

City of Atlanta 2011 Comprehensive Development Plan Community Participation Program



2011CDP

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DRAFT

2011 Comprehensive Development Plan Community Participation Program

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**2011 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
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Community Participation Program

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Introduction

In order for a jurisdiction to maintain their Qualified Local Government status (remain eligible for state and federal grants, assistance and permitting programs), a Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) must be updated from time to time. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has established a completion schedule of October 31, 2011 for the City of Atlanta. Planning requirements for the preparation and adoption of the Comprehensive Plan are defined by DCA and are pursuant to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989. The most recently applicable planning standards ("Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning") took effect May 1, 2005. The new standards have now reorganized the plan into three parts: 1) The Community Assessment; 2) The Community Participation Program and 3) The Community Agenda.

The Community Participation Program (CPP) is a fundamental component of the update of the Comprehensive Plan. It serves as the foundation for the development of a community-based vision and the creation of guiding principles. The CPP should reflect the full range of the community's values and desires by involving a diverse spectrum of stakeholders in the development of the Community Agenda. In order to reach and engage residents and stakeholders groups in the comprehensive planning process, the Department of Planning and Community Development-Office of Planning will undertake a proactive Community Participation Program (CPP) that allows for stakeholder input to help guide the future growth and development of the City. In summary, the goal of the Community Participation Program is to provide opportunities to comment on all or parts of the CDP, define the community's vision, identify issues, opportunities and policies, develop a city-wide character area map, and develop implementation strategies. This program will ensure a broad and effective public participation in the development of the 2011 CDP.

The Community Participation Program consists of three components described in the paragraphs below:

- Identification of Stakeholders
- Identification of Participation Techniques
- Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda

The goal of this Community Participation Program is based on the following major principles in support of positive and broad stakeholder participation:

- Enhanced collaboration between government and stakeholders;
- Informed judgments about City activities;
- Face-to-face deliberation;
- Decisions that reflect a thorough consideration of community issues and perspectives;
- Transparent and trackable decisions; and



Community Meeting about Ft. McPherson.



Cheshire Bridge Road Community meeting.



Cascade Road - Campbellton Road Corridor Plan workshop.



Community Participation Program



2011 CDP Population presentation at an Economic Development Subcabinet meeting.



The 2011 CDP will be on the Economic Development Subcabinet agenda periodically.

- Common understanding of issues and appreciation for complexity.

Identification of Stakeholders

The City of Atlanta will identify individuals and organizations who are interested in developing the Community Agenda of the 2011 CDP. The effort will be continuous throughout the planning process. As the process moves forward, additional stakeholders are likely to be identified and will be added and notified as appropriate. The stakeholders will assist in the preparation of the Draft Community Agenda through their collective and individual concerns and issues and subsequent recommendations. The final list of stakeholders will be attached in the Appendix of the final 2011 Comprehensive Development Plan once the Community Agenda has been developed. A *preliminary* list of stakeholders is listed below.

City Internal Organizations

- Office of the Mayor
- Atlanta City Council
- City Operating Departments

Community Groups/Neighborhood Associations

- City of Atlanta residents, property owners and business owners
- Business Associations
- Industrial Businesses and Associations
- Neighborhood Planning Units (NPUs)
- Neighborhood Associations
- Community Associations

Advocacy Groups/Non-profits

- Atlanta Habitat for Humanity
- Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood Based Developers (AHAND)
- Atlanta Preservation Center
- Atlanta Bicycle Coalition
- Council for Quality Growth
- Georgia Conservancy
- Georgia Health Policy Center
- Georgia Stand Up
- Park Pride

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- PATH Foundation
- Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety (PEDS)
- Sierra Club
- Sustainable Lakewood
- Trees Atlanta
- Trust for Public Land
- Urban Land Institute
- Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper

Civic Groups/Authorities

- Atlanta Business League
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Atlanta Public School System
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- Central Atlanta Progress
- Community Improvement Districts

Atlanta Downtown Improvement District (ADID)

Buckhead Community Improvement District (BCID)

Midtown Improvement District

- Livable Communities Coalitions
- MARTA
- Midtown Alliance

City and City-related Boards and Agencies

- Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
- Atlanta Development Authority
- Atlanta Planning Advisory Board (APAB)
- Atlanta Urban Design Commission
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Commission on Aging
- Keep Atlanta Beautiful
- McPherson Local Redevelopment Authority



Community Participation Program



HE Holmes LCI workshop.

