



February 2012

Love Your Commute



February is the perfect time to fall in love with your commute! An oxymoron, you say? Not for Marilyn & Rick, who **fell in love while carpooling** together from Coweta County to Buckhead; or for these **Pennsylvania commuters** who found true love on the SEPTA subway. If you are already part of a happy pair, take note of the finding that long distance commuters (more than 45 minutes each way) are **40% more likely to separate from a significant other** than short distance commuters. Whatever your motivation – to find love or to preserve relationship bliss – fall in love a little more each day with a cheaper, shorter, and less stressful commute. Try carpooling, vanpooling, riding transit or teleworking this month, and spend the cash you save on sweets for your sweetheart!

For help falling in love with your commute, please contact us at mts@midtownalliance.org.

Commuter Spotlight: Anne Flinn and Erin Vilines



Anne Flinn (left) and Erin Vilines (right)

Coworkers Anne Flinn and Erin Vilines love to multitask on their commutes. A couple of times a week these **Nature Conservancy** employees get some exercise during their commute: they run one leg of their 7-mile commute from Decatur and catch **MARTA** for the other leg. Erin started running to work two years ago when she moved to Decatur from Marietta, and Anne joined her six months later. Anne and Erin say there are multiple benefits to their run commute. Anne : "We can get a good work out in and sleep longer. To run that distance, take a shower at home, and then drive or take MARTA to work you would have to get up way too early." Erin: "Because we run together we can talk about work stuff and catch up, or plan our next big race. It's nice to have company."

Their advice to anyone considering running to work is to plan, plan, and plan. Here are some tips from Erin and Anne:

- Run the route on the weekend and know it well.
- Create a transportation plan for each week to figure out which days running will be part of your commute.
- Leave work clothes at work before run days so that you can run with just your phone, MARTA card and keys.

While Anne and Erin have a rather unique commute, many Atlanta office Nature Conservancy employees are also clean commuters. Based on a recent employee survey, twenty-nine percent of their commute days are clean commutes, making The Nature Conservancy an MTS platinum partner. To learn more about clean commuting or platinum partnership contact [MTS](#).

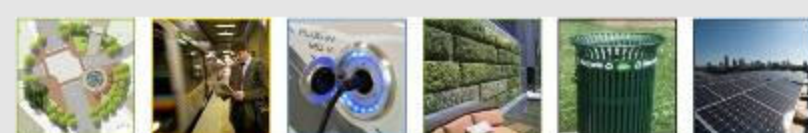
Greenprint Midtown

Creating an Eco-District in Midtown

Midtown Alliance is launching a new effort to meet market demands and improve the economic and community vitality of Midtown through sustainability strategic planning. Through partnerships with **Sustainable Atlanta** and **Southface Energy Institute**, this intensive six-month planning process will result in a district-level plan that defines a path forward to more effectively promote Midtown's green assets and develop and implement new green strategies. Your participation in this effort is critical to its success. Here's how you can be involved:

- Be on the lookout for an invitation to a Kickoff Event in late February where you can learn more about the project and provide initial input to inform the plan. Help spread the word about how you and others can get involved.

Visit the [Greenprint Midtown website](#) frequently to stay informed of the process and learn how you can be involved in making Midtown a more economically and environmentally sustainable community! To stay connected, check out [Midtown Alliance's Facebook](#) page and [Twitter feed](#) for updates.



Midtown Alliance Capital Improvement Updates

10th Street Streetscape – We are excited to finally be starting construction on new sidewalks, street trees, lighting, handicap upgrades and removal of overhead utility lines on 10th Street! We will have more details soon after our construction team meets this week to discuss project staging!

Ponce de Leon Ave/North Ave Intersection Improvements – We are thrilled that construction is underway for this exciting project that will transform the intersection part of Midtown! This multi-phased effort includes intersection upgrades on North Avenue from the Connector to Piedmont, intersection and streetscape improvements along Ponce de Leon Avenue from Spring to Piedmont, and the revitalization of the Fox "triangle" park at Ponce/Peachtree. Our construction crew is currently working on Ponce between Spring and West Peachtree and improvements will continue to progress east along Ponce throughout the first half of 2012.

West Peachtree Street, Phase II – New wider sidewalks, lighting, and handicap upgrades have been completed between 14th and Peachtree Streets. Allee Elm trees and other landscaping were installed last week. The final phase of the project will remove wooden utility poles and overhead lines!

14th Street / Crescent Avenue – Georgia Power is currently relocating overhead utility lines and will be removing wooden utility poles soon on 14th Street between Juniper and Piedmont. Recently-installed traffic calming improvements near the 14th Street entrance to Piedmont Park have made the intersection much safer for pedestrian crossings!

Peachtree St. Phase III – Although this project has been on hold for some time, we expect to start work in the coming months, which will include relocating Peachtree Street's overhead utility lines underground between Peachtree Circle and the I-85 Bridge.

commuter rewards

Congratulations to our December Commuter Rewards Winners in Midtown! Please visit [here](#) for a list of the new Commuter Rewards recipients.

Check out our new list of **Commuter Champions** in Midtown! See which of your colleagues have eliminated 25,000 and 50,000 lbs of pollution from our air!

Did you know? President's Day Edition

President John Adams (1797-1801) would walk up to 5 miles per day.

President Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) was the 1st President to ride a railroad train. His trip was 12 miles long.

President Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877) was fined \$20 for driving his horse too fast.

President William Taft (1909-1913) owned the first White House automobile.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945) had his own custom-built NYC subway car, and private rail line with dedicated subway station to access the Waldorf Astoria.

Celebrate President's Day with some extra [Andrew Jacksons](#) and [Ulysses S Grants](#) in your pocket. Check out how much you can save with our [Commute Calculator](#).

Attention GCT Riders: Updated Fare Information

As of January 30, 2012, there are new GCT bus fares in effect.

For detailed information please visit the [GCT website](#).

Tools and Services

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Contact Us:

mts@midtownalliance.org
 404-892-4782

Connect with us:

