

ARC's Regional Survey - MetroQuest Phase 1

Data Analysis and Summary Report

Appendix C: Written Comments

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Atlanta Regional Commission**

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The following sections contain the open-ended comments submitted for each of the eighteen categories.

Arts

Arts Comments

We MUST be proactive!
Healthy living initiatives need to start earlier in one's life, and Arts programs need to start much earlier!
We try to go back and retro-fit!

It is important for our government to find more innovative ways to support the arts and creative industries. There should be greater efforts to create synergies between the entertainment industry and the regions arts and cultural community that would help sustain cultural businesses and fund innovation

More television exposure of the arts in greater Atlanta. Give the arts as much time as sports gets on TV each day

With Arts and Recreation for a high quality of life for all members of the community in place the rest of the list will come together.

Atlanta needs better funding for the arts and culture. Without that resource the highly developed and well educated workforce won't be very happy!!

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to become an innovation hub, but the highest priority they can have in this endeavor is to become a city that innovative people love to live and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Innovation Hub should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. Innovation will follow.

Statistics clearly show that the very best thing a city can do to attract a highly developed & well educated work force is to create walkable, vibrant neighborhoods. If you don't have these all other efforts to keep these workers will fail as they move to cities that offer these type of neighborhoods. Tech grads will move to Seattle.

Top goal should be to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. Walkable neighborhoods reduce reliance on automobiles. Even if we have increase adoption of electric vehicles, some (if not most) of the electricity will come from fossil fuel sources, i.e., natural gas or coal. So we should focus on walkable, vibrant neighborhoods.

Arts Comments

I find this topic to be of equal value to the topic of "Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods."

"Arts & Recreation and Healthy Quality of Life" will also create the strong sense of community and will strongly influence the vibrancy of a neighborhood through the actions and involvement of the very people living in these neighborhoods.

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods is but one style of many that must be supported by the plan.

Communities become walkable and vibrant whenever they are successful: good schools, available jobs, decent transportation and things to do after work. The right sorts of successful business breed success in all other areas of a community.

I think this would be wonderful. In particular I would love to see and meet friendly police officers in my neighborhood. Currently the Kennesaw police drive behind dark tinted glass windows and feel sort of threatening. I can't help it. I want to feel safe and secure in my little and the thought of having the ability to say, "Good evening officer" when I'm walking my dogs seems terrific! yes, walkable vibrant neighborhoods sound like were I want to live and a place I'd love to visit in the city, too! :)

The importance of the arts and recreation cannot be overlooked.

This should include bike lanes in addition to the Silver Comet Trail; green space for play, recreation, and community gardens; and support of the arts with local theater, music performances and art.

The arts are important!! Stop defunding them in the schools. It is a proven fact that children who participate in the arts do better in schools. Why would new parents be buying Baby Mozart if it didn't work? The arts, recreation, etc. bring soul to a community.

When you revitalize a community, like downtown Woodstock, exciting things start to happen. People want to be outside and they don't want to have to drive all over the metro to find places or recreation or the newest hipster restaurants. Walkable neighborhoods mean healthier neighborhoods.

Communities that aren't walkable are not engaging, but simply a collection of stopping points accessible by vehicle. Communities that foster walking and interacting with people create a greater SENSE of community - a closeness and caring for what happens locally. More a sense of belonging and ownership....

Arts Comments

Atlanta has pockets like this, but still does not feel like a walkable, living city.

Glad that the suburbs are retrofitting to be walkable...they just need MARTA rail and they'd be set. Also, it's critical that creating vibrant walkable communities near city centers not be a matter of pushing poor people of color out. If done right (thoughtfully and deliberately) it can be a way to improve their quality of life.

Invest more in the Arts and become a world class arts destination. Currently Atlanta has a long way to go!

"Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life" goes hand in hand with "walkable, vibrant neighborhoods" and, to me, these are the same goal.

Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhood

The Arts, recreation promote a healthy and knowledgeable society. Health Quality of life in the south is a must... Obesity is high in GA

to avoid unnecessary commutes to neighborhood outlets and to promote healthy life style, pleasant walkable neighborhoods are important

I'm "aging in place" in a 3000 SF home which requires a car and is not in walking distance of any amenities. Would love to move to a smaller, walkable neighborhood not dedicated to old people!

Support for the arts in Georgia is one of the lowest in the country. What a shame we can get new ball stadiums but not a badly needed new performance hall hosting the ASO.

Again, when I walk in ATL no one is around. ATL can be walkable, not just in pockets, when people aren't around it is SCARY!, Again, look to northern walking cities like Boston.

Georgia needs to catch up to other states on arts funding. Arts add greatly to the quality of life a city can offer.

Atlanta needs more recreation, arts and things to do in the city in order to be like a world class cosmopolitan city like NY, Madrid, London, South American capitals, it needs more life!, energy, to be more fun, more cultural options, more nightlife and activities to do not only in summer but also in winter when the city really gets boring because of the lack of places to see and activities to do around town. Also the towns and cities of Atlanta should offer more free activities to their residents like exercising in parks, organizing walks, free open air yoga, tai chi classes, bicycle rides, etc

Arts Comments

Number one priority! traffic is becoming unmanageable, if you do not have a car you cannot do much around the city. think about how much tourism can bring if the city would be well connected with a world class train /metro system that takes you everywhere in town, stop investing in highway improvements, invest in bike lanes, walkable cities, expand Marta please!. the city will become more alive and people will be more healthy instead of seating hours driving in a car, people will be walking to the Marta bus and train stations. Think outside the box, see how good is the public transportation is cities such as Madrid, Bogota, Paris, NY almost anywhere in the world but in the US where cars are the king of the cities :(.what is stopping Atlanta in becoming a city like those? more walking = more healthy= more alive cities

Neighborhoods that promote economic and racial diversity in a highly dense and walkable area are a key to creating places where Atlantans want to be. There should be a renewed emphasis on creating places for *people,* and not cars. A great step would be in discouraging parking as a land use, especially in neighborhoods with ready access to public transportation. Atlanta is full of vibrant neighborhoods, and their success should be an example for the rest of the city. Miami's innovative Miami21 is an incredible example of using zoning codes to create environments where people want to be.

And attract artists and arts industries to the region.

Arts, recreation and entertainment are key in sustaining a good healthy quality of life. Contrary to belief good quality Arts, recreation and etc., does adds to the economy of a area. The area needs good jazz venues to keep our local talent here as well as venues and support for all Arts, performing and visual arts.

Other areas surrounding the Atlanta area has made strides in creating walkable viable, vibrant neighborhoods

need to bring back the activities that help develop a vibrant community. walkable , bike paths, communities and resources in communities, activities, family, youth,

We need to develop the arts more, including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and other forms of music, including smooth jazz. Out air quality has become a disaster in the 45 years that I have lived here. Used to have clean air. Now, it's terrible. We also need more SAFE parks and walking trails.

Arts Comments

Clean industry and rebuilding existing structure to be more walkable and functional

Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods go hand-in-hand with a Comprehensive Transportation System.

Bring back the arts into ALL our schools. Support the arts publicly with money and visibility. In the 1970s and 1980s when Maynard Jackson was Mayor, the City of Atlanta had an abundance of public support for the arts. That support created the vibrant arts scene that we have now. However the lack of such support now, means we are not growing younger artists, and established artists are also having a hard time making a living.

Make sure that the Arts reflect the diversity of the population as well as alternative means of sustaining a healthy quality of life other than legal prescription drugs and cutting the body. Use other means as, Acupuncture, Reflexology, Massages, martial arts as Tai Chi, Yoga as other (not Alternative means) choices to maintain Wellness and a Healthy Quality of Life.

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods means more police visibility, less violence in our communities, more eat-in restaurants, and other services and activities that encourages self sustainability.

This is my top priority. We can't be a vibrant community without the Arts!

Walkable, Vibrant and Safe throughout Atlanta; Focus on catalytic projects that encourage the private sector to come to intown neighborhoods that have seen disinvestment over the years

Arts give you a reason to enjoy live - without this the other things fade away.

Every neighborhood needs to be walkable

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

Atlanta should look to Minneapolis to see all they are doing with walkable neighborhoods, arts, and parks/recreation. They truly have a first class system!

If we plan on having people move downtown we must have walkable areas without risk. I enjoy being able to walk to the market or shops along a stretch close to home. But it must be safe day and night.

Arts Comments

Arts and Culture make or break a major city. Atlanta is the SE hub of the US and needs to move in the direction of supporting the arts vigorously.

The best bang for the buck would be to introduce the arts back into primary and high schools. In particular, the performing arts need much more attention.

Absolutely. Work in partnership with LOCAL rather than national organizations such as Living Walls and the Goat Farm in order to support the local arts and have it flourish!

Public arts and displays should not be narrowly focused on the Civil Rights Movement. It is great that the city has that as a part of its history, but we should be able to offer more than that. It seems every public art or statue in metro Atlanta serves as some reminder of that. Neighborhood oriented art is great (like the Buckhead Buck statues) or the rotating art on the Beltline (especially the art under the bridge near the Piedmont Park entrance).

Everyone needs to understand the arts and culture are very important things, not something that we can do without. This helps molds our children and ourselves.

More schools for the visual and performing arts prior to the high school level, and more integrated with regular school programs

We need a way for people to build relationships with folks they may otherwise not come into contact with. i.e. internationals, faith based, arts, etc.

We need more free or lower price arts options like the free ASO concerts in Piedmont Park.

Bring the arts back to the public schools. Children who participate in the arts have been proven to be more successful in everything!

Arts Comments

The Arts have revitalized areas of Atlanta with little help from regional government. That is wrong for a city with this much ging for it... Flux Projects, Beltline Arts, Living Walls, Wonderroot , The Creatives Project and a host of small start ups are trying to make up for the lowest government spending per capita in Arts of any large region. Even APS finally has a well known Fine Arts coordinator who is providing top notch arts education to our public school students and turning around a struggling program. New APS Superintendent Dr. Carstaphen talks about the importance of the arts in schools on attendance, graduation rates and teaching the whole child. We have a great art programs in spite of the poor funding from the region in the Arts. Give them some money and support it and see how it transforms the city.

I think we have enough tech in schools. It is important, don't get me wrong, but I think we sort of went tech-crazy as if technology is the answer to all our issues, and it's not. Lets get more arts bad in the schools, Technology can be alienating. We need healthy kids and people, not just efficient ones. We are not machines.

With well designed walkable neighborhoods more public parking wouldn't be necessary. I often see a lot of parking lots in the core midtown underutilized so I think there is already a glut of parking

Our city is filled with unused surface parking. We need to shift to more walkable cities, and adding parking runs counter to that effort.

Remove the law that you have to have a certain amount of parking spaces - there are areas in town that are very walkable already. You should not be required to have parking if most of your customers will walk and/or bike already!

Adding parking is in direct opposition to making a neighborhood walkable. We see this issue historically in downtown. The abundance of surface parking lots make the area unwelcoming to pedestrians. This in turn encourages driving and a lack of respect for the pedestrian. It becomes a dangerous place to walk both because of the scarcity of eyes on the street and by adding more car traffic.

Arts Comments

If we can do this right, all other priorities will follow. Walkable communities are healthy communities. They are desired by young highly educated innovators. This is what the next generation wants. To compete on a global scale this is by far the best investment we can make.

As we have seen in the newly founded Marietta-Luckie district, (in conjunction with Olympic Park and the fountains) attractions and events BRING THE PEOPLE, and those people bring the money. Thus making the immediate area safer, more walkable, and a place locals and tourists alike WANT to be.

The less available, the more use of alternative ways of transportation than cars. Demand will increase but so can walkable communities if that gets invested in as well, encouraging people to depend less on cars to get around.

Right now, people in Atlanta are dependant on their cars. We've made it so that you have to have a car to survive and thrive in this city. If we modify our current neighborhood structures just a little bit, we could have wonderful, walkable areas... and this would help to alleviate the traffic problem.

People should have incentives to not use their cars whenever possible. Safe bike routes, walkable communities, better mass-transit.

The problem isn't parking, it's driving. Walkable neighborhoods connected by rapid, clean, dependable transit removes the need to drive and makes walking and biking safer and more appealing (no more breathing exhaust while getting buzzed by drivers).

Adding more lanes is a temporary solution that will create more demand over time as more people use them and communities grow. Invest instead in alternate transportation, re-configuring traffic lights to increase flow of traffic patterns, and walkable neighborhoods.

We need to create walkable nodes where residents do not have to drive for simple errands.

But not at the expense of other programs. Technology isn't everything. The arts can be just as vital to technology (thinking outside the box, creative problem solving, team work, etc.) as focusing solely on technology programs.

Arts Comments

Please don't forget the arts as a means of creating a vibrant community and it's not just about arts festivals. Those are good, but aren't everything. Providing subsidized spaces for artists and arts organizations would go a long way to creating vibrant communities.

I would rather never get in my car again - please make walkable complete neighborhoods a priority!

Increase the arts and the communities are enhanced with creativity & respect for each other by a sense of connection, belonging.

Create regional funding for the arts. I live in Cobb and the county does almost nothing to support the arts.

Atlanta has just been named the greatest arts city in the country. We need to capitalize on this with affordable housing for artists/artist administrators inside the city.

Passive, everyday encounters with art that makes me smile, makes me wonder, makes me think - that's what makes me love where I live and what shapes my impressions of places I visit. Performing arts, festivals, museums and attractions are wonderful assets, but architecture, public art and public spaces, I think, contribute even more to quality of life.

Today's creative economy requires creative people. It doesn't mean that everyone has to be an artist but, it does mean that everyone needs to feed their creativity that by definition comes through participation in the arts. It isn't about exposure, rather it is about actually doing art. This is especially important for young people from economically fragile communities. Participating in the arts can mean the difference between having a future and being left behind.

The focus should be on adding and expanding arts programs in schools.

A strong arts community attracts innovative, creative people who will make a positive impact on the community and the economy

Making walkable communities will help spur business which in turn will help promote jobs and education.

In New York, every museum has a free day, every week. Or is suggested donation. Atlanta doesn't make its arts institutions affordable to the general public. The aquarium and the zoo are only free once a year on your birthday

Arts Comments

It depends on how public parking is designed. What makes sense for a suburban low density community in Cobb County doesn't make sense for an intown neighborhood. I would prefer intown neighborhoods to provide walkable public storefronts while public parking is stacked behind or hidden but accessible and enough for the demand.

Cities with walkable neighborhoods have good, desirable public transportation that connect the neighborhoods, allowing people to go to and from neighborhoods without driving. Interesting that public parking is an option to create walkable, vibrant neighborhoods, but a notion of reliable, clean, desirable public transport is not included in this category.

Walkable neighborhoods and available public transportation!

Initiate a small tax dedicated to the arts, greenspace and parks.

Government typically wastes time and money on trying to run the arts themselves. They should let the private sector run and make work what will pay. Art in schools-YES!

Rapid rail lines that connect walkable centers of commerce and employment.

Encourage/facilitate master planning/zoning that will yield walkable residential and commercial development in cities and towns

I'd like to see a healthier, bikeable, and walkable Atlanta for everyone!

Please focus on transportation alternatives (to vehicles) and a walkable environment!

We need more West Metro opportunities, especially in arts and entertainment.

Education, Housing, Transportation, Green Space, Arts and Culture- ALL make a city great. Look at the metro systems of cities this size and get going with a real plan!

Atlanta should be a beacon for walkability, arts/culture, and innovation in the US.

Yes, I love the theatre and concerts. Easy public transportation would really enhance that.

Arts and recreation draw visitors as well as residents. Being a destination city is good for the local economy.

Arts Comments

Besides our own quality of life being enhanced by the arts, the presence of the arts makes a place feel kinder. Urban areas need all the kindness they can create to combat crime. Also, this is huge with companies wishing to relocate!

I think we have a strong presence of art and culture in the region. I just don't think that we promote and market them enough. The Fernbank, High Museum of Art, and Atlanta Botanical Gardens can be WORLD CLASS. They need better promotion and marketing. I would also include the Zoo in this. The Atlanta Zoo get overlooked a lot from funding and renovations and improvements.

there are already a ton of events and entertainment options around Atlanta but a lot of people don't end up going to them because of the lack of transportation and ease of getting in and out.

Transportation; Education; Arts

Quality Senior housing that is close to transportation, near art centers and restaurants, close to the city and affordable.

Arts Comments

The art world in Atlanta is not first class or remotely world class we continue to look pretty poor. Major investments need to be made in a truly remarkable symphony orchestra and most importantly a concert hall , like that in New York City, an opera building worth its name and a new and expanded art museum. the whole art scene needs to be enhanced by major improvements all around. Tax payers, and arts supporters can be found to achieve that goal.

If we are to create a truly walkable environment we need to look at more fountains in the city, broader sidewalks, more statues. Our planning has to take that into account if we are to become more special than we already are.

We are a great city with infinite possibilities for the future. so let's have high speed train service from Atlanta, to Chattanooga, to Macon and Savannah and Orlando, those investments are for the public good and will be used by the public if the price is right, the trains fast clean and comfortable with a coffee bar and good food. Trains are not profitable but are an absolute necessity in the modern community. Let's build a beautiful train station downtown from where we radiate public transportation with broad avenues and beautiful surroundings.

That will enhance the quality of life.

Without the Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life we are nothing more than robotons.

Our existence would be basically meaningless, empty and void of all spiritual and creative humaness..

with the great tax incentives we are providing the film industry we need to develop the arts (theatre) as a talent feeder pool

Arts and recreation draw visitors as well as residents. Being a destination city is good for the local economy.

Yes I agree this would be a plus, but we have more pressing matters that need to be addressed before the arts culture and artsrelated experiences. This would help those that have the means to participate but there are too many less fortunate persons throughout our region. The wealthy would benefit from this but not those is low income families.

Arts Comments

We should all be allowed to enjoy our arts culture and there should be here in Atlanta a excellent sample of the different arts and culture, because we live in a very diverse city.

Besides our own quality of life being enhanced by the arts, the presence of the arts makes a place feel kinder. Urban areas need all the kindness they can create to combat crime. Also, this is huge with companies wishing to relocate!

Georgia has plenty of arts venues/events. More than most states.

It would be nice to have a more diverse and affordable arts culture and experiences than we currently have in ATL due to our reality as a mecca for African Americans.

Cultural Arts and social pleasures are important but they need to be revised to fit the interests of the current populations. It seems to me that younger generations are moving away from the old fashioned ideas of sitting and listening to the orchestra, maybe need to update the presentation of this to generate non-traditional interests.

Love the symphony but a lot of the stuff that passes for public art in this city is terrible. Think of the stuff that was installed for the Olympics.

Common city or regional database to communicate events, arts, etc. Currently, information is "available" but difficult to find because it is too fragmented.

Starting repairing the roads with parts of Campbellton Roads. And of course infrestruction need serious attention and be quick about it.

Rail for sure. Inside the city of Atlanta there should be more rail connecting the Westside to Eastside. And there should be commuter rail connecting various parts of the Northern Suburbs to one another and to Midtown/Downtown Atlanta. The universities, including Kennesaw State, should be part of a rail network.

Provide a permanent funding source for the arts in our region.

Is the board and/or staff of the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts and Cultural Coalition still a part of ARC? If so, who are they and what function do they serve?

Transportation; Education; Arts

Art and recreational activities should happen around the clock, along with business pursuits.

Arts Comments

In order of priority, possibility, and potential, humans make this world happen. A high-quality human is foremost the most important asset aside from the Earth's future environmental wellbeing. Art is far more important than perceived and must take a high prominence next to technology and finance and other developments of our civilization.

This includes helping the educational system to understand that the arts, reading, and other "soft" skills are just as vital as math and science and not a waste of time or tax dollars. The arts change lives.

Tech education will follow the market anyway. We need to invest more in the arts which are the true measure and identity of our culture.

This is important but cannot push out the arts and humanities.

Bike

Bike Comments

The communities in dekalb county need to be walk friendly and bike friendly particularly lithonia.

In addition to walkable I would like my neighborhood to be bikeable AND to be a life-long community that will serve senior citizens as well as young families.

A healthy quality of life means being able to walk and bike to many destinations!

We're starting to develop a comprehensive network of bike paths- please continue to do so. Connect the Comet to the Beltline, etc.

Don't spend any money on this. There are plenty of "vibrant" neighborhoods, and "vibrancy" is not going to fix Vine City or English Avenue. People just need to be able to cross major roads, interstates, and train tracks without risking their lives so they can get from one to another, and do something about the sidewalks! I've never seen a city with such awfully maintained sidewalks before. Is there a way to enforce property owners to maintain them? I know the trees make it tough, but something can be done.

