Ryan Gravel is an urban designer at Perkins+Will where he engages site planning, concept development, and public policy. His master’s thesis in 1999 was the original vision for the Atlanta Beltline, a 22-mile transit greenway that transforms a loop of old railroads with transit, parks, and trails to generate economic growth and protect quality-of-life in 45 neighborhoods in the city. Ryan speaks internationally and has received numerous awards for his work on the project. He is also finishing a book that investigates the cultural side of infrastructure, describing how its intimate relationship with our way of life can illuminate a brighter path forward for cities.

Images of before, after and planned development around the Atlanta BeltLine, the most comprehensive transportation and economic development effort ever undertaken in the City of Atlanta. The BeltLine will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails and transit along a historic railroad corridor. The project’s health and economic benefits have already become obvious, with record-breaking use of its first 2-mile phase of trail and over $1 billion of new, mixed-use redevelopment.