



Next Stop: Easy Street

Let's remove 200 cars a day from Clifton and North Decatur roads. The new Park-n-Ride lot at North DeKalb Mall may accomplish just that. Emory recently expanded its alternative transit options for commuters by opening the first of several future Park-n-Ride lots at North DeKalb Mall.

Both the Park-n-Ride lot and shuttle service are free and available to anyone in the community who wants to use them. The Park-n-Ride shuttles run frequently Monday through Friday and the North DeKalb lot is monitored by both mall security as well as Emory University Parking security services.

The designated parking area is identified with Emory Park-n-Ride signage and located in the northeast corner of the mall parking lot bordered by Lawrenceville Highway and North Druid Hills Road, near the Macy's.

Express shuttle service takes commuters directly and with no stops between the Park-n-Ride lot to Woodruff Circle, in front of Emory University Hospital. The Woodruff Circle is envisioned as an expanding primary 'nexus' or hub for the entire shuttle system.

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Community Conversations

"Tonight is the first of many conversations with community groups," said Mike Mandl, executive vice president at Emory University, as he recently addressed questions about Emory's Clifton Road redevelopment project and other items at a series of community meetings. In late June, Mandl spoke to the Druid Hills Civic Association, the newly-formed Clifton Community Partnership (CCP) Advisory Group and a general community meeting at Emory's Miller Ward Alumni House.

The CCP projects described by Mandl will be focused around transportation choices that provide alternatives to single occupancy vehicles; pedestrian-friendly streetscapes; housing options that allow people to live closer to campus; and dynamic activity centers in the Clifton community with entertainment, shops and restaurants.

"These ideas will provide a unique opportunity to focus on a sustainable future for surrounding neighborhoods that will afford all of us greater mobility, as well as creating business initiatives that will improve the quality of life for generations to come," said Sara Fountain, executive director of Leadership DeKalb, Inc., and a member of the Board of Directors for the Briarcliff Woods Civic Association and the CCP Advisory Group.

Mandl also provided an overview of the Clifton Road redevelopment project. This will allow Emory to enhance its world-class health sciences facilities. Emory's Board of Trustees recently approved moving forward with the preparation of a schematic design for the site. Selection of the architects for this stage of the planning will take place by fall, and the schematic design phase should run approximately 10 months.



Mike Mandl, executive vice president at Emory University, described recent Clifton Community Partnership projects at a June 28 community meeting.

The current plans, dependent on periodic Board approvals at key milestones, will include redeveloping the clinic facility and relocation of the Emory University Hospital across Clifton Road. All of these changes will allow for facilities that are more patient and community focused; more flexible to accommodate future diagnostic and treatment technology; and that improve land use and traffic flow.

The first element of the new health care complex will begin in the summer of 2007, with the demolition of the Turman Residential Center on Haygood Drive. The 1964- and 1982-vintage buildings have not aged well and need either massive renovation or replacement, says Vice President for Campus Services Bob Hascall. The decision to remove them sets

Q: Where will the construction workers park while they are working on the hospital and clinics construction?

A: Emory will require all contractors working on the hospital and clinics to provide off-site parking and shuttle workers to construction sites.

the table for many ensuing changes, all of which are designed to support Emory's vision while keeping the clinic and hospital operations running like clockwork for faculty, staff and patients during the period of major construction.

Added Fountain, "Emory's Campus Master Plan is a bold and brilliant plan that shows the foresight and vision for creating a positive future for DeKalb County and metro Atlanta."

Easy Street, cont'd

“There will be a cumulative positive effect on the overall traffic along the Clifton Corridor with these new transit options,” said Laura Ray, Emory University’s associate vice president for transportation and parking.

Average ridership for the first week of service was approximately 15 percent of shuttle lot capacity, and is expected to grow steadily. Rider and Emory employee Sonja Jackson, said she plans to convince her coworkers to give it a try.

“It was great! I had a chance to read a magazine I’ve had for a while and not had a chance to read before then,” she said.

According to Ray, “When fully utilized, this Park-n-Ride will eliminate 200 vehicles from local roads. That’s the equivalent of removing from campus double the number of cars in the University’s B. Jones parking lot.”

Park-n-Ride Schedule

Shuttles run approximately every 25 minutes from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., except midday between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., when they run every 40 minutes. Adjustments may be made based on ridership demand patterns.

To see a complete shuttle schedule, view www.epcs.emory.edu/altransp/route_PNR_NDeKalb.htm.

CCP Taps Leaders for Advice

An advisory group has been formed to provide counsel to Emory and the Clifton community. Their initial focus will be urban design guidelines, as well as ideas on local mixed-use projects. This group, which first met June 26, includes neighborhood, business, institutional and civic leaders who represent broad and varied interests within the greater Clifton community. Who is serving on the advisory group? The full list can be found at www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.

The *Community Update* is a monthly newsletter published by the Emory University Office of Governmental and Community Affairs to share information and ideas among stakeholders working to improve the quality of life in the Clifton community. Readers’ story ideas are welcomed!

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Five Questions

A snapshot of questions for leaders in the Clifton community



Bill Floyd,
Mayor of Decatur

CCP: Decatur’s downtown transformation into a more pedestrian-friendly environment with broader sidewalks, inviting common areas and trees is remarkable. How can the Clifton community emulate what Decatur has achieved?

Bill Floyd: Early on, in 1982, we developed the Decatur Town Center Plan. Essentially, then as now, we want a distinct mix of single-family homes with highrises, we want families and singles of different income levels to be able to live on the same street, and we want the city to be easily walkable.

CCP: What was the biggest obstacle you had to overcome to improve downtown Decatur?

Bill Floyd: Skeptics who said that any construction guidelines in Decatur would be anti-development. We created a plan for downtown based on public input and remained true to it.

CCP: What’s next on the horizon for Decatur’s renaissance?

Bill Floyd: Additional street improvements downtown, like raised pedestrian crosswalks. We also are spending a half million dollars to finalize our Community Transportation Master Plan. It will incorporate bike paths, walkways and other transit, like Emory’s free shuttle service that runs downtown.

I don’t look at Decatur as having traffic – I look at us as having activity.

CCP: How do you see Decatur, Emory

and the Clifton communities working together to solve common issues?

Bill Floyd: We’re already doing it! The City of Decatur is working with DeKalb County, the CCP, Emory and local property owners to find creative solutions to the intersection of North Decatur Road and Clairmont Road. It is a major entrance route to both Decatur and the Clifton community – and it can be improved.

CCP: Decatur has a festival or seasonal activity nearly every weekend. Which is your favorite?

Bill Floyd: Decatur’s former ‘Beer Festival and Easter Egg Hunt.’ It was held for exactly one year until we were smart enough to separate them! Now I never miss the Decatur Arts Festival and the Beach Party.



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