



**Summary of Comments  
Public Information Meeting  
Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1  
January 19, 2017**

The Public Information Open House for the Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1, was held on January 19th at the West Hunter Baptist Church 1040 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. Atlanta, GA 30314. There were 61 people in attendance, including Renew Atlanta Program Management Officer Michelle Wynn, Renew Atlanta Project Manager Ian MacRae, Renew Atlanta Project Director, Genetha-Rice Singleton, Renew Atlanta Communications Manager Amy Ellison, Renew Atlanta Communication Assistant and Program Manager Briana Davis, City of Atlanta Bridge Engineer Michael Ayo, City of Atlanta Director of Real Estate Portfolio John Lavelle, Gresham Smith and Partners Design Team Members Jody Braswell, Carla Holmes and Sarah Blackburn. McAfee<sup>3</sup> Architects Team Members Cheryl McAfee and Jay Lawton. Councilmember Cleeta Winslow and Councilmember Ivory Young also attended (Districts 3 and 4).

11 comment cards and one note were received. Of these 12 responses, 7 were in favor of the project, 1 was conditional, 1 was uncommitted at the time, and 3 respondents did not specify their position. No respondent was against the project.

**Major Concerns/Comments from Comment Cards**

The major concerns were organized into 3 areas – (1) Street Improvements and Signalization (2) Sidewalk Improvements and (3) Community Involvement.

- Four comments regarding Street Improvements and Signalization
- Three comments regarding Sidewalk Improvements
- Five comments regarding Community Involvement



**Summary of Comments  
Public Information Meeting  
Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1  
January 19, 2017**

**Responses to Questions/Comments (Questions requiring written responses)**

1. Question: What is the Budget allocation for this project?

Response: The budget allocated for the project is \$718,000.

2. Question: What is the timeline for this to be completed?

Response: Anticipated completion of construction is August 2018.

3. Question: How were the concepts developed – was there citizen input?

Response: Yes. The Consultant used input from public involvement meetings for the previous Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Transportation Corridor Study held on March 24, 2015 and April 28, 2015. The recommendations from that study were further refined based on the results of a new Traffic Analysis Study; direction from the City to improve vehicle safety, pedestrian safety, and traffic flow; and other standard roadway design considerations to derive the proposed concept presented here. The purpose of this meeting is to get citizen input on the proposed concept. If the community would like more input as the concept is further refined and the design is finalized, the City will have more public meetings like this. (Attendees indicated they would like to have more meetings.)

4. Question: Terry (Last name not known) - Further explain the lanes. Will there be reverse lanes?

Response: From north of Lena Street / Carter Street to Joseph E Boone Boulevard, Joseph E Lowery Boulevard is proposed to be a 3-lane undivided roadway with 1-lane in the southbound direction, 1-lane in the northbound direction and a continuous two-way center left turn lane. The west leg of Mayson Turner Road is proposed to be realigned to the intersection of Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard and Magnolia Road. There will not be reversible lanes on this project, and in fact the City is taking steps to remove existing reversible lanes elsewhere.

5. Question: Terry (Last name not known - How will current drainage issues along Lowery be addressed? Can the roadway be completed with more permeable materials?

Response: The City does not plan to use permeable pavers on this project, as they are costly to maintain. Drainage issues will be addressed during the design phase of the project. This is just the concept development phase and specific drainage mitigations were not identified.



**Summary of Comments**  
**Public Information Meeting**  
**Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1**  
**January 19, 2017**

6. Question: Elizabeth Whitmore - The budget for the project is only \$718,000, and that does not appear to be enough to do all that is needed. Is this simply paving? Is there a longer process? Will there be another meeting to see the results?

Response: This project is considered to be Phase 1 of the corridor improvements. The City will work with the Consultant to continue to refine the scope and budget for Phase 1, and will include as many of the proposed improvements as it can with the funds available. Ultimately, this project will rehabilitate the existing roadway pavement, improve existing pedestrian infrastructure, install mid-block crossings, and make improvements at the existing intersection at Mayson Turner Road and Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Additionally, landscaping, street light and hardscaping improvements are proposed along the project corridor to improve aesthetics. If the community would like another meeting to see the final concept and design, then the City will have it.

