

## Time line set for Emory Village revitalization

by Laretta Miller

### **BASIC INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT**

*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 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.*

*Our consultant is Peter Drey + Company, an award- winning team of professionals with expertise in such fields as architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, traffic engineering, and financial planning for design and implementation.*

*NOTE: We are very close to having the web site up and running. In fact, by the time you read this, you may be able to access it at [www.emoryvillage.org](http://www.emoryvillage.org). However, we don't have a*

The intent is to increase activity levels in Emory Village, while retaining the rich historic environment. These are some of the results our consultants expect us to see when the plan is fully implemented –

- ❖ A diverse economy, with more and more varied goods and services available
- ❖ A far more inviting streetscape, with ample space for pedestrians and outdoor dining
- ❖ An improved intersection for all forms of traffic – foot, automotive, bicycle, public transit
- ❖ An increase in public space, including a reduction in paved spaces and enhancement of the Peavine Creek area (bridge and recreational sectors)
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- ❖ Mixed use – commercial and the addition of residential
- ❖ More efficient use of parking space; addition of decks.

## **Next Steps (Present and Continuing Actions)**

The Emory Village Revitalization Plan (also known as the Master Plan) goes to the AIEV Board of Directors for final approval in December. Here are the next steps AIEV will be taking -

- Communicate with all stakeholders to share the Revitalization Plan and strategy for implementation. Contact community groups and arrange meetings with various Emory committees. Develop a presentation, using materials from our consultant, to offer to all groups.
- Update the Emory Village Urban Design Guidelines and develop a zoning overlay plan to allow for mixed use.
- Plan and conduct Road Test.
- Evaluate Road Test results.
- Apply for Atlanta Regional Commission Livable Cities Initiative Grant.
- Recruit members from stakeholder community to work on AIEV committees.
- Develop and execute fundraising campaign.

The time line that follows will enable readers to see at a glance where we have been and where we are going - -

## **Project Time Line**

### **Accomplishments to date –**

#### **2000**

- Improve Emory Village Steering Committee organized.
- Four “open invitation” planning sessions conducted by the Atlanta Urban Land Institute and the Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture. Input from representatives of all interested parties (potential stakeholders) including Emory Village merchants and property owners, Emory University, and Druid Hills residents.

#### **2001**

- Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV) incorporated as a non-profit organization. AIEV Board Members chosen from all stakeholders - Emory Village merchants and property owners, Emory University, and Druid Hills residents. Mission statement formulated as result of input from ULI/ Georgia Tech workshops.
- Funds raised and Revitalization Plan contract awarded to Peter Drey and Company.

## **2002**

- Consultants study retail market, housing market, transportation, safety, land use, natural environment, and historic structures.
- Research and design alternatives discussed at two “open invitation” community meetings. Draft recommendations received support at presentation to community in May. (See spring 2002 issue of the *Druid Hills News* for more details.)
- Emory Village Revitalization Plan completed.
- Communication continues with stakeholders on next steps.
- Fundraising planning in process.
- Request ARC to designate Emory Village as eligible to receive “Livable Cities Initiative.” funding for streetscape development.
- Design guidelines adopted by DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission.
- Monthly meetings with Emory Village merchants.

## **What’s Coming Up -**

### **2002**

- Web site and E-mail “list serve” established to improve communication.  
*(See Note at end of this article.)*
- Award contract for zoning overlay.
- Update historic preservation design guidelines to reflect the Revitalization Plan.
- Establish preliminary designs and cost estimates for testing road diet and roundabout.
- Continue to promote interim improvements in the Village to make it more pedestrian-friendly.

### **2003**

- Adopt new zoning overlay for Emory Village.
- Communicate with stakeholders; continue fundraising.
- Award contract to evaluate road diet and roundabout.
- Install the road diet and roundabout on a temporary basis to test impact upon traffic and surrounding area.
- Evaluate road diet and roundabout and finalize decisions on both.

### **2004 +**

- Design, construct, and manage streetscape and intersection improvements.

- Encourage private development consistent with Revitalization Plan.

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