

# Delay Expansion, City Asks Railway

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Southern Railway's plans to expand its South Yard, and thereby to displace from 100 to 150 families, caused Atlanta's Model Cities Executive Board to react with concern Tuesday.

The Model Cities board voted to ask Southern to delay its expansion program until it has discussed its plans and alternatives with city officials.

The board's concern, in large part, was that Southern will be uprooting so many families at the same time hundreds of others are being displaced by the city.

But the board also voiced displeasure that expansion of Southern's yard will take a four-acre bite out of city-owned Pittman Park and will mean certain streets will be dead-ended.

Officials complained that they had not learned of Southern's expansion activities until 10 days ago, although at least one city official--Alderman Charlie Leftwich -- knew of them for some time.

OFFICIALS said Southern had discussed with Leftwich the possibility of working a trade in which the city would swap the Pittman Park acreage for Southern-owned land at another location.

Officials of the railway had not immediate reaction to the Model Cities board request that expansion of the South Yard be delayed.

A spokesman for Southern General Manager H. R. Moore said there would be no response by the railroad until Moore returns from an out-of-town trip Thursday.

According to city officials, the South Yard expansion is to provide sidings for storage of the huge railway cars which are used to transfer newly manufactured automobiles.

Southern possesses the power of eminent domain which means that, like the city or other governments, it can acquire properties it wants through condemnation.

The concern of Model Cities officials arises from the fact the expansion is occurring within the city's 3,000 acre Model Cities area at a time when a major public program to improve that area is under way.

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