7. Question: Lorraine Price - Where are the boundaries of the corridor?

Response: The project begins at the intersection of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd and Mitchell Street and ends at the intersection of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd and Joseph E Boone Blvd.

8. Question: Mr. Harris - There is a monument that is falling down near the Shell station on Lowery. The monument was installed during the Olympics, and it and other Olympic assets are not being maintained well. Kids sit there and it is a danger. I have reported it to 311, but nothing has been done. Is anything being done? Will the City repair or replace?

Response: The City will look into this issue.

Question: Mr. Harris - Where there is real estate eye-sores in our community, may they be torn down? For example, the deteriorating structure at the corner of Lowery and Mason Turner. It already caught fire once. The Mayson Turner gas store was robbed and shut down. What is the future status of that area?

Response: Councilmember Young indicated that the City is aware of this issue, and advised that there is currently an Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) project that includes improvements for this area.

9. Question: Clinton Boyd, Jr. - With gentrification occurring in the neighborhood, what are the potential benefits or consequences for current residents such as increased taxes or displacement? Can there be a "displacement-free zone"?



**Summary of Comments**  
**Public Information Meeting**  
**Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1**  
**January 19, 2017**

Response: Councilmember Young and Councilmember Winslow advised that there are several policies and programs in place or being considered to address these concerns. There are 9 Fulton County Tax Exemptions that senior citizens in the area may be eligible for to help them keep their home affordable. A Housing and Mixed Use Enterprise Zone; HUD Choice Neighborhood Designation; the West Side Future Fund; and the Families First Project all have affordable housing components. The relocation of the YMCA Headquarters to this area, and the new Early Learning Center will also spur improvements to this neighborhood. The Councilmembers advised that developers can be required by the City to include affordable housing only when City funds are invested.

10. Question: Clinton Boyd, Jr. - Can there be a Mandatory Inclusion Area Zoning Policy?

Response: A Mandatory Inclusion Area Zoning Policy does not currently exist, but is being discussed. When developers fund their projects solely with private money without any funding from the City, the City cannot make the inclusion of affordable housing a mandate. The Councilmembers advised that this is an important issue to the City and the County.

11. Question: Danielle Carter - As traffic increases on Lowery, will the entire corridor be evaluated?

Response: Yes. The City Council and Renew Atlanta staff will look into the possibility of extending the project limits or programming other projects to cover more of the Joseph E. Lowery Corridor.

12. Question: Drunel Thomas - With the aging population and walkability of Lowery, how do we create livability and safety? Lowery is a very high walk district. We are a walking community with many older residents in their homes for over 30+ years. The corridor is very challenging for pedestrians who use transit. Will signals be provided at intermediate pedestrian crossings?

Response: Councilmember Winslow – Yes. The project will include making improvements to existing pedestrian infrastructure, and installing mid-block crossings where needed. Sidewalk gaps will be connected, and broken sidewalk will be repaired. Pedestrian crossings are proposed at the following locations.

- South of Lena Street / Carter Street
- South of Booker Washington Drive
- South of Spencer Street
- North of Thurmond Drive
- South of Rock Street
- North of Ashby Circle



**Summary of Comments**  
**Public Information Meeting**  
**Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1**  
**January 19, 2017**

As the project moves from the current concept development phase to the design phase, treatments such as pedestrian-activated rapid flashing beacons at these mid-block crossings will be considered.

13. Question: Drunel Thomas - Sidewalks in many cases are in terrible condition. You cannot walk over them. Will the walkability of the sidewalks along Lowery be a considerations for our aging populations?

Response: Yes. The project will include making improvements to existing pedestrian infrastructure where needed. Sidewalk gaps will be connected, and broken sidewalk will be repaired.

14. Question: Drunel Thomas - As MARTA no longer has bus service along Lowery, what can be done to create a sidewalk that accommodates and respects those in wheelchairs or with canes and walkers?

Response: The project will include making improvements to existing pedestrian infrastructure, and installing mid-block crossings where needed. Sidewalk gaps will be connected, and broken sidewalk will be repaired.

15. Question: Kimberly Jones - Are there any bike lanes on this project? Are there any pushback where bike lanes are located?