- Sustainable Atlanta
- Tree Commission
- Zoning Review Board

Community Participation Techniques

The goal of the CPP is to educate and inform the public about the 2011 Comprehensive Development Plan. Representation from various stakeholder groups will be included to ensure broad and effective public input and comments. Community workshops will be held to discuss issues and opportunities important to the community now and in the future. Through the public participation process, the main topics presented in the Comprehensive Development Plan will be discussed. These are:

- Population
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Natural and Historic Resources
- Community Facilities and Services,
- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Transportation
- Urban Design
- Land Use



Community meeting for the South Moreland LCI.

Previous Community Participation Efforts

The Department of Planning and Community Development, in recent years, has completed two major planning efforts and as a part of these efforts undertook an extensive community engagement process. These planning efforts included the Atlanta Project Greenspace and the Connect Atlanta Plan. Both have been adopted into the Comprehensive Development Plan. Information obtained during the community participation segments of these planning processes will be utilized in the development of the Community Agenda. Additionally, several of the community participation techniques employed for these plans will be utilized in the development of the Community Agenda.

Public input, informative, interactive and partnerships are the types of community participation techniques that will be used to develop the Community Assessment. Each of these is detailed below.

Public Input

- **Public Hearings:** The Department of Planning and Community Development-Office of Planning (DPCD –OoP) routinely conducts as well as staffs public hearings for various planning processes. The development of the 2011 Comprehensive Development Plan will include at a minimum the two required public hearings. The Department will advertise all public hearings in compliance with adopted City



Community meeting for the 2008 CDP.

Community Participation Program

guidelines for public participation. Notification of the public of these hearings will include advertisement in a paper of general circulation, inclusion of notices on monthly Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) agendas, email distribution lists of City Council members, neighborhood associations, APAB, and NPUs, advertisement on the City's Channel 26 and the City's website. The initial public hearing will provide the public the opportunity to provide input and comment on the draft CPP before the City Council transmits the Draft Community Assessment and the CPP to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs for review and comment. The second public hearing will provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on the Community Agenda, developed in conjunction with the various stakeholders throughout the implementation of the Community Participation Program.

- **City's Website:** The Department will establish a webpage exclusively devoted to the planning process for the CDP. This website will be one avenue to ensure that up-to-date information on the planning process is readily available, public presentations, newsletters, planning documents, etc will be made available via the website.
- **Website Response Contact:** The Department will also establish a system on the website that will allow the public to send email messages to the planning team working on the comprehensive plan.
- **On-line Survey:** The Department will develop a questionnaire that will seek to obtain comments, opinions and community goals on the planning issues and opportunities.

Informative

- **Community Workshops:** The Department proposes to conduct three series, at a minimum, of community workshops to assist with the development of the Community Agenda. These workshops are proposed to be held by grouping study areas and/or individual study areas, depending on topics of discussion. Each workshop will be held three times at various locations throughout the City to encourage participation and increased attendance. The City of Atlanta has 25 NPUs and each is in one of the seven study areas (see map below).

Outreach will expand beyond the traditional NPU mailing list to ensure notification of a broader range of citizens. The purpose of the first series of meetings will be to outline the plan requirements, review the summary of the Community Assessment and present the draft Community Participation Program. This workshop will also include a discussion of planning issues and opportunities utilizing the Draft Community Assessment as a benchmark.

The second series of workshops will focus on delineating character area and identifying visions and policies for each. Input will be obtained on the collective vision for the future of the City as well as to solicit ideas for strategies and projects to include in the draft implementation program. The third series of workshops will finalize



NPU planners will give periodic updates about the 2011 CDP at NPU meetings.



