

## **City of East Point Part of Coalition to Receive \$50M Federal Grant for Multi-Use Trail Connecting the Atlanta BeltLine and Flint River**

*Project will Reconnect Southside Communities Long Divided by Major Infrastructure*

The City of East Point is part of a coalition that includes the Atlanta Regional Commission, College Park, Hapeville, and Clayton County that have received a \$50 million federal grant for a multi-use trail connecting the Atlanta BeltLine and the Flint River. The goal is to reconnect communities that have long been divided by the construction of major transportation projects, such as roads and railways.

“This trail project holds the potential to transform East Point and the southside Atlanta community by reconnecting neighborhoods that were divided by the construction of major highways and other infrastructure many decades ago,” said East Point Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham. “We envision an even more vibrant East Point that is more walkable and bike-friendly, and where our residents are better connected to transit, job centers, retail, and greenspace. This is something truly special for our community.”

The East Point projects are part of a long-range plan to build a contiguous system of multi-use trails between the Atlanta BeltLine in southwest Atlanta and the City of Lovejoy in Clayton County, a distance of 31.5 miles. The \$50 million grant will be used to:

- Create a cohesive vision for a multi-use trail network on Atlanta’s southside that will connect existing trail projects with new trails across the region and along the Flint River.
- Build two segments of the trail – 1.6 miles in East Point and 1 mile in Clayton County – that are close to “shovel-ready.”
- Provide scoping, design, and engineering for an additional 13.2 miles of trail across the four communities.
- Facilitate ongoing community engagement.

“This is a tremendous win for the Atlanta region. And importantly, this is what success looks like when we take a regional approach to pursuing federal funding,” said Anna Roach, ARC Executive Director & CEO. “We greatly appreciate the steadfast advocacy and support shown by our congressional delegation. They understand the project’s potential to transform the region’s entire south side.”

The Atlanta Beltline to Flint River trail project has been supported by community partners that include The Conservation Fund, Finding the Flint, American Rivers, Aerotropolis Atlanta Alliance, Atlanta Beltline, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and MARTA.

“This historic announcement provides confirmation in the power of multi-jurisdictional planning and coordination,” said Shannon James, President & CEO of Aerotropolis Atlanta. “The City of East Point’s leadership have long envisioned the extension of The Atlanta Beltline and we’re now fortunate South Fulton and Clayton County communities along the Flint River will be reconnected after decades of being separated by highways thanks to our partners at Atlanta Regional Commission. This new opportunity will bring much needed alternative modes of transportation, economic and healthcare initiatives to support our growing area.”

The \$50 million grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program and no local match is required. Thanks to the Biden-Harris Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the unwavering support of Senators Ossoff and Warnock,

Congresswoman Nikema Williams and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the funds will be used for the following projects in the City of East Point:

- **Engineering and Construction of a 1.6-mile multi-use trail along U.S. 29**

This section will run along U.S. 29, between downtown East Point and the Lakewood MARTA station, just north of Langford Parkway. This will reconnect the Colonial Hills neighborhood, which was bisected by the construction of Langford Parkway in the 1960s.

The trail route passes Ballethnic Dance Company, the East Point Farmers' Market, East Point Public Library, and City Hall before terminating at W. Cleveland Ave. at the north end of the downtown district, where it will tie into a previously funded Livable Centers Initiative complete street project and the East Point MARTA station. Construction of the new segment is anticipated to begin in 2030 and be completed in 2032.

- **Planning for future construction of a 1.75-mile multi-use trail along Main Street**

This section runs along Main Street (SR 14/ SR 139) beginning at the terminus of the current East Point LCI project at Washington Road to the College Park MARTA station in the City of College Park. The route connects East Point to Woodward Academy, the restaurants and shops on Main Street in College Park, and the transit-oriented development around the College Park MARTA station.

- **Planning for future construction of a 1-mile multi-use trail along Willingham Road**

This section runs between Main Street and Norman Berry Drive in the City of East Point. The route runs along the headwaters of the Flint River and provides easy access to the Jesse Draper Boys and Girls Club and Egan Park without a car. The grant will also fund planning to address stormwater and flooding issues in the area.

The project builds upon decades of planning and investments in the communities around Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Twelve foundational, [ARC-funded trail projects and plans](#), such as the [Atlanta Regional Trail Vision](#), [AeroATL Greenways Plan](#), [East Point Multimodal Improvements](#) and [Tara Boulevard Pedestrian Safety Improvements](#) serve as a catalyst to reconnect Atlanta's southside communities.

The federal grant also serves as a key mechanism to fulfill the vision of [Finding the Flint](#), a community-led effort, coordinated by East Point's own Hannah Palmer, to restore the Upper Flint River, address stormwater and flooding issues, and reconnect neighborhoods through trails and parks. The Flint River begins near the airport in East Point and flows for 344 miles to the Florida state line.