



## **Livable Buckhead Makes Significant Strides on Trail, Greenspace Development**

*PATH400 receives final approval from GDOT; Real estate purchase adds acre of greenspace*

**August 13, 2014** – ATLANTA – PATH400 has cleared a final, crucial hurdle on its way to becoming reality. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), which owns much of the land on which PATH400 is being built, has given its approval to plans for the entire 5.2-mile trail. GDOT had previously approved the half-mile section that is currently under construction between Lenox Rd. and Old Ivy Rd.

“This is a big moment for PATH400,” said Denise Starling, executive director of Livable Buckhead (LBI), the nonprofit organization leading the project. “We now have a green light to start building phase two of the trail, and we can proceed with our fundraising efforts for the remaining portions as well.”

About 40 percent of the project funding has been secured, thanks in large part to \$5 million provided by the PATH Foundation and the Buckhead Community Improvement District. LBI and the PATH Foundation, which is managing construction of the trail, will mobilize to begin building phase two this fall.

In partnership with the City of Atlanta, LBI also recently brokered the acquisition of 519 Old Ivy Rd., a one-acre site adjacent to the section of PATH400 currently under construction. The site will be a neighborhood park, and its addition alongside PATH400 allows for an improved connection to Old Ivy Rd. The purchase also marks an important milestone for LBI’s implementation of the Buckhead Collection, a planned network of parks, trails and greenspaces. The plan calls for the addition of 106 acres of greenspace. With the acquisition of the Old Ivy site, Buckhead is now more than 25 percent of the way to that goal.

PATH400 is a key component of the Buckhead Collection, connecting most of the new projects and accounting for 13 acres of greenspace. It has moved from concept to construction in just over three years, thanks in large part to a strong collaborative effort between Buckhead neighborhoods, businesses and community organizations. The trail is being built almost entirely within GDOT-owned right-of-way for GA 400, another key factor that has helped speed the project along and reduced its total cost.

The price and availability of land in Buckhead has been a deterrent to creating public greenspace. By building PATH400 within the GA 400 right-of-way, LBI is transforming underutilized public land into a multi-use trail that will provide much-needed pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, as well as tremendous opportunities for community development. PATH400 will also connect to the [Atlanta BeltLine](#), and to [South Fork Conservancy](#)’s trails, providing recreational opportunities that stretch well beyond the trail itself.

For more information about PATH400 and The Buckhead Collection, visit the Livable Buckhead website, [www.livablebuckhead.org](http://www.livablebuckhead.org).

### **About Livable Buckhead**

Livable Buckhead, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that strives to ensure the long-term viability and prosperity of the Buckhead community. It does this by working cooperatively with individuals, public entities and private businesses to integrate into everyday life and business sustainable strategies that improve the environment and quality of life in the community. For more information about Livable Buckhead and its programs, visit [www.livablebuckhead.org](http://www.livablebuckhead.org)

### **About PATH Foundation**

In just 23 years, PATH has developed over 200 miles of trail throughout Georgia and has become a nationally recognized model for trail-building success. PATH's linear parks have become part of the landscape in urban and rural areas, in affluent and impoverished communities. PATH trails are bringing people together from all races, ages, income levels and cultural backgrounds. Significant progress toward building Atlanta a network of trails includes: The Silver Comet, Stone Mountain, Lionel Hampton, Westside, Arabia Mountain, Chastain Park, South Decatur Trolley, Northwest Atlanta, and Freedom Park Trails.

### **About Buckhead CID**

The objective of the Buckhead Community Improvement District(BCID), working with the City of Atlanta and its community partners, is to meet the challenges resulting from Buckhead's rapid, primarily automobile-based growth, including improving traffic mobility, enhancing the pedestrian environment, creating better access to public transit, initiating intra-district transportation alternatives, encouraging better integration of land uses and improving linkages to the region's automobile, transit and bicycle networks. [www.buckheadcid.com](http://www.buckheadcid.com)