Community meeting for the 2008 CDP.



Workshop for the North Highland Corridor Plan



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Periodic updates about the 2011 CDP will be given at APAB meetings.



A presentation about the CDP planning process, the CPP and character areas was given at the APAB retreat on October 16, 2010.



Poncey-Highland Master Plan community workshop.

character areas vision and policies and review preliminary policies in the Draft Community Agenda. A final community workshop will be held prior to the June 13, 2011 public hearing to present the major findings and recommendations of the Community Agenda.

- **APAB:** According to the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board (APAB) may serve as an advisory board on the city-wide problems, issues, goals and objectives relative to the preparation and updating of the CDP. APAB may advise the City on matters relating to citizen organizations and participation in the planning process. The Office of Planning staff will provide periodic updates at APAB meetings and will work with APAB subcommittees in more depth regarding the CDP. APAB will facilitate education and participation in the CDP and be a liaison to the NPUs. The Office of Planning staff has presented information regarding the 2011 CDP at its August 2010 meeting and at APAB's October 2010 retreat.
- **Speakers Bureau:** The Department will assemble a core group of planners who will be available to attend City Councilmember Town Hall/Summit meetings, city-related agency meetings and neighborhood meetings to discuss the planning process associated with the 2011 CDP.
- **Printed Public Information:** The Department will create outreach materials to help the public understand the 2011 CDP planning process. These materials will be distributed at public meetings and other geographical locations to educate and establish visible, continuous public feedback. Examples of printed materials include fact sheets, notices and email blasts.
- **Public Displays:** The Department will work with the public libraries or other public buildings in the quadrants of the City to establish a depository which will include information on the 2011 CDP planning process. This depository will include, at a minimum, maps, photos and narrative.
- **Newsletters/Press Releases:** The Department will work with its Public Information Manager and the City's Department of Communication to develop press releases and an electronic newsletter which highlights major miles of the CDP planning process.

Interactive

- **Social Networks:** In addition to providing information on the City's website, there will be an opportunity to provide interactive feedback with on-line social networks.
- **Community Workshops:** As indicated earlier, the Department proposes to conduct three series, at a minimum, of community workshops to assist with the development of the Community Agenda. These workshops will not only serve to inform the community, but to interact with the community as well.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** The Department will conduct stakeholder

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interviews throughout the process to coincide with the three series of community workshops. Specific stakeholders will be identified from the preliminary list included in this document as well as those that are likely to be identified and will be added to the list. The purpose of stakeholder interviews is to identify major community issues and develop a complete understanding of the public opinion, comments, and concerns, including potential sources of conflict and anticipated barriers impeding effective implementation. The staff will use prepared survey questions and solicit general opinions as well. The results will be incorporated into the development of the community vision and the Community Agenda and used to illustrate the impact that the feedback has had on the progress of the plan.

- **City Council One-on-One Discussions and Work Sessions:** The Department will work with the City Council members to review the overall Draft Community Assessment and Community Agenda as well as the areas specific to their individual districts. Input will also be obtained on other areas that can be leveraged to obtain citizen input.
- **City Operating Department Work Sessions:** The Department will work with the Commissioner and key staff members of the various operating departments to review the planning issues and opportunities and to ensure that the focus of their departments is fully recognized in the CDP.
- **Open House:** The Department will hold and conduct a series of four Open Houses during the day to allow citizens the opportunity to come and review plan progress and talk with staff on a one-on-one basis.

Partnerships

The Department proposes to leverage the partnerships with the stakeholders identified in the preliminary list as well as those that will be added to ensure the dissemination of information regarding the update of the 2011 CDP. A list of those currently identified is listed in the Identification of Stakeholders section of the CPP.

An established partnership with the Economic Development Subcabinet is a great opportunity for receipt of input from various stakeholders previously identified. This Subcabinet is a working committee of City staff, City of Atlanta Commissioners, the Mayor's Office, Atlanta Development Authority staff, and other key employees. Presentations will be made on a regular basis to introduce the planning process, present information from the plan as well as major findings and recommendations. The Economic Development Subcabinet members will also provide valuable input and review during the development of the Community Assessment and the Community Agenda.

