



Case study



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Atlanta BeltLine project

Image courtesy: Ryan Gravel

Cities are hubs for commerce, culture, science, productivity and much more, but they face many challenges such as pollution, lack of services and declining infrastructure. They need to be clean and safe, with good housing and basic services like water and electricity. They also need clean transport systems and green areas for everyone.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



By 2030

- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces
- Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all
- Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing
- Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation

Addressing a number of the Sustainable Development Goal targets for sustainable cities and communities (see above), the Atlanta BeltLine is a redevelopment project that is set to transform the city by connecting 45 in town neighborhoods via a 22-mile loop of multi-use trails, modern streetcar, and parks – all based on old railroad corridors that formerly encircled Atlanta.

When completed, it will provide first and last mile connectivity for regional transportation initiatives. It also supports affordable workforce housing, economic development, job creation, public health, streetscapes, public art, environmental clean-up, and historic preservation – all with an eye towards sustainability. It is seen as one of the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment programmes currently underway in the United States.

Project aims and highlights

- Economic growth in areas that have not benefitted from investment in the past 25 years
- Green infrastructure strategies that will reduce storm water runoff and flooding risk while expanding urban forest
- Provision of alternative modes of transportation (multi-use trails and light rail transit) to connect 45 neighborhoods, facilitate commuting and reduce emissions
- Provision of new trails and parks to encourage healthy, active lifestyles
- Promoting community cohesiveness by connecting 45 in town neighbourhoods



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Amec Foster Wheeler has provided planning, engineering design, construction materials testing, geotechnical and environmental services to Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. the organisation charged with implementation of the project. The project will open in stages up until its anticipated completion in 2030.

Work began in 2004, when Amec Foster Wheeler performed the initial limited environmental assessment of the entire 22-mile corridor, followed by the development of a corrective action plan that secured approval from federal and state environmental regulatory agencies. Recently, Amec Foster Wheeler has completed environmental remediation and reporting on three additional sections of the Atlanta BeltLine project including the Southwest Trail, Eastside Trail Extension and the Northeast Corridor. Please see the video for an overview of the Amec Foster Wheeler team in action from March of 2016:



Our innovative sustainable design techniques were integrated into the master plan to reuse infrastructure, reduce energy needs and improve air quality, helping ensure that our Atlanta neighbours have access to the safest, most sustainable and highest quality public use areas.

It is estimated that the BeltLine project will serve not only as a catalyst for new infrastructure and environmental cleanup and restoration in Atlanta but it is anticipated to be a catalyst for up to 10 to 30 billion dollars in combined economic development in and around the Atlanta Beltline Corridor over the next couple of decades as it is constructed.

Recognition

The Atlanta Beltline, Inc, Amec Foster Wheeler team and its partners have received a number of industry awards for the project:

- In February 2014, The Atlanta Beltline was awarded an Engineering Excellence Award from by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Georgia and then went on to be awarded a National Recognition Award for Engineer Excellence by the America Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) in March 2014.
- In May of 2014, The Atlanta Beltline was awarded the Prix d' Excellence by the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) as the World Conference focused on Building Humanity as one of the best projects in the world.
- In December of 2015 at the National Brownfields Conference, The Atlanta Beltline was awarded the Phoenix Award for excellence in brownfield redevelopment for EPA Region.
- The Phoenix Award is presented to brownfield redevelopment and revitalisation projects that offer an inventive approach to important environmental issues, display innovation and demonstrate excellence in community impact.

Project sustainability framework

Human & Labour Rights	Environment	Anti-bribery & Corruption	Community
Diversity & Inclusion	Environmental Management	Code of Business Conduct and Ethics	Stakeholder Engagement
Human Rights	Carbon Management	Anti-bribery & Corruption	Local Content
Health & Safety	Efficiency and Innovation	Supply Chain	Community
Resiliency			