I'm not optimistic that the suburbs will ever cooperate, but in-town, just doing simple things like making safer bike and pedestrian crossings of major roads and more train-track crossings would be great. The streetcar is a great idea, but it needs to be more than just a tourist curiosity. Spokes that compensate for the quadrants that the train doesn't serve would be amazing.

Bike Comments

Having sidewalks that are in good repair encourages people to walk more, and having places to walk to makes it more enjoyable.

Innovation workers will only settle in Atlanta if walkable communities and transportation alternatives are provided.

Increase funding for bike and ped programs

People more and more want to live in areas that are walkable and have a mix of uses - innovation, quality of life, and educated workforces depend on this.

Fix the sidewalks, hold shop keepers accountable to clean the street scape in front of their establishments especially those that sell scratch lottery tickets

Vibrant is one thing; "walkable" is quite another. Sounds like you're trying to corral people in designated areas. This would balkanize communities, not bring them together.

A far more robust cycling infrastructure would help make the city so much healthier and more connected. Free people from having to use the car. Protected bike lanes are the solution to congested roads and highways. Reducing the number of lanes by creating room for more "bike highways" will reinforce cycling as a viable transportation option.

Absolutely, as a city of Neighborhoods, every neighborhood should feel authentic, walkable, bikeable and vibrant.

Absolutely, as a city of Neighborhoods, every neighborhood should feel authentic, walkable, bikeable and vibrant. This means larger sidewalks, bike lanes, slower traffic speeds (20 mph or less)

We need walkable areas (much of Atlanta has no sidewalks) we ned to put these in.

Walkable vibrant neighborhoods lead to innovation, better quality of life and a more educated workforce

Walkable vibrant neighborhoods - We need to put more pressure on parents to parent and not leave their children for the state to care for. The reason why there is so much crime is because the children have nothing to do and resort to robbing and stealing. If we shorten the curfew to 8:00 for minors and hold the parents responsible, maybe we can have communities where it is safe to walk the streets and vibrant neighborhoods free from robberies. In order to have a highly developed and well educated workforce, we need to strengthen our education system. We need to invest in ALL of our children's future and not some of them. Was it not Sir Thomas More who said, "If you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners corrupted from infancy, and then punish them for those crime to which their first education disposed them; what else is to be concluded but that you first make thieves and then punish them."

Bike Comments

Wider sidewalks that allow 2 to walk alongside each other (or more) makes it walkable.

A Walkable Neighborhood, Oh how nice and peaceful.

I think if you have a walkable, vibrant neighborhood you will have Arts, rec and a Healthy quality of life. The people who walk and live in vibrant neighborhoods bring those things with them

I want walkable, vibrant neighborhoods as much as anyone. But the private sector will build it..when they think "they will come". ARC and any other quasi governmental entity will be so busy being politically correct, this type of effort becomes a boondoggle.

I think ensuring walkable and vibrant neighborhoods is a prerequisite to having a highly developed workforce; arts, recreation, and quality of life; and an innovation hub. If ARC creates the neighborhoods, the other things will come.

Having walkable communities will also help with the traffic issues.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to become an innovation hub, but the highest priority they can have in this endeavor is to become a city that innovative people love to live and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Innovation Hub should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. Innovation will follow.

This is not a huge issue in the suburbs, I can't speak to in town neighborhoods. They are throwing tax dollars away on sidewalks and foot bridges to nowhere in Johns Creek & Alpharetta. A greenway & cute little town square is plenty.

I hope this means to acquire greenspace, establish community gardens, add bike trails, and reduce pollution.

Providing more greenways, walkways, bikeways, and parks are key to improving the quality of life, improving our air quality, physical and emotional well being, and relieving automobile congestion. This coupled with a greatly improved transportation system will make Atlanta a model for other cities to follow.

MARTA rail to suburbs incl. Marietta to relieve traffic; More urban commute bike lanes--ex. Clairmont Ave to connect northeast to Decatur path to downtown.

Look at European solutions for walkers / cyclists. Painted line on wide city sidewalks where pedestrians and cyclists share the walkway when there is no more room on roads to widen for bike lanes.

The north west region of Cobb County needs sidewalks and bicycle lanes. I'd also love to NOT see so many groves of trees disappearing around me.

This includes more sidewalks and paths for walking and bicycles.

Bike Comments

Every new neighborhood should be required to have side walks and single family neighborhoods should have plenty of green space between houses with lots at least 1/2 acre

There should be more bicycle/walking PATH options.

Complete streets with sidewalks and bicycle paths/lanes.

This is likely to come about if we achieve walkable, vibrant neighborhoods and quality education.

This should include bike lanes in addition to the Silver Comet Trail; green space for play, recreation, and community gardens; and support of the arts with local theater, music performances and art.

How do you develop walkable neighborhood when so many don't even have sidewalks and metro atlantans are so dependent on cars?

Would love this but How do you develop walkable neighborhood when so many don't even have sidewalks and metro atlantans are so dependent on cars?

Make our metro area Bikeable - remove parking spaces from the streets and replace them with bike racks. Tax the strip malls that build massive parking lots but have 0 bike racks and minimal pedestrian access.

Other facets of Atlanta life and infrastructure are directly related - these vibrant neighborhoods improve quality of life and the arts, and require a solid transportation system (that include things like bike lanes and other infrastructure, not just MARTA or other "public transportation")

One element MUST be dedicated bicycle lanes and separated bike paths.

Should include bicycle paths along all major roads in metro area. This will help reduce the number of cars on the roads too.

Fix the sidewalks and have one on every street

Stop building neighborhoods without sidewalks!!!! People want to feel SAFE walking through their neighborhoods, not afraid that they'll get run over by their fellow residents! Walkable neighborhoods encourage people to get to know each other as they stop and talk to each other while walking. Walking is also great exercise! People will feel more a part of their neighborhood.

Bike trails

Bicycle Friendly!

Expand MARTA, More bike lanes.

Safe and protected bike Lanes

Bike-able neighborhoods!

Bikeable in addition to walkable, vibrant neighborhoods.

Bike Comments

Bikeable city - make it safe to bicycle from the Airport to Alpharetta, and Stone Mountain Park to Sweetwater Creek State Park! We should push for a Metro Area law stating that any road that is resurfaced in the region must incorporate safe bike lanes and safe walking access. Put people before vehicles!

I don't see Safety in here... maybe that's within vibrant, walkable neighborhoods? Again, safety is always a #1 priority for me.

If the transportation system includes more safe bike friendly options, then I am ALL for it! Safer biking please!!!!

Bikable city/region which will promote carbon free transportation, higher quality of life, healthier workforce, and decreased congestion of roads. Bikability has a funny way of attracting an educated workforce which also brings innovation.

Safe bike paths everywhere

Safe bike paths for adults and children to get around to school, friends and family

Create signature streets- transform urban arterial streets into pedestrian friendly boulevards by adding center islands (designed to accommodate mature canopy trees), planting strips separating wide (min 8') sidewalks from traffic.

Bicycle friendly streets

More trails, bike ways, and greenways.

Make it more bike-friendly by adding bike lanes EVERYWHERE!!

There are neighborhoods that are willing to work to be more walkable. Perhaps have a "grant submission" to help prioritize where the best investment for sidewalks, traffic improvement, etc. can be made based how willing and eager the people are in the neighborhood are to change. Open it to all neighborhoods in Atlanta, and have them list specific needs and why they should be met first. It would be a good community -builder as well.

More bike lanes and rail options, please -- particularly rail in Gwinnett county and across the top end.

Make more bike paths in the metro Atlanta area and insist bicyclers follow the rules set out for them for their safety and the safety of drivers and pedestrians.

Our major avenues: Peachtree, Roswell Road, Piedmont need to be pedestrian friendly - sidewalks are in disrepair, and could be wider to promote walking. Trees, plants, shrubs, street light, emergency call boxes could make it a nicer and safer environment on those avenues. We need to promote more walking and our city is too dangerous to do this.

More and expanded bike and walking paths.

Bike lanes to reduce emissions and traffic.

Bike Comments

Bike friendliness is a major attraction for a vibrant neighborhood and encourages increases in revenue of surrounding businesses, property values and general way of life. Bikes are not toys; they are a lifestyle and transportation for most people and should be considered in all aspects of future urban planning. The more outlets there are for people to ride, SAFELY, the less vehicular congestion. For more information on concrete studies done on the benefits of including bike infrastructure, please contact the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition and include them in your efforts.

Walkable neighborhoods are critical to quality of life. We used to live on Peachtree in Midtown and loved it. Now we live on the Westside, which we like, but one thing that is sorely missing is walkability. It's within site; there are shops and restaurants. But the roads and sidewalks are dreadful. It isn't safe to walk.

Bicycling should be considered a real, viable transportation choice, worthy of competitive funding and investment.

The least of my worries. I want a walk-able, bike-able, colorful, safe, smart and cultured city.

A high quality of life can be achieved through walkable/bikable layouts. Whether its fixing side-walks, connecting more buildings with bridges, or creating more mixed use development like Atlantic station. Avoiding getting in a car makes residents healthier, improves the environment/traffic, and helps local businesses on the streets.

But, in order to implement this, people need to want to live in closer communities, preferably near their work. Suburbanites are wary about living in the city due to their perception of crime and the education system among other things. Improving people's perception of city life by improving city life will bring new residents.

Our neighborhoods are often disconnected by subdivisions that won't allow through traffic, or shopping centers that do the same. This only encourages traveling by car. If these subdivisions and shopping centers were connected by roads and sidewalks through numerous entry points, we could see a significant drop in car traffic, and more people likely to walk.

Pretty sidewalks and storefronts do not make a safe environment. Crime and air quality are a challenge to be overcome before anyone can enjoy walking neighborhoods. Atlantic Station and Underground Atlanta are just 2 examples.

Clayton county can really use some walkable communities without sidewalks its really hard to walk where you need to go.

Bike Comments

The lack of walkable spaces in low income neighborhoods is a significant factor causing chronic health problems, like obesity and diabetes. Higher end developments and road renovations should have additional costs to cover the expanded street lighting, and wide sidewalks.

sidewalks everywhere, bikepaths to get from work to beltline to home

Telework for all, Shorter work week for all, More bike paths and showers at work

Hopefully this means, streets with canopy shade trees, separating wide sidewalks from arterial streets. Connected streets with intersections less than 300' apart to create a tight street grid and many walk routes to nearby destinations.

Put sidewalks along every major street on both sides. Require a broad grass strip be left between the speeding cars and the pedestrian.

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA !! I CAN REMEMBER WALKING 1 TO 2 BLOCKS TO GO TO A STORE FOR BREAD AND BUTTER !! I THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE MOST ALL AMENITIES WITH-IN WALKING OR BIKE RIDING DISTANCE.PLUS IT CREATES JOBS !!!

More sidewalk should developed around all major counties including Cobb, especially around schools. More sidewalks means more happy and active people, more added security and safety for the people as well. Many neighborhoods can use the advantage of small parks and playgrounds inside their subdivision or around them. This would be highly beneficial for I wish I could have one in my own neighborhood, since the neighborhood across the street of mine has one small park, pond, tennis court, walking trail and kids playground. These add-ons can really change our communities, our happiness and bring more interaction.

I am tired of defending Atlanta on two issues. Panhandlers and crime downtown. You have to fix this before any hope of a walkable Neighborhood can work.

Stop building megahousing neighborhoods isolated from services, stores, and entertainment, so we don't have to drive everywhere. Incorporate sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes as standard practices.

We do not have sidewalks now and with Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods there needs to have "Safety" as a priority...Where is that component of the plan?

with bike paths that make bike riding safe, enjoyable and a very real alternative to the car. We need less cars on the roads!

Add more sidewalks in residential areas.

This includes improved bikeability.

Bike Comments

Of course a beautiful, clean and usable neighborhoods are vital for growth and development and new businesses wanting to move to the state. Walking to school on sidewalks is not a bad thing. Never hurt the older generation, might make a few thinner children.

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods are the link between the "Arts, Recreation..." category and the "Comprehensive Transportation" category -- you can't have one of these without the other two. If you have all three, you will attract innovation and a well-educated workforce, leading to the production of future home-grown generations of such a workforce. Splitting up these priorities into a list, in which one would have to choose among them, encourages the illusion that they are possible without one another.

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

Please include Bikable Neighborhoods to this as well.

More food options for areas that are food deserts. There should be walkable options for people to eat in their neighborhoods. more local farmer's markets!

Find out how to reduce homeless loitering and harassment of pedestrians to make the city more appealing.

Find out how to reduce homeless loitering and harassment of pedestrians to make the city more appealing. The homeless in Columbus, OH are a good example of a less aggressive panhandling population.

Building a more walk-able and bike-able city will promote this by default, two birds one stone.

I mean, I won't say no to this, but I don't think information is the main issue. Not have sidewalks, not having safe neighborhoods, these are the things that keep people from exercising. Add bike lanes, build sidewalks, light streets properly, develop parks... people will use that infrastructure.

Healthy behaviors, not health insurance. The problem is society's health, not our ability to treat it. Healthier people mean less cost. See my bike lanes comment

More bicycle infrastructure to make biking a safer way for people to either go to work, run their errands, explore their neighborhood, visit friends/family, or go to dinner

I do agree that there needs to be more walkable sidewalks

More public transport and bike to connect neighborhoods and get around the city.

Surface lots should be heavily fined in the city of Atlanta and turned into high to mid density development. We will never be a world class city with huge amounts of parking.

Bike Comments

Bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, should be given equal, if not greater importance, than cars in planning.

Protect character, but only within reason. If an area needs sidewalks, crossings and protected bike lanes, PUT THEM IN!

Abundant, easy, free parking makes communities less safe for pedestrians, not more.

when making a neighborhood vibrant and 'walkable,' this should not even be on the list. Again, get people out of their cars and walking. People are by nature way more likely to walk into a store when walking by compared to when driving by. Instead of making public parking available, make sure that the neighborhood is easily accessible by trails, paths, bike lanes/corridors, bus route, and mass transit. My overriding theme, MOVE AWAY FROM THE CAR! ;-)

Get rid of Park Atlanta, minimize number of parking garages. Improve public transportation, make safe bike lanes

Only for bikes

could also be a good way to kill a walkable neighborhood

Also, public cycle parking that is safe and people don't have to worry about their cycles being stolen. This may fall back on office building owners.

Require sidewalks for new and existing subdivisions

And get the bikes off our busy roads that are meant for cars

Atlanta should be among the cities to promote bike riders,

Bike lanes are preferable to paths -- you can actually use them for commuting and errands, not just recreation (they're also safer in congested areas).

This has sometimes been a problem. The engineers created bike lanes, but took away lanes for cars...

Circulate surveys to see who would use these bike lane and paths. Make bike riding popular. Make it safe first!

if they need it - repair sidewalks and increase bike lanes

Would love to see more bike friendly options around city.

ATL is working on this! Well done!!! I wish there were more places to park on the beltline then we can ride/walk as it's too dangerous (scary roads) to bike to it from my house.

I'm an avid cyclist. I'm under NO illusion that it's a SERIOUS form of transportation for most. Don't tax people for this! bike lanes when 1) roads are build 2) when they're repaired. 3) Look at Roswell, GA you local planners who don't even know how to stripe a bike lane! These can be done on the cheap!

Really? Y'all can't seriously be entertaining this as an option. If the population is going to continue to grow, we will be building new roads and adding lanes forever. It'll never end. Instead we need to be getting cars off the road and making way for rail, buses and bike lanes.

Bike Comments

Bike lanes are the future, and are necessary for neighborhoods to be able to grow and thrive.

protected bike paths are necessary to prevent automobile intrusion and encourage ridership.

Add bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure to existing roads.

Please! This increases safety for bikers and car drivers!

include bike/ped infrastructure

only if they're bike lanes

Bike lanes are great. I love them. But with so many Atlantans commuting long distances, I don't think they meaningfully impact our regional transportation needs. Bike Lanes should be a municipal issue.

Big no to adding lanes unless you mean bike lanes

Big no to adding lanes unless you mean bike lanes. Adding road capacity, without a comprehensive metro-wide plan for increased walkable density, will only induce demand.

Instead of adding more lanes for cars add more lanes for alternate modes of transportation. Streetcars, bike lanes, walking trails etc. Take for example a street like Howell Mill. An extremely busy two lane road that is a nightmare during rushhour. If one lane on either side was added for a street car and this lane also doubled as a bike path the amount of traffic that would relieve would be incredible. Not to mention it would make this area much more vibrant and walkable.

YES, BIKE LANES. Biking is too healthy, too green, too safe and simply too enjoyable to not embrace as a city. However, biking in this city right now is just... unsafe. It's really only for the die-hard biking enthusiasts. We need to make it accessible, viable, and even attractive for people who would've otherwise never considered biking as a means of transportation.

please no more roadways.
mass transit and bike lanes!

Use the Netherlands as inspiration. They have the best bike infrastructure in the world.

We've started it with the Beltline.

Let's continue on that path.

Instead of adding more lanes to existing roads, we should improve the state of existing ones. Instead of encouraging more cars on the roads, we think about sidewalks and bike lanes.

Bike lanes (especially around college areas -- Southern Poly, Life U, etc) would be so beneficial and would reduce traffic, emissions, and need for police/ambulances due to decreased traffic accidents.

Bike Comments

Please develop dedicated bike-only lanes and paths that are NOT sharing the road with cars. Maybe this is along the Beltline? The cycling public is taking their own lives in their hands each time they ride on GA roads. I live in Buckhead and would love to get into cycling, but I think it is entirely too dangerous to ride a bike in a bike lane. As a driver I am furious with cyclists that pack the driving lanes with 2-5 bikes wide effectively taking over the entire driving lane. D.C. and other major cities have dedicated bike trails. GA has the Silver Commit Trail in Cobb that runs to AL, which is not convenient to most Atlanta residents and is clearly dangerous from crime over the years.

Bike paths need to be developed with the help of people that actually ride bikes

All bike lanes should be Protected Bike Lanes. (regular bike lanes don't cut it.)

No no no no. If you're going to add lanes, add a bike lane or better, a bike path that is separate from the roads.

streets already too wide to be walkable

This this this! I cannot stress how much a millennial like me dreams about being able to ditch the car and bike throughout this great city. As it is now, I am entirely too afraid to bike a vast majority of our streets. Bike lanes need to be separate from car lanes (Amsterdam is a great example) and added to many of our thoroughfares. It is near impossible for me to safely make it from the east to the west side of the city. Crossing major streets plus the downtown connector is almost suicide.

This this this! I cannot stress how much a millennial like me dreams about being able to ditch the car and bike throughout this great city. As it is now, I am entirely too afraid to bike a vast majority of our streets. Bike lanes need to be separate from car lanes (Amsterdam is a great example) and added to many of our thoroughfares. It is near impossible for me to safely make it from the east to the west side of the city. Crossing major streets plus the downtown connector is almost suicide.

Biking is going through a resurgence, especially with the build out of the beltline. Biking and sidewalk paths will attract many other bright and active individuals to the city.

I think that the we have done a good job at making sure that the roads are share-able. The region does need to do a better job at making sure that walkers, bike riders, and drivers are aware of their rights & responsibilities while sharing the road.

I think that the we have done a good job at making sure that the roads are share-able. The region does need to do a better job at making sure that walkers, bike riders, and drivers are aware of their rights & responsibilities while sharing the road.

Bike Comments

Please develop dedicated bike lines, with their own paint lines like 17th street, or like barriers, like the 10th street cycle track

Many more people bike now than they did say, 30 years ago. Seeing all the environmental benefits, projects like the Beltline should be encouraged.

All our streets should have bike lanes. If we are going to do our part to limit climate change then we must make bikes and foot power our main mode of transportation

Bike lanes, yes; car lanes, NO!

Please repair these roads and sidewalks so cyclists and walkers are better able to use them.

European countries do it all the time. People are more health conscious now and many would love to ride their bikes but not at the risk of being hit by motor vehicles.

The more we can make our city Bicycle Friendly, the less dependent we will be on cars that create pollution and gridlock. At the moment, this city is not friendly to bicycles, even though there are lanes. It is hazardous to ride a bicycle in most parts of the city.

Bikes and rapid movement of automobiles do not safely mix.

I do support paths like this but let's be honest here - people are getting mugged and attacked on these things. They can't keep up enough police patrols to patrol a "regional" path. Smaller more localized paths make sense.

After 22 years in Atlanta I am still shocked when perfectly good roads are resurfaced. It seems like roads could be resurfaced half as often and the money put to use promoting transit and bike lanes.

Don't necessarily need to create new bike lanes everywhere. Just build off of preexisting cycling routes for both workers and recreational cyclists.

