

ALLIANCE TO IMPROVE EMORY VILLAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emory Village gets a boost from ARC

Efforts to revitalize Emory Village took a major step forward this week when the Atlanta Regional Commission announced that Emory Village is eligible for funding from the Livable Centers Initiative program. LCI seeks to reduce the effects of sprawl by encouraging mixed-use developments, shorter commutes, and alternative forms of transportation.

Last year the Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV) completed a master plan for the revitalization of the Emory Village. The plan calls for residential development over retail spaces, traffic calming, streetscape improvements, bike lanes and new green spaces. LCI funding can be used to pay for the implementation of the public improvements estimated to cost \$2.5 million.

“This is a huge milestone for Emory Village,” said Davis Fox, AIEV chair. “Before today we just had a plan, now we have a potential source of funds to implement the plan.”

Despite the LCI designation, AIEV will not immediately apply for construction funds. The Revitalization Plan for Emory Village calls for testing transportation improvements before moving to the implementation stage. This summer, DeKalb County will test the plan’s proposal by building a temporary roundabout at the intersection of North Decatur, Oxford Road and Dowman Drive and AIEV will conduct a traffic study to measure how well it works.

“There is not enough experience with roundabouts in metro Atlanta to predict how one will perform at this intersection,” explained Peter Drey, a consultant for the Alliance. The study will also examine the impact of cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets.

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“Traffic seems to be everybody’s main concern, and we believe it can be managed effectively,” said Drey. Market research performed by Robert Charles Lessor indicates that the current intersection configuration makes it difficult for pedestrians to shop in Emory Village.

Emory Village is surrounded by Druid Hills and is located at the gates of Emory University. It is best known as the location of the venerable Everybody’s Pizza. The nearby Clifton Corridor is a major employment center in metropolitan Atlanta containing Emory University, Emory Hospital, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston, the Centers for Disease Control and the American Cancer Society.

The Alliance to Improve Emory Village is a non-profit organization comprised of residents of Druid Hills, Emory University officials, and business and property owners in the village. The mission of the Alliance is to create a safe, compact, walkable mixed-use community that is an asset to and a resource for Emory University and the surrounding historic neighborhood.

For more information about the revitalization plan and the Alliance to Improve Emory Village go to www.emoryvillage.org.

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