Response: Due to safety considerations, bike lanes are not included on Joseph E, Lowery Blvd. There are parallel and connecting roadways, such as the Atlanta Beltline, Lena Street and James P. Brawley, and bike lanes are provided in those locations.

16. Question: Walter Slaton - Was the Northside Drive project and the new stadium considered in this project? Increased traffic will make its way to the Lowery corridor. Were comments made from the CDP used when considering options for these corridor improvements?

Response: Yes. The City's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) was updated by the Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU's), and this project was identified in the CDP. Also, the City coordinates regularly with the Georgia Department of Transportation on the Northside Drive project, so that project's impacts on the Lowery corridor will be addressed.

17. Question: Jessica Salters - Is there another meeting planned prior to design and implementation?



**Summary of Comments  
Public Information Meeting  
Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1  
January 19, 2017**

If the community would like another meeting to see the final design, then the City will have it.

18. Question: Danielle Craig - ARC plans from 2000-2001 included West End, but they never completed the project. Don't forget about the old projects as the City is moving forward with new projects. Does this project include completing West End? What is meant by Phase 1? What is Phase 1 and what is phase 2?

Response: At this time, the project does not include West End. The portion of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd south of I-20 has already been completed. This work was completed, along with \$18 million of other projects, in the last bond program. The current Renew Atlanta Bond Program has identified \$900 million in backlog of transportation project needs, but only has \$250 million available to fund projects. So, all needs cannot be addressed at one time with the current funding.

The current project limits are from the intersection of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd and Mitchell Street and ends at the intersection of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd and Joseph E Boone Blvd. The City will work with the Consultant to continue to refine the scope and budget for Phase 1, and will include as many of the proposed improvements as it can with the funds available. Ultimately, this project will rehabilitate the existing roadway pavement, improve existing pedestrian infrastructure, install mid-block crossings, and make improvements at the existing intersection between Mayson Turner Road and Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Additionally, landscaping, street light and hardscaping improvements are proposed along the project corridor to improve aesthetics.

19. Question: (No Name) We want to see the roadway improvements to extend along Lowery from Marietta to White. Is this a consideration?

Response: Councilmember Winslow – Yes. The City Council and Renew Atlanta staff will look into the possibility of extending the project limits or programming other projects to cover more of the Joseph E. Lowery Corridor.

20. Question: Jo Ann Thomas - Sidewalk improvements along Lucille Avenue from Holderness Street to Oak Street were funded but never completed. One side has almost been finished, but the other side has not been started. When will these sidewalks be repaired or replaced?

Response: Councilmember Winslow - This will be addressed, but is not a part of the Lowery improvements.



**Summary of Comments**  
**Public Information Meeting**  
**Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1**  
**January 19, 2017**

21. Question: Jo Ann Thomas - We need lighting along the corridor. Children leave when it is dark outside, and elderly citizens often have to walk in the dark. Will this new plan provide the much needed street-lighting for safety and security of our community?

Response: Councilmember Winslow and Councilmember Young indicated that the entire length of the corridor improvement project will receive street lighting.

22. Question: Alex Smith - Are there any plans to eliminate dilapidated and vacant homes?

Response: This will be addressed, but is not a part of the Lowery corridor improvements.

23. Question: Can there be similar pedestrian assets installed at Washington Park and Ashby MARTA Station as there are in the West End?

Response: Councilmember Young indicated he likes this idea. As the project moves from the current concept development phase to the design phase, the types and specific locations of pedestrian treatments included will be considered.

24. Question: What are the City's plans for Washington Park? The neighborhood is on the Historic Register, but citizens feel as if they are being forgotten, and funding for needed improvements are going elsewhere. There have been a lot of plans discussed, however it is now time for action.

Response: Councilmember Winslow and Councilmember Young indicated that they are aware of this issue and it is being addressed. Westside Revive is looking at this area, and the Land Bank is gifting land to the Park.

25. Comment: Bus routes have been removed from Lowery, but now the traffic backs up because people are using it as a cut-through.

Response: Improving traffic flow is a goal of this project. The proposed concept and future design will address reducing traffic congestion.

26. Comment: There is no shoulder in some areas along the corridor, and large trucks driving close to the edge of pavement are posing a hazard for pedestrians.

