



3. Visioning

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3. Visioning

The Spalding County Rail-with-Trail Study utilized a number of public participation tools and techniques to solicit active community involvement between March and September 2010. These include stakeholder committee meetings, technical committee meetings, public notices, an image preference survey, a community workshop, three public presentations, and a website.

3.1 The Stakeholder Committee

To guide the planning process and to facilitate community outreach, a Stakeholder Committee was established early in the study process. The Committee consisted of members of the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee - GSATC and other key community and study area representatives, including representatives from local committee/boards, civic/interest groups and neighborhood groups.

The Stakeholder Committee was convened twice during the planning process. The following are brief summaries of the two meetings.

- **Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1** (March 17, 2010): At this meeting, the consultant introduced the process to the Committee, presented existing conditions for the rail-with-trail corridor and potential master plan ideas. The Stakeholder Committee's role was defined and questions regarding the planning process was answered.
- **Stakeholder Committee Meeting #2** (July 21, 2010): At this meeting the site analysis results and concept master plan including design guidelines were reviewed. Committee members commented on the trail alignment and features in the master plan, and general questions were answered.

3.2 The Technical Committee

In addition to the Stakeholder Committee, a Technical Committee was established to provide technical input throughout the planning process. This committee includes representatives from the City of Griffin, Spalding County, Roosevelt Railroad Museum, GDOT, ARC, UGA, Norfolk Southern, and Minerva (Heron Bay Village), Pulte/DelWebb (Sun City), and neighboring Henry County.

The Technical Committee met four times between public

meetings to offer guidance for the planning process. The following are brief summaries of these meetings.

- **Technical Committee Meeting #1** (March 17, 2010): At this meeting the consultant introduced the planning process and presented existing conditions and ideas for the rail-with-trail master plan. The Technical Committee's role was defined and questions regarding the planning process was answered.
- **Technical Committee Meeting #2** (May 19, 2010): At this meeting the site analysis results were reviewed and commented by the committee members. Public workshop format was discussed.
- **Technical Committee Meeting #3** (July 21, 2010): At this meeting the design guidelines and trail master plan were reviewed in detail. Committee members commented on the trail alignment and features, and general questions were answered.
- **Technical Committee Meeting #4** (September 15, 2010): To be written

3.3 Public Meeting

Four public meetings were held during the planning process to ensure that all interested parties were given an opportunity to be involved in the rail-with-trail master plan. Summaries of these meetings are provided below. Complete agendas and notes are available in the Appendix.

3.3.1 Kickoff meeting

On March 30, 2010, a public meeting was held at the UGA Griffin Student Learning Center to commence the public portion of the planning effort. The meeting began with a welcome by Spalding County planner Anthony Dukes, who introduced the project team. Following this, the consultant presented on the overview of planning process, existing conditions highlight, and preliminary site analysis. After the presentation, questions and comments were addressed about the study. As the meeting closed, participants were given an opportunity to look at existing condition and preliminary site analysis maps to share their thoughts for the project.

3.3.2 Community Workshop

The workshop was held on June 3rd at E. McIntosh Church close to the study area. It started with a Visual Preference Survey during the sign-in phase of the meeting, which is summarized later in detail. The consultant

team gave a brief presentation on existing conditions and site analysis results. They then conducted breakout sessions to solicit input from the participants on six aspects of the rail-with-trail plan: trail alignment, trailhead, interest points along the trail, trail users and surfaces, trail crossings, and adjacent land use potentials. The entire study area was divided into three sub-areas for people to provide more specific input. At the end of the session, each sub-area group presented their ideas in summary to the entire audience.

3.3.3 Concept Master Plan Presentation

The draft concept master plan recommendations were presented to the public at the Sun City Peachtree Sales Center on July 29, 2010. Questions and comments were addressed at the meeting, which gave directions on re-



People working at the workshop breakout session



Consultant teams present concept master plan at the draft plan meeting

fining the recommendations on trail alignment and transit features.

3.3.4 Final Plan Presentation

The final presentation will happen on September 30, 2010...

3.4 Communication Tools

The planning effort utilized a number of tools to keep stakeholders informed of upcoming meetings and project information.

One critical tool was the project website, which provided access to the project maps, meeting presentations, flyers, and other documents and information pertaining to the study.

In addition to the project website, postcards and flyers were distributed to inform residents and property owners of upcoming meetings. Two direct mail postcards were sent to each property owner within 500 feet from the corridor center line. The first mailing notified them of the kickoff meeting and community workshop, while the second listed the two plan recommendation meetings. Also, flyers were distributed at area businesses, churches, government buildings, and other high traffic locations to inform the community of upcoming meetings.



