

Hospitals and Community Health HIA Summary:

Problems identified

- Traffic congestion
- Neighborhood parking by hospital employees
- Safety problems for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists
 - The Brookwood section of Peachtree is one of the top ten hot spots for fatal crashes and has the 4th highest number of pedestrian-auto crashes
 - Unsafe crosswalks
 - Poor condition of sidewalks
 - Poor environment for bicyclists
 - Poor lighting
 - Implement traffic calming strategies
- Inadequate signage
- Poor access to public transportation
- Noise from ambulances and helicopters and delivery trucks
- Underdevelopment and lack of character of Brookwood section of Peachtree
- Expansion of buildings without improvement in infrastructure

General Recommendations

- Reduce traffic congestion
 - alternative transit strategies
 - Improve intersections
 - Collier and Peachtree
 - Collier and Northside
 - Collier and Howell Mill
 - Collier and Emery
 - Howell Mill and Beck
 - Improve signal timing
 - Widen Collier to 4 lanes
 - Widen Peachtree to 8 lanes
 - Seek public input traffic improvement measures
- Improve pedestrian, bicycle and automobile safety
 - Create level sidewalks with pedestrian buffers
 - Improve lighting
 - Add bike lanes
 - Improve crosswalks
 - Improve accessibility for handicapped persons
- Coordinate with the recommendations of the Peachtree Corridor Taskforce and Atlanta Beltline Inc.
- Enforce speed and noise control regulations
- Improve signage
- Improve access to public transportation
- Provide better connections within the neighborhood

Recommendations for Piedmont Hospital

- Improve communications with the community
 - Create a board to collaborate on changes to built environment
 - Give advance notice of construction projects
 - Work as a partner rather than an adversary
- Go away from automobile orientation
 - Implement alternative transit (mass transit and van pooling)
 - Create pedestrian entrances
 - Require street oriented development
- Embrace a broader view of health and recognize the symbiotic relationship between anchor institutions and their communities

Piedmont Hospital's relationship with the community

- In addition to providing healthcare services, Piedmont Hospital contributes to the community in the following ways:
 - Provision of community meeting space
 - Health club membership
 - Community health information center
 - Community services for older adults
 - Unreimbursed medical care
 - Disease prevention screening
 - Diabetes and older adult services programs
 - Piedmont Health Club

-Despite this fact, only 38% of people think that living near Piedmont has a positive affect on their health. There is a general perception in the community that Piedmont is unwilling to cooperate with the community.

-Piedmont Hospital was asked via letter to participate in the preparation of the HIA study, but was “singularly unresponsive”