Plus expand (not necessarily add lanes) to allow for bike lanes or enough space to safely bike. Create sidewalks and other non-car incentives in areas with high concentrations of low income workers. Create traffic calming improvements and safe pedestrian access for areas with high foot traffic.

Plus expand (not necessarily add lanes) to allow for bike lanes or enough space to safely bike. Create sidewalks in areas with high concentrations of low income workers.

I think the emphasis should be on alternatives to automobiles. More lanes for cars & trucks should NOT be a priority. Bike lanes, however, should be a high priority.

This seems highly personalized for bicycle riders. I would not oppose it, but it is not a priority for me.

Yes, but only because theyre difficult and unsafe to bike on.

Excuse me, but there are many people who will ride a bike in the rain or in the winter. It won't fix our grid lock.

Bike Comments

Atlanta is not a bike friendly town, but it could be and many Atlantans could bike to work or school if the prospect was safer. I recommend utilizing existing sidewalks and making one side for pedestrians and the other for bikes. It could be done in such a way that there are pedestrian crosswalks on the bike side, but it would safely move bikes out of traffic and give people more transit options. It could also help with health care costs by promoting practical exercise.

We need better bike lanes, but not REGIONALLY connected. It's Georgia people! It's hot as crap! I'm not biking 8+ miles to work each way. Just make the short trips safer.

I would recommend something like this within in reason. I wouldn't want to see a bike bath that didn't connect with more urban communities.

This can only work if the paths are physically separated from the roads, by at least jersey barriers. No sane person would trust the drivers of Atlanta, who are notably cavalier about cyclists. Our roads are a death trap for cyclists.

More lanes equals more traffic. We need a commuter-friendly transit system, safe bike lanes, multi-use trails and other innovative transportation strategies throughout the city. Adding more lanes is the outdated norm. Let's break away from paving the world and find alternative solutions.

Ensure ease of connections to heavy rail and explore light rail options and combine separated bicycle facilities with expanded sidewalks

Even walking around Atlanta is hard now, what with busted up broken sidewalks that randomly disappear in places. If I could confidently navigate Atlanta afoot, that would be great. The current bike infrastructure is so poor my wife was afraid to ride; we returned her bike to the shop after a week.

OMG the potholes. Also, sidewalks? They are ridiculous, and randomly disappear in places - without a crosswalk.

And add bike lanes

People can enjoy riding in many neighborhoods in the Atlanta region, but do not feel safe riding between neighborhoods. Safe, protected bike lanes will encourage bike travel to entertainment and shopping districts minimize dependency on driving a car for short trips.

While I like the idea of bike paths, that is not where you will get the most bang for the buck. The number of people using them is low in proportion to the number of people. There are many who don't ride bikes and never will. The baby boomer generation is growing and I suspect that most of them will not be commuting to work using bikes so, do something that will help them get around and enjoy retirement in Atlanta.

Bike Comments

It bothers me that most roads in Atlanta don't even have a shoulder. The more bike lanes and paths, the better.

NO, we need improved Marta stops and more safe bike lanes we need separated bike paths - bikers in Atlanta do not follow the rules and have an air of entitlement about themselves. It creates an unsafe environment when bikers do not follow the rules. If they refuse to follow the rules, they need their own separated lane to protect both car and biker.

Bike lanes do not need to be regionally connected. This is especially true with regards to paths for pedestrians. Locate paths that connect places where people will go repeatedly. The Eastside trail is a great example.

Rather encourage safe bikeways at the local level

In particular, safer options to bike E-W over 75/85. More bike lanes will be needed around the ponce city market and burgeoning old fourth ward. Also, the west end. There are good sidewalks down Joseph lowery- expanding them to a multi-purpose capacity seems worthwhile. There are sharrows on that road, but it would scare me to ride down it on a bike.

Unless you meant bike lanes...

Unless you meant bike lanes...

Bikes are a wonderful pollution-free form of short commute transportation, but they don't belong on city street car lanes. BUILD SEPARATE BIKE LANES.

This is the antithesis of a walkable neighborhood.

You left schools out of this... I want my children (and me!) to be able to bike to their schools safely.

along with streetscape improvements - sidewalks, and transit sidewalks should be part of the critical infrastructure of every city and town as well as bike lanes. these absolutely are a part of healthy and safe living. It should be standard protocol.

Follow the Dutch and Danish models and/or the Complete Streets model. Add sidewalks to every roadway (preferably on both sides). Add bike lanes even if it costs car lanes.

Follow the Dutch and Danish models and/or the Complete Streets model. Add sidewalks to every roadway (preferably on both sides). Add bike lanes even if it costs car lanes.

Also, showers/lockers for employees in businesses/buildings and bike racks/bike lockers (or other bike storage alternates) as part of zoning requirements.

Lets go Back to the Future. I went to Bavaria, they have regional bikes paths. It is cheap, al you need is the will and a right of way.

Bike Comments

I would like to see extra wide sidewalks with separate sections for pedestrians and bike riders. This is common in Europe, and I enjoyed this very much when I lived there.

Current bike lanes are paint only, hardly enforced and insufficient. Hard to imagine future efforts being any better. Very few people bike commute. Most who are on bikes in Atlanta are exercising.

Obviously the roads we keep need to be maintained. But, frankly, I think that some of the roads we have need to be put on a diet, and capacity needs to be added for public transit and bike lanes.

This would be a game changer for the region, and Atlanta. Building protected pathways and bike lanes would make so many more people comfortable with cycling for transportation.

YES!!!! This would be a game changer for the region, and Atlanta. Building protected pathways and bike lanes would make so many more people comfortable with cycling for transportation.

However, this does not mean that we must spend extra \$\$ making new sidewalks look like old ones. Just build them without the expensive designs.

need better control high rises especially lenox-buckhead so their cars not clog streets; and stop the 4 lane-ing of peachtree st lenox- buckhead for bike lanes

Let people bike in parks. Traffic congestion is too bad already and parents shouldn't have to spend less time with their kids because they spend an extra 10 mins in the car because of slowdowns caused by narrow bike lanes and/or bikers who never follow traffic laws.

I think that the city is not prepared for a connected bike network or paths because we have established lanes within the city that are not used. When used drivers are not aware of bike riders and vice versa. More accidents and injuries seem to be happening. I think education FIRST on proper biking laws and rules would be best before creating a network.

Safe bike lanes for all ages, children to the elderly. Routes to school and work

Widen sidewalks in commercial areas to make walking from residential neighborhoods and neighborhood retail centers safer. Consider creating tree canopies in conjunction with widening sidewalks. Consider inter parcel access to commercial businesses as an alternative to multiple curb cuts to improve pedestrian safety and convenience.

No bike paths that infringe on the private property rights of citizens.

Once again bike paths are part of Agenda 21.

Bike Comments

No, If local governments want it, great; Look at PTC. They are already many \$\$\$\$ away from keeping their own paths in good repair. Tyrone, too!!!

I visit a friend in Roswell who lives next to the Big Creek Parkway. What a treasure! I wish all of Atlanta could be connected in ways that make it safe to bike and walk. Kudos to Roswell and Alpharetta for creating and maintaining the paths.

Put an end to cul-de-sac developments. All Atlanta "neighborhoods" empty into the same few traffic arteries. We need to cut through these residential areas with sidewalks and bike paths. Perhaps even allow scooters. I live less than a mile from a Target shopping center if I could walk through the areas between my neighborhood and the highway. However, I have to drive over three miles on congested streets and highways to get there. Just a few yards of sidewalks and paths would make my neighborhood in Smyrna much more liveable.

Keep bicycles off of all auto roads!

Atlanta is not a pedestrian friendly city. We are too big.

Yes Yes and Yes. Not only our roads but our sidewalks need routine maintenance and repairs.

This needs to happen faster. The only way to reduce traffic is to incentivize bike traffic by adding bike lanes that actually go somewhere. A half mile here and a half mile there of bike lane doesn't do anything to make bike commuting and bike transportation more attractive. I still have to ride long sections of peachtree, ponce and piedmont with no bike lanes. I constantly get yelled at, honked at, and nearly hit every single day while leaders drag their feet at putting in bike lanes because no one wants to invest the required money. Anyone who knows some basic economics knows that dollars invested today buy a lot more than dollars in the future.

both car and bike parking!!!

It is not possible to add more lanes, for example, on Ponce, or on 10th Street, or on Lindbergh/LaVista. But what we CAN do is take cars and busses off the roadways by providing more MARTA Rail. Additionally a comprehensive, connected system of bike lanes will help get cars off the road.

**Unless you want to raise the amount of pedestrian fatalities!
Atlanta is #1!!!!**

I recognize that cars have a place in walkable, vibrant neighborhoods. But if parking is too easily available, I worry that will diminish walkability.

More bike lanes and trails!

Bike Comments

In the past I would not have answered this this way but when places to leave cars takes precedence over productive human activity, you suck the life out of a place. If people have to pay to park, maybe they will walk, bike, or ride the bus.

while I completely understand that biking isn't for everyone, I think many would be surprised at how many people would bike a lot if it didn't feel like you'd be killed by a crazed person in an automobile.

Yes Yes Yes!! Our climate and terrain is perfect for bicycle commuting--we should make this viable. If they can have viable bike lanes in Manhattan, we can do it here!!!!!!

Repair to make them more bike friendly, more difficult for vehicles therefore encouraging people to take up alternative transportaion

I grew up in the area, and most everyone around here had the attitude that the only people who walk are those who can't afford to drive. I most recently spent 5 years in Southern California before moving back here, and my attitude towards walking and biking was completely transformed due to the accessibility of safe sidewalks, pedestrian crossings (as well as drivers who respected pedestrians), and bike paths.

PROTECTED bike lanes. Adding protected bike lanes will get people biking that normally wouldn't bike (and make families feel safe for their kids)

Support local hoa's and improve streets and sidewalks within existing communities.

No more buses in the suburbs! Build sidewalks, round-a-bouts and divided roads for safety

regarding bicycles: the laws need to be changed to move the bicycles OFF of the roads in large metro areas. This is MAJORLY dangerous for the bikes and other vehicles. The bikes NEED to be on sidewalks and/or the two-lane walk/ride paths.

This should only be done when all other priorities or met. Bicyclists should be encouraged to drive to places that already have bike paths. They are too dangerous on the roads.

Bike/ped paths and trails please!

Every major in-town street/road should have a dedicated bike lane

Bike lanes are wonderful, but should be developed without sacrificing motor vehicle capacity. Expectations should also be managed; with the horrible climate of Atlanta, bike transport will always be a minority, fringe solution, even if the current safety concerns are ultimately addressed.

More is not necessarily better, esp. considering that bike riders are as inconsiderate as many drivers on the road.

Bike Comments

A law should be passed in the area - mandating that bike lanes and pedestrian alternatives are created every time a road is resurfaced or a bridge is improved.

Add the bike system that New York has, where one can borrow city bikes.

Cyclists should NOT share the road. I love that transpo, but I am no competition for a vehicle! Those silly bike lanes are deceiving. People run off side of road for any # of reasons. NOT safe. should be away from vehicles.

Not much value add here - bikers will still use roads anyway so value only accrues to bikers.

Bicycles are a major solution here! More bike paths, more bike lanes!

I would like to see if it would be possible to construct a bike and walking trail running from Cobb county in the north to Jonesboro in the south by using easements and medians for I-75.

Painted bike lanes are only useful for seasoned/committed riders. Lived in Holland and have seen the difference their curbed bike lanes and infrastructure makes. Adding more bikes without the infrastructure will only continue to create tension.

This will encourage many to bicycle to work, etc.

Yes! Many will use this and it will encourage MORE people to get out and bike safely!

We need to invest in sidewalks and bike access.

This entirely depends on the neighborhood -- protect the meandering subdivisions built without sidewalks, no -- protect the grid-based neighborhoods and their sidewalks, yes.

Sidewalks are necessary, but rarely found outside the perimeter..especially between subdivisions. Sidewalks have historically enhanced a sense of community and communication.

Necessary eventually!

Combinations of modes. Ex. train>bus>walk or bus>bike etc

I would love this! We have no sidewalks, kids need to be able to walk around to school, neighborhood so they don't become obese!

Bike Comments

Smart lights that adapt to lighter traffic conditions or time of day/week. One size-fits-all technology is stupid and counterproductive.

More roundabouts (1 lane, please, not those crazy multi-lane things St. Simon's Island has---craaaazy!!).

Clearly marked pedestrian crosswalks with the middle of the road stop signage, flashing signal lights, different roadway material (like brickwork), more warning stripes across roadways for stop signs or places where people need to slow down.

Sidewalks that will accommodate 2-3 people abreast. Fine joggers if they run in the street when sidewalks are available. I can't drive on the sidewalk--they shouldn't jog in the streets.

1. Support the strategic development of shopping/retail districts that facilitate walkable communities.

2. Advocate for sidewalks and pedestrian safety.

Support sidewalk installation and repair near activity centers, schools, parks, and bus stops regionwide.

Only allow new development if there is walkable retail and dining or similar at street level. No setbacks. Hidden parking decks. More bike lanes

subways and bus service will improve air quality, make a variety of educational opportunities more accessible, transport locals to jobs in nearby cities and allow them to live in their hometowns.

improve connectivity of neighborhoods through sidewalks, crosswalks (with enough time to safely cross streets!), and bus stops

Bike paths

I think empty sidewalks...of which there are many...a waste of money.

Fix and build wide sidewalks that are not inches from streets. Build bicycle paths that are not in streets. You can't walk or bicycle if there is nowhere to walk or bicycle.

We need to demand sidewalks on all our roadways.

Put sidewalks everywhere so people without a car can walk safely.

Make sidewalks a priority. Walkable neighborhoods are fantastic!

Put a walking/bicycle tunnel thru stratford road under lenox loop. We are crammed in on a cul de sac with over variance buildings.

Turn signals at all redlights. Syncing redlights. Pedestrian crossing before turn signal or vice versa not at the same time.

Bike Comments

Expand street lighting and well maintained wide sidewalks.
Improve rodent and vermin control efforts.

I think anytime a street or bridge is repaired, a bike lane and/or sidewalk should be added.

The title says Arts, RECREATION, and Healthy Quality of Life, but there is no mention of recreation. If you want to increase quality of life, and have walkable vibrant neighborhoods, then you need to have parks and recreation facilities available. Give people some decent green space and they will flock to it and form communities around it.

Increase transit, sidewalks, and bike lanes in areas that are already dense (like parts of the city of Atlanta, Decatur, etc). This is more important than trying to make really long expensive transit lines all throughout the sprawling suburbs.

Road dieting wherever possible. Work on restoring the grid and increasing travel route options for those who must drive. Increased funding for MARTA to become less car-dependent. More tolls to fund transportation projects. I was actually disappointed to see GA 400 toll taken down - it was quick to get through and cheap. I thought it was good for Atlanta as a whole. Bike lanes in highly dense neighborhoods.

Sidewalks! How can you expect people to walk and feel safe about doing so without sidewalks. The few that do exist mysteriously come to an end at random intervals.

Ensure safe pedestrian access everywhere

Enforce current laws on speed, pedestrian walkways/crosswalks, etc.

Design car-free zones

Reduce available parking and require that parking spaces (other than safe on-street parking) not be visible from sidewalks.
Encourage parking built above shops/offices.

Pedestrian and biker safety improvements.

Hike/Bike Trails utilizing area creeks

Repurpose existing roads as bicycle paths. Build out more bicycle lanes in existing roads. Connect neighborhoods to shopping (e.g. Summer Hill to a Publix) with cycling options/paths.

Sidewalks

SIDEWALKS!

Provide options for a growing elderly population--walkable commercial areas and more public transportation options

repair all existing broken sidewalks, and build more of them

Bike Comments

More sidewalks and safer road crossing, especially on major thoroughfares like Peachtree Street

Create communities that encourage human-powered locomotion (walking, biking, etc) rather than driving by giving preference to humans, reducing road size, removing striping (see experiments in London), and making people feel safe to go about on foot. Existing sidewalks are a disaster, and bike lanes that also happen to be the shoulder/next to parked cars waiting to door you do not inspire confidence!

Walkable & Livable communities are so key use multiple bike & walking paths for the region is key to people getting active & connecting communities

I walk or bike along Clairmont and North Decatur roads to work. These roads and sidewalks are in poor condition, potholes and jagged edges along the roadside where I bike. During rain, sidewalks are flooded and the roadside has large puddles with which cars splash pedestrians. Please fix the existing infrastructure before building more!

More bike lanes - finish the belt line

Making the city more bike friendly is probably the most important thing to me personally.

More bike infrastructure please.

can not do this without transportation. either public or personal INCLUDING bike lanes and sidewalks.

there has just got to be more funding for cities to build sidewalk and bike lanes. we can talk about it all day long but it costs money and until we start recognizing the we must address how people move we will never be ahead of the curve. I am glad to be part of the survey. Thank you for taking opinions and getting a well rounded plan.

Low or no cost common-sense solutions are needed. 1) only allow new construction if it will make the area more walkable (retail at street level) 2) attract employers to midtown and downtown with tax credits similar to the successful film credit 3) safe bike lanes are cheaper and faster to install than mass transit 4) more bus routes in urban core (14th st for example to connect the west side to the east)

We need all the metro ATL counties to work together for seamless, integrated heavy and light rail and bike/pedestrian paths to enable people to get around metro ATL without a car.

I am working in ATL for the summer (internship) and will be going back to Washington, D.C. to finish my Master's degree. I want to move to Atlanta but the lack of public transportation options and car centric culture (i.e. no protected bike lanes in Downtown, Midtown area) make me apprehensive to make the move.

Bike Comments

I'm am a recent transplant to Atlanta, having relocated from New York for work. I had an image of Atlanta as a sprawling car town, and a place where I did not want to live (especially watching last winter's media coverage of Atlanta's frozen freeway system), but have been pleasantly surprised by projects such as the Beltline and other trends toward increasing the density, walkability and cohesion of the urban core. When I recently bought my house, proximity to MARTA and walkability were my number one priorities (I plan to drive as little as possible). I would love to see more focus on walkable neighborhoods, bike lanes and bike share programs, and rail transit. This seems key to turning Atlanta into a desirable city to rival other US population centers more commonly considered to have a high quality of life.

We need more bike lanes, more sidewalks, more buses, more rail, and, most of all, less prioritization of the automobile!

I would like for Douglas County to be more pedestrian and bike friendly. I am envious of other communities in which people can bike or walk to work, to shop, and for pleasure.

I commute to work by bicycle

Lack of side walks and bike lanes makes it extremely difficult to enjoy getting around Atlanta with these modes of transport. I think making the city more bikable and walkable should be a priority.

can't wait to hear what's planned! I love Atlanta. Just wish it was safer for bicycles.

I'm a bicycle and walker commuter.

Atlanta should be a beacon for walkability, arts/culture, and innovation in the US.

Many more sidewalks and bike paths now, vs. 10 years ago. Keep it up! Connect them!

I would love to see a huge expansion of greenways so we can bike just about anywhere in the city.

children need to walk to school. Close schools in office parks where there are no closeby homes and everyone busses.

More bike lanes, fewer cars, much better high schools. Tell people not to park cars and trash cans on the existing sidewalks (ie, use sidewalks for walking).

I would bike to work if I could. Its only 10 miles!

Stop building bike paths, expanding transit, lower taxes

Widen and smooth all major sidewalks to accomodate bikers and walkers and/or dedicated Bike roads . Include ways for pedestrians and bikers to cross the Chattahoochee River

bike lanes

Bike lanes

Sidewalks along major roads with residences nearby, such as Buford Highway.

Bike Comments

Safe, walkable place to work. It would be nice to feel comfortable to walk when at work in ATL

Bike Paths

Getting people out of their cars is not a matter of sidewalks and bike lanes. If it is too far (>2 miles) to get to things the sidewalks and bike lanes are a waste of money.

The way to attract this workforce is by having good transportation, vibrant, walkable n'hoods, etc.

many more bike lanes please! :)

Peachtree street should become the Fifth Ave. of Atlanta. Make it a one way street from Buckhead to downtown with broader sidewalks and plenty of shops and maybe a streetcar type of service possibly consider no cars at all only emergency vehicles.

continue to build out the Beltway in the most beautiful way we can and integrate it with the city center.

Consider covering up the whole Connector and create green spaces and connectivity for the whole city instead of being separated as we are now.

Important but not possible without the others - young innovators want walkable vibrant neighborhoods

This will follow when have economic growth and good bike and pedestrian access

Create and restore sidewalks in the older neighborhoods.

First and foremost, a safe neighborhood. A neighborhood is not walkable if it is not safe. Police presence and cameras.