Project website

3.5 Visual Preference Survey

A visioning tool of the Spalding County Rail-with-Trail Study was the use of a visual preference survey (VPS). During the community workshop, the participants were given the opportunity to score a variety of images to determine their design preferences. Categories included Trail Separation, Trail User and Surfaces, Trail Crossings, Trailhead and Signage, Bike Lanes/Multi-use Trail beside Streets, and Preferred Land Uses adjacent to Trails. Each participant was asked to put one green dot on image he/she liked and one red dot on image he/she didn't like in each category. The survey helped participants to visualize the trail and also provide guidance to the consultant team on the trail master plan.

The survey results were summarized based on the number of green and red dots received. The following summarizes the key findings.

The community prefers bigger separations between the rail and trail. Aesthetics is important when fences are used between the rail and trail. Surfaces that can accommodate more diversified users were welcomed, e.g. asphalt and concrete. A dirt trail was ranked the lowest since it was not accommodating to all users. Participants liked safe, well-marked crossings with good signage and well-designed trailheads with amenities. For on-street routes, people preferred a multi-use trail separated from traffic to on-street bike routes. As for land uses adjacent to trails, people preferred uses that can interact and engage trails.

The images on this page depict what the community preferred and most disliked during the visual preference survey.



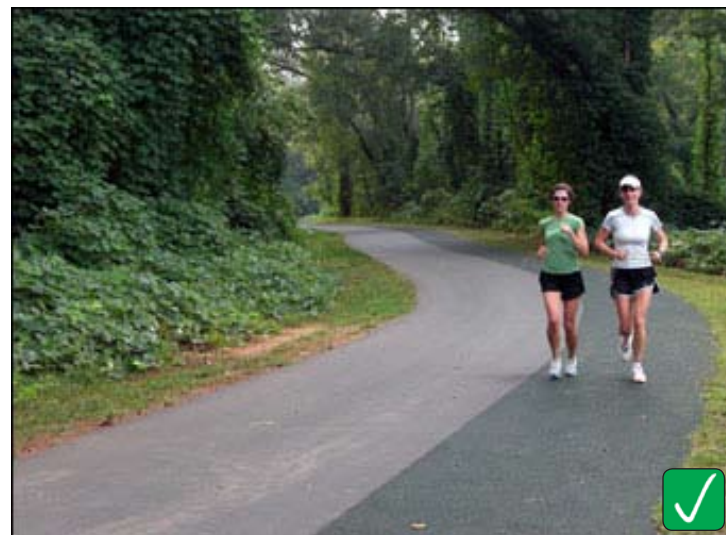
A bigger separation is preferred between rail and trail



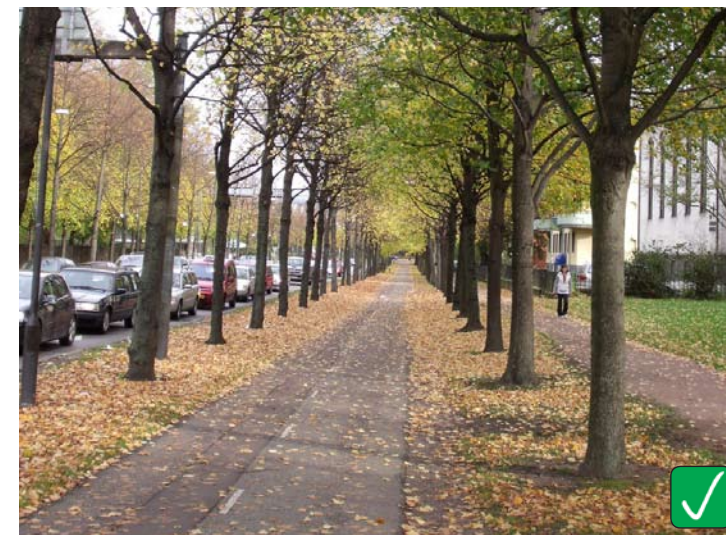
Signs and benches are welcomed elements at trailheads



Dirt trail is not an ideal surface based on the survey results



Surfaces that can accommodate all users are preferred



The community prefers multi-use trail to on-street bike route



This image was ranked poor because there was no delineation and marking/signs for bike route



This shows the type of road crossing people preferred



People would like to see development facing onto the trail



This crossing was disliked because there was no cross marking and appeared unsafe for trail users



People liked this railroad crossing with clear marking and signs

3.6 Role of Different Agencies

A number of agencies and organizations have participated in the preparation of the Spalding County Rail-with-Trail Master Plan, including Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department, Three Rivers Regional Commission, Atlanta Regional Commission, and private entities.

