



# Community Transportation Plan Acknowledgements

The Decatur CTP was developed with participation and guidance from City of Decatur staff, its Resident Boards and Commissions, and numerous residents, business owners, and stakeholders.

Thank you to all who helped shape this document and the future of Decatur. Special thanks to the Mayor and City Commissioners for their leadership and support.

## **Decatur City Commission**

Mayor Bill Floyd  
Jim Baskett  
Fred Boykin  
Kecia Cunningham  
Mary Alice Kemp

## **Prepared By:**

Sycamore Consulting, Inc.  
Kimley-Horn & Associates  
Georgia Tech Center for Quality  
Growth and Regional Development

July 2007

# Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1: Pathways to a Healthy Decatur</b> .....	1.1
• Creating Choices .....	1.2
• Guiding Principles, Vision, Goals and Objectives .....	1.2
• CTP Purpose and Organization .....	1.5
• Next Steps .....	1.6
<b>Chapter 2: Decatur – Past and Present</b> .....	2.1
• History .....	2.1
• Community Characteristics .....	2.3
• History of Transportation Planning .....	2.8
• Conclusion .....	2.11
<b>Chapter 3: Decatur’s Transportation Network, 2007</b> .....	3.1
• Existing Street Network .....	3.1
• Existing Pedestrian Conditions .....	3.5
• Existing Bicycle Conditions .....	3.7
• Existing Transit Conditions .....	3.9
• Recent Investments in the Transportation System .....	3.15
• Conclusion .....	3.16
<b>Chapter 4: Community Involvement</b> .....	4.1
• Overview .....	4.1
• Public Meetings and Workshops .....	4.3
• Summary of Public Comments .....	4.8
• Phone Survey and Results .....	4.14
• Public Comments and the CTP .....	4.14
<b>Chapter 5: Technical Studies</b> .....	5.1
• Overview of Technical Results .....	5.1
• Latent Demand for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (Demand) .....	5.3
• Level of Service by Mode (Supply) .....	5.10
• Level of Service Results .....	5.18
• Street Typology (Context) .....	5.23
• Quality Growth Audit (Context) .....	5.28
• Conclusion .....	5.30
<b>Chapter 6: Streets</b> .....	6.1
• Complete Streets in Decatur .....	6.2
• Intersections .....	6.3
• Corridor Recommendations .....	6.22



<b>Chapter 7: Pedestrian</b> .....	7.1
• Identifying Important Pedestrian Routes .....	7.1
• Prioritizing Pedestrian Corridors.....	7.10
• Strategies for Improving Pedestrian Conditions.....	7.13
• Recommendations .....	7.16
<b>Chapter 8: Bicycle</b> .....	8.1
• Bicycle Network.....	8.1
• Bicycle Parking.....	8.6
• Bicycle Friendly Community Status.....	8.9
• Recommendations .....	8.9
<b>Chapter 9: Transit</b> .....	9.1
• Transit Ridership in Decatur.....	9.1
• Pedestrian and Bicycle Access .....	9.4
• Transit Use and Community Health .....	9.8
• Transit Supportive Land Use in Decatur .....	9.9
• Recommendations .....	9.10
<b>Chapter 10: Special Issues</b> .....	10.1
• Parking Management .....	10.1
• Traffic Calming .....	10.8
• Rail Road Quiet Zone.....	10.13
<b>Chapter 11: Implementation</b> .....	11.1
• CTP Public Marketing and Education Strategies .....	11.1
• Citizen Priorities.....	11.2
• Citywide Priorities.....	11.4
• Funding.....	11.6
• Other Sources of Funding .....	11.10
• CTP Time Schedules and Costs .....	11.12
<b>Chapter 12: Marketing &amp; Education Initiatives for Encouraging Alternative Transportation Use in Decatur</b> .....	12.1
• Overview and Goals of Transportation Marketing.....	12.1
• Implementing a Marketing Program within Decatur .....	12.3
• Partnering for Education Programs within Decatur .....	12.8
<b>Appendices</b>	
• Appendix A: Traffic Calming	
• Appendix B: Railroad Quiet Zone	
• Appendix C: Parking	
• Appendix D: Phone Survey Analysis	
• Appendix E: Quality Growth Audit	
• Appendix F: Health Impact Assessment	



# List of Figures

**Figure 2-1:** Distribution of Children within Decatur .....2.3

**Figure 2-2:** Distribution of Senior Citizens within Decatur .....2.3

**Figure 2-3:** Distribution of low income populations within Decatur .....2.4

**Figure 2-4:** Distribution of Carless Households .....2.4

**Figure 2-5:** Distribution of Disabled Residents within Decatur .....2.4

**Figure 3-1:** Decatur Pedestrian and Auto Areas.....3.5

**Figure 4-1:** Decatur CTP Comment Maps .....4.3

**Figure 4-2:** Public Comments by Mode .....4.8

**Figure 4-3:** Public Comments by Issue.....4.9

**Figure 4-4:** Comments Heard from the Public ..... 4.13

**Figure 5-1:** LDS Equation .....5.3

**Figure 5-2:** Calculation for Bicycle Level of Service ..... 5.12

**Figure 5-3:** Bicycling Levels of Quality ..... 5.13

**Figure 5-4:** Calculation for Pedestrian Level of Service ..... 5.15

**Figure 5-5:** Walking Levels of Quality ..... 5.16

**Figure 6-1:** Commerce Drive and Clairemont Avenue Proposed Recommendations....6.7

**Figure 6-2:** Commerce Drive and Church Street Proposed Recommendations ..... 6.11

**Figure 6-3:** South Candler Street at College Avenue, CSX Railroad Tracks, Howard Avenue and Trinity Place Proposed Recommendations ..... 6.15