Yes, we need to have safer neighborhoods to enjoy walkables

Begin by adding sidewalks!

Safe and walkable neighborhoods are importance for fostering neighborhood cohesiveness and also exercise.

More focus on public transit and walkability. Transit, biking, and pedestrian travel should be coordinated well.

Create more sidewalks (that are also wheelchair accessible), and bike lanes. This would help in reducing air pollutants and would encourage more walking (creating a healthier city).

This is important, but has nothing to do with walkable vibrant neighborhoods.

we already have sidewalks, paint more lines for bikes maybe.

no one wants to ride a bike to the store, dinner, work or church
bike lanes and paths not on the road but near it for increased safety

Widen all sidewalks to provide a safe way for commuters to bike to work and cross Chattahoochee.

Yes! Bike paths would turn Atlanta into a car-free city. As it is, bikers have to brave already small lanes and wild drivers.

Bike Comments

I am from Phoenix Arizona, and Phoenix and the surrounding subs are known for the wide, bike lanes. I moved here in 1998, and I had to laugh at the "so called bike lane", which is a skinny white line. It is very dangerous to ride a bike on a thin "white line" along Jonesboro Rd, Forest Parkway, etc.

Having grown up in bike-friendly California, I find it hard to see Atlanta re-engineering its streets for serious bike transportation, besides, drivers are more distracted than ever. Put bikes in safe, dedicated places.

Create more walk path and bike trails in Dekalb county area.

However, this should include allowing municipalities to institute "road diets" to facilitate walkable, healthy communities.

Include well designed bike lanes and sidewalks/road crossings in any road improvement project.

are streets are to narrow to accommodate a bike lane,you can barely drive a car down or roads.

Bikes are a nice idea but not a major solution to regional transportation problems. I see energy taken from real problem solutions and spent on a PC feel good movement.

We have many bike paths and they need to stay off the roads when traveling as a recreational activity

Bike lanes are important, and I think they would be used for recreation and some light shopping. However, given our intense heat and humidity, I don't believe bike lanes would increase or better LOS on Atlanta roads.

biking is better for recreation than for transportation - I favor recreational paths

It is already so congested that I do not think that more bike lanes are safe. Most areas cannot expand their streets to accommodate bike lanes and it is not cost effective to do so.

Require useable sidewalks and crosswalks for all new development and significant redevelopment

If you are seriously thinking of "biking" as alternative to a car then you need to require a bike license and a license for the rider of said bike. The bike riders need to support these lanes the way car drives do. Now, if there is any type of incident with a bike rider we have no way to know if they are knowledgeable in the laws of the road and there is no way that someone can identify a rider who is rude on the road or breaking any laws because of a lack of license plate.

Make communities more alternate transportation friendly, electric buses, bike paths, etc..

SIDEWALKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bike Comments

I love Cobb County and have lived here 30 plus years and have seen many changes....most good, some questionable. I do hate these "surveys" but I do understand that people complain about not having a voice and then not using it when given a chance. These surveys make me feel manipulated to go down predetermined paths as the topics are very vague in nature.

Would love a safe way to bike to work! Thanks for asking!

The planted questions do not reflect the views of the people in the ARC region. The selections selected were too narrowminded. Bike/ped is fine, but we still need to figure out how do we manage our existing transportation system.

Stop building bike paths, expanding transit, lower taxes

Widen and smooth all major sidewalks to accomodate bikers and walkers and/or dedicated Bike roads . Include ways for pedestrians and bikers to cross the Chattahoochee River

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Sidewalks along major roads with residences nearby, such as Buford Highway.

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Getting people out of their cars is not a matter of sidewalks and bike lanes. If it is too far (>2 miles) to get to things the sidewalks and bike lanes are a waste of money.

The way to attract this workforce is by having good transportation, vibrant,walkable n'hoods, etc.

many more bike lanes please! :)

If we are to have a world class city, we need to act like one and create an effective and innovative transportation system system most importantly public transportation which will allow anybody anywhere in the greater Atlanta area to reach a bus or public transportation all in walkable distance. This kind of system should not be profitable but be sustained via tax support and reasonable fares. Of course we need to continue to expand an effective highway system probably by building a second Hwy 285 bypass to remove more trucks traffic from the city.

Bike Comments

Peachtree street should become the Fifth Ave. of Atlanta. Make it a one way street from Buckhead to downtown with broader sidewalks and plenty of shops and maybe a streetcar type of service possibly consider no cars at all only emergency vehicles.

continue to build out the Beltway in the most beautiful way we can and integrate it with the city center.

Consider covering up the whole Connector and create green spaces and connectivity for the whole city instead of being separated as we are now.

The art world in Atlanta is not first class or remotely world class we continue to look pretty poor. Major investments need to be made in a truly remarkable symphony orchestra and most importantly a concert hall , like that in New York City, an opera building worth its name and a new and expanded art museum. the whole art scene needs to be enhanced by major improvements all around. Tax payers, and arts supporters can be found to achieve that goal.

If we are to create a truly walkable environment we need to look at more fountains in the city, broader sidewalks, more statues. Our planning has to take that into account if we are to become more special than we already are.

We are a great city with infinite possibilities for the future. so let's have high speed train service from Atlanta, to Chattanooga, to Macon and Savannah and Orlando, those investments are for the public good and will be used by the public if the price is right, the trains fast clean and comfortable with a coffee bar and good food. Trains are not profitable but are an absolute necessity in the modern community. Let's build a beautiful train station downtown from where we radiate public transportation with broad avenues and beautiful surroundings.

That will enhance the quality of life.

God knows we all need to exercise. I'd love to be able to walk out my door onto a walking trail.

Living in a walkable vibrant neighborhood will bring the quality of life that is needed in our city. One where Southern Hospitality can be shared amongst us and our visitors. Not only will we be happy, but we will be exercising and looking for the arts and recreation you speak of. Business will be booming.

Bike Comments

I think Georgia is far behind when it comes to transportation. Lack of a good transportation system ultimately impact our health. Sitting for hours in traffic increases road rage leads to stress, then eventually causes one to arrive to work tired, and then causes a person to scream at the employees, they in turn become unproductive and finally end up with health issues. A good transportation system enables one to connect with businesses, organizations, churches and various groups of people. I was appalled when I moved here and found out that I had to take a taxi or rent a car to get from one area to the next. I just assume it was similar to New York. Going to dialysis was a night mare. When I finally move close to a bus line, I found out that the buses travelled only one route and I still had to walk a good distance. There would be less cars on the road if reliable transportation was available. Citizens would be happier and healthier.

Southlake Mall would be great to have an outdoor, walkable, friendly space and, the Olde Towne Morrow space would be a great place to start. Right now, it is incomplete and could be put to better use for my community.

Important but not possible without the others - young innovators want walkable vibrant neighborhoods

This will follow when have economic growth and good bike and pedestrian access

without a regional comprehensive system that utilizes rapid transit, walking and biking companies will not move here - citizens can't take advantage quality of life amenities

We need more sidewalk and less cars.

Create and restore sidewalks in the older neighborhoods.

First and foremost, a safe neighborhood. A neighborhood is not walkable if it is not safe. Police presence and cameras.

Yes, we need to have safer neighborhoods to enjoy walkables people in Atlanta don't walk, they drive

Begin by adding sidewalks!

Safe and walkable neighborhoods are importance for fostering neighborhood cohesiveness and also exercise.

More focus on public transit and walkability. Transit, biking, and pedestrian travel should be coordinated well.

I tear up every time I see homeless people, even when I see senior citizens walking miles from a bus stop with grocery bags and other bags in their hands.

I just think that more can be done. More resources allocated to them.

Unfortunate we have a large percentage of youth walking the streets and not interested in learning new skills and maintaining a regular job. I question, How can they be motivated to work for

Bike Comments

a better life?

The ARC should come to the table with Major Developers when planning new places of business. We need to get our citizens out walking.

Create more sidewalks (that are also wheelchair accessible), and bike lanes. This would help in reducing air pollutants and would encourage more walking (creating a healthier city).

Must be able to walk between stores or make transit between shopping hubs easier.

This is important, but has nothing to do with walkable vibrant neighborhoods.

we already have sidewalks, paint more lines for bikes maybe.

Yes! It is unsafe and impractical not to mention the affect on traffic to have bikers occupy the same lanes as motorized vehicles. And the issue is compounded for large groups of bikers.

no one wants to ride a bike to the store, dinner, work or church
bike lanes and paths not on the road but near it for increased safety

Widen all sidewalks to provide a safe way for commuters to bike to work and cross Chattahoochee.

Yes! Bike paths would turn Atlanta into a car-free city. As it is, bikers have to brave already small lanes and wild drivers.

Atlanta is too spread out to consider this a viable transportation solution. I would continue along the lines of bike paths along parks and the Beltline.

I am from Phoenix Arizona, and Phoenix and the surrounding subs are known for the wide, bike lanes. I moved here in 1998, and I had to laugh at the "so called bike lane", which is a skinny white line. It is very dangerous to ride a bike on a thin "white line" along Jonesboro Rd, Forest Parkway, etc.

Having grown up in bike-friendly California, I find it hard to see Atlanta re-engineering its streets for serious bike transportation, besides, drivers are more distracted than ever. Put bikes in safe, dedicated places.

Create more walk path and bike trails in Dekalb county area.

However, this should include allowing municipalities to institute "road diets" to facilitate walkable, healthy communities.

Include well designed bike lanes and sidewalks/road crossings in any road improvement project.

are streets are to narrow to accommodate a bike lane,you can barely drive a car down or roads.

Bike Comments

Atlanta's road are in terrible shape and it takes away from the over look of the city,not to mention the damage done to your vehical. Traffic is terrible! The streets and side walks are too narrow, giving the city a feeling of being overcrowded and logistical small

Bikes are a nice idea but not a major solution to regional transportation problems. I see energy taken from real problem solutions and spent on a PC feel good movement.

We have many bike paths and they need to stay off the roads when traveling as a recreational activity

Unless we think that bike lanes and ped traffic will significantly help with utility trips, then ok.

Bike lanes are important, and I think they would be used for recreation and some light shopping. However, given our intense heat and humidity, I don't believe bike lanes would increase or better LOS on Atlanta roads.

It is already so conjested that I do not think that more bike lanes are safe. Most areas cannot expand their streets to accommodate bike lanes and it is not cost effective to do so.

Require useable sidewalks and crosswalks for all new development and significant redevelopment

If you are seriously thinking of "biking" as alternative to a car then you need to require a bike license and a license for the rider of said bike. The bike riders need to support these lanes the way car drives do. Now, if there is any type of incident with a bike rider we have no way to know if they are knowledgeable in the laws of the road and there is no way that someone can identify a rider who is rude on the road or breaking any laws because of a lack of license plate.

Promote greater land use plans that encourages development near areas with access to mass transit, sidewalks, and/or trails and parks.

Provide free or reduced/low-cost immunizations for all walks of life - form childhood to adult - chicken pox, shingles influenza.

Make communities more alternate transportation friendly, electric buses, bike paths, etc..

SIDEWALKS!!!!!!!!!!!!

Create an Urban Growth Boundary and focus development in areas where walkability is feasible.

I love Cobb County and have lived here 30 plus years and have seen many changes....most good, some questionable. I do hate these "surveys" but I do understand that people complain about not having a voice and then not using it when given a chance. These surveys make me feel manipulated to go down predetermined paths as the topics are very vague in nature.

Would love a safe way to bike to work! Thanks for asking!

Bike Comments

The planted questions do not reflect the views of the people in the ARC region. The selections selected were too narrowminded. Bike/ped is fine, but we still need to figure out how do we manage our existing transportation system.

Yes to paths, bicycles, golf carts, autonomous vehicles, innovative transportation systems.

Smarter bike lanes. Parallel streets (ie: Auburn, Edgewood, and Dekalb avenues) do not all need bike lanes. Especially when they are only a few blocks long. The added bike lanes on Decatur street near Grady just frustrate the drivers.

Downtown Decatur/Candler park has made a serious mess of traffic by their "calming" street renovations. It has made traffic back up tremendously and also made riding a bike through town more dangerous...do not like!

supporting biking, walking, and mass transit as healthier and more economical ways for transportation than cars

Decrease dependence on autos by providing multiple transportation options. Encourage folks to walk a couple of blocks.

Workforce

Workforce Comments

Bring more bussinesses to Georgia, and really do something. Nice and pompous words and phrases are not enough anymore. I live in Loganville, main route toward Athens, but we are like 200 years behind. There is nothing there. No bigger bussinesses, no job opportunities. Bringing big bussinesses to GA would boost economy. Do it, not just talk about.

Local economy is key to the very diverse pockets we have in our city. They provide an opportunity for under- represented populations to serve their own but also improves security

The growth of GA economy is not on relying on the highly educated but on the basic essential jobs

A well educated workforce is developed LOCALLY with the local school boards and, to some extent, the state, working with parents. The Federal Government has no business forcing mediocre goals via Common Core and the U.S. Department of Education. Bring education back to the locals.

Atlanta should be a national leader in business start ups, application of education/business partnerships. Business innovation.

continue to be competitive encourage businesses to be a hub for the southern economy

Workforce Comments

The state that figures out how to educate inner city youth who's parents are uneducated will win the jobs. We won't be successful in this area until we offer real competition to the public school system. The only way I know to do this is through a private school voucher program.

Schools and employers must work together to get the students the education needed to fill the jobs that are available or will be later.

A well-educated workforce also includes skilled trades people.

We will lose economic value for businesses if our workforce is not educated. It just makes sense for the development of the region, we need well-educated and trained workforce.

Develop our workforce and we will have the leadership and resources to fix everything else. And conversely, without this workforce, Atlanta's problems will never be solved.

We must continue to attract young, creative workers to the city. We have to be able to keep our college grads here.

We need to start hiring Americans and put these illegals on the back burner. I have been unemployed for 6 months and am disgusted that the illegals have jobs and I don't.

People trained and retrained for jobs. With economic freedom people can accomplish many things.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to have a highly developed & well educated workforce, but the highest priority we can have in this endeavor is to become a city that highly developed and well educated people love to live in and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Highly Developed & well educated workforce should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. A highly developed & well educated workforce will flock here and choose to make their homes here.

Educated workforce will move to an area where quality of life issues have been addressed.

No. Atlanta should attract the medical and scientific fields.

Execute policies with no discrimination against race. White people need jobs, too.

My priorities will require an educated workforce and a clean water supply.

It all runs down hill. This type of workforce will then create the demand for the "Quality of Life", the "Innovation Hub" & the great neighborhoods, we want for Cobb.

Without it, we cannot attract the businesses that create the job growth we want.

Workforce Comments

atlanta has a huge income disparity. Educated workforce mixed with comprehensive transportation means existing communities can access jobs regardless of geography, along with receiving the training necessary to get these jobs. Also, Atlanta has a crap school system - no one is going to want to move here and start a family, not everyone can afford private schools, especially if you want to grow the middle class here, and there are only so many charter schools you can approve vs investing in the public school system

We also need to attract top employers so our well-educated workforce is less likely to move away for a better paying job.

I think that this is the highest priority, because a well-educated workforce enables economic growth that in turn enables the accomplishment of the other priorities.

A well educated workforce, and population is vital to maintaining economic progress and doing it in intelligent, healthy ways

If we employ our well-educated workforce to innovative solutions to global warming and urban problems, we have a winning combination of better quality of life and a healthy economy.

Medical and hospitality career paths are the first 2 that come to mind to build on the strength of the Centennial Park area as well as partners like Emory and CDC. Just think of all the young people that could be inspired to work hard in school by laying out career development plans that feed very specific industries (so they are easy to relate and achieve).

Jobs in the communities

Better paying jobs - less permanent part time jobs

More important than anything is for our Economy to grow first and get Americans back to viable jobs working to support their families.

More jobs, different skill levels of jobs

Emphasis on local businesses

Employers needing reliable employees for non-professional jobs.

JOBS

Economic Restructuring: Diverse businesses

BRING BIG COMPANIES TO GET JOBS.....

Educated workforce = above needs to be Built before they come.

find a way to bring in new well paying business. All these people are going to need a place to work, and we have enough low paying jobs already.

More companies and jobs steered in the South DeKalb area.

Housing for blue collar workers and less can afford to own or rent.

Making our communities safe! Nothing else works if residents and businesses do not have a strong sense of security.

Workforce Comments

Encourage deregulation to help businesses thrive

GOOD PAYING JOBS!

jobs

Good paying jobs. Make Georgia the most business friendly state in the union.

Ensure that there is a reasonable amount of workforce housing (affordable for young business people as well as aging population)

need to go to places where people need to go, especially jobs

Atlanta has GOT to move from being one of the most congested cities. In addition to transportation reform, there has got to be a bigger push in incentivizing big business to allow staff to telecommute, not only in areas immediate to downtown, but also the suburbs that feed traffic into downtown. Why can't metro Atlanta be the first of its kind with a workforce where 50% telecommute at least one day a week?

Encourage those educated in Atlanta to stay and work in Atlanta area by making more jobs available and making opportunities for growth and promotion available in these businesses and institutions

Work on education that enforces our local talent, encourage local hiring. Too many transplants taking Georgian's jobs.

The jobs seem to come on their own, we need to focus on making Atlanta an enjoyable city to live in, where people *want* to move for work, not just where they ended up.

I believe that with a highly developed and well educated workforce the other priorities will fall into place. Without the people being invested in the community will suffer.

South West Atlanta has so much potential. I just moved to Capitol View this June and am in love with it. BUT there are almost no grocery stores and plenty of empty spaces for businesses.

Neighborhoods, quality of life and educated workforce will undergird innovation hub and I would suggest that these three things are inter-related and key to our success & growth.

Relocate "homeless" outside of downtown to bring more tourist and businesses like other cities such Austin, San Antonio, etc.

Quality growth is centered around the availability of quality jobs. A developed and educated work force is a major factor in choosing an area in which to locate a business.

Add the word 'diversified': Highly Developed & Diversified Well-Educated Workforce.

Atlanta has lots of smart people, they need higher wage jobs. The region must become less hostile to unions and to worker rights concerns

Workforce Comments

We need to always do more to create a great workforce. In my opinion, some companies are doing a wonderful job of actually creating and sustaining institutions of learning that are much better than the public and private ones that are in place today. Companies know what they need in a productive workforce and can teach this better than those in academia who don't work in the "real world". I say give them tax incentives to establish and maintain colleges that teach practical workforce knowledge, including subject matter and how to successfully engage oneself socially while at work in order to help the company maintain its objectives.

also need reliable supply of entry level workers

Something should be done to make Duluth a business friendly town. I really miss Barnes and Noble.

It is sad to see a lot of abandoned shopping centers in Duluth. The old Big Lot shopping center is another shopping center that has went downhill as well. I honestly believe that the Buford highway section of duluth should be redone. I would help and so would many of my neighbors. I do love Duluth. It is diverse and safe, but when people come to visit me they see empty shopping centers giving them the impression that there are no jobs and shopping is limited.

I think with training in the workforce it will give people better skills to get a better job.

More than just IT, we need to make this area the "go-to" location for manufacturing. Those jobs raise the tax base and quality of life far better than service industry employment.

To become a hub, train, move jobs south of the dense traffic, ports, rails, more airports

Atlanta's economy is good. Let's make it great by preparing our students to take their places in the workforce. Realistic revitalization of our school systems are a must. We need to take care of those who are responsible for teaching our kids. Put autonomy back into the hands of teachers and hire administrative staff for administrative jobs. If we fail in this area, our economy will eventually fail as a result.

I would emphasize that this starts at the elementary through high school level, and should be across the board for all incomes/neighborhoods, not just certain schools.

If there are no fun jobs, then there is no point.

In order to attract desirable high end companies and businesses we will have to be able to augment their workforce.

Access to jobs and resources will help everyone and save money in the long run.
Gridlock is expensive.

Workforce Comments

When business come to Atlanta, don't forget there are branches in the outer limits of Atlanta that are connected and that support these down town Atlanta business, so give a hand and reach out by proxy - to help support the small towns. Without these surrounding towns, Atlanta would not be what it is today. Let tourist know about these other places, you would be surprised at how far that appreciation from the small businesses in the smaller towns would go to show it by directing tourist back toward Atlanta, too. We're Georgia, and all places, races, etc should be considered.

I believe that my top three — transportation, workforce, neighborhoods — will attract the kind of population that will support arts and innovation hubs. So the top three create the others. Secure water supply goes without saying. I don't think it's even optional.

This type of workforce will increase the tax base, improve our schools, increase diversity and cultural sensitivities, and allow metro Atlanta to move forward in history in a progressive manner.

