



Walk This Way

The cars zip by so fast and so close that you instinctively take a step back from the curb, uncertain if the sidewalk truly represents safe territory.

Being a pedestrian along Clifton Road is no walk in the park, even for the experts.

Sally Flocks, president of Atlanta-based PEDS (Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety), spends a lot of time helping walkers and drivers learn how to co-exist on Atlanta's busy streets. One recent spring afternoon she took a group from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health for a stroll along and across Clifton to talk about pedestrian safety while trying to practice it.

Drivers need to slow down. Pedestrians need to use crosswalks. Median pedestrian islands and more crosswalks would be helpful. Some obstacles to safety are fairly obvious, others are identified through first-hand experience.

"Getting around is a lot harder than

it looks, especially for what seem like little things, such as pushing yourself up a wheelchair ramp and dealing with bumpy sidewalks," says student Billy Freeman, who took his turn in a wheelchair that Sally brings along to demonstrate less obvious challenges for commuters relying on diverse forms of transportation.

Public health student Melissa Cheung says the core Emory campus is a safe haven for walking, but along Clifton and N. Decatur roads "pedestrians and cars are always in battle. It's an area that needs attention as much as the main campus."

"Globally, there are a lot of questions about how we're going to share the road and the environment with so many cars," says public health student Jerry Abraham. "Locally, it's great to see that Emory is taking leadership in providing a pedestrian friendly community. We've identified it as a problem, and we want to be part of the solution."

Sally Flocks, president of PEDS, offers a few safety tips for urban walkers:

- Walk facing traffic, so you can see on-coming cars and bicycles
- Yield to vehicles when walking outside of a crosswalk
- Cross directly from curb to curb, taking the shortest route possible
- Never cross just over the crest of a hill
- At night, carry a light or attach reflective devices to your purse or clothing
- Look ahead or over your shoulder for left-turning motorists
- Although walking in the roadway is legal, you must yield to all vehicles



Founded in 1996, PEDS (Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety) is a member-based advocacy organization dedicated to making metro Atlanta safe and accessible for all pedestrians. For more information, go to www.peds.org

Emory: Here for the long haul

Ensuring a sustainable future for the next generation is a major goal of Emory's strategic planning efforts, a fact reinforced by the adoption of a comprehensive initiative that will have a positive impact far beyond our campus borders.

"The plan integrates what we already are doing — and what we still need to do — into a holistic system that will benefit our entire community," says Arri Eisen, a biology professor who served on the university-wide committee that developed the recommendations.

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'Brain Train' Picks Up Steam

The long-proposed Athens-to-Atlanta commuter rail line is back on track as a regional initiative to alleviate traffic congestion in the metro Atlanta area, and to offer a commuter option for the nearly 10,000 Clifton Corridor employees who live in northeast Georgia.

Dubbed the "Georgia Brain Train," the potential passenger route would link a number of Georgia's higher education institutions including Emory, the University of Georgia, Agnes Scott College, Georgia Tech and Georgia State University. It would also provide additional linkage to major employment and activity centers including the CDC, Atlantic Station and the proposed Multimodal Passenger Terminal in downtown Atlanta.

Laura Ray, Emory's Associate Vice President for Transportation and Parking, and Betty Willis, Senior Associate Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs, have joined a group of business, community and academic leaders in forming an organization to launch a public awareness campaign in support of the initiative. Emory is one of many institutions supporting the proposal.

The Georgia Brain Train Group is chaired by Emory Morsberger, president

of the Morsberger Group, and includes representatives from UGA, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Atlantic Station and the DeKalb County Office of Economic Development, among others.



"Because transportation initiatives in the Atlanta region are competing for limited funding from local, state and federal sources, it is important for elected officials to hear from their constituents regarding transit alternatives," says Betty Willis. "We urge residents to contact their representatives in support of the Brain Train." If you need assistance in contacting your elected representatives, please email Betty at betty.willis@emory.edu.

For more information on the initiative, go to: www.georgiabraintrain.com.

In addition, the Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association has received federal funding for a Transit Feasibility and Connectivity Study of the proposed passenger route. The study is scheduled to begin by May 1 with completion expected by the end of the year. This study will coincide with a related study currently underway by the Georgia Department of Transportation and the CSX railway along the proposed route, which would use the CSX right of way.

Sustainability, cont'd.

"It's an exciting time, with a real feeling of action and transformation taking place," Eisen says. "We're seeing an overall awareness by society that we must make changes in how we live in order to sustain our world, converging with new leadership and commitment at Emory to transform how we live locally."

To view the complete sustainability report online, click [here](#).

Going Greener

Emory's new sustainability initiatives include:

- Appointing a director for sustainability initiatives
- Establishing a farmers market featuring locally grown foods
- Providing free shuttles to campus within a three-mile radius
- Reducing average campus energy use by 25 percent by 2015
- Cutting Emory's total waste stream by 65 percent by 2015
- Reducing level of toxic materials used in landscaping, maintenance, etc.
- Developing affordable housing for faculty and staff near campus



1525 Clifton Rd. Suite 124
Atlanta, GA 30322

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 3604
ATLANTA, GA 30322

Emory University
Office of Governmental
and Community Affairs
404-727-5166
stacey.paschal@emory.edu

The *Community Update* is a monthly newsletter published by the Emory University Office of Governmental and Community Affairs to share information and ideas among stakeholders working to improve the quality of life in the Clifton community. Readers' story ideas are welcomed!