Response: Improving pedestrian safety is a goal of this project. The proposed concept and future design will address improving pedestrian safety. Joseph E Lowery Blvd has also been removed from the current designated truck route map to reduce truck congestion along the corridor.



**Summary of Comments**  
**Public Information Meeting**  
**Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1**  
**January 19, 2017**

27. Comment: High-speed traffic along the corridor poses a hazard for pedestrians. Those in wheelchairs and the sight-impaired are particularly at risk.

Response: The proposed concept with one lane in each direction with a center two-way left turn lane, as well as other planned corridor improvements should result in slower speeds through this area. Pedestrian accommodations will include appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) treatments.

28. Comment: From the end of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. to Hollowell Parkway, it is heavily industrial. It changes to residential between Hollowell Parkway and Joseph E Boone Blvd, and the road in this area needs to be addressed.

Response: This part of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. is not in the current project limits, however the City Council and Renew Atlanta staff will look into the possibility of extending the project limits or programming other projects to cover more of the Joseph E. Lowery Corridor.

29. Comment: There have been pedestrian fatalities at the intersections of Lowery with Jett Street and Neal Street. There is a lot of pedestrian activity in this area from people walking to the MARTA station.

Response: This part of Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. is not in the current project limits, however the City Council and Renew Atlanta staff will look into the possibility of extending the project limits or programming other projects to cover more of the Joseph E. Lowery Corridor.

30. Comment: At the intersection of Lawton Street and Westview Parkway, cars in the southbound right turn lane can't turn if there are buses or large trucks in the intersection.

Response: This intersection is not in the current project limits, however the Renew Atlanta staff will look into this situation.

31. Comment: Citizens in the Booker T. Washington Community asked to be included in the process all the way through the project.

Response: The purpose of this meeting is to get citizen input on the proposed concept from all affected communities along the Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor. This community involvement will continue as the project progresses.

32. Comment: Citizens in the Historic Westside Village Community feel they are not being included in the process of making transportation improvements before design begins.





**Summary of Comments**  
**Public Information Meeting**  
**Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1**  
**January 19, 2017**

Response: The purpose of this meeting is to get citizen input on the proposed concept for the Joseph E. Lowery Blvd Corridor Improvements Project before proceeding with design.

33. Question: The Beltline offered incentives for first time home buyer in that area. Are there programs such as this being considered for the Lowery area?

Response: Councilmember Winslow – Invest Atlanta offers down payment assistance in the form of a \$10,000 grant. The City cannot take property, only the County can do that. The City can, however, accept land donated through the Land Bank.

34. Comment: The part of the project at Mitchell Street where Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. goes from two lanes down to one lanes has a lot of crashes.

Response: High number of crashes at this location have been identified. Appropriate roadway configuration, signing and striping plans to make this a safer transition will be included in the project design.



**Summary of Comments  
Public Information Meeting  
Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1  
January 19, 2017**

Number of Comment Cards Received: 12

**Question 1: Do you support the project?**

Potential Response	Number of Responses
For	7
Against	0
Conditional	1
Uncommitted	1
No Response	3

**Question 2: How did you hear about this meeting?**

Potential Response	Number of Responses
Radio/Television	
Newspaper	
Signs	3
Word of Mouth	4
Other	1
Email	2
Meeting	
NPU	1
Flyer	2
Post Card	1
No Response	

**Question 3: Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?**

Potential Response	Number of Responses
Yes	6 1 "kind of" – 1 "better"
No	
No Response	3

**Suggestions for improving Renew Atlanta public meetings:**

1. Have more meetings on JE Lowery Improvements
2. Have a scribe to take the comments of the elderly
3. Have a timekeeper & parliamentarian to keep us on track
4. Use the "next door" app or send notices via electronic means



**Summary of Comments  
Public Information Meeting  
Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. Corridor Improvements Project, Phase 1  
January 19, 2017**

5. Announce meetings on TV so more people can know to attend
6. Today was very vague. The entire plan/proposal should be laid out. I still have concerns about how the entire \$250 million will be allocated. All phases should be discussed. I think a layout of Renew Atlanta's full plan would ease concerns of neighbors
7. Make follow-up presentations at the NPU meetings
8. You need "Post-its" like at the Beltline meeting to label the pictures.