REGIONAL TRAILS IN METROPOLITAN ATLANTA
GPA / TAPA - 2021 Fall Conference
REGIONAL VISION & STRATEGY
Most Americans today do not live in towns or cities in the traditional sense that we think of those terms. Instead most of us are citizens of the region – a large and multi-faceted metropolitan area encompassing hundreds of places that we would traditionally think of as distinct and separate communities.

— Peter Calthorpe
BUILD A REGION WHERE IT IS EASIER & SAFER FOR EVERYONE TO WALK OR BIKE!
Focus investments to support walkable communities
A metropolitan area is boosted by having more walkable and bikeable communities. The region uses transportation and development tools to support active trips along connected street grids with access to parks, schools, commercial areas, transit service, and a mix of housing types.

Address safety and equity issues
The region uses every investment to help decrease pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries as well as providing sidewalks and bikeways for populations that rely on walking and biking out of necessity.

Connect regional trail system
Multi-use paths and trails serve as comfortable “walking and bicycling superhighways” at a regional scale. The region develops partnerships between state, local, and non-profit organizations to make critical regional trail connections.

A MORE WALKABLE & BIKEABLE METRO ATLANTA

Build complete streets
Walkable communities are best supported by complete streets. Suburban arterial roads need to be multi-modal thoroughfares. The region identifies barriers to walking and biking and relentlessly works to address them as opportunities arise.

Improve access to transit
 Longer regional trips are best served by walking and bicycling combined with transit. The region works to improve walking and biking access to transit stops and improve the quality and quantity of regional transit service.
WHY: REGIONAL BENEFITS
QUALITY OF LIFE & MEET REGIONAL GOALS

25,026,000
MORE MILES WALKED AND BIKED PER YEAR

47,538,000
POUNDS OF CO2 EMISSIONS REDUCED PER YEAR

$2,209,000
IN REDUCED TRAFFIC CONGESTION COSTS PER YEAR
HOW: STRATEGIC REGIONAL PLANNING
FOCUSED DATA, PLANS, & FUNDING
• **Regional Framework:** Establish regional priorities and policy related to walking and biking to guide funding and technical assistance investments.

• **Local Frameworks:** Support local partners in enhancing and expanding policy, programs, and infrastructure that support walking and biking.
WHAT: REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM
WALKING & BIKING “SUPER HIGHWAYS”

• UPDATING EXISTING CORRIDORS WITH NEW INVENTORY DATA
• BETTER ALIGNING REGIONAL CORRIDORS WITH PLANNED ROUTES
• INTRODUCING “CONFLUENCE AREAS” FOR MAJOR TRAIL JUNCTIONS
• EXPANDING CORRIDORS SOUTHWARDS
REGIONAL PLANNING & DATA
WHERE ARE CURRENT TRAILS?
MAINLY SUBURBAN, MOST ARE MULTI-USE PATHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIKEWAY</th>
<th>MILEAGE</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separated Bike Lanes</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted Bike Lanes</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Paths</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>620.5</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHERE ARE PLANNED TRAILS?
RECENT VISIONS IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTY

METRO ATLANTA CURRENTLY HAS
OVER 3,000 MILES
OF PLANNED TRAILS IN
ALMOST EVERY COUNTY
AEROATL GREENWAY PLAN

Figure 2: Regional Framework: Wheels and Spokes Concept

The study connects the Aerotropolis communities with an integrated, comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian trail system that provides access between job centers, everyday services, and the region’s cultural and natural assets.
HOW CONNECTED ARE OUR TRAILS?
ACCESS INFLUENCES TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bikeway Length</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>80.9 mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>0.53 mi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHO CAN ACCESS TRAILS?
MAINLY WHITE COMMUNITIES TODAY

EXPANDING THE REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK CAN CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES to WALK, BIKE, AND BE ACTIVE FOR TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION
A STATEWIDE TRAIL SYSTEM
INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

EXPANDING THE STATEWIDE TRAIL NETWORK CAN CREATE NEW CONNECTIONS TO KEY DESTINATIONS, INCLUDING CITIES AND SCENIC AREAS.
A REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM
TRAIL PROGRAMMING & COSTS

For the 29 trail projects currently in the TIP:

REGIONAL TRAIL VISION
ACCESS WEB MAP AT bit.ly/trailvision
Development of a Trails Plan for Henry County, Georgia
Henry County, Georgia

