on the project's initiation, process, status, public events, and information on how to stay involved. The materials were distributed at stakeholder meetings and public events, kiosks, and briefings and interviews. Materials were also available on the project webpage on MARTA's website and at www.I20ETOD.com.

2.2.10 ONLINE RESOURCES

Postings for DeKalb County's and MARTA's social media channels were developed and submitted for the clients' use to advertise the surveys and public meetings. At the onset of the project, a study webpage was developed and housed on the MARTA website. Technical difficulties mid-project necessitated moving the webpage to its own website, www.I20ETOD.com. The website includes information about the study and its objectives; educational information on TOD; the station area frameworks; and ways to stay involved in the project.

2.2.11 MEETING IN A BOX

A “meeting in a box” was created for stakeholder groups in the study area to use at their own gatherings, to facilitate deeper understanding of and discussions about the I-20 East TOD Community Plan. The meeting in a box provided background information, group discussion questions and activities, and a form for providing group feedback to the planning team. The meeting in a box was made available following the August 28th open houses. More than 30 packets were distributed.

2.2.12 SPECIAL BRIEFINGS

ARC’S TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE: JUNE 22, 2018

Project staff presented an overview of the project at the June meeting of the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) (held June 22, 2018). Fourteen members of the TCC were present, including representatives from ARC, DeKalb County, MARTA, GDOT, GRTA/SRTA, City of Atlanta, Cobb County, Newton County, Gwinnett County, Rockdale County, and Fayette County. The project team summarized the study’s purpose, scope and schedule; the process to date; and the next steps. The team informed attendees that the planning process has completed the kick off/open house, the existing conditions and site analysis, and the public workshop focusing on station area assessment and visioning. The next step is to finalize the station area plan and implementation strategies. After that, the team will hold an open house to review the draft concept plan and then conclude the project with a final public meeting to present the final plan. The team also explained that this study is happening concurrently and coordinating with other planning efforts in the area, such as the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan and the DeKalb County Transit Study.

MARTA BOARD PLANNING AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

At the September MARTA Board Meeting (held September 6, 2018), an update on the project was given as part of the Planning and External Relations Committee Meeting. Greg Floyd, Senior Land Use Planner, presented the history of the project and described its relationship to other planning initiatives, particularly the DeKalb County Transit Master Plan. The MARTA Board expressed support for the study’s emphasis on creating places that could more easily be served by transit and supporting additional investments in underserved areas.

COORDINATION WITH DEKALB COUNTY TRANSIT MASTER PLAN

In May 2018, DeKalb County initiated a county-wide transit planning effort to develop a comprehensive 30-year vision for transit service in the County. The project team for the I-20 East TOD study was advised to begin coordination with the Transit Master Plan team, given the similarities in scope and membership in stakeholder groups involved in both projects. It was also acknowledged that the public would appreciate coordinated information, given the complementary nature of the two studies.

Coordination has taken many forms, including public involvement efforts. At the August 28, 2018 public open houses for the I-20 East TOD study, the DeKalb Transit Master Plan hosted a station with project information and online surveys. Similarly, at the October 2018 open houses for the Transit Master Plan project, the TOD team hosted a station with display boards. Additionally, two kiosk events were held jointly in December 2018, at the Kingsgate Homeowner’s Association and the Communications Workers of America meetings, to provide project information on both projects.

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