

6.0 VALUES OF SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM VALUES

Short-term losses pertaining to this proposed action would result from right-of-way acquisition, resource preservation, and construction. Short-term uses of resources resulting from this project would include the relocation within the corridor of portions of the railbed and certain cultural resources, to support the construction of transit and multi-use trails.

Further, the construction of new or extended structures supporting trails and tracks in the Northeast Zone would result in an encroachment of the regulatory floodway of Peachtree Creek and Clear Creek. Compensatory mitigation banking measures would offset impacts to these buffer areas to achieve no net loss of ecological function to riparian zones within these watersheds. Grading of Northeast Zone ROW adjacent to existing paving would increase the potential for soil erosion. The introduction of best management practices in the provisions of construction contracts would effectively mitigate the possibility of sediment washing onto adjacent properties and/or polluting nearby streams.

Temporary community impacts would include the generation of dust, noise, and vibration from construction activities and construction vehicle movement, temporary disruption and relocation of utilities, and the modification of access and redistribution of traffic during construction. Haul routes and access points for vehicles disposing debris may occur on roads other than designated truck routes. The preceding section (Section 5.0) highlights the beneficial long-term enhancements for impacted communities beyond the construction period.

Long-term net reductions in per capita energy expenditure for purposes of mobility and accessibility following project construction would significantly exceed energy expenditures from vehicles and equipment during the construction phase.

Other enhanced values extending through the life of the project include:

- preservation of cultural resources within the BeltLine Corridor, providing enhancements through the context-sensitive design of the alignments, maintenance yard, equipment and station areas;
- a more sustainable urban ecosystem through the eradication and control of invasive species and the removal of hazardous and solid waste within the BeltLine Corridor; and
- significantly enhanced connections among existing and planned parks.

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