Population
2020: 241,000
2050: 369,000
Henry County Current Transportation Planning Projects

Three major transportation planning initiatives in 2021-2022:

1. Update the Henry County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
2. Develop a Henry County Transit Master Plan
3. Develop a Henry County Trails Plan
Background

- Last Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) developed in 2016
- The 2016 CTP provided a trail concept map
- The 2016 CTP recommended development of a trails plan and looking deeper into the trail concepts
- Henry County Department of Transportation Planning created in December 2019
- Transportation Planning Director hired
- Development of a trails plan placed in forefront in 2020
- Development of a trails plan undertaken in 2021
- Trails plan to be completed in June 2022
Henry County Trails Plan Objectives

• Develop a network of interconnecting trails.
• Come up with a name for the county’s trails network.
• Create a logo.

Examples that inspired us:

Gwinnett County
Hall County
Henry County Trails Plan Development Timeline

- Public Engagement Plan - 7/1/2021
- Existing Conditions Report - 8/31/2021
- Trail Plan Concept - 11/29/2021
- Trail Network Logo Design - 1/28/2022
- Recommendations Report - 3/28/2022
- Trail Plan Feasibility and Constructability Assessment - 3/28/2022
- Final Plan Documentation - 6/30/2022
Welcome to this home page for the ongoing Henry County Trail Plan. Please continue for information about the plan and how you can get involved and provide feedback to the planning team.

Henry County is also working on a Transportation Plan that is being prepared along with this plan. Please also visit their website here.

Register for our Next Public Meeting
Please use the link below to sign up for our virtual meeting, Tuesday, October 8 from 6pm to 8pm via Zoom.

Get Involved!
Take a look at our current engagement opportunities. Check here regularly for the process for additional ways to make your voice heard.

Tell Us What You’d Like to See!
Use our interactive map to tell us where you’d like to see trails in the future.

Join Our Email List
Use this link to sign up for email updates throughout the life of the plan. These updates will include major planning milestones, notices for upcoming meetings, and newsletters about on-line engagement opportunities.

Henry County Trails Plan
Website
https://planningatpond.com/Henry-Trails-Plan
County Trail Vision vs. Regional Trail Vision

Henry County 2016 Trail Vision

ARC 2020 Regional Trail Vision
Panola Mountain Greenway

- 1.6 mile trail completed in January 2021
- Plan to extend trail another 0.9 mile in second phase
Planning for T-SPLOST

- Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax
- Up to 1% additional sales tax for transportation purposes
- Issue bonds to raise funds and pay back with T-SPLOST proceeds
- $245 million expected to be raised over five years
- November 2021 referendum
- City and county project lists developed
- Some of the TSPLOST funds to be used for trails construction
Transportation Advisory Group

• Citizen group formed in August 2020
• 10 group members
  • 5 members from Henry County’s five commission districts
  • 1 member appointed by Henry County Commission Chair
  • 4 members from Stockbridge, McDonough, Hampton, & Locust Grove
• Provide citizen input in transportation planning and projects
• Meets quarterly
• Playing a key role in the planning projects & T-SPLOST
Additional Citizen Engagement

• Engaged Southern Crescent Cycling, a McDonough-based bicycling group

• Engaged Atlanta Trek, a McDonough-based bike shop/club with 139 members

• Community Engagement Plan includes:
  • Community survey
  • Pop-up events
  • Intercept interviews
  • Focus groups
  • Educational videos
Past Trail Implementation Challenges

- Neighborhood opposition to connecting public trails with private trails
- Fear of increased crime
- Concern about potential loss of privacy
In Conclusion…

To keep up with trails planning in Henry County:

- Visit the Henry County website at: https://www.co.henry.ga.us/.
- At the top-right corner on the home page, click “Departments”.
- From the drop-down menu, select “Transportation Planning”.
- Click “Trails Planning” tab.
Connecting East Point Through Trails

2021 Joint GPA/TAPA Fall Conference
October 6, 2021

Presented By
Shellord Pinkett, III
In 2016 The City of East Point partnered with the PATH Foundation to develop a Trails Master Plan with implementation.
The plan was developed to focus on connections from schools, neighborhoods, parks, and employment centers to the heart of the city so all citizens of East Point can access a vibrant, successful city center.
A steering committee was created and this committee selected the best section of the trail plan as the initial model mile project. This segment connects two (2) parks and a high school. The construction of this model mile was paid for through TSPLOST funds.
OTHER TRAILS AND CONNECTIONS