One example of a recent partnership is that with Sustainable Atlanta in their "EnvisionATL". EnvisionATL is a forum open to anyone interested in helping build a shared aspiration and vision for a more sustainable Atlanta. EnvisionATL starting October 2010 will begin conversations to develop a Sustainable Vision for Atlanta and to assist in the creation of their Sustainable Dashboard.



2011 CDP Economic Development presentation at an Economic Development Subcabinet meeting.



Sustainable Atlanta kicked off EnvisionATL on October 13, 2010 in the historic City Council Chamber.



Small groups visioning sessions were held to discuss water, land, air and material resources at EnvisionATL.



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At EnvisionATL, each table presented their top three ideas.

The meetings will focus on many of the elements included in the CDP – land use, air, water, material resources, energy, transportation and food resources while taking into account the economy, social equity and well being. The overall vision statements as well as the visions for each area will be incorporated in the Community Agenda. The next round of community input is scheduled for December 7, 2010. Both events are based on the World Café conversation model. EnvisionATL will be formatted to promote conversations from diverse constituents in order to build consensus around Atlanta’s sustainability future. The event is presented by Sustainable Atlanta in conjunction with Mayor Reed and the City of Atlanta. There are numerous organizations and individuals tackling issues of sustainability around the Atlanta area. As these efforts continue, a shared vision for Atlanta will provide a foundation upon which to establish future discussions and efforts to make Atlanta a viable, competitive and healthier place for future generations.

The Department has also recently partnered with the Georgia State University Health Policy Center. The Center provides evidence-based research, program development and policy guidance on local, state and national levels to improve health status at the community level. The Center conducts, analyzes and disseminates qualitative and quantitative findings to connect decision makers with the objective research and guidance needed to make informed decisions about health policy and programs. Most recently, the Department participated in a forum in Washington, D.C regarding “Health in All Policies”. Health in All Policies is a strategy that strengthens the link between health and other policies, creating a supportive environment that enables people to lead healthy lives. Health in All Policies addresses health across policies in all sectors, including: housing, transportation, education, employment, land use, environment and agriculture.