We need jobs in those segments of the community where there is no hope and no motivation for education since working doesn't always mean being out of poverty. The gap is too great and the situation is unhealthy for ALL.

Education and workforce development opportunities for all ages

If we develop this the city will attract the educated workforce that will make it an innovation hub

where we do need our highly developed and well educated workforce we must create jobs, and enough jobs for our society to support their families. You could call this the "middle class family" if you like. If people doesn't feel pride they will not support a prideful environment as it were their own.

Need jobs for young people

I am of opinion that highly developed & educated workforce , needed to be more developed like all other developed cities in the Union

A highly developed workforce will further enhance our city.

Without a strong workforce you won't have the economic development and the jobs needed to sustain the region.

I believe we have good colleges and educated students coming out of school. But they need a reason to stay in the area. That's where attracting fortune 500 companies to the area helps. But we must also think about companies that help the every day person with jobs. I know this is controversial but there are many companies that do not require highly skilled labor force that could help raise the way of life for other people living in and around Atlanta.

Workforce Comments

Jobs. Get people working again. No work no welfare. Everyone on welfare needs to be tested for drugs. People who use drugs need to pay the price. Truly homeless? Ask them what help they need/want. If they don't want our help then. . .???

Yes, but in the context that a better approach is made. The homeless shelter on Pine is an example of a poor method. The goal should be programs that support homeless in getting jobs, as well as affordable housing for such homeless while they get back on their feet. The Pine Shelter from outsider perspective appears to be growing the problem of homelessness

People need to take care of themselves. If it weren't for stupid teachers, ill qualified, who's jobs are protected by unions so they can't be fired, folks would be able to read and understand how to take care of themselves.

it may sound heartless, but it does not make sense to put businesses where they cannot thrive.

I know in the outer lying areas, there are not enough shelters to help homeless people. We need to be helping provide a stable, safe place of respite and a place where businesses can come to find people to train to fill open positions in their companies. Many homeless people are that way now because of the tanked economy and losing their jobs. They need help and many don't even know where to turn with their families. Let's give them a place to rest and restart. I'm talking mainly about people willing to work. Not free-loaders.

This city is no longer "too busy to hate." Create affordable housing and jobs with decent pay. Create a city that welcomes everyone with opportunities to work, play, and live.

When the people are educated and the economy is doing well then the arts and culture will follow.

Create a free market atmosphere to achieve this goal.

When addressing homelessness do not confront it from a dismissive standpoint. Address it in ways of rehabilitation centers & promoting of businesses employing homeless individuals. Not only those down on jobs but those down on understanding of how to obtain a job. Programs that teach and steer toward skills. N

Include incentives to provide training for residents so that they can compete for high tech jobs.

Private businesses will do most of this out of necessity.

Up to private businesses such as Comcast or Bellsouth

Up to private businesses such as Comcast or Bellsouth

Incentives can be a race to the bottom. How much are we willing to pay for each job? Make this a good place to live and the jobs will come on their own.

Yes, but only as they bring jobs. Otherwise these are funded privately.

Workforce Comments

Creating "fiberhoods" and a strong workforce should attract the companies.

for whom and for what?

Again, businesses in need of this should petition their local commissions and boards to address their needs.

Stop focusing on just tech related businesses.

What is an incubator in terms of incentives for high-tech start-up businesses?

Consider thinking outside the box for housing options-- dorm-type options or very small, compact options. Look to other cultures like Japan for inspiration. \$600/month shouldn't be the cheapest option for people just starting out, especially who may have student loans or other pressures. Perhaps have apartments on top of businesses, etc.

There are empty shopping centers all over, those need to be remodeled and used for new businesses

Atlanta already does good jobs with this. Keep it up.

Small amounts of workforce housing carved out of new construction projects can be helpful. Generally people move to high rent areas to get away from poor people. If you force them to live with poor people the neighborhood will fail.

Love this! Gives people jobs to build the network, and provides a safe place for people to transport from place to place and makes neighborhood communities more vibrant.

clayton needs help for people to get to jobs. have more express buses

Connect job centers, population centers, and shopping areas with rail. Millennials usually don't own cars - if we want a vibrant innovative workforce, we need to have city infrastructure that will support it. Without that, we'll have a city of retirees and drug dealers.

Plus we need to spread out where jobs are located. We have all this land in East Dekalb county yet all the commonies move go to Buckhead and Alpharetta

Only if this is done well, to move everyone quickly to a real destination, not just laborers to low paying jobs.

Teamwork is important for the economy and the state as a whole.

This is needed urgently in Atlanta. People should not be limited to the typos of jobs they can take, based on the fact that it's in a part of Atlanta they don't have easy access to. Unless this is being done on purpose.

Workforce Comments

Atlanta has a gem in Marta. but the jobs is only part done.
Finish the job.

People think roads are cheaper. They are not. They are far more expensive. But with roads, the poeple subsidize the system by buying the vehicle, paying for the fuel and buying the insurance. You get convenience but the cost is high.

Connect jobs w/ housing

More lakes, more jobs to build lakes, more beautiful spaces, and more water for the people. All good!

Conservation by businesses/major corporations should be top priority over conservation by individuals.

Wy are we still building McMansions? With 3 million more people and a tough economy, I would love to see smaller, efficient homes. I would move into one now if there was one to be had.

grow the size of the pie--create more jobs!

Rather than giving businesses a financial break, actually make our region an attractive place to be.

Yes! And businesses that need to train their employees step up and do so.

This should be left up to the businesses to decide what they need.

Partnerships are great however giving incentives to attract jobs might not be the answer. If someone is moving into the area why should be give an incentive.

We need our local businesses back, no more big business!

MANDATORY for having low unemployment. Will foster more jobs and less crime.

Quality jobs make completing education important.

work through public high schools; have sat. classes re potential jobs.

This is always a high priority for any government. Jobs trump any other objectives except for environmental protection.

Yes, but to many this means acquiescing to all businesses' requests, regardless of their possible negative impacts. Make sure that you are not simply rolling over because of a weak threat to move business elsewhere. Be prepared to negotiate.

most needed, too many jobs go to transplants who had the jobs to begin she.

No, we need to focus on training for residences. Atlanta has a diversified economy now with many companies, but pay is comparatively low and the native workforce is untrained.

If we have an attractive workforce, created through high quality public education and access to great universities, companies will come whether we give them incentives or not.

Raise the minimum wage to give workers a living wage.

Workforce Comments

We also need to encourage "blue collar" jobs to return to the region. Losing jobs such as the Ford and GM plants has been detrimental to the region.

I would rather encourage local, newly created jobs.

YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES. Encourage the local start-ups to create new jobs, income, destinations, and economic strength. Remember, Silicon Valley started as just a couple of start-ups.

Must hire high percentage of local workforce, otherwise what's the point.

Local businesses help empower local communities.

If you have the educated workforce, they will come.

Partnerships and incentives are already in place. We need to focus more energy and investment on developing the workforce necessary to attract and fuel 21st century jobs.

Ask businesses to do work study programs for high school students. This will allow the student experience in the work force.

This will be less necessary once we have a recognized quality-educated workforce...

We need to be educating for GLOBAL needs and INTERNATIONAL competition; not just stop-gap education for short-term employer needs. That is short-sighted and limits ability of GA youths' flexibility to move jobs and location.

It is very important to have an educated workforce. This is what attracts employers and provides the foundation for an economically stable community.

Enough smokestack chasing, instead of give aways to outside industries, grow our own businesses across a broad spectrum

Who wouldn't want to attract quality jobs to the region? But what kinds of "partnerships" are being proposed? What kinds of "incentives"? Given how the government policies for the development of the Atlanta region has often favored the advantages of corporate "partnerships" and "incentives" over the quality of life for its residents, I'm skeptical.

Not everyone needs to attend academic college. We need artisans and old fashioned tradesmen to do traditional manual jobs.

Another one I would like to tag as a favorite. An educated and/or skilled population will bring jobs.

We need the right workforce before we'll attract the businesses...

Work closely with the universities, particularly the technical colleges to ensure student leaning matches jobs.

Workforce Comments

Although incentives are inevitable in this day and age, I caution overreliance on this tool. Providing workforce education for employers is a better option than simple tax breaks because it gives Georgia residents who participate in WE programs an asset that can't be taken away from them: more skills that can be transferrable to other jobs.

But within reason, and balance. All those incentives can drain the existing residents and businesses.

If that \$15 minimum wage hits GA, business growth will halt; unemployment will sky-rocket and many businesses will close.

I hesitated to give this a thumbs up, because Atlanta has a history of giving up too much for little return. Not unless it is a well thought out, targeted approach with clear objectives. This region doesn't do a very good job at this - too many gimmie's for a business, usually benefiting a select few at the expense of the majority of local residents (I'm thinking new professional sports stadium in Cobb County). If the region can develop quality and productive partnerships and provide small, yet impactful incentives, that may be a good way to bring "jobs" to the region.

Just be sure citizens benefit from the incentives businesses will be given - living wage jobs.

I feel like this can backfire if you don't focus on industries that have a likelihood of real sustainability as well as a match to Atlanta's existing major resources. I think biomedtech for example is an industry Atlanta could really develop and sustain, considering Emory, GT, CDC, etc. Some lab jobs don't require more than a bachelors, and it would be great to have programs that develop those interests and skills in local public school students.

Local businesses are one way to ensure vibrancy in neighborhoods without necessarily having to invest in design measures.

I think the jobs will follow if these initiatives are advanced.

Decreased regulation of small businesses would be a help -- also relief from ADA and other burdensome requirements.

I would say the market, but I know that most other regions incentivize companies to bring jobs to an area. You have to make the region competitive.

let's get the unemployed adults working now. Education is a long term goal.

As our neighbors to the west are learning, it doesn't matter how many high-end manufacturing plants you acquire (Mercedes, Airbus, etc.) -- if your workforce can't be trained, won't stay in a job, has no reliable transportation, can't find childcare for their kids, etc., -- if all that happens, the corporations will basically treat you like a third-world sweatshop. Georgia is already basically a third-world economy. Don't make it worse!

Workforce Comments

This effort should require the mandatory support of parents, educators and the community. It is for everyone's benefit. Create incentives for participation-- for businesses in the community as well as parents and educators. Perhaps payments on sliding scales according to income and mandatory volunteer time for those who benefit the most.

When people feel like they can create something and will be accepted for creating the business, they are more inclined to do so in your city. Encouraging a new business opportunity that will provide jobs in the surrounding area which means more opportunity and more capital moving from one hand to the next

This is a good idea for small businesses only; and should not be extended to big businesses.

As corridors are built, eg: BeltLine, high speed fiber could be laid down and in turn attract businesses to those corridors.

Concentrating like-minded businesses together can spread the knowledge and exchange of ideas.

High paying jobs and equal access to those jobs is key in insuring everyone has the chance to prosper in the region.

This creates jobs

This creates jobs

This creates jobs

and all industries, esp. low tech music, performance, film and other media jobs so that young people without work can get their foot in the door

We do not need local business only, we need big, national and international companies to come and invest in GA. Those bring jobs and prosperity to the region. Dear Congressman and Senators, do your jobs.

People with no transportation need transportation the most. They need to be able to get to jobs so development in areas where service is lacking need to be developed. MARTA to Stonecrest needs to be a priority. Most jobs are North of the city and people need to be able to get there in a reasonable amount of time. It is critical to supporting schools, neighborhoods and communities.

If you know anything about economic development, you know that the number one factor in site selection is the workforce. That means we need to work on our K-12 education and whatever else education is needed to attract companies.

This isn't the best way to put it .. "All" income levels don't need policies that will provide them with housing options; The upper 30 or 40 percent of income levels have all the options they need, thank you. This is a capitalist economy (unfortunately); and so that's not going to change; public policy needs to provide housing options that are real & fair for everyone else ...

Workforce Comments

The market is already creating these incubators so supporting them and their growth would be key.

The idea of providing incentives for small businesses and start-ups is a good one, but I don't see why the tech industry ought to be favored over others. Plus, the potential benefits for current locals, with no tech training, are extremely limited.

sustainable, community-oriented businesses that pay a living wage

Having a well educated workforce from bottom to top is a necessary condition for equitable growth. The poor academic performance of low income families in GA needs to be a high priority for future growth. I also see it as an ethical mandate.

Let's not forget the trades either. Not all jobs needed are highly skilled, tech workers.

I like the New Hope Enterprises model of matching training to real jobs with real employers.

Encourage joint ventures with businesses to match employer and business demands - encourage internships and on the job training opportunities - to facilitate not only new hires but job changes within and without a company

Work to provide incentives to all businesses, not just one at a time.

This should be stated as connect all major activity centers (jobs and leisure activities) with places where people live.

Concentrate on small businesses rather than large firms.

Local business expansion may result when compatible businesses are located nearby (one business that provides goods and services to another). We need to strategically think about this, and work across county/city boundaries to build a cohesive plan.

While we need to have a diverse business base, the Atlanta Region cannot be all things to every type of industry. We should focus attention on encouraging business development that makes sense based on our best assets. From that targeted base, we should ensure affordable related educational opportunities are available to the emerging youth workforce.

I think if we have an educated work force and people have jobs, hopefully things will be better for everyone.

A friend expressed his disappointment with the lack of desire by workers he supervises to improve their job skills, so they can advance. Community forums could improve such efforts in their neighborhoods.

A good way to add jobs.

In order to attract quality jobs, it is to have a well-trained workforce. Interested community groups can tackle this need in their community.

Workforce Comments

This is an area that qualified retired workers could lend their support to.

I agree with this to the extent that it does not create skewed marketplace and place private sectors, small businesses at a disadvantage.

Do you ever watch SHARK TANK? Again, private investors and businesses will take care of this very adequately!

Affordable housing that can access transit and jobs is important for the region.

Not feasible financially. Need to develop jobs around existing transit stations.

Attract jobs with non-discrimination policies, decent education and transportation.

Educate the people and empower "the little man" to become self sufficient and they will develop the confidence to create businesses and the jobs will follow.

none of this should threaten economic freedom or harm local businesses!

The best social program is work. Get the government boot off the throat of the economy so that businesses can grow and add jobs.

In order to end the cycle of poverty we must give job seekers the ability to easily go across county lines to find the best jobs

This would result in more water, expanding economy and more jobs

We already have a lot of incubators. And it's unclear that startups generate many jobs Those they do create are good jobs but only open to highly-educated folks. Blue collars are the ones needing jobs

Work at home programs should be easy to implement for some businesses.

Not by gov't resources. Private sector and will create more jobs to do it.

we can't let our economy die because of the snail darter. We need to tread lightly with these type of issues.

Many of the high-quality jobs are out of reach for those who do not drive cars. I have many friends who are limited this way, because so many jobs are in suburban areas not covered by MARTA where other transit systems (if available) take hours to navigate.

This should be mandated onto private businesses, not a public expense.

This could be done and it wouldn't cost that much. Help less well-off people get to jobs, and help all of us have some options that don't entail driving.

Workforce Comments

Keep the taxes low, the workforce in a constant learning mode and the environment healthy and beautiful and entrepreneurs and companies will stay and expand here

Top notch & educated workforce, a livable environment and low taxes will draw new business.

Instead make the businesses and local communities clean up their own mess

Keep costs low and jobs will follow

Leave it to the free market. Businesses use university labs when appropriate

If a community has a well-educated workforce and high quality of life, companies will want to come here. No further incentives needed.

More focus on living closer to jobs to reduce traffic load on existing roads and reduce traffic through through planning of traffic control systems.

Stop pandering to the big box stores that run the small businesses out of business

this is becoming more and more important as I age. Easy parking, good lighting will add to sense of safety.

That is called apprenticeship. It already exists for those motivated to seek the opportunity.
Deport illegal aliens so unemployed Georgia citizens can compete for jobs.

Should include all jobs, not just high-tech.

Having quality public transportation and small vibrant "city squares" makes it easy to know your neighbors, reduces traffic and pollution, and increases jobs.

Making walkable communities will help spur business which in turn will help promote jobs and education.

How many years have we been preached to that this is going to be done. Stop the lies. How about businesses do the training themselves to fit their needs?

Metro Atlanta is a region- more than a mix of 10 counties, we all depend on each other. Therefore we must be more connected, and assist workers, employees, and visitors to move around the area more efficiently, faster, easier.

hope is the first step in keeping kids in Georgia for college, now we need to keep folks here because their are jobs that match their skills

We need to be diverse, not just pander to individual businesses. If the business requires specialized training, it should be on their dime. We should promote entrepreneurial behavior.

Workforce is what is driving economic development now. Economic development professionals know this. Why ask people who don't know this what we should be doing?!?!?!?

Workforce Comments

It is important to attract good/lucrative jobs to sustain personal and economic growth in the communities.

Homelessness is a symptom, not a disease. Increase resources to housing options, jobs, opportunities, education, after school programs, etc.

Invest of existing businesses and communities.

I believe once there will be a strong economy and educated workforce in the Metro Atlanta area the numbers of homeless people will decrease. Help to help themselves. They won't be able to get off the streets without jobs that can support them.

The private sector and businesses could provide this.

Too many things are done and worked out to the benefit of businesses and developers even when there is clear public dissent. The deal is done in executive session or prior.

Why aren't businesses providing this?

Companies want to move to areas where there is a population that can meet company needs/requirements. A highly trained workforce is important.

This is important for economic development. It will bring more jobs to the region and promote growth.

This is so important to the development of our economy.

Yes, THAT will increase jobs and demand for other goods and services, which will boost the economy!

Yes! This will help many things! It will create jobs, which will create more demand for products and services, which will stimulate the economy and bring MORE jobs! INCREASE THE GAS TAX!

Incentives seem to lead to bidding wars and awards that often do not pay for themselves. A topnotch workforce and topnotch transportation will take care of this by themselves -- a great place to live and great workforce are incentives themselves.

Improve in all areas, not just technology. Technology jobs can be exported; plumbers and electricians can't be exported off-shore (try replacing a toilet while you are 2,000 miles away :)

Unless it is all jobs and business types.

Such will attract type of residents that will create better environs, create business and jobs

Diversify our businesses. Don't put all our eggs in one industry basket. Hi-tech jobs, but also quality skills training for those who don't go to a traditional college. We need welders, plumbers, auto technicians, etc., too.

Focus on promoting STEM jobs as well as other kinds of jobs.

encourage businesses to promote the use of teleworking.

Workforce Comments

subways and bus service will improve air quality, make a variety of educational opportunities more accessible, transport locals to jobs in nearby cities and allow them to live in their hometowns.

Enhance options to get to jobs, stores and other places without driving

Allow the dept. of labor to have a database for people to "swap" jobs with other people in order to live closer to work. Happier employees, less traffic, and utilize a database that already exists with the DOL.

Promote funding opportunities for workforce development and technical education in the region.

Provide relief to business in form of tax credits and delay of regulations to promote business growth that will increase quality jobs in the region.

Attract manufacturing jobs and train a skilled workforce for those jobs. Internet and "high-tech" jobs do not provide a large enough number of jobs to warrant a majority of the focus when trying to attract living wage jobs.

Employing a highly developed workforce will come with all of the aforementioned areas have reached a certain threshold. Individuals that are highly skilled will move to a place that has a comprehensive transit system, great walkable neighborhoods, a high quality of life and an established innovation hub. It makes an attractive place to be and a place where people want to live. Thus, this category should be a given when the other areas have made improvement.

establish apprenticeships with regional businesses so folks can get the "real feel" of a particular job

Jobs and more jobs.

Jobs jobs jobs.

Jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs.

We need jobs.

We need jobs.

We need jobs. I hope you all hear this.

Jobs

Jobs and more jobs.

Jobs will solve these problems.

Jobs.

Jobs.

Raise the minimum wage to a living wage for all workers!

Open free to use community event spaces for Meetups that can hold 20, 40, 100 people across the region. Solicit businesses to advertise and offer services at the meetings (food, drink, etc.)

Workforce Comments

high-speed regional intercity rail service to not-only connect commercial nodes, but ensure accessibility to the residential areas where the workforce lives, learns, and plays

Remove and deny curb cuts. Example Howell mill road and Cobb pkwy Put a driveway connecting side by side businesses so there is only one curb cut. Preferably at a light.

The number one thing not on the survey that might be the most important possible item is to offer incentives to workforces for offering flex hours to their employees and telecommuting. If we could at least spread rush hour out so that it's 4 hours of decent traffic instead of 3 hours of gridlock, everybody wins. And if executives who are ARC-friendly are convinced to allow telecommuting that means employee retention, happier employees and less traffic for us all!

Startups are not stable businesses, and usually operate on shoestrings with 3-4 employees at a time. attracting them does not help.

quality jobs need to be developed for more than just technology based jobs.

I believe public transit is essential for equitable access to education and jobs and necessary for sustainable growth. I will relocate from Metro Atlanta to a competing metro area if transit is not improved significantly in the next 5 to 10 years. The seemingly never ending debate and pumping money into planning studies that are never implemented is simply ridiculous in my opinion. I want quality public transit and to live, work and play in a truly progressive community or region. I will relocate if transit is not improved and expanded in the next 5 to 10 years. It is a quality of life issue for me.

I run a community digital learning center in Downtown East Point. I would love to support further discussion on bringing technology access, creation, and jobs to South Fulton County.

Improving traffic flow and attracting new jobs are my main concerns.

I've lived in the area (mainly Cobb County, now Cherokee) for 34 years. I've watched rampant growth with little consideration for the impact. Now that the economy is picking up again we HAVE to consider how people will get from Point A to Point B. PLAN growth, don't just let it happen.

I'm forwarding this link to friends and co-workers.

JOBS JOBS JOBS

Jobs/new businesses need to be spread outside the perimeter. Atlanta is too crowded and traffic is awful. Businesses/jobs need to be created further out so less people are having to drive downtown and also have a job closer to where they live to cut commute time, decrease gas usage, improve air quality.

Workforce Comments

Keep the film incentives! It brings sooooo much money to the economy

do not allow any more business to set up shop, without coming up with a plan for traffic and parking; places like the camp creek market place. it's obvious that the city was more concerned about making money, so much so they didn't think about how people were going to get in and out of the area. many of the new buildings downtown have also been thrown up with the same amount of carelessness. SMH DO BETTER!!

Cleanup the downtown area not only for tourists but for workers who have to navigate/avoid numerous vagrants, panhandlers, seedy characters. In essence, clean up the city before you can effectively promote any kind of economic growth. As long as there is filth on the streets and around office buildings, people will criticize and avoid our city. I live in Gwinnett and despise commuting into Atlanta, so if I as a metro-resident cannot stand my own city, how can we entice visitors, investors?

Build a second loop around Atlanta or lose businesses to other cities.

WE NEED JOBS.

We need jobs.

Secure more jobs for Atlanta.

Make Atlanta safer!

Bring industry back to each region of Georgia. If no jobs, there is no support for all the well-intentioned services above.

Good paying JOBS!

Improving our transportation is essential. It is currently a huge economic and quality of life drain.

Develop the location across the street from the Archive Center. We can put a learning center there for medical, technical, etc opportunities. Also, a nice hotel would bring more revenue and jobs to the area of Morrow/Lake City/Forest Park.

Essential to economic growth and quality of life...uneducated citizens can't get jobs and create crime problems

Create and provide training programs to poor young adults to equip them with skills to find jobs. This can be done by partnering with local businesses. . . .

Essential to quality of life, jobs, business and every part of life in the area.

to succeed as a community it needs workers for the 21st Century and beyond. Educated workers are a cornerstone of success in all facet of the city's life

If we don't have the skill workers, we won't attract the business. We need to improve our schools and trade schools.

Workforce Comments

We will not attract businesses if we don't have these issues under control. We need to settle the A. S. O. war that is going on now in Atlanta.

Hi-tech and keeping up with hi tech is the future. It makes Atlanta look more in tuned with the future and its future needs hi-tech, good paying jobs.

These are the jobs of our future.

This is a solution that is an outgrowth of our universities and major businesses.

The focus should not be building businesses on the North and Northwest side for jobs and expand them to other areas such as the East or the Southside. It is ridiculous that most of the professional jobs are in Alpharetta, Marietta or Perimeter. It is sad that I travel from Conyers to Alpharetta each day to work.

I don't think this is viable unless we are speaking directly about downtown, Midtown, Buckhead, Alpharetta, Sandy Springs, and Dunwoody as these are where majority of the high paying jobs are.

Atlanta feels overcrowded with no where to park without paying a small fortune. Park Atlanta and the city seem to be the only businesses profiting from all of the new facilities being built in the downtown area.

Reach out to local businesses and ask if they would "volunteer for the day", by allowing employees to clean up, paint, and/or plant flowers. In return, provide a certificate, a write up and picture in local newspaper (AJC), recognizing their hard work.

Work with the Department of Labor and Workforce in local counties to train workers also local colleges. Have the companies help pay to educate the workers. They will have a vested interest in the employee and continue to train their employees.

Make Atlanta a competitive market to attract new businesses to the area.

The people are coming to the region, that's a fact. Businesses already receive several incentives for coming to the region

If the region is more attractive the jobs will come- smokestack chasing may not pay off.

No some much as based on demands, but alignment with opportunities as jobs change and evolve

Develop community business as satellites so all workers will have the ability to work close to home.

seems like there are already a lot of great jobs, partnerships, and companies here. we need to make sure it's sustainable by providing other pros and attributes that will enhance the experience around our current opportunities.

Simplify licensing for small businesses. Make compliance SIMPLE, with clear, non confusing directions.

Workforce Comments

Especially for jobs that are in high demand and low supply.

Officially retired; but still working part time jobs.

Improve unincorporated Fulton County with businesses or programs to improve property values.

Secure more jobs for Atlanta.

Make Atlanta safer!

Bring industry back to each region of Georgia. If no jobs, there is no support for all the well-intentioned services above.

Provide employment

Over Population

Rising Crime Rate

Fair Housing and Employment

Developed a well educated workforce that everyone will benefit from.

Good paying JOBS!

The way to attract this workforce is by having good transportation, vibrant, walkable n'hoods, etc.

There is a lack of opportunity for those college educated, over 40, who got dumped in the great recession. I am still trying to find full time work and i am being discriminated against because of long term unemployment and age.

Well not sure what that means entirely... sounds like the highly developed and well educated workforce

Develop the location across the street from the Archive Center. We can put a learning center there for medical, technical, etc opportunities. Also, a nice hotel would bring more revenue and jobs to the area of Morrow/Lake City/Forest Park.

this category compared to the arts and recreation category is a bit misleading- thinking as if we would not support arts in education and jobs or on a professional level as well.

Essential to economic growth and quality of life...uneducated citizens can't get jobs and create crime problems

Provide more grants and student loans for education . Create more jobs and internship programs

water, nice neighborhoods, convenient transportation, good jobs, and high quality of life the innovation will follow

This tied to the educated workforce or economic development, but it's difficult for me to prioritize as a stand alone category.

Create and provide training programs to poor young adults to equip them with skills to find jobs. This can be done by partnering with local businesses. . . .

Not everyone needs a full University education, or can afford it. We need to concentrate on our Tech school systems so people will have the skills for the jobs that are created.

Workforce Comments

essential as the community continues rapid growth. Transportation impacts jobs, quality of life, education and all facet of life, work and play

Essential to quality of life, jobs, business and every part of life in the area.

the other issues can be solved with educated workforce

Arts and recreation draw visitors as well as residents. Being a destination city is good for the local economy.

Quality educational institutions produce creative and innovative graduates. A partnership with local business' to offer employment opportunities to students will encourage them to stay in Atlanta and make this an even better place to live.

Hi-tech and keeping up with hi tech is the future. It makes Atlanta look more in tuned with the future and its future needs hi-tech, good paying jobs.

These are the jobs of our future.

The focus should not be building businesses on the North and Northwest side for jobs and expand them to other areas such as the East or the Southside. It is ridiculous that most of the professional jobs are in Alpharetta, Marietta or Perimeter. It is sad that I travel from Conyers to Alpharetta each day to work.

I don't think this is viable unless we are speaking directly about downtown, Midtown, Buckhead, Alpharetta, Sandy Springs, and Dunwoody as these are where majority of the high paying jobs are.

This would be amazing and really connect our city, metro Atlanta region, and state. If we could get from Athens to Atlanta by rail, not only would our economy grow, but pollution from drivers commuting to Atlanta for work would decrease.

Yes. But job centers shift. What is the threshold for high capacity?

It is insane to think that we can keep adding highway lanes to our existing roads and think that we won't have highway gridlock like California. We need to put jobs and employment in close proximity and provide incentives to expand MARTA and development around its stations

"Environmentally sensitive" gets way over used to prevent reasonable development. Just look at what counts as a "wet land". This region has lost many jobs due to environmental regulations that have made the businesses move to other countries. We need a reasonable balance and governmental assistance to go with mandates.

Work with the Department of Labor and Workforce in local counties to train workers also local colleges. Have the companies help pay to educate the workers. They will have a vested interest in the employee and continue to train their employees.

Workforce Comments

Attracting business into our area keeps our personal taxes down and provides good jobs.

This should be the fore-front of developing jobs in the city and region. Small businesses are main provider of jobs. Adding and keeping these alive and healthy will build a sustainable process which decreases unemployment.

If the region is more attractive the jobs will come- smokestack chasing may not pay off.

No some much as based on demands, but alignment with opportunities as jobs change and evolve

Providing incentives and assistance to local residents is most important because we don't want to have employers relocate and not find a skilled workforce.

Targeting elementary and middle schools is the foundation to building a well-educated workforce...igniting a fire to learn.

seems like there are already a lot of great jobs, partnerships, and companies here. we need to make sure it's sustainable by providing other pros and attributes that will enhance the experience around our current opportunities.

higher education is not the need. Decent jobs to build stable families will improve our overall community

Especially for jobs that are in high demand and low supply.

Stop giving tax incentives without enough follow up. Tie the quality of jobs to the tax incentive. No incentives for low wage part time jobs.

Food innovation hubs - providing place-based jobs at all skill levels

Officially retired; but still working part time jobs.

Provide education opportunities (expand opportunities to take junior college courses in communities in metro ATL (e.g. - there are many abandon building in stone mountain that could be converted to classroom - which would help develop the area's workforce

Clayton County is in need of Marta which will create jobs and improve the way of life.

jobs with livable wages will support families which will lead to a better quality of life. Water conservation begins with recognizing that it is a finite resource. Roadways in Atlanta are adequate traffic patterns are deplorable.

How about encouraging the development of more opportunities for night time work, i.e., CARPE NOCTEM ?

Work to get the school systems on board with educating the future workforce and offering more opportunities for internship to help shape their career choices

Workforce Comments

I live in East Lake...where the East Lake Foundation brought positive growth and encouraged low and middle income families/ businesses to partner and uplift the entire community.

Desprately needed on existing routes, make the side streets better and add commercial real estate along the way for more jobs

This assumes that all will remain the same. A high end educational system with internships would work much, much better. Jobs, industries and businesses change in what they do and what they need over time. This is too geared to "NOW" and not the future of the Atlanta region.

Make an assertive effort to bring quality businesses into our Region

Do a pilot program for internship starting in middle school with companies & nonprofits to help shape future career opportunities. Our youth in this region are not exposed enough to non-traditional businesses and aren't allowed enough outlets for creativity

One of the most important things is to hire capable, proficient, and a higher caliber of employees (City, County and State levels of government) to ensure a more productive governing.

Education

Education Comments

Having a great education system will serve the community for generations to come as these are our workers of the future. I would love to see expanded training options for skilled labor as well as incubators for entrepreneurs to tap into our home grown talent.

The region already has one, but it comes from the affluent suburbs and out of state. The effort needs to start at the PreK-12 level for kids who are already here.

The education funds need to be spread out more evenly and/or more in the specific needed areas...low income,etc!

The public school systems are sub standard.

Highest priority for education, not only for white middle class but for minorities and especially immigrants. Immigrants must learn english and assimilate into American culture. Two countries cannot exist in the same space.

A well educated workforce is developed **LOCALLY** with the local school boards and, to some extent, the state, working with parents. The Federal Government has no business forcing mediocre goals via Common Core and the U.S. Department of Education. Bring education back to the locals.

Education Comments

Atlanta should be a national leader in business start ups, application of education/business partnerships. Business innovation.

Preserve and expand HOPE and keep the best and brightest in GA; Expand honors programs at universities. Support vocational education.

The most important thing we can do in this area is GET OUT OF COMMON CORE! It's no education; it's indoctrination.

The state that figures out how to educate inner city youth who's parents are uneducated will win the jobs. We won't be successful in this area until we offer real competition to the public school system. The only way I know to do this is through a private school voucher program.

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Of course we need highly rated research universities. We need to turn Georgia Gwinnett or KSU into such a university similar in stature to that of Georgia Tech or UGA.

Starting with K-12

Continuing to improve school systems (K-12 and higher ed) is essential to competing with other urban areas to be vibrant economic hubs.

Common Core is failing our students in GA, as it has failed students everywhere it has been tried (see the latest math test results). Get the Federal government out of education!

With education, the rest will come. Without it, we will end up like Detroit!

With the higher education center, we need school to look more like real life. Having opportunities for students of all ages to learn more by doing — project-based learning — is critical to encouraging creativity, entrepreneurial thinking and problem-solving. Less tests, more exploration.

Our state education system needs to be completely rebuilt. We are not educating our children to be a part of this new work force.

Significantly improve K-12 Public Education

I'm not sure how ARC can support this. Our educational system is mired in national testing standards and numerous weaknesses.

Schools and employers must work together to get the students the education needed to fill the jobs that are available or will be later.

Education Comments

Walkable vibrant neighborhoods - We need to put more pressure on parents to parent and not leave their children for the state to care for. The reason why there is so much crime is because the children have nothing to do and resort to robbing and stealing. If we shorten the curfew to 8:00 for minors and hold the parents responsible, maybe we can have communities where it is safe to walk the streets and vibrant neighborhoods free from robberies. In order to have a highly developed and well educated workforce, we need to strengthen our education system. We need to invest in ALL of our children's future and not some of them. Was it not Sir Thomas More who said, "If you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners corrupted from infancy, and then punish them for those crime to which their first education disposed them; what else is to be concluded but that you first make thieves and then punish them."

A well-educated workforce also includes skilled trades people.

We will lose economic value for businesses if our workforce is not educated. It just makes sense for the development of the region, we need well-educated and trained workforce.

There is probably a little of chicken & egg thought here. We should build a more solid base of technology supportive education in our local colleges and technical schools but success out the innovation hubs will produce a demand for higher skilled workers as well as create a training base for talent themselves. if there are not a large availability of skilled jobs, the trained workforce will migrate elsewhere. Improving K -12 is also key to making the college and technical school programs successful. While this is a national conundrum, our region still has to attempt to find some practical solutions to improve educational results.

This will be achieved in direct proportion to the extent the current k-12 and post-secondary system is dismantled, or rather, is allowed to be overtaken by technological changes which render the 19th c. model of lectures in a classrooms obsolete. Teachers and administrators will continue to fight this sea change (for example by limiting spending on online instruction) but the best and the brightest students will leak out of the old system and chart their own educational paths. Regions which embrace that will get their skills and talents.

We DO need quality education; however, we have local and State government involvement (not counting the Feds) We don't need an unelected body of Regional government people adding to this. Stay out!

Intown, quality public education needs to be supported. Wonderful things are going on at individual schools, these things should be celebrated, commended, and replicated.

Education Comments

While education, water, and quality of life are all important, it is our lack of comprehensive transportation strategy and implementation that will prohibit any sustainable progress of the region.

Must focus attention and support on our public school systems. Weak systems affect us all

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to have a highly developed & well educated workforce, but the highest priority we can have in this endeavor is to become a city that highly developed and well educated people love to live in and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Highly Developed & well educated workforce should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. A highly developed & well educated workforce will flock here and choose to make their homes here.

Educated workforce will move to an area where quality of life issues have been addressed.

Support our schools from elementary through colleges and we will have a well-educated workforce. Seriously, it all starts at PreK, if you follow brain development research from top neuroscientists, you'll understand the priority.

If you want to improve education, then get the Federal government out of the local schools and stop protecting incompetent teachers from being fired.

This is the only area that is truly a government function in the entire list - other than providing a basic education system for all K-12.

The cost of higher education is extremely high. What can be done to lower it?

Start the skills training in the local high schools. Not everyone is meant to go to college

A well educated population is the engine for everything we want. It drives the quality of leadership and the commitment of the public to create excellence in our community. It shapes our culture.

atlanta has a huge income disparity. Educated workforce mixed with comprehensive transportation means existing communities can access jobs regardless of geography, along with receiving the training necessary to get these jobs. Also, Atlanta has a crap school system - no one is going to want to move here and start a family, not everyone can afford private schools, especially if you want to grow the middle class here, and there are only so many charter schools you can approve vs investing in the public school system

I want to see our public school system revitalised. We NEED smart, educated people from every walk of life. Let's revive our nation with education! :)

Education Comments

Develop public/private partnerships with companies and educational institutions like Georgia Tech in order to motivate and inspire all to innovate and then draw more creativity to our community.

The arts are important!! Stop defunding them in the schools. It is a proven fact that children who participate in the arts do better in schools. Why would new parents be buying Baby Mozart if it didn't work? The arts, recreation, etc. bring soul to a community.

There must be more freedom and innovation here!! Whether it be charter schools, homeschooling or innovative public schools, we must not be slaves to the current systems and ways of doing things. Common Core makes no sense in terms of how children learn and develop. Trust the teachers to teach and stop leaning so much on test scores.

Need a Governor who supports education and not just big business. Board of Regents is represented by businesses only... did you know that?

Education must have sustainable funding, and not be dependent solely on a highly-elastic source like the lottery. Additionally, education assistance must be targeted across the whole range of students; not only the Hope/Zell scholars (though this must continue to keep our brightest), but also remedial, special education, and "regular" students. To develop the workforce, technical schools should also be supported. Finally, for-profit universities should be regulated as to quality of education, outcome monitoring, and cost control as they currently siphon off a huge amount of state and federal education dollars for subpar returns.

Obviously, schools are at the foundation of society. Society's refusal to correct the problems, the US will continue its slide into the status of a 3rd world country. We know what schools need but lack the guts to fix the problems.

I think that this is the highest priority, because a well-educated workforce enables economic growth that in turn enables the accomplishment of the other priorities.

I placed Education high on my priority list, but I feel strongly that education is about much more than just workforce development, as it seems to be described here. It is also about quality of life, economic equity and opportunity, neighborhoods, families and much more.

A well educated workforce, and population is vital to maintaining economic progress and doing it in intelligent, healthy ways

Improve the public school system, not charter or private schools so all kids have a chance to get a good education.

Fix education

Education Comments

Atlanta Public Schools is a prime example where failing schools are holding the economy back. Schools throughout the metro area need to be improved focusing on graduation rates, high SAT/ACT scores as well as students using technology whenever possible.

Encourage companies to get involved in local schools. Offer internships to HS/college students to expose and educate them to be prepared to enter the workforce. Educate school counselors on what classes/skills employers are looking for. Offer students programs during the summer to introduce/enhance these skills.

Secondary education system with a reputation for excellence.

Community enrichment programs that help people in lower income areas get education to get higher paying jobs.

Community enrichment programs that help people in lower income areas get education to get higher paying jobs. Also, minimum wage increases.

Improve public education; focus on jobs; reduce poverty

Public School Education

A more rigorous education system, where students have an opportunity to learn more in high school, and come up with a real general education, and not as ignorants as they are today. Also trade schools, where students learn a profession would be helpful for society. Not everybody had to go to college, but nowadays there are not too many other alternatives for a better future.

Education for our children

More Charter Schools.

High quality public school system and low violent crime.

Quality public school systems.

Successful, achieving public schools throughout the region.

A secure water supply should be in all plans as well as education and innovation.

Fix our schools to give young families more incentive to stay in the City for quality education.

Eliminate the government monopoly over area schools.

Eliminate the government monopoly over area schools. Economic resources and assets should be employed by free actors in a market-based system. Keep taxes low. No development decisions by elites who don't have their own money at risk.

Improved public school system, by completely revamping it and adopting a version of the Finnish model.

Top quality schools

Premier public school system

High-performing K-12 schools

Strong k-12 education system.

Investment in Quality Primary Education

Grade A Public School System

Education Comments

World Class Public School System

Improved ability for low-income communities to access education and training programs (goes along with well-educated workforce but more economically specific)

Education

Quality Education: Replace Common Core with Finance, Business & Credit Classes

K-12 public school system

Consistently funded and supported metro Atlanta public school systems

QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

World-class public education systems.

Top tier public education

Educated workforce = above needs to be Built before they come.

highly rated public education

Greater investment in public school system.

world-class quality public education.

Quality Public Education for all youth with goal of ending cyclical poverty.

We must work collectively to improve the quality of, and access to educational excellence. Unless and until the education system improves, our region will lag behind other areas of the country

Equitable and quality education for all students in PK-12

Primary & Secondary Education

More school choice/ charter schools.

Education destination. We want families to want to move to SE Atlanta because we have amazing schools!

