

## **Kick-off Meeting**

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

January 24, 2006

## **MINUTES**

### **6:00 p.m. Sign-in and activity**

Meeting participants were given two each of green and red dots, and were instructed to place a green dot where something good or positive is happening in the Study Area, and a red dot where something bad or negative is happening.

### **6:20 p.m. Study overview**

Councilpersons Joyce Sheperd (District 12) and Clara Smith (District 1) welcomed the meeting participants and introduced the purpose of the Redevelopment Plan. Marty Sewell further explained that the Plan is a new proactive model for redevelopment, inclusive of new and existing residents. Caleb Racicot began the presentation and explained:

- Redevelopment plan requirements
- Public involvement
- First impressions of the Study Area

### **6:45 p.m. Activity**

The presentation concluded with questions directed to the meeting participants:

#### *1. What do you like best about Jonesboro Road?*

- Presents opportunities – old, new present, past, opportunities, challenges
- Green space, trees
- Potential to attract business and people from airport
- New schools
- Historic resources
  - “Flat iron” building with mix use
- Potential of cemetery as a park, historical resource
- “Rural pockets” – country in the city
  - Rural atmosphere in portions of the corridor
  - Trees- beautiful magnolias
  - Winding, tree-lined roads
- Long-term resident: “it’s home”
- Proximity/Access
  - Community
  - Nearby neighborhoods – East Atlanta, Grant Park, Forest Park
  - Airport

# JONESBORO ROAD

Redevelopment Plan Update

- Downtown
- Throughout the corridor
- South to Henry and Clayton counties
- Small neighborhoods/pockets
- Potential opportunities for kids
- Lakewood Heights Village (LHV)
  - Lakewood Ave./Jonesboro Rd. intersection
  - Historic character scale of buildings (4-5 stories)
- Recreation opportunities
  - Golf course
  - Southside Park
  - Ball parks
  - Greenspace
- Jobs; market for airport business
- Small-town atmosphere
- Name
- LHV shopping district
- Opportunities for redevelopment
- Choices of routes
- Character has stayed same
- Harold's BBQ

## 2. What needs improvement?

- Name – negative connotation
- Transportation
  - Truck traffic dangerous, especially near schools, keeps place from being pedestrian-friendly
  - Trucks try to make turns onto small streets
  - Speeding
  - Lack of sidewalks
- Incompatible land uses surrounding neighborhoods
  - Dilapidated, vacant buildings
  - Undefined land uses – failed businesses in limbo
  - “Slum lords” – no enforcement
  - Older buildings not kept up
- Poor visibility to Southside Park
  - Commercial hides park
  - Needs to be more park related
- Lack of code enforce/zoning
  - Inappropriate land use
  - Poorly placed and designed industrial uses
  - Removable old buildings
  - Vacant lots – Why green space developed vs. infill?
- Lack of services
  - Lack of steady police presence/visibility

# JONESBORO ROAD

Redevelopment Plan Update

- No grocery stores or neighborhood services, “the basics” – have to go to Forest Park to shop (tax dollars end up in Clayton County)
- Lack of attention to problems like flooding on street
- Lack of senior centers other public/group meeting areas
- Signs – no maintenance in vacant/public spaces
- Lack of restaurants
- Land use concerns
  - “Vultures”/developers trying to purchase land below value, exploitation of land owners
  - Speed of development – concern over quality of growth
  - Blight
  - Junkyards
  - “A-Tow”
  - Industrial land
- Children and families
  - Concern over families and homes in corridor, especially ones with long history in area – avoid displacement
  - No crossing guards for school kids
  - No place for kids to play/walk
  - Stray dogs
- Trash/illegal dumping
  - Trash left outside houses
  - Paper stock storage attracts rodents
- Crooked streets/dropped lanes
  - 4 lanes to 2 lanes
  - 3296 Jonesboro Rd.
  - Macedonia Rd. forks
- Environmental
  - Odors from processing plant
  - Poor drainage
    - South of cemetery
    - In front of Brown’s Tire
- Illegal activity
  - McDonough & Lakewood bike path is “prostitution lane”
  - Prostitution around SunTrust bank
  - “Crackheads” crime, prostitution, pimps
  - Loitering – Lakewood/Jonesboro

### *3. Are there specific transportation issues you have with Jonesboro Road?*

- Jonesboro and Hutchens Rd. is too narrow and dangerous with truck traffic and nearby schools
- Kids are dropped off at gas station to get to school, but no crossing guards
- Henderson crossing, trains sitting 20-30 minutes kids have to weave through cars late for work
  - Can fall off tracks by Henderson crossing
- Hank Aaron/University intersection

- very dangerous
- lights not in sync with railroad tracks, so cars can't continue left onto University when a train is present
- Trains are noisy and concern for safety
- Lack of sidewalks
  - Jonesboro Rd. to Cleveland Ave. south
  - Cleveland Ave. to School Dr.
  - South River ridge
  - People forced to walk in the street
  - Dangerous for kids walking to school
- Curve near mosque is dangerous, even with sidewalks
- Trucks making wide turns spray pedestrians (esp. with poor drainage)
- Lack of bike lanes
- Need better bus stops – signs, shelter, look attractive
- Jonesboro & Constitution – trucks make wide right turns, so signs should move “stop line” further back
- MARTA scaling back bus service, especially on the weekends
- Lack of street lighting

4. *What would you like Jonesboro Road to be in ten years?*

- Scenic
- Pleasant
- Safe
- Old & New
- Bohemian
- Midtown community – a strong community that solves problems
- Sewage
- Mixed-use
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Good quality of life
- Clean
- Fun
- Landscaping

**7:45 p.m. Questions and Answers**

**8:00 p.m. Visual Preference Survey**

The Visual Preference Survey was conducted using boards that were placed in a series around the auditorium. Each board consisted of nine photographs of each land use type, with space next to each photograph for the participants to indicate their preference. Meeting participants were given seven each of green and red dots, and were instructed to place a green dot on the images that are appropriate for the future, and red dots on images that are inappropriate for the future.

The results will be presented at the March 11 Community Workshop.