



**Planning, Zoning, and Inspections**

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November 3, 2016

TO: Peggy Merriss  
City Manager

FROM: Angela Threadgill<sup>(AT)</sup>  
Planning Director

SUBJECT: Application for Livable Centers Initiative Grant for East Lake MARTA Station

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The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend approval of the attached resolution authorizing an application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the purpose of developing a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Study for the East Lake MARTA Station in partnership with the City of Atlanta and MARTA.

The LCI program offered by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) awards planning grants on a competitive basis to local governments and nonprofit organizations to prepare and implement plans that link transportation improvements with land use development strategies to create sustainable, livable communities. The program also provides transportation infrastructure funding for projects identified in the LCI plans. Funding of the LCI program is made possible through FHWA's Surface Transportation Program, and therefore all studies must have a transportation nexus.

The LCI Study for the East Lake MARTA Station will be a supplemental study to the Decatur Livable Centers Initiative Plan adopted in 2011. The total project cost for the supplemental study is estimated to be approximately \$125,000 and if awarded a grant, the grant would pay 80% of the cost. Awards require a 20% local match. The City of Decatur is partnering with the City of Atlanta and MARTA, therefore the 20% local match will be split three ways. City of Decatur's anticipated share would be approximately \$8,500.

Applications are due on November 18, 2016. LCI studies selected for funding will be announced by January 31, 2017. Contracts between the Sponsor and ARC should be executed by April 30, 2017. The final study deliverables are due July 31, 2018 - allowing 15 months for development and completion of the study.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR A JOINT LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE STUDY WITH THE CITY OF ATLANTA AND MARTA FOR THE EAST LAKE TRANSIT STATION AREA; AND OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the East Lake MARTA Station is an important and vital component of Decatur's transportation system and serves as an important connection between its surrounding neighborhoods and major destination centers in the region; and,

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission and MARTA have previously identified the East Lake MARTA Station as an underutilized transit station within the MARTA transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Decatur has adopted a Strategic Plan, Community Transportation Plan, and the Decatur Livable Centers Initiative Plan recommending preparation of a redevelopment plan for the East Lake MARTA Station area; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Decatur, working jointly with the City of Atlanta, has identified a study area of a half-mile radius around the East Lake MARTA Station that links our respective cities; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed joint LCI study with the City of Atlanta and MARTA would advance the goals of the Regional Development Plan and the LCI Program to encourage diversity of land uses accessible to people of all income levels; to enhance access to a range of travel modes, including transit, walking and bikeways; preservation of historic buildings; and foster public-private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the City of Decatur will serve as the lead applicant, will commit matching funds evenly divided among the City of Decatur, the City of Atlanta, and MARTA, and will pursue active implementation and regular updates of its study; and,

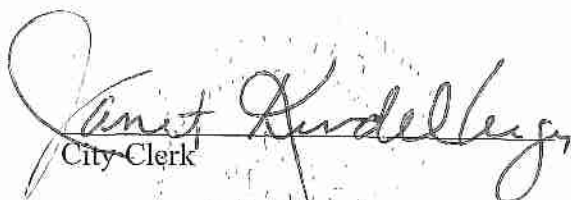
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission of the City of Decatur, Georgia, hereby expresses its full support for the application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the purpose of developing a Livable Centers Initiative Study for the East Lake MARTA Station area in partnership with the City of Atlanta and MARTA and authorizes the City Manager and staff to execute all appropriate documents in pursuit thereof; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Decatur, Georgia, that the City of Decatur will provide the required one-third of the 20% match for this project should grant funds be awarded.

RESOLVED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

ATTEST:

FOR THE CITY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF DECATUR:

  
City Clerk

  
MAYOR