Excellent Public Schools

HELP (IN SOME WAY) TO IMPROVE OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM

Improve Education: Combine Public and Charter access for K12 Education

Better schools that don't rank below Arkansas.

Quality education in all neighborhoods (think Drew Charter School in every struggling neighborhood)

Our schools are getting a very bad reputation. Please use the property tax revenue to optimally fund APS

improve schools-all the schools i live around are rated 1 on realtor sites property values cannot go with low school performance

Education for all residents, not just a small percentage becoming highly developed.

Education Comments

Get rid of the teachers union and start focusing on the children. Take politics out of education and teach children about the world and how we can make this a better planet. It's not just about the US or the South. We teach with binders right now and that must change. Also, stop making the schools responsible for the child and require parents to be more involved in their own children's education!

The Atlanta MSA school systems should be required to work together to produce a plan to retain students and provide a quality education. Many schools today are unable to educate classes due to lack of parental involvement. Culture in the community must push the notion that the way up and out is education.

See that our educational are for the jobs in the area

In order to educate our kids the amount of money needs to be at least doubled and class sizes cut in half. The current public school education in Georgis is failing and without putting more money into the system there is no way you can correct the current issues. Testing is not the solution when there are stressed out and overworked teachers with 36 kids In a classroom.

First and foremost, improve the Atlanta School system. We are the laughing stock of the nation,

Expensive for schools so get corporations to sponsor free or reduced cost programs.

Get rid of CORE program. Make education fun and exciting so our kids will stay in school. Stress the importance of higher education.

We have many fine colleges, but the high school education is deplorable here overall. We shouldn't have to pull scholars from Belgium in order to compete.

As a grandchild of immigrants, I was early taught the value of education. My mother had a Masters Degree and my 7 siblings and I are all college-educated (with 3 Master's and one Ph.D.). We all attended GA schools and universities. We must restore the system that produced a well-educated population. High standards and good funding are imperative.

In order to promote health and well-being, we need to address multiple issues - education, poverty, transportation, housing, food and water, safety and violence prevention. To some extent, this priority encompasses almost all of the others.

Please look to the north for your public school models and Colleges. STOP the testing insanity in elementary school and focus on actual science, arts, progressive learning and community building. Again, look to the northern schools on this (Cambridge, MA)

raise the minimum wage; stop raiding funds from public ed for charter schools, etc.

Education Comments

Work on education that enforces our local talent, encourage local hiring. Too many transplants taking Georgian's jobs.

I graduated from Georgia State University and that was great and all, BUT my current concern is for the education of underprivileged children in lower income neighborhoods. They need attention too.

A high quality of life is where education starts as it creates a more successful home-life. But, Atlanta does need to be drastically modified in terms of its official education system. It might be worth considering a switch to a more Charter-School based system allowing for the equality of opportunity in education to be applied to institutions that have the freedom to be run like a private school, thus encouraging the educational innovation that is needed by Atlanta's diverse student population.

Atlanta universities are one of its largest assets. Ensuring that their vision is focused on building the future is paramount. I could eventually see a day when Georgia Tech is indisputably a top five university in the United States.

Stop dumbing down education!!! Higher expectations and a solid curriculum with real facts (history and science) will go along way to making our workforce one to envy. We also need to teack our high schoolers civics.

Neighborhoods, quality of life and educated workforce will undergird innovation hub and I would suggest that these three things are inter-related and key to our success & growth.

Education is extremely important and I can't think of a city in America that has it right. I don't know what the answer is, but focusing on training in jobs and education of our children is the most important thing we can do.

metro K-12 school systems must be top-notch, not inept laughing stocks for our country

More investment in public education. Seems the state when time gets tough cuts education when that is the best investment for our future. I am totally against a voucher program for private schools and I am not sold on charter schools.

The Atlanta Metro has an abundance of excellent public and private post secondary institutions but the area public schools are lacking and private schools are not available low to low-middle class residents.

All education providers, from pre-K to advanced degrees MUST work together with business and industry to serve their workforce needs. Teamwork.

Improved financial support for k-12 and college education

Education Comments

Highly developed education starts young! Americans as a whole need to invest way more money into educating our youth because the effects are exponential.

Lets first breed these innovators ourselves by investing in the school systems. Then, create a vibrant city that promotes creativity, easily accessible, and a pleasure to be in and these well educated individuals will stay and create jobs to bring in more innovated, like-minded individuals. A city worth living in will prosper innovation by nature.

Our K12 school system is failing. People do not want to move to Atlanta because the public schools are very poor. This has a negative impact on everyone in the region.

Private businesses can do this for their workers but the public schools need significant improvement in much of metro Atlanta.

Apparently, recreation - at least for youngsters - isn't considered significant - or even needed at all, by most communities. Look how recreation/physical education is ignored or emasculated in many schools. Youngsters become overweight and get to be totally out of condition. Diabetes and other ailments occurrences are on the RISE !

For example, former Atlanta School District Superintendent Ben Canada once remarked he thought Elementary School-age had no need of recess and recreation during school hours.

It is imperative that public schools in the Atlanta region, and statewide, be restored to and sustain the capacity restored to provide a superior education to children from all socio-economic levels. Emphasis should return to teaching basics in primary grades, including mastery of reading and math, as well as critical thinking skills as students progress. Not every student will desire, nor be appropriate for, a university education, so community colleges and associate degree programs should be strengthened and promoted. We will always need workers in the skilled trades, as well as in "professional" occupations. Until and unless all Georgians have access to a quality education in public schools, goal accomplishment of this priority will not occur.

Educational inequities continue to segregate communities. It's critical that all children have equal opportunities for a good education.

Education should be available to eveyone

Education Comments

More sidewalk should developed around all major counties including Cobb, especially around schools. More sidewalks means more happy and active people, more added security and safety for the people as well. Many neighborhoods can use the advantage of small parks and playgrounds inside their subdivision or around them. This would be highly beneficial for I wish I could have one in my own neighborhood, since the neighborhood across the street of mine has one small park, pond, tennis court, walking trail and kids playground. These add-ons can really change our communities, our happiness and bring more interaction.

We are a world joke on the corrupt school system. Bring in some real leadership, not recycled lifetime politicians. Tie performance to pay.

Have the Regional be a model for education reform, this means REAL tangible reform. Such as restoring physical education in elementary schools, hiring teachers with real work experience, one of the reasons kids drop out of school is that teachers are ill-equipped to relate what is being taught to "real world" experiences, therefore, students get "bored" & are unable to grasp WHY they NEED to learn. Why not institute an "externship" program for teachers during the summer where they spend time in major corporations "learning" how things "actually" work in the REAL world and take that experience back to the classroom. Our overall problem is trying to teach today's "sophisticated" students using "outdated" models!!!

Bring back the arts into ALL our schools. Support the arts publicly with money and visibility. In the 1970s and 1980s when Maynard Jackson was Mayor, the City of Atlanta had an abundance of public support for the arts. That support created the vibrant arts scene that we have now. However the lack of such support now, means we are not growing younger artists, and established artists are also having a hard time making a living.

Atlanta's economy is good. Let's make it great by preparing our students to take their places in the workforce. Realistic revitalization of our school systems are a must. We need to take care of those who are responsible for teaching our kids. Put autonomy back into the hands of teachers and hire administrative staff for administrative jobs. If we fail in this area, our economy will eventually fail as a result.

I would emphasize that this starts at the elementary through high school level, and should be across the board for all incomes/neighborhoods, not just certain schools.

including addressing the quality of K-12 public school in the region

Education Comments

We have a great start with the universities and technical schools in the region. More collaboration with our public school systems to push opportunities down to our high school and middle school students could help build this network and encourage our students to stay in or return to the region.

Promote Waldorf, Montessori and other advanced educational principles. Follow the student's needs to draw out each one's unique genius. Promote apprenticeships in last year of high school and first year after high school. Provide tax incentives for dropping cable tv service and increased reading.

We need jobs in those segments of the community where there is no hope and no motivation for education since working doesn't always mean being out of poverty. The gap is too great and the situation is unhealthy for ALL.

There must be a diversity in educations of people. We must educate the minority, i.e. black, spanish, asain and indian alike. This must be cost effective for all.

Education and workforce development opportunities for all ages
education is amust for the future

Of course education is a MUST. Starts with good schools that keep our children interested and excited about learning through not only math, science and english, but by keeping them involved in P.E., Art, Music, Drama and other creative yet beneficial courses necessary to be a better producer and humanitarian for the future.

This will happen naturally if transportation, water, education, communities and quality of life are developed first. They will come.

You NEED a great education system throughout the county if you want to draw businesses

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

The should be a high priority effort for every community everywhere. Good schools are the foundation of every community. {They could be significantly better is the Federal Government wasn't so involved, necessitating that a significant proportion of the budget be devoted to unwarranted administrative functions.}

Everyone had a chance to get a free education. They had a chance to go to a public school and get a free ride to and from school. I do NOT support homelessness

Promoting ideas to schools, and our youth, in geting more involved

Education Comments

I consider this as important as educating citizens so they can participate in government. The world is complicated. Our public schools are not equipping kids with skills to navigate pitfalls that snare many young adults (complex contracts, anticipating home ownership obligations). This slack results in problems that cost society money. I am fore teaching people how to live well.

Education or job training could assist people in becoming self sufficient.

If we have enough money left over from education, feeding and putting a roof over their head. But first thing first.

The best bang for the buck would be to introduce the arts back into primary and high schools. In particular, the performing arts need much more attention.

It seems to me the information is easily accessible, it's behavior changes that need support. Healthy options as the only option in schools and certain programs.

An investment in education (including adult education) should help the homelessness problem. Programs that directly address homelessness would not be effective as programs to help educate the homeless.

More schools for the visual and performing arts prior to the high school level, and more integrated with regular school programs

Focus on early childhood development and education and the numbers of homeless will go down over time.

Provide training/counseling enabling those to become productive citizens. Focus on children with education and skill development.

This is more a function of interest and motivation on the part of participants. It runs into the same paradox of educating people on the value of education. How do you determine efficacy?

This should be done beginning with the family, education, etc.

There should be self-sustaining programs for this. Two year training/lifestyle changing education, skills, to enable people to stand on their own. No public assistance thereafter.

Primarily in the education systems. Arts, culture and arts related experiences are critical to children being able to think and process. If they don't learn to capture their creativity, they won't learn to be critical thinkers either.

Start by keeping schools open during the summer evenings and provide computer training for low income parents. School buildings should NOT be closed during the summer, they can also be used for daycare for working mothers.

Bring the arts back to the public schools. Children who participate in the arts have been proven to be more successful in everything!

It's already easily accessible. People have to want it. That's a matter of desire and education.

Education Comments

Homelessness is a huge barrier to economic development. If homeless people were diverted from Downtown Atlanta's streets into a transitional, healthy environment that focused on training and education, I think increased property taxes and corporate taxes would more than offset the investment made by the City/Region. This is a REGIONAL issue, and the City of Atlanta shouldn't have to carry the cost burden.

It is not normal for the poorest people to be the fattest. Education is needed, as well as access to healthy food at affordable prices for everyone, no matter what neighborhood. Theft is always a problem in poorer neighborhoods when stores try to function. Maybe we need more "Mom and Pop" tiny stores, like San Francisco and NYC."

This needs to be taught in schools as well as in communities. Potential creation for yet another booming non-profit? I think so!!!

This is more of an educational priority, in my opinion.

Along with this we'll probably need education for low-incomers on how to use healthy foods and make it taste good.

They need training and education not just resources!

There has to be educational programs to teach people the correlation of nutritious food choices in enhancing and maintaining health.

Remediation and re-education of the homeless

Keep the government out of education. Private sector, YES!

Education is the primary form of bettering oneself. The local culture must adopt this attitude for a healthy, forward-moving society and region.

I love technology and teaching. Nearly all technical education programs I have encountered are crap. My wife is an assistant principal in Gwinett County. The people implementing these programs and measuring their success don't know what is useful.

Fix the total education system to be modeled for learning not by government "standards" that promote one plan suits all, that is not how it works.

Concentrate on Math and Science in schools

Education relies on internet access now. It is a must have for all neighborhoods.

Education and training for technology should also have a focus on the older generations, 40+. It is amazing how frustrated these older generations get with what the younger generations view as the simplest of tasks. We can't forget about these older generations, and I really doubt how much more knowledge the youth need. What current youth needs is a way to reign in the information overload and understand the inner workings of the tech they take for granted.

Education Comments

only if the public schools have access to computers - allow students to borrow laptops/ipads from the school library

Technology should be used as a tool and critical thinking skills should still be achieved in the education of all students.

On-line lectures, such as Khan Academy, can be used to standardize (and individualize) education across the state. This modality will also help to reduce the cost of education.

Make it so more parents can choose to homeschool. Not every parent who homes schools wants to live in the boonies and it would be cheaper for school districts to have more people homeschooled. Having homeschool friendly online education systems could be a huge draw to the region.

Through the public school systems, yes.

I think we have enough tech in schools. It is important, don't get me wrong, but I think we sort of went tech-crazy as if technology is the answer to all our issues, and it's not.

Lets get more arts bad in the schools, Technology can be alienating. We need healthy kids and people, not just efficient ones. We are not machines.

ONLY IF throughout Georgia, not just the city of Atlanta and metro area (i.e., College education assistance)

Yes ONLY IF throughout Georgia, not just the city of Atlanta and metro area (i.e., College education assistance)

Make this technology education available to adults as well.

There is a strong network of this type of work already, I think that resources would be better used in the educational sector

My firm already takes an active stance on this and partners with specialized schools to increase our talent pipeline, and we even look to increase the diversity of our talent pool as well.

Again, utilize the schools during the summer month to conduct "innovative & creative" training by people in the private sector sponsored by major corporations!!

Of course, this will happen, but it doesn't replace quality education. A great teacher is still the best teacher.

This is the job of our school system and board of education. Until quality people are running the system - we will never be able to achieve success in this area.

Education is a sumbling block for the Atlanta MSA.

Very wary of the state being involved with educational & private sector doings - our rich history of corruption bears this out.....I would rather the state remain silent and allow universities to engage the private sector on their own terms..

This is a job for the state school board.

Include partnerships with K-12 to encourage STEAM curriculum and mentoring programs

Education Comments

We have that now. Let the developers develop. If children get better educations then as adults they will have more and better options to housing.

There is plenty of affordable housing in the City, however it is the poor schools that keep young families from moving in. Schools are tied to housing.

This is a tough one, I dont have an answer for. I think it is a more general change to the basic education system that could help phase the need for this out.

Atlanta has just gone through the most devastating decline in home prices in its history. The problem is not the housing. The problem is the poverty levels of too many in the population. This can be solved by education, cultural education and job opportunities.

REGIONAL PLAN FOR NEED FOR ALL TO GET A GOOD EDUCATION. NOBODY IS GOING TO HIRE YOU UNLESS YOUR ARE QUALIFIED.

Segregating out the lower income people into ghetto areas with substandard housing and schools is only is going to leave them stuck in a poverty cycle that is almost impossible to break out of - however it will require some intervention on market forces that drive real estate prices

Yes. This is super important to attract a young, smart and motivated workforce, which will contribute to big businesses making Atlanta their home base, and will contribute to more tax revenue for better public education.

Create more opportunities for the under-paid population, in the work to gain better education or skills.

Educate officials and general public to change perceptions and codes to allow more use of rainwater and grey water. Start educating in the schools so conservation is a way of life with young people just like use of seat belts is now automatic for most youth.

I may not know enough about the regional commission but ensuring education across the region doesn't seem like it should be a priority for the commission but for the county schools. Colleges and universities are already established and compete for students. I don't see a need for the commission to get involved in education.

Focusing on education is something that is necessary for this region to grow. Making sure that public school systems are not run like businesses, because they are not, focusing on the classroom and what is being taught, verses teaching the test, are incredibly important. Getting quality, qualified teachers in the classroom that are not scared that they will not have a job or get a raise because the children they teach do not test well or are having a bad day will improve the system. Getting parents involved in the education process is also necessary.

Education Comments

Higher education is what created a thriving middle class after WWII, and with the costs of higher education increasing the ability for people to maintain middle class levels of living, much less get into the middle class, has significantly decreased. Without the ability to afford higher education, those that would build the region may go elsewhere in order to provide the best opportunities for themselves and their families.

Don't we already do this with the lottery? Anyone can get a college education if they study and work hard.

Get rid of the teachers union. Increase pay for teachers and bring in quality teachers. Good teachers engage children and children learn. Require parents to be more involved in their children education.

Not sure how to ensure quality affordable education for all youth ??????? its not done now

A democracy has no hope of functioning without educated citizens. I am not interested in all forms of education--only those that make citizens that better participate in government.

The education system in Georgia is broken and needs to be fixed. I feel we have given to much local control to the systems. We have a state school board and they need to do there job. Superintendents are given to much power. We elect a state Superintendent and he or she needs to do there job. This is something that i have had a concern over for several years.

Get rid of all the administrators and put the power back at the principal level. Spend education money more wisely. Sickening how much is spend on administrative positions.

I think some of the education money/resources spent on youth should be shared with people of all ages

Providing education and or training to meet employers needs decreases unemployment.

Quality jobs make completing education important.

College is not for everyone, stop acting like it is. Invest in a vocational trade schools. See Coweta Co BOA's Central Ed. Center as an example.

This should be linked to training and education that match the needs of the employers.

The poor reputation of many public schools, particularly in the wake of the Atlanta cheating scandal, is fueling inequity and a new class segregation. Buyers who don't want to put their kids in private schools are bidding up home prices in districts with good reputations, distorting the housing market and driving out less affluent residents. Better public schools across the board will help reduce that effect.

via private schools that teach facts and reasoning, devoid of outside political agendas.

Education Comments

work through public high schools; have sat. classes re potential jobs.

Schools should be of the same quality and physical beauty no matter the neighborhood, especially poor neighborhoods. They do it in Canada. They do it in Finland.

This seems like a no brainer. If a neighborhood is poor, a poor-looking school building is an indication to the folks living around that school that their future is bleak and that nobody cares about their children's future.

But a beautiful school in all neighborhoods, and especially in poor neighborhoods, demonstrates to communities that there is hope in the future. That school represents opportunity and a commitment that the American Dream be accessible to all children.

Schools represent hope, and therefore they must be built beautifully.

My taxes are crushing, going primarily to education, which I do not benefit from.

Monetary incentives for parents would go a long way to guarantee that educational performance becomes a priority. Pay parents for students' progress.

Strengthen community colleges and vocational schools

This is fundamental. At present, Atlanta ranks among the lowest educational systems. This is what holds us back the most.

also offer adult education and training.

Expand school voucher programs and tie funds to children so that when they can incentivize schools to provide better education in order to attract more kids/business and there for more funds.

If we have an attractive workforce, created through high quality public education and access to great universities, companies will come whether we give them incentives or not.

How about - get some control over the various Boards of Education in the region so that they start spending funds to improve education rather than just throwing money at the problem without reason or plan.

The quality of an education that includes proper resources for young children to effectively compete and grow into contributing members of society, should not be based on zip codes!

Why isn't this in place already? Georgia is low on most scores. We need address education holistically rather than just filling children with information to memorize. We need to rethink our system.

Education Comments

Educate the adults. They are the ones ruining it for the kids. Oh and create lots of small cool schools using design thinking and empathy etc.....

The schools that perform poorly have stupid kids and irresponsible parents. Don't waste more money trying to fix something unfixable.

Provide quality public education and companies will come and provide specific training.

The key word here is QUALITY. This state ranks in the bottom 5 nationally for k-12 education.

The University System of Georgia needs to improve pay and benefits to attract top educators to ensure better education at affordable units of the system. I.e. Georgia Perimeter College, GGC, GSU.

Our public school systems and their integrity should be top priority.

A good educational base is what leads to a smarter workforce and a better quality of life. We don't need anymore cheating scandals in Atlanta.

The HOPE scholarship is paramount. In Atlanta we are privileged to have Georgia Tech, Emory, and FSU available to students. Without affordability, only those of higher incomes will get the education they need.

Bring back HOPE in its original form. That basically serviced this perfectly. Don't allow funding to go to for profit schools and predatory schools that advertise on late night tv.

An effort to make a quality education that is more equal across the counties is needed.

There are many ways to finance higher education. The problem is finding a well paying job so that students can pay their debts.

with a focus on public education, teachers and kids especially in current areas of need

Charter schools only exacerbate problems in public schools

Charter Schools combine the freedom of educational innovation of a private school with the equality of opportunity of a public school. Working to implement a better charter school system in Atlanta would provide both affordable and quality education.

