Emory’s ambitious plans to expand and enhance our shuttle system — beginning with this month’s increased service to Decatur — represent a major step in our commitment to improve quality of life throughout our community.

When Stu Hooper first heard about the expanded Decatur shuttle service, he immediately emailed an Emory co-worker who was considering taking public transportation to work.

Stu himself rarely uses the shuttle, choosing instead to commute by bicycle to Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health.

Either option is just fine with Laura Ray, who recently joined Emory as the associate vice president for transportation and parking to lead the university’s expanding transportation network throughout the community.

Emory has increased its resource commitment to transportation initiatives, mostly to improve and expand shuttle service to increase ridership and encourage more employees, visitors and neighbors to use shuttles and leave their cars at home.

The first visible step occurred on March 13 when, in partnership with the CCTMA, the Decatur shuttle route was dramatically expanded. It will now run every 15 minutes from 5:35 a.m. until 6:30 a.m. and every 20 minutes from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Laura and her Emory colleagues are

(Continued Page 2)
Decatur Riders: It’s Great!

“I’m overjoyed about the bike racks on the shuttles — this makes it feasible for me to ride my bike to Decatur MARTA station, so I don’t have to wait for a bus then wait for a train to go one stop...I have flex hours...so I don’t always show up and leave at the same time. I tend to miss buses because of this. This used to make MARTA buses a better choice for me, as they come every 30-35 minutes or so. With the new schedule, I’ll be much more likely to try to make the shuttles.”

Bozena J. Katic, Graduate Student
Epidemiology
Everyday Rider

“...my particular stop (North Decatur and Clairmont) has a lot of Emory students or staff living in the Emory Woods/Emory Oaks complexes nearby, and a lot of international students who live around there also do not have cars...I would personally use the service more, as I think other students. I would prefer to wait 15 minutes for the next shuttle if we miss one rather than risk walking to Emory and getting hit by a car. The sidewalk as you walk down to Emory is very small, and the cars speed by. Crossing the small streets around that area is risky. Cars don’t slow down and are really close to the curb.”

“...The increased shuttle service) gives me greater flexibility in my commute and work schedules. It will make life easier when I have appointments which require me to come and go at odd times.”

Alayne Wood, Coordinator
Women’s Studies, Emory College
Everyday Rider

Shuttle plans have met with numerous university groups to create a new route system, sponsored by Emory and the CCTMA, that will serve a broader community around Emory’s campus to locations such as Executive Park and Sage Hill, Toco Hill, Northlake Mall, North DeKalb Mall and the Stone Mountain vicinity. They also are exploring the feasibility of establishing Park n’ Ride lots at these and other locations. The goal of all of these initiatives is to reduce single-occupancy vehicle traffic in the Clifton Corridor.

“...Since so many Clifton Corridor employees live within a three-mile radius of the campus, the CCTMA is stepping up frequent and reliable service that’s a practical alternative to driving to work,” says Laura.

The proposed routes are preliminary and subject to change based on feedback from Emory, CCTMA and surrounding neighborhoods.

Can’t take the shuttle because you have a dental appointment in Midtown? Help is on the way. Emory will partner with Flexcar™ to provide loaner cars for those who commute to campus using alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles, but need to leave during the day to attend meetings, run errands, go to doctor appointments, or respond to a childcare issue.

Flexcar, active in more than 35 cities, is a membership-based car sharing service marketed to individuals, businesses and government organizations. Flexcar members have joint access to a fleet of vehicles owned or leased by the company and dispersed throughout targeted urban residential and business neighborhoods. The service, a first in metro Atlanta but a hit in Boston, Washington, D.C., Portland and elsewhere, will (under certain conditions) be free to Emory employees and may be offered to other community members for a small fee. Watch for more details on our new Web site.

Feasibility Study, cont’d.

Excellence. The initial Centers will consolidate Emory’s health care strengths with a focus on transplant and regenerative medicine, cardiovascular health, cancer care, neurosciences and lung health. The Centers and associated research will be located around an unparalleled diagnosis and treatment facility and hospital.

The complexity of replacing current clinic and hospital facilities requires a feasibility study to examine program planning, site opportunities, circulation of people and vehicles, and financial requirements.

Payette, a leading architectural design firm specializing in planning and design of health care, academic and research facilities, is administering the program and site feasibility study. During the past eight months, the consultant team met with hospital and clinic leadership to discuss current and projected requirements, while the engineering and planning teams have reviewed site requirements including transportation, utilities and geology.

This exciting report will be presented to Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center Board of Trustees and the Emory University Board of Trustees this summer. The board report will include recommendations for site design, building needs, access for patients, visitors, staff and physicians, as well as the Centers of Excellence.

Have You Noticed?

During the Clifton Corridor Transportation Study, traffic signals were evaluated at 33 intersections within the area bounded by Lavista Road to the north, Briarcliff Road to the east, North Decatur Road to the north and Clairmont Road to the west. These findings were submitted to DeKalb County. By April, the county is scheduled to upgrade equipment and adjust signal timing to improve mobility and reduce delay and congestion. Will the waits be shorter? Use the feedback feature on our new Web site to tell us if you notice a difference.

For Questions or Comments, contact the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs at 404-727-5166