- A total of 16 major path segments were identified within the master plan.
- This plan was used in developing the AeroATL Greenway Plan with its model mile for East Point being part of the 16 path segments in the EP Trails Master Plan.
- Through grant funding, the Connally Nature Park trail has been developed to connect to the model mile project.
- Walking and mountain bike trails have been developed in Sykes Park.
EAST POINT PATH
Trail Master Plan

Prepared for:
City of East Point, Georgia

Prepared by:
PATH Foundation
and
KAUER COLLABORATIVE

Date:
October 27, 2018
EP Path Model Mile

Model Mile Rendering
2017

Model Mile Rendering
2017

Model Mile Completion
2020
EP Path Coming Soon
EP Path Coming Soon
Challenges

- Funding
- Construction delays and modifications
- Politics
Partnerships

- PATH Foundation
- Aerotroplis Atlanta CID
- LWCF
- MTB Atlanta
- Kaizen Collaborative
- POND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Overall Positive
- Safety Concerns
- Maintenance Concerns
Current Projects

Connally Nature Trail

This natural trail leaves the park and connects to the EP Path Model Mile. This project is being funded by LWCF.
Current Projects

AeroATL Greenway Trail

East Point Model Mile of the AeroATL Greenway Trail.
Current Projects

AeroATL Greenway Trail
East Point Model Mile of the AeroATL Greenway Trail.
In Conclusion

The City of East Point is in a great position to truly become a walkable, bike-friendly, and accessible community to its residents and visitors. We believe it is achievable through great partnerships and creative funding.
A Regional Perspective
Linking the trails

Atlanta Beltline
PATH 400
South Fork Conservancy
Peachtree Creek Greenway
What is the Peachtree Creek Greenway?

The PCG is a 13.5 mile multi-use trail running along the north fork of Peachtree Creek beginning at the confluence of the north and south forks in Atlanta, running through 4 cities, and ultimately connecting 3 of the 4 most populated counties in Georgia.

A transportation project?
Provides last-mile connectivity to the Buford Hwy bus route, the most heavily used in the MARTA system, and short trip connections to densely populated low, mid, higher income areas to retail, centers of employment, recreation and healthcare centers.

A linear park?
Allows an opportunity to provide a community gathering space, outdoor recreation, environmental education, revitalization a neglected waterway.

An economic development engine?
2020 ABL documents a 10:1 positive return on investment; 2013 Silver Comet Trail study showed 4:1 return; University of Massachusetts Economy Research Study shows average 11.4 permanent jobs for every $1 million spent.
Financing

Phase I Cost: $21 million
- Hotel/Motel Tax
- Land Donation
- Community Partnership Agreements
- SPLOST
- HOST

Phase II & Phase III Planning estimate: $42 million
- Hotel/Motel Tax
- Federal Funding
  - FHWA
  - EPA
  - LWCF
Major Project Risks

- Hotel/Motel market stressors
- Federal funding priority shift from multi-use trail
- Congressional “haggling” over infrastructure
- Increased competition for limited financial resources
Community Concerns

Privacy
• Greenway does not pass through neighborhoods

Conservation
• Brookhaven and Chamblee funded a joint Watershed Improvement Plan to study stressors and identify improvements
• Greenway project removes invasive species, restores shoreline

Community Safety
• Lighting along entire trail
• Public Safety Center built at Trail Head
Community Involvement

Stakeholder Committee

Meetings included
- PATH Foundation Team
- City project staff
- GDOT
- Police Department
- Georgia Power
- County Staff
- Communications
Phase I opened December 2019

The model mile

- PATH Foundation design established PCG Standards
- 14-foot path
- 700-foot bridge
- 3 trailheads
- 12 months from groundbreaking to opening
Opportunities

- Realignment of North Druid Hills intersection
- Overarching health benefits—far exceeded
- Renewed attention to the health of the waterway—far exceeded
- “Bridging the divide” – Brookhaven is divided by I-85
- Community meeting place
QUESTIONS?

Contact:

Byron Rushing, ARC
brushing@atlantaregional.org

Elizabeth Sandlin, ARC
esandlin@atlantaregional.org

Sam Baker, Henry County
sbaker@co.henry.ga.us

Shellord Pinkett, City of East Point
spinkett@EastPointCity.org

Patty Hansen, City of Brookhaven
patty.hansen@BrookhavenGA.gov