

MARTA Has Interest In Underground City

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The Editors: I read with interest Reese Cleghorn's column of September 21 on the possibility of restoring a part of "underground Atlanta" in the lower Wall Street-Alabama Street area.

While the idea is intriguing and does indeed have merit, I think we must also consider the present and future needs of Atlantans, especially in the field of transportation. An essential element of the plan for rapid transit for the metropolitan Atlanta area is the downtown Transit Center where the North-South and East-West Lines would cross, one over the other, and allow passengers to transfer between lines. The only feasible location for Transit Center is in the area referred to as "underground Atlanta" or "the railroad gulch." At the present time engineers for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority are conducting an active and detailed study of the area, which represents possibilities for the saving of hundreds of millions of dollars in construction of subways and Transit Center.

In addition, the proposed 1967 program of MARTA includes a corridor impact study, which will bring into perspective all of the long-range plans of the metropolitan area, including those plans for schools and colleges, streets and highways, urban renewal, urban design, land use and zoning, and public and private development programs. The course of this study will very definitely involve lengthy discussions with the Civic Design Commission and Paul Muldawer, looking toward the development of the old streets for the best possible service to all of Atlanta and its surroundings and citizens.

By closely coordinating all our efforts, we can achieve the best combination of historical restoration, entertainment, tourism, and efficient transportation.

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