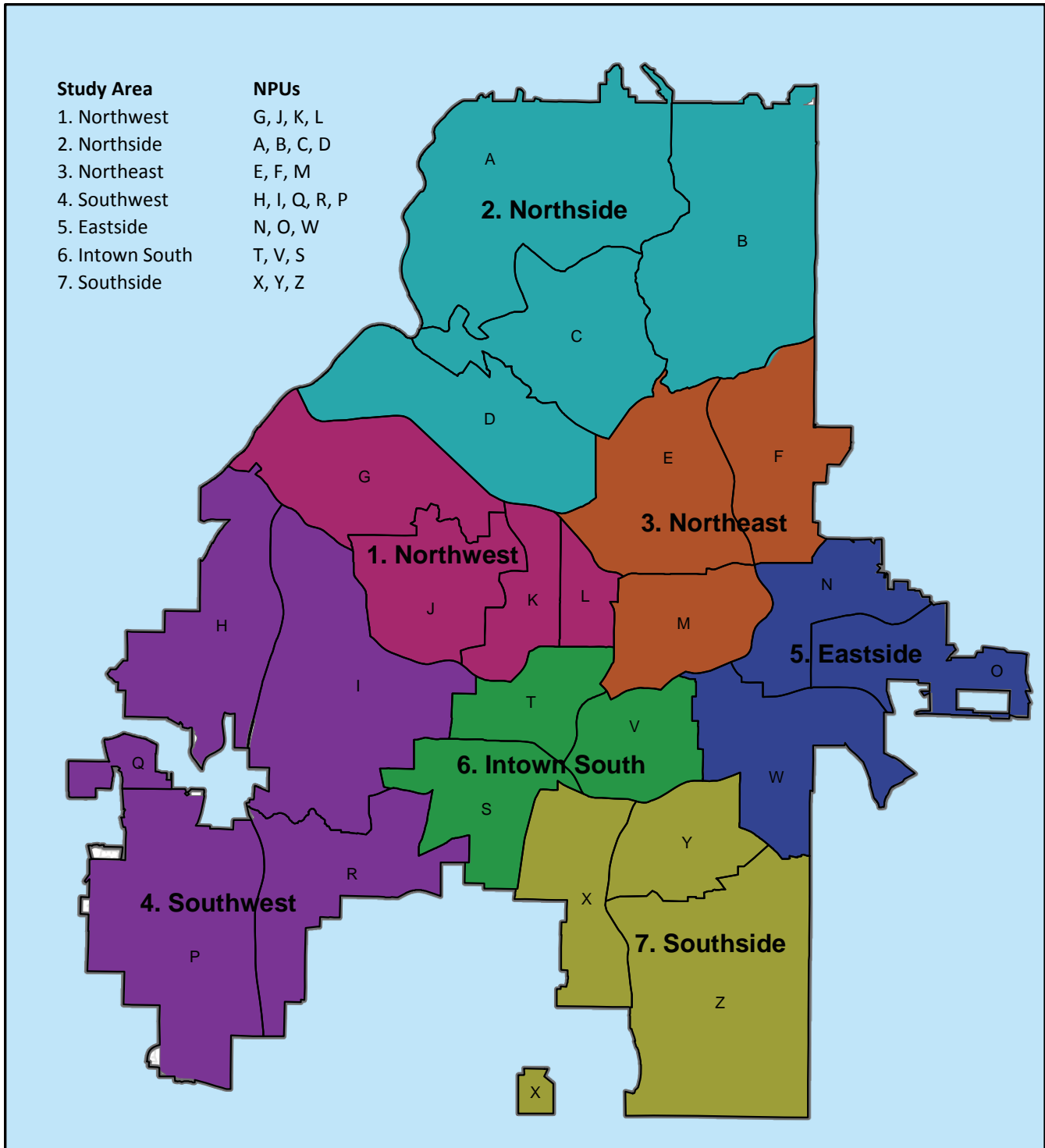
Schedule

The Community Agenda will be completed between January and June 2011. After the June 13, 2011 2nd Quarter CD/HR public hearing, the Community Agenda will be transmitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a 120 day review. After the review is completed the 2011 CDP will be before the Atlanta City Council for adoption by October 31, 2011. The table on the following page shows the schedule for the completion of the Community Assessment and the Community Agenda.

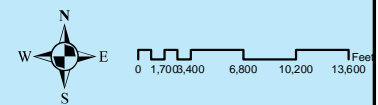
2011 CDP - Schedule for Completion of the Community Agenda												
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	2011	
2010												
Community Assessment and Community Participation Plan												
Draft Community Assessment (CA)												
Presentation at APAB meetings about the 2011 CDP and the Planning Process												
Economic Development Subcabinet presentations/discussions												
Sustainable Atlanta - Envision ATL												
Develop Community Participation Program (CPP)												
City Council Overview and One-on-One Sessions												
Community Assessment (CA) and Community Participation Program (CPP) draft completed by Office of Planning staff and available for review												
First public hearing on November 29, 2010 for CA and CPP and adoption of Transmittal Resolution of CA and CPP by City Council												
ARC and DCA 30 day review of CA and CPP												
2011												
Community Agenda	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct		
Community Meetings												
Presentations with Partners												
Stakeholder Interviews												
Economic Development Subcabinet presentations/discussions												
Draft Community Agenda completed												
City Council Overview and One-on-One Sessions with Operating City Departments												
Final Community Meeting												
Second Public Hearing on June 13, 2011 for Draft Community Agenda and adoption of Transmittal Resolution of Community Agenda by City Council												
Approval of the Community Agenda												
ARC and DCA 120 day review of Community Agenda												
City Council Adoption of 2011 CDP												



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Study Areas and NPUs



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