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Rethinking a Crucial Road

AJC Opinion - By Michael Dobbins

You would think that a street that connects Cobb County to Atlantic Station, Georgia Tech, the Georgia World Congress Center, the Georgia Dome, the Atlanta University Center, West End and points south would get the attention it deserves. It's a major corridor through downtown/Midtown core, and it has tremendous development potential not only for the corridor but also for the sites along it. Tens of thousands of people live, work and play in the area. A lot is happening in the area.

Cobb County's locally preferred transit (BRT) coming down North Avenue, the Atlanta University Center located site at 17th Street and the Georgia Tech is seeking to revitalize the surrounding neighborhoods. A new station is being planned for the area.

Finally, in a serious planning and development process, the Atlanta University Center (AUC) is actively re-visioning its future. We are forming a community improvement district. Wouldn't now be a good time to plan comprehensively? We think so. Our Georgia Tech city planning and civil engineering students are preparing a plan for the corridor as a whole and for the sites where decisions are pending. Questions we address include: How to incorporate transit to serve both through traffic and local access to increase capacity and provide a grand streetscape.

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