



Summary of Comments Presentation to NPU-T Lawton Street Resurfacing Spring 2017 January 11, 2017

Neighborhood Planning Unit T (NPU-T) received a presentation on the Renew Atlanta Lawton Street Resurfacing Project at their January meeting. Becky Katz, who serves as Chief Bicycle Officer for the City's Office of Mobility Planning, Department of Planning and Community Development delivered the presentation, supported by Chris Sheahan (Project Manager for the Lawton Street Resurfacing Project), Michelle Wynn (Program Manager, Renew Atlanta), Alex Hofelich (Project Manager for Renew Atlanta Traffic Signalization) and Marla Hill (JV/Public Involvement), who recorded questions and comments. District 4 Council Representative Clea Winslow was also in attendance. The meeting was held at the KIPP STRIVE Primary School, 1444 Lucile Avenue.

Attendees received a copy of the presentation and a comment form. Comments were invited by email and post as well. Comments and responses are summarized in this document.

Ms. Katz began by giving an overview of the Renew Atlanta program and its connections to other City and regional projects. She went on to describe the goal of the Lawton Street Resurfacing project – to combine the opportunity to resurface Lawton Street with the implementation of another piece of the Connect Atlanta Plan Bicycle Corridor. She demonstrated how the project would provide a direction connection to the Atlanta Beltline's Westside Trail, Brown Middle School and other neighborhood amenities. She also described the safety components of the planned resurfacing, especially speed reduction and greater lane consistency. She also informed attendees that there would be a public meeting to discuss the project, likely sometime in February.

Attendees were then allowed their designated time to ask questions and make comments, and were encouraged to give their feedback by using the comment forms provided, emailing or mailing to Renew Atlanta staff. The deadline for written comments was January 25, 2017.

Questions/Comments from the meeting:

- Question: When will we be notified of the meeting?

Response: The date will be confirmed within the next week or so. Please be sure to complete a comment form so that we'll have your email address. We have also distributed flyers in the neighborhood in the past and can do that if needed.

- Question: The West End Merchants Coalition needs to be involved in any meetings in this corridor.

Response: We will be sure to get your contact information and ensure you are receiving meeting notices about the project.



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- Comment: What is the timeframe for public input?

Response: We will usually ask for your feedback within 2 weeks of the meeting, and then we'll post it to the website.

- Comment (Cleta Winslow): My office can also help get flyers out. I am hearing that there is no place to park to safely cross Ralph David Abernathy. Several people have expressed that concern.

Response: Yes, we've also heard concerns about speed, connections, other safety issues.

- Question: Who is the ultimate decision maker?

Response (Michelle Wynn): The passage of the bond served as our go-ahead to start designing a plan. Now we're in the phase of Renew Atlanta where we start going out to the public and getting your feedback to come up with the best plan.

- Comment (Cleta Winslow): Please make sure that you go down Lawton Street after 6 pm to see the number of cars parked there.

- Comment: The street parking varies from block to block.

Response: We did do a traffic study but based on feedback, we will do additional surveys to add more data points.

- Question: Will the final decision consider all input?

Response: Renew Atlanta will make the final decision as the City of Atlanta agency tasked with implementing this bond program.

- Comment (Cleta Winslow): We want to make sure that people are not having to park two or three blocks away. The public meeting will allow us to make that input and come to a decision.

Major Concerns/Comments

Four major areas of concern were identified during the meeting and in subsequent comments



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received by comment form and email.

1. Parking Studies/Planning/Methodology
2. Community Engagement
3. Biking Facilities
4. Speeding

Parking Studies/Planning/Methodology

- The parking study was not done in a way that accurately captures both current and future use. I'm particularly concerned with the high number of uninhabited homes (like our own) that are currently or soon will be under construction. The representatives from Renew Atlanta, when questioned about the likelihood of a future increase in parking needs, responded that the expected future construction would be new construction which would have its own parking off street – I could be wrong, but it seems unlikely that any of the existing uninhabited homes will be torn down for new construction given that most if not all are designated as protected historic homes and not in disrepair enough to be condemned by the city.
- Would like to continue conversations to look for a resolution that works/provides safe biking, but does not eliminate parking.
- Not space for offstreet parking for homes between Lawton Pl and Oglethorpe. We need parking on at least one side since most homes do not have driveways.
- Interested to hear more of incorporating parking.

Community Engagement

- Community needs opportunity to be heard. I ride a bike on this street but I don't have to have a designated bike lane.

Biking Facilities

- I support bike lanes and safer streets! Bike lanes will help slow down car traffic by making the lanes more narrow.
- I think that a good compromise for parking, bikes and slowing traffic would be to use advisory bike lanes.
- I'm interested in the possibility of using advisory bike lanes along the corridor as opposed to removing parking altogether. Slowing traffic is also extremely important on this street.



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- Share lane on sections of Lawton, specifically south Lawton

Speeding

- Speeding is my number one concern on Lawton. We would like to see safer streets and places for walking and biking, including bike lanes.

Comment Form Responses

- Do you support the Lawton Street Resurfacing Project?

For	4
Against	1
Conditional	6
Uncommitted	
No Response	

- Do you understand the project after hearing this presentation?

Yes	10
No	1

- Please share your suggestions on improving the way the Renew Atlanta team presents project information:

- I am for finding a solution with the community. The community still feels like they had no input in this.
- Not enough information
- Community input should be addressed.
- Great job in a short timeframe.
- Thank you for providing the printed version of the Powerpoint.
- You did a great job. Please keep your word of doing what is best for our neighborhood.
- Biker lane(s) without excluding parking on the street