

Blandtown Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Coffeeman, 1192 Huff Rd NW

President	Yasmeen Hyder
Vice President	Joshua Jarmin
Secretary / Treasurer	Jarrett Blankenship
Residential Member at Large	David Ameijeiras

1. City Council Updates – Councilmember Dustin Hillis

- **Budget Hearings** are in progress. The Atlanta Department of Transportation is receiving a 14% increase, restoring funding to pre-2021 levels. Priorities include resurfacing roads and addressing sidewalk repairs.
- **Public Budget Hearing:** Scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 at 6:00 PM.

Blandtown-Specific Updates:

- **Ellsworth Industrial Blvd Phase 2 Watershed Project** will address the culvert and sinkhole. The Deputy Commissioner of Watershed has confirmed a lining solution.
- **Steel plate on Huff Road** is being addressed.
- **Woodall Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting** took place this month.
- **Next Trail Project:** From Marietta Blvd toward The Works.
Potential Park Space: 10-acre triangular parcel between the Beltline and the river is being explored for a nature park.
- **Upper Westside CID Meeting:** Includes a vote to close out bonds and approve the Huff Road Multimodal Study.
- **Beltline Section 5:** Will require temporary closures at Ellsworth and Elaine. Date to be announced.
- **\$250K Budget Amendment:** Proposed for Trails ATL's master plan.
- **TSPLOST Renewal Expected in 2027.**
- **Bridge Widening at W. Marietta & Marietta Blvd:** Project added to the CIE for potential impact fee funding. Estimated cost: \$30M+. Timeline: Long-term.

2. Upper Westside CID Updates

- Howell Mill Complete Street Project is in long-term planning.
- Brady & Beck Signal Upgrades are underway.
No Active Work on Huff Road this month.
- Grant Application Submitted for Huff Road improvements between Boyd Ave and Foster St.
- Vendor Applications Open for Westside Stride event.

3. Atlanta Beltline – Northwest Segment 5

Presenters: Nathan Soldat and Megan Injaychock (Project Manager)

- Focused on mobility and land use integration along Huff Road to English Street.
- First Concrete Pour at Elaine is scheduled for Thursday.
- Corridor Not Yet Open: No official public access until the project is complete.
- Bridge Over Creek is progressing.
- Connecting to the Woodall Trail: Currently underway.
- Marietta Blvd Section nearing completion.
- Traffic Disruptions at Ellsworth: Expected in July.
- Planned Pocket Park: Between Fairmont and English Streets. Will include swing benches and seating.
- Beautification Area between Ellsworth and Elaine is being discussed with the UWCID.
- Projected Completion: October 2025.
- Sidewalk Connection to Novel: Not currently in scope but under discussion.

4. Pickleball Club of Georgia – Mike Shamus

- **Website:** pbclubofga.com
- **New Facility:** 33 indoor courts, a full café and bar, golf simulator, locker rooms with showers.
- **Event Spaces:** 4 rooms (3 can combine into 1 large space).
- **Partnerships:** Georgia Tech's men's and women's teams; Atlanta's professional pickleball team (Atlanta Bouncers).
- **Construction Timeline:** Breaks ground in July; target open by end of 2025.
- **Public Amenities:** Café and bar open to the public; gourmet coffee in mornings, lunch/dinner service.
- **Operating Hours:** 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM, 7 days/week.

- **Fitness Center:** 1,300 sq ft.
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5. Blandtown Neighborhood Survey – Key Results

- **Residency:** Majority have lived in the neighborhood 4–6 years.
- **Top Priorities:** Safety, green space, and neighborhood connectivity.
- **Community Engagement:** Strong interest in more social interaction.
- **Event Preferences:** Preference for weekend events.
- **Upcoming Events:** Social gatherings and a walking group will be piloted this summer.
Huber Street Extension: Community is evenly split—50% in favor, 50% opposed.
- **Volunteer Interest:** Those who expressed interest will be contacted for future opportunities.