**Figure 6-4:** McDonough Street at College Avenue, CSX Railroad Tracks, and Howard Avenue Proposed Recommendations ..... 6.18

**Figure 6-5:** Atlanta Avenue at College Avenue, CSX Railroad Tracks, Howard Avenue, and Olympic Place.....6.21

**Figure 6-6:** Church Street Typical Sections ..... 6.22

**Figure 6-7:** Clairemont Avenue (North of Commerce) Typical Sections ..... 6.23

**Figure 6-8:** College Avenue (West of McDonough) Typical Sections ..... 6.24

**Figure 6-9:** Commerce Drive (West Ponce to Clairemont) Typical Sections..... 6.25

**Figure 6-10:** Howard Avenue (West of Decatur High School) Typical Sections ..... 6.26

**Figure 6-11:** Scott Boulevard Typical Sections..... 6.27

**Figure 6-12:** South Candler Street Typical Sections ..... 6.28

**Figure 8-1:** Proper Bicycle Rack Dimensions .....8.7



<b>Figure 9-1:</b> Decatur Transit Ridership by Block Group.....	9.2
<b>Figure 9-2:</b> Decatur Households With No Vehicle by Block Group .....	9.3
<b>Figure 9-3:</b> Decatur Low Income Populations by Block Group.....	9.4
<b>Figure 9-4:</b> Existing Decatur Land Use Near Transit (East) .....	9.9
<b>Figure 9-5:</b> Existing Decatur Land Use Near Transit (West) .....	9.10
<b>Figure 11-1:</b> Survey Question and Response .....	11.3
<b>Figure 11-2:</b> Survey Question and Response .....	11.3
<b>Figure 11-3:</b> Projects with Biggest Benefit to the City .....	11.4
<b>Figure 11-4:</b> Support for Complete Streets Policy .....	11.4
<b>Figure 11-5:</b> Desired Intersection Improvements .....	11.5
<b>Figure 11-6:</b> Desired Corridor Improvements .....	11.5
<b>Figure 11-7:</b> Support for a City-wide Trolley .....	11.6

## List of Maps

<b>Map 2-1:</b> City of Decatur, Georgia.....	2.2
<b>Map. 2-2:</b> Decatur Topography .....	2.7
<b>Map 3-1:</b> State Routes in Decatur .....	3.4
<b>Map 3-2:</b> Current Sidewalk Network.....	3.6
<b>Map 3-3:</b> Existing Bicycle Facilities .....	3.7
<b>Map 3-4:</b> MARTA Transit Routes .....	3.10
<b>Map 4-1:</b> Intersection Comments .....	4.11
<b>Map 4-2:</b> Corridor Comments .....	4.12
<b>Map 5-1:</b> Decatur Trip Attractors by Types .....	5.5
<b>Map 5-2:</b> Results of Bicycle LDS.....	5.8
<b>Map 5-3:</b> Results of Pedestrian LDS .....	5.9
<b>Map 5-4:</b> Bicycle Level of Service .....	5.19
<b>Map 5-5:</b> Pedestrian Level of Service .....	5.20
<b>Map 5-6:</b> Street Typology Map .....	5.26
<b>Map 7-1:</b> Decatur Sidewalk Network.....	7.3
<b>Map 7-2:</b> Safe Routes to School .....	7.4
<b>Map 7-3:</b> Preservation Corridor Plan.....	7.7
<b>Map 7-4:</b> Pedestrian LDS .....	7.8



**Map 7-5:** Pedestrian LOS ..... 7.9

**Map 7-6:** Prioritized Pedestrian Corridors ..... 7.12

**Map 8-1:** Recommended Bicycle Network ..... 8.3

## List of Tables

**Table 3-1:** Functional Classification System ..... 3.2

**Table 3-2:** Decatur Sidewalk Network ..... 3.5

**Table 3-3:** Decatur Bicycle Facilities ..... 3.7

**Table 3-4:** Decatur MARTA Rail Stations: Average Weekday Boardings ..... 3.11

**Table 3-5:** Decatur MARTA Bus Routes: Average Weekday Boardings ..... 3.14

**Table 4-1:** Decatur CTP Meeting Schedule ..... 4.2

**Table 5-1:** Summary of Inputs for Trip Generation 5 Software ..... 5.6

**Table 5-2:** Probability of Walking and Biking by Land Use and Distance ..... 5.7

**Table 5-3:** Bicycle Level of Service Categories ..... 5.11

**Table 5-4:** Pedestrian Level of Service Categories ..... 5.14

**Table 5-5:** Vehicle Level of Service Categories ..... 5.17

**Table 5-6:** Existing Bicycle and Pedestrian LOS ..... 5.18

**Table 5-7:** Existing 2006 Intersection Levels of Service ..... 5.22

**Table 5-8:** Elements of Street Typology ..... 5.25

**Table 6-1:** Pedestrian Crossing Distance and Time – Clairemont and Commerce ..... 6.6

**Table 6-2:** Pedestrian Crossing Distance and Time – Church and Commerce ..... 6.10

**Table 7-1:** Street Typology Summary ..... 7.14

**Table 9-1:** Household Income Data for Decatur Residents and MARTA Riders ..... 9.3

**Table 10-1:** General Curbspace Management Priorities ..... 10.3

**Table 10-2:** Residential Traffic Calming Measures ..... 10.10

**Table 10-3:** Safety Impacts of Traffic Calming Measures ..... 10.12

**Table 11-1:** Federal and State Funding Sources ..... 11.9

**Table 11-2:** Agencies and Potential Areas of Collaboration ..... 11.12

**Table 11-3:** Decatur CTP Implementation Plan ..... 11.13

