

ALLIANCE TO IMPROVE EMORY VILLAGE, INC.

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emory Village Revitalization Plan Receives Major Commitment from ARC and DeKalb County

A community vision - to make Emory Village a premiere mixed-use community to serve the Emory University, Druid Hills area- received its third major boost this year. Earlier, DeKalb County provided funds to test traffic related plans. Next, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) decided to make the Emory Village Revitalization Plan eligible for future funding. Now, just this week, the ARC followed up with the funding for the public sector improvements crucial to the resurgence of Emory Village.

The ARC funds will be used to reconstruct the main intersection, widen and improve sidewalks, plant shade trees, remove dangerous angled parking and construct a small park. The funds come from the Livable Centers Initiative, whose goal is to encourage walking communities in metropolitan Atlanta and fight sprawl. Construction could begin as early as next summer.

“This is very significant,” said Davis Fox, Vice Chairman of the Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV). DeKalb County will receive \$192,000 in 2003 to prepare engineering drawings for Emory Village. In 2004, ARC will provide two million dollars for improvements to North Decatur Road, Oxford Road and the sidewalks. DeKalb County and AIEV must add a 20 percent match to take advantage of the grant for the construction work.

“There are several reasons we received these funds,” said Fox. “First, we have a sound plan built around citizen participation and advice from an excellent team of consultants. Second, we had a consensus among Druid Hills residents, Emory University officials and Emory Village business owners. But the decisive key to winning these funds was that ARC saw a strong local commitment from DeKalb CEO Vernon Jones and the Board of Commissioners.”

The AIEV hired a team of consultants led by Peter Drey + Company to prepare a revitalization plan, with input from all interested parties, who gave their enthusiastic approval to the final plan, presented to the community in May 2002. A distinctive feature is residential housing to be built over retail along more pedestrian-friendly streets.

Still to be determined is the reconfiguration of the intersection at North Decatur Road, Oxford Road and Dowman Drive. The revitalization plan calls for a roundabout along a narrower North Decatur Road. Instead of four travel lanes, North Decatur would be reduced to two travel lanes, one turning lane, bicycle lanes, parallel parking and broad sidewalks with street trees.

“In the near future Emory Village will become a safe and attractive walking and biking destination for Druid Hills neighbors and all of the Emory University, Clifton Corridor area,” said Kathie Gannon, AIEV Treasurer. “The Village can become an important asset to the neighborhood and give Druid Hills an even stronger sense of community.”

This summer URS, a traffic engineering consulting firm, and Alternative Street Design, a firm specializing in traffic calming, will use a computer model to analyze the impact of the road diet and roundabout. Data for the test was collected this spring while Emory University was still in session. The analysis will examine the North Decatur corridor from Clairmont Road to Briarcliff Road.

Join the community, DeKalb County officials, state and local representatives in celebration of another milestone to an Improved Emory Village, Saturday June 7 at a cake and coffee Open House in Emory Village, 10:00AM and 11:30AM, Everybody’s Pizza parking lot.

The Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV), Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of Emory Village. The organization grew out of community-wide planning workshops and represents all of the stakeholders in Emory Village – businesses, Emory University, and the Druid Hills neighborhood. The mission of AIEV is to create a safe, economically viable, walkable and compact mixed-use community that is compatible with and a resource to Emory University and the surrounding historic neighborhoods. For more information, please visit the AIEV website at www.emoryvillage.org

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