

CANDLER PARK/LAKE CLAIRE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Candler Park Neighborhood Organization and the Lake Claire Neighbors are in the initial stages of developing a comprehensive transportation plan that would incorporate traffic calming, pedestrian access, walking school bus routes and “green corridors” connecting the neighborhoods’ parks. To this end, CPNO has sent out a traffic calming survey and received over 100 responses. The Candler Park walkable communities task force has compiled an inventory of damaged and missing sidewalks along McLendon Avenue. The Lake Claire Neighbors have formed a McLendon Gardens Traffic Impact Committee.

Complimenting the neighborhoods’ efforts, Atlanta City Councilmember Cathy Woolard worked to have over \$1 million in improvements on McLendon listed in the City’s bond referendum. Cathy also has worked with DeKalb Commissioner Gail Waldorf to identify HOST funds that can be used for traffic/pedestrian improvements in the neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, none of the funding yet identified can be used for planning purposes. For this reason, the neighborhoods are seeking funds with which to hire a transportation engineering firm to develop a transportation plan for the neighborhood. We have spoken with several firms and have reached a tentative agreement with URS to conduct the plan at a cost of \$40,000. This cost is in line with estimates from other firms, and URS comes recommended from other neighborhoods pursuing similar objectives.

State Representative Stephanie Stuckey has submitted a \$25,000 grant request to the governor to help fund the study. State Senator Mike Polak has promised to write a letter in support of the grant request. Grant announcements are expected in August. Both the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization and the Lake Claire Neighbors have expressed support for providing funding for the plan. We hope to seek additional funds and support from foundations, area businesses and civic leaders.

To this end, I am hoping to set up a meeting between CPNO/Lake Claire Neighbors leaders and the businesses/property owners at the McLendon/Clifton commercial strip. The businesses would be directly impacted by any transportation improvements, and we want to include them in the process. In particular, the neighborhoods efforts should improve and encourage pedestrian access to the commercial district. Business/property input will help maximize the benefits from improved access.

We also are hopeful that the businesses and property owners would be willing to help fund the plan and particular improvements to the commercial strip. The incremental cost of developing a plan for the commercial strip in conjunction with the neighborhoods’ efforts will be less than if the businesses developed a plan on their own.

This is an opportunity for the businesses and property owners to develop and implement a vision for this area. Sidewalk and streetscape improvement would compliment renovations that I understand are planned for the Candler Park Supermarket, as well as the recent renovation completed by Moon Brothers.



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Governor Roy Barnes
ATTN: Cindy Harden
Office of the Governor
201 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Barnes:

I am writing in support of Representative Stephanie Stuckey's \$25,000 grant request to help fund a comprehensive traffic plan for the Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods of Atlanta.

As you probably know, Lake Claire and Candler Park are two of Atlanta's oldest neighborhoods along with Inman Park and Druid Hills. Our neighborhoods have recently enjoyed a renewed popularity that has fueled their revitalization. However, our infrastructure is old and deteriorating: our streets are in need of repaving and our sidewalks are broken and missing.

To this end, our Atlanta City Councilor Cathy Woolard has obtained over a million dollars for traffic calming, repaving, and sidewalk repair along our primary thoroughfare, McLendon Avenue. We are hopeful that these funds can also be stretched to renew Clifton Road, which serves as our common boundary and is itself a busy collector street.

Unfortunately, many of these road improvements cannot occur without a preliminary engineering study which the City of Atlanta is unable to provide. Therefore, our neighborhoods are working to raise funds for this preliminary engineering work.

We estimate that we will need about \$40,000 to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for our neighborhoods. My neighborhood Lake Claire is ready and willing to spend our precious funds for this purpose. However, with a budget of less than \$3000 a year we are not in the position to significantly fund this study. However, we are confident that our contributions and fundraising efforts combined with the monies from Representative Stuckey's grant request will be sufficient for our needs.

I urge you to authorize Representative Stuckey's grant request. These capital improvements will greatly improve the quality of life of our residents.

Thanking you for your consideration and support, I am,

Sincerely,

Robert L. Collins