Various agencies and entities should review the plans and designs for the Spalding County Rail-with-Trail. In the future, some entities will have on-going responsibilities for trail maintenance and safety. Table 3.1 lists the responsibilities of this variety of agencies and organizations related to the Spalding County Rail-with-Trail.

Table 3.1 Agency Roles

Type	Agency	Contact	Responsibilities
Local	City of Griffin Planning and Development Services Department	Frederick Gardiner, Director 100 South Hill Street Griffin, GA 30223 (770) 229-6400	Planning and zoning, code enforcement in City of Griffin.
Local	City of Griffin Public Works Department	Brant Keller, Director 100 South Hill Street Griffin, GA 30223 (770) 229-6424	Operations and maintenance of RWT and RWT facilities, street signs and traffic control devices, streets and public ROWs, transportation, and trees.
Local	City of Griffin Streets Division	Daryl Wilson, Streets Superintendent 700 Beck St. Griffin GA 30224 (770) 229-6413	Maintenance of sidewalks and bike lanes on city streets, RWT crossings of City roads, bicycle/pedestrian facilities along City roads.
Local	City of Griffin Stormwater Department	Chris Edelstein, Deputy Director Stormwater 100 South Hill St. – 3rd Floor Griffin, GA 30224 (770) 229-6424	Review of stormwater and erosion control plans for trail. Review of on-going maintenance of storm water structures.
County	Spalding County Public Works Department	Jake Garner, Director 1515 Williamson Rd Griffin, GA 30224 (770) 467-4774	Roadway maintenance, RWT crossings of County roads, bicycle/pedestrian facilities along County roads.
County	Spalding County Community Development Department	Charles Taylor, Community Development Director 119 East Solomon St. - Suite 203 Griffin, GA 30223 (770) 467-4254	Planning and zoning in Spalding County.
County	Spalding County Parks and Recreation	Louis Greene, Director 843 Memorial Drive Griffin, GA 30223 (770) 467-4750	Operations and maintenance of RWT and RWT facilities.
County	Three Rivers Regional Commission	Anthony Dukes, Transportation Planning Manager 120 North Hill St. P.O. Box 818 Griffin, GA 30224 (678) 692-0510	Funding and participation in development of plans for trail implementation.
County	Spalding County Stormwater Management Department	Stormwater Manager P.O. Box 1087 Griffin, GA 30224 (770) 467-4774	Review of stormwater and erosion control plans for trail. Review of on-going maintenance of storm water structures.

Type	Agency	Contact	Responsibilities
County	Henry County Water and Sewer Authority	Kelly Proctor kelly.proctor@hcwsa.com	Review of impacts to watershed and water/sewer infrastructure, if any.
Regional	Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Transportation Planning Division	Lyubov Zuyeva, Senior Planner 10 Courtland St., NE Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 463-3306	Potential implementation funding and oversight of plan implementation.
State	Georgia Department of Transportation	Byron Rushing, State Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, Office of Planning 600 West Peachtree St. NW, Floor 5, Location 534 Atlanta, GA 30308 (404) 631-1778	Potential implementation funding and oversight of design and implementation of trail.
State	Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Linda MacGregor Environmental Protection Division 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101 Atlanta, GA 30354-3902 (404) 675-6232	Early coordination; review and approve plans to determine impacts to federal or state waters, if any.
Federal	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Sandy Tucker 105 West Park Dr. Athens, GA 30306 (706) 613-9493	Early coordination; review and approve plans to determine impacts to protected species impacts, re-channelization, if any.
Federal	US Army Corps of Engineers	Joe Rivera The Plaza, Suite 200 1590 Adamson Parkway Morrow, GA 30260-1777 (678) 422-2720, Ext. 6571	Review and approve plans to determine impacts to waters of the United States, if any.
Federal	FEMA	Brad Loar Mitigation Division 3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road Atlanta, GA 30341 (770) 220-5416	Review and approve plans to determine encroachments on regulatory floodways, if any.
Private Property Owner	Norfolk Southern	Bob Davenport, Inventory Engineer 1200 Peachtree St. Atlanta, GA 30361 (404) 529-1220	Granting of easements/permission to cross tracks and review of trail design and construction plans.
Private Property Owner	Roosevelt Railroad	John Rivers, Owner (404) 200-2604	Granting of easements and review of trail design and construction plans.
Private Property Owner	Adjacent landowners	Various	Granting of easements, if necessary. Consultation regarding trail construction and maintenance, including access agreements, if necessary.