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# DPCD Insider

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## Department of Planning and Community Development Hosts October Bicycle Commuting Events

Commuting by bicycle to work, school or other places safely in the City of Atlanta is a concept that's a little easier to envision thanks to the Department of Planning & Community Development's premier events.

In October (Bike to Work month), DPCD coordinated and managed a lunch 'n' learn session for employees. The Atlanta Bicycle Coalition led the discussion for about 50 staff and guests. The lunchtime seminar offered tips, facts and strategy for anyone considering cycling to work.

On October 12, DPCD held two major events in one day. First, was a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring the City's first raised cycle track and Copenhagen Left at Tech Square. The new changes enhance safety for Midtown cyclists. Mayor Kasim Reed was a guest speaker along with DPCD's transportation partners.

The day's events concluded with a short bike to kick-off a bicycle expo in the atrium at city hall.

Go to [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov) to learn more.



DPCD hosted several (first-ever!) bicycle commuting events in October, including a lunch 'n' learn seminar, a bike Expo at City Hall and a news conference with Mayor Kasim Reed at Tech Square announcing the completion of bicycle improvements at 5th and West Peachtree Streets.



James E. Shelby  
Commissioner



Terri M. Lee  
Deputy Commissioner



Office of Buildings  
Don Rosenthal, Director



Office of Housing  
Derrick Jordan,  
Interim Director



Office of Planning  
Charletta Wilson Jacks,  
Director

## Leave The Leaves

Tired of raking and bagging leaves? Then don't. It might be the best thing you can do for your trees. Fallen leaves are a natural blanket over tree roots, protecting them from extreme cold in the winter and drying heat in the summer. In addition, leaf cover suppresses weeds and helps hold vital moisture in the soil. As leaves decompose, they enrich the soil and turn into excellent mulch and fertilizer for trees and other plants – at no cost to you.

## CYCLE ATLANTA APP UNVEILED

As part of a planning effort between the City of Atlanta and Georgia Tech, a new smart phone app was also unveiled at the news conference.

The iPhone and Android version of the free app called Cycle Atlanta is available for download. Bicycle commuters can and designed specifically for City of Atlanta bicyclists to provide direct feedback to the City's Department of Planning and Community Development transportation planning staff.

The apps interactive feature will allow bicyclists who download it to participate in the Cycle Atlanta Study.

## Rent or Own an Older Residence?

The Office of Housing is looking for families and caregivers who live in homes or apartments built before 1978 with children under age 6 living or visiting the premises. Why? Because hazardous lead paint may be present, which can be harmful to children



Photo: Participants at 2012 Housing Refinance Roundtable at City Hall.

## DPCD Hosts HUD Regional Administrator Housing Refinance Roundtable Discussion

### Meeting Notes Sent to Obama Administration

A critical housing refinance and foreclosure prevention roundtable discussion took place on August 28 at city hall. DPCD hosted the meeting with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and several

**Below: Housing Roundtable guests.**



local housing partners. The purpose of the roundtable was to discuss the challenges facing homeowners and housing counselors trying to assist them.

Officials with Invest Atlanta, NeighborWorks America, Atlanta Housing Authority and leaders from non-profit housing agencies attended the inaugural meeting.

Several key points of the discussion centered on the need to educate home buyers and homeowners about the programs available to help them make ownership affordable. The group also discussed the need for a strategic marketing plan to reach homeowners who want to avoid foreclosure.

Fifty housing roundtables were conducted nationwide.

**THERE IS NO SAFE AMOUNT OF LEAD.**

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- Hyperactivity
- Hearing Loss
- Aggressive Behavior

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[LeadSafeAtlanta.com](http://LeadSafeAtlanta.com)

Department of Planning and Community Development | |

Above: Sample MARTA ad