Agreed, but incentives need to be structured in a way that is sustainable and will encourage intrinsic motivation. For example, DeKalb Workforce Development has an incentive policy for youth where money can be shelled out to youth for various reasons, but this doesn't incentivize education, it incentivizes money.

Education Comments

The quality of Georgia's public education for youth is extremely poor. Because I'm from another state and have worked extensively with youth (mainly high schoolers) in Atlanta, I have repeatedly been shocked by the lack of basic skills (math, reading, writing) they have, which indicates that the level of elementary school to middle school education is severely lacking. We need teachers that are invested in the students and a school system that tests students for their basic skills before they head to high school.

The Atlanta area school systems still lag behind other major cities in all other regions of the US. It's time to set the bar higher from daycare to preschool that way students are gaining the foundation before they even hit elementary. I ran across a high school student who could not read, this is a shame considering I was also at a daycare earlier in the week and saw classes full of 4 year olds reading.

Fulton and DeKalb Counties do not appear capable. Expand Charter schools and do not require them to pay for retirement plans APS established decades ago.

If this is going to be done, it needs to be done right. Training and education should be affordable, and for-profit universities should be excluded from any initiative.

While this is important, I think the main focus should be from the bottom up. Focusing on better education for all children, specifically those in urban and low-income areas is so important. Education should focus on real-world applications, as well as how to be a functioning, responsible citizen of the world.

Equal access to high quality education doesn't really need justification, but it is well known that GA's public school system is far from the best and that inequality between schools is grave. In order to have an overall well balanced workforce, community, and future we need the best education for EVERYONE. We're shooting ourselves in the foot otherwise. Those with the least education are most likely to stay in the city they grew up in, so we might as well make out 'least' equal to our best. :)

There are sufficient programs to provide quality education for all. Better teachers without tenure limitations, and more competitive charter schools are needed.

Does not matter how much incentives or corporate welfare is given, which I am against but is the way of life. Without a well founded education program in place, it will not work. Except for some of the most low paying jobs

I know a lot of technical schools do this. How about what they do in Europe having some type of apprenticeship program.
Whoops, Socialism

Education Comments

Today's children need access to equal educational opportunities and affordable college. My son just finished and he went to a private school that was expensive but, has a great academic standing.

Yes ONLY IF throughout Georgia, not just the city of Atlanta and metro area (i.e., College education assistance)

Yes ONLY IF throughout Georgia, not just the city of Atlanta and metro area (i.e., College education assistance)

Business needs to drive education.

At levels and schools where there are behavioral problems, insure a teacher's aid that can teach groups who want to learn. Also, provide known protocols that students and teachers know at all schools e.g. dress codes, end and beginning of classes, etc.

BILINGUAL SCHOOLS. BILINGUAL SCHOOLS.

There should be a concentrated effort to focus on young black males since there has been a decline in the graduation rates of this group of students. As a result, a substantial number of young black males have resorted to crime. It is my belief that this is happening because a majority of the schools have assistant principals for discipline and their only function is to impose discipline. The form of discipline they normally use is at home suspensions of five days or more, alternative school or expulsion for minor offenses that are normally not substantiated by a preponderance of evidence. This makes it difficult for a child that is already struggling academically to make up the missed work and keep up with the rest of the class. It appears from the public's perspective that these principals are being evaluated based on the number of students that they discipline. I understand that students have to be disciplined at times. However, the main focus should be educating our youth.

Some of our public school systems are jobs programs. Focus less on testing and admin paperwork and more on teaching.

Perhaps it's time to enforce a simple dress code for schools - not uniforms - but belts that keep pants above the ass, shoes with laces, and teachers who can teach, instead of idiots in a union passing stupid children from grade to grade.

We need to be educating for GLOBAL needs and INTERNATIONAL competition; not just stop-gap education for short-term employer needs. That is short-sighted and limits ability of GA youths' flexibility to move jobs and location.

Existing tax payer dollars used in the area of schools and education programs should focus on this area.

Improvement in local education that matches local businesses demands or those of companies being attracted to the area should lead to higher wages and cost of living. That should help in community development overall.

Education Comments

We need to revitalize the public school system, not rely on charter school systems or voucher systems that essentially route public funds away from the public system.

Instead, make higher education available to EVERY high school graduate. Free. End of story.

Yes, BUT - make sure education is EQUAL for all kids and all schools.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_the_Netherlands education should be governed at the local level not by big government.

We already have that but the K-12 education is so poor, that is the end for most students.

Another one I would like to tag as a favorite. An educated and/or skilled population will bring jobs.

This is a dumb comment; educational quality is the result of voter decisions on school board governing officials--voters get what they vote; bloated school administration and teachers that aren't accountable for the end product is the result of tax payer voting decisions; the solution is to take away accountability to local school boards and centralize administration to appointed officials who work for elected county leaders, but that will never happen.

Fulton pays \$13k per student for poorly rated Atlanta Public Schools; someone like Fayette pays \$9k with all highly rated schools. It isn't a matter of throwing money at the problem...

Work closely with the universities, particularly the technical colleges to ensure student learning matches jobs.

maybe businesses could contribute to the cost of the education and then those who graduate could work in their company which would be a win for both employer and employee

More charter schools, vouchers, school choice.

Children need to walk to school. Not bus. Not drive. Close schools located in office parks where homes are not closeby. Build neighborhood schools.

Education Comments

I've answered No on all these. Because we need our government to fix what they've destroyed in regards to our educational system. I sat in a classroom the day before Thanksgiving. The teacher gave them a test regarding how that holiday evolved. They had a quiz in which they could keep the sheet they read and answer the questions. The majority of these kids turned them in with few and/or no answers. They constantly pulled out their phones and weren't paying attention in general. When we broke for lunch I told the teacher she needed to find out if one of the boys played sports and if he did tell him she was going to have a talk with his coach. He promised to behave the rest of the year if she wouldn't talk to the coach. Who ever heard of letting kids bring those phones to class instead of putting them into their lockers. My son Jake graduated just before they started making the negative changes to Hope...we would have been in a hurt if he hadn't graduated when he did. When that woman who was running the Lottery blasted out that she deserved her \$300 thousand plus salary on the news....it made me gag! Look at the ethnicity of the children who are winning our spelling bees and are graduating at the top of their class. There is no discipline in the home, school, work place and especially government any more....!

It should always be a "no child left behind" attitude. However, don't give the child/person a score or grade they have not earned. This establishes laziness and expectations of something owned rather than earned. The "no child left behind" should mean that they will not be left behind, but will have someone there who will teach them until they have an understanding and education, so that they can move forward. This way their future is ensured. Without it, when they leave school, they will be left behind. No child/person should expect to get a job because they are a minority or of who they are. A job should hire the qualified, no age, race, gender or economic barriers.

This needs to be with the public school system. Why reinvent the wheel with charter schools? Fix the problems in our public schools.

Although incentives are inevitable in this day and age, I caution overreliance on this tool. Providing workforce education for employers is a better option than simple tax breaks because it gives Georgia residents who participate in WE programs an asset that can't be taken away from them: more skills that can be transferrable to other jobs.

Stop using public ed tax money for the Beltline. Support public schools instead of charters.

Education Comments

I do not believe incentives should be a factor at all. Simply provide the assistance and access to advanced education opportunities for all residents. I believe incentives is what eliminates so many of the underprivileged children and keeps them underprivileged. Incentives also breeds cheating and scheming in order to obtain the carrot.

It should be a conscious effort to evenly distribute the funds for education throughout Georgia and not based on test scores and achievements. Every single child and school should have the same resources available to them regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Although affordable education is important, teachers' pay needs to be increased so that we are a more competitive market for excellent teachers to want to work in our area. There is an important link to teacher excellence and student learning.

jobs will come with better trained/educated work force

Wouldn't it be a novel idea for the schools to actually teach vocational skills, or prepare students for a higher education so they could be ready for the working world.

The evidence continues to indicate that a college degree, even a simply undergraduate degree, continues to have a very positive effect on one's future earnings potential. On the other hand, the cost of a college education continues to skyrocket. People need relief, and also need to be able to have a realistic opportunity for a slot in one of our regions many high quality schools (Georgia Tech, Emory, Georgia State), without being priced out even though academically competitive.

These are loaded questions. GA continually ranks last in education, battling for the position with Mississippi. Boo. OBVIOUSLY The Answer is NOT more money. Try something else! I believe the decreased level of involvement of parents and children has deteriorated the Family; without cohesive, supportive Families America gets stupid on SO many levels. Someone needs to stay Home with the kids. We do NOT need 2-income "Families." The school system is raising this bunch of kids and they are SUCKING at it.

We have this already, it's called public schools.

We have this already, it's called public schools. How about creating a plan to encourage better parenting and how to raise successful kids. DO not blame the schools.

Atlanta's public schools need help. It's a huge issue here, I think. I would think twice about relocating here if I were a parent, if I knew that I'd have to send my kid to one of these public schools, or else shell out for private school. I wouldn't like either alternative. We'd be a more attractive city with better schools.

Education Comments

Education and school quality is a proven way to attract quality urban growth. Improving the quality of inner city schools while ensuring equal access to them with evenly distributed low-mid income housing will go a long way.

The first order of business is to develop public school systems that provide essential literacy and math skills. An aggressive charter school program is the best step to make now. The present system is a proven failure over many years.

Create a voucher program for kids to attend private schools that meet state established standards. County school systems obviously become too laden with bureaucracy and there has been far too much waste and corruption there. The vouchers can be the same amount as per child cost of educating in the current system. Individual schools will go along way toward eliminating waste and corruption.

with a hook, keep them iemployeed withing the state for a given length of time so we can reap the benefits of the moneys we spent on this "higher education"

How about vocational education vs. college. We have too many men with no desire to go to college and not programs to train them in a skill to make a living.

We need better education K-12. Kids spend too much time in 'outside' activities and toooo little time in the classroom. School days need to be extended to 5PM vs. Noon.

School choice with vouchers K-12

Stop trying to encourage everyone to attend college. Trade and vocational schools are equally as important.

I also give this one a conditional yes. We have too many for-profit schools that make empty promises to students while padding their pockets with financial aid money. I would only support this if the for-profit schools were held to very high standards - like high job placement and low drop out rates.

Bring back tech/shop classes and opportunities at the high school level to ALL kids! Plenty of manufacturing jobs in America with no skilled workers to fill them, take advantage of growing that opportunity.

More internship/partnerships between the local high schools and businesses. Bring back DECA, Skills USA, 4H, etc to ALLLLLLL kids, not just the ones with I9's - Genius engineers need a chance too, not just the ones with ADHD.

Some vocational education needs to be provided.

Reintroduce vocational education as an alternative education path in secondary schools

As a member of the Education committee - I know how hard this is to accomplish but if done correctly can really advance a community.

Education Comments

The cost of education is huge but starting pays are terrible.

Georgia's higher education system is quite a lot better than the state deserves, and it could be better still. It is a major economic engine, as well as being a simple political/community good. Educated citizens who can have a good conversation about how to manage their future community life -- what a concept!

quality education and opportunities is a key factor in decreasing the rise in youth violence. It is my belief if affordable education and programs and provided for, the youth violence and incarceration rate will decrease.

Quality education for non college track curriculum. We need vocational track in our high schools.

Again, this is the private sector area. Specialized schools will arise to meet demand of business unless there are too many restrictions that make training too costly. Again, who is paying for this?

Ensure implies 'force'. Education is available for all youth now. The only thing that does not ensure it is quality are restrictions placed on teachers and administrators and the requirement of disruptive members of the community to attend against their will. You can lead a horse to water.....Until the 'state' stops funding the perpetual cycle of dependency 'it' has created, 'it' will continue to breed ill behavior and an entitlement attitude costly to society both economically and in lack of safety.

I'm all for advanced education but am unsure of how such incentives and assistance would be funded - or more importantly, what would have to be "unfunded" to afford this solution.

Absolutely! Lack of education leads to lack of opportunities and the need of some to resort to less desirable means in order to meet those needs. Education provides an opportunity to advance and live a good life.

Quality and equal education.

Allow school vouchers... it's a no brainer! Teachers Union will never let it happen... too bad! their priorities are all about protecting they own (bad teachers most of all) they do not care what's best for the children & their education (typical far left)

I do not think we need to provide opportunities for higher education unless someone really wants to pursue it, we are over educated currently and need more people in skilled labor for example welders are in high demand and there is no one qualified, so i think before financing or providing opportunities for education we need to figure out where our lack of jobs are then provide incentives for that type of education....

If this means provide private schools, then absolutely not! If this leans more towards college, then absolutely not! Not all people are geared towards college.

Education Comments

Provide no! Help to facilitate sources for education at the students expense, yes!

Transportation to existing educational offerings might encourage seniors to participate in enriching educational opportunities.

But along with this is better education of drivers, cyclist, and peds. There is nothign wrong with bike lanes and cycle tracks, which are cheaper to implement than separated bike paths. Educating drivers is the key. Add driving with cyclist section to the drivers test.

Too much of the crime in the metro is caused for a lack of education opporuntiy. By giving everyone equal access to education we can reduce crime.

Too much of the crime in the metro is caused from missed educational opportunities and not having access to job training.

Through education and work programs from disability services, let citizens become active in creating livable spaces. Allow contract city hiring for people with mental disabilities. Use Marta Mobility to coordinate those with physical disabilities back into employment - for working is one of the greatest expressions of our common humanity.

especially K-12; and especially for those whose opportunities are limited

Funding should be distributed in a way such that schools are more equal - the poorest areas shouldn't be expected to independently fund their own schools, as this leads to detrimental quality compared to rich areas.

The HOPE scholarship should be restored to its original status, but with an income cap or graduated nature based on income. Students should not have to jump through hoops to qualify for the scholarship and then lose it quickly, but rather have a clear path towards earning an affordable education in Georgia.

As always, tax incentives must be rigorously monitored. Often these tax credits are cash sinkholes that enhance a city/region's brand (ie. NYC's film tax credits). In many cases these tax credits continue even as education budgets suffer (ie. any tax credit in Georgia). So, I'd stress keen oversight over any tax credits. Of course, some investments take time to pay off. So, in this case, I'd just urge caution. But not caution at the expense of investment.

Businesses bring in \$ is the key to help fund quality education for all

don't we have the HOPE? Stop grade inflation and the program will last.

We already have top-ranked public and private higher education opportunities in the region so we should invest our financial resources elsewhere.

Education Comments

Get rid of the current school board system in favor of a single system or a "charter school zone" - where all the schools in the 13 county metro area are charters instead of run from a separate governmental entity in lines of attendance determined by geography. Funding can be raised by the state using current taxing systems and distributed as a per student basis to each charter school.

If you know anything about economic development, you know that the number one factor in site selection is the workforce. That means we need to work on our K-12 education and whatever else education is needed to attract companies.

Well duh. It doesn't cost anything to go to public school. Just improve the K-12 public education system. I'd pay a few more bucks in property taxes for that even though I don't have any kids in school.

We've already got incentives in place. Have you heard of the HOPE scholarship? Kids need to work their way through college like I did. Also, college doesn't guarantee a good job. Ask the economic development and site selection folks what education is needed here. I bet it isn't more four year degrees.

Education is already free. They are just too lazy to stay in school because they know everybody is going to "Take care of them", while people that work get screwed over. ENOUGH

I would like for there to be an analysis to determine if schools should still be operated with school boards or be under city/county councils/chambers for elected officials and as a regular City department. I feel the choices made by school boards are not in concert with the communities and very few citizens are aware of the board of education. The state of education is miserable in Georgia.

Accomplish this through education and efficiency of water use, not rationing.

Atlanta already has two great universities: Georgia Tech and Emory, plus a third (UGA) near by. These schools already provide education in the skills that any employer could demand.

This is too broad a goal. I think that the priority should be to attract good teachers to the public schools (better salaries, etc.). How does access to higher education matter if Atlanta's youth is under-prepared?

Also, the best way to provide access to education is to make the state and community colleges more affordable. The solution to this problem is almost certainly to cut the administrative bloat that is plaguing almost all American institutions of higher learning.

Education Comments

Today's youth is already more technology savvy than those of even a decade ago. In fact, the average cell phone has more computing power than computers from the early 90's. That said, there should be opportunities in public schools to learn about computer programming and operation (on a more sophisticated level than just typing or word processing!).

Yes, but the priority has to be early childhood education and basic skills first, then this second.

Vouchers are crucial ITP. The residents of the city should be allowed to send their children where the "quality" is. Public schools certainly are affordable but there's a perception the system is financially missmanaged to the detriment of the student.

Vouchers are crucial ITP. The residents of the city should be allowed to send their children where the "quality" is. Public schools certainly are affordable but there's a perception the system is financially missmanaged to the detriment of the student.

We also need some kind of disciplinary system that emboldens teachers to kick the rowdy disinterested kids out (put on a special campus if necessary) so that the kids who actually want an education can get it. Too much distraction; not enough time on learning.

Vouchers...consumerism works. Free the parents in ALL districts to choose where they will send their kids. Let those schools hold the power of discipline and if it's not to standard, they go back to a slated district...just an idea.

better public schools but dont force everybody to go to a 4 year university... some people fit better in trade jobs

This is a major problem for me and a top reason why we're considering leaving. The public schools are a nightmare by and large.

You left schools out of this... I want my children (and me!) to be able to bike to their schools safely.

I like the New Hope Enterprises model of matching training to real jobs with real employers.

Provide cutting edge schools and centers where the children can explore and experiment with cutting edge technologies in the lower and middle school years. High schools level should have a focus on job development.

Continuous education and in judicious use of water. Government facilities should be models of practical water conservation- encouraging free enterprise to provide cost effective solutions.

Without increasing taxes, as GA already spends more per child than many other states, however, still ranks very low on quality of education.

Education Comments

No Common Core and choice for inner city families. Vouchers and Charter schools.

Gwinnett has a good education system already. We should keep it going strong.

Walk the walk. But world class education is supported by a triad, the community, school administration, Teachers, Students, Families. Society and culture. Wait that is more than 3 isn't it ? Does America want the education magic bullet ? What is that ?

We need to enhance the STEM education in K-12 in order to have the workforce to compete in the future

WE need to inform people of what's involved in being a community of involved citizens. What are the responsibilities of the parent, children and maturing adults. One must inform citizens that there is a responsibility to living in a free enterprise, democratic, representative form of government/community

Our process and system for educating and informing citizens have been overlooked and left out of the school system and many may not get a clear understand at home.

Affordable private education is the only way to fix our failing public education system.

Spend the money to prevent homelessness. For example, fix our pathetic public education system that condemns so many people to minimum wage jobs because they never even graduated high school.

If jobs and education is available as they are, These folks should take advantage of them and get away from government handouts!

Get the local school boards out of the business of educating kids and instead have the select the best educators to run the schools and evaluate them based on results.

Everything of any value comes at a cost, be it sweat or cash equity. We continue to throw money at education, yet it continues to fail because the students are not investing in themselves. It's an attitude problem, not a money problem.

All high school students should be offered a solid basic education which will leave them able to read for comprehension, write a complete paragraph, and have a working knowledge of math. Companies are responsible for providing job-specific training. Taxpayers are not a "farm team" for businesses, like college football programs are a free farm team for the NFL.

Can't be done. You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink. All citizens should be afforded an equal opportunity to get a quality education, but not all will succeed. Equating equality of opportunity with equality of outcome is a fools errand.

Education Comments

No! Government schools should turn out a student product which can read for comprehension, write a complete paragraph, and have at least a working knowledge of math. Employers are responsible for then training these competent student graduates for the specific job requirements of their business.

The first goal should be to provide the opportunity for a solid education basis for all students. There will always be a range of capabilities in the population of students (remember the bell-shaped curve? It hasn't gone away). Some students will rise to the top by individual effort and commitment, but all should graduate from high school with a basic core knowledge of how to live.

Access to advanced educational opportunities is critical. Many areas in the region lack educational facilities and many residents lack transportation to access educational facilities located outside of their community.

but remember you need technical schools, not just higher education; and you need children with drug free mothers and fathers

goes back to education; then can have jobs and figure it out for themselves

College education is not the choice for every person, but adequate preparation for a job at the appropriate level raises the level of performance, encouraging pride in work, promoting initiative and giving a personal sense of accomplishment. If we cannot offer educational opportunities at various levels, we are wasting resources.

I think if we have an educated work force and people have jobs, hopefully things will be better for everyone.

I believe that ALL government surveys and planning should be required to seek assistance form local schools and colleges... how can we improve traffic in Atlanta? Ask some GA Tech Students to work on it... you'd be surprised at the answers

residents should be able to sit in and assist at schools and programs.... provide incentives to improve your neighborhood and home

First and foremost!

The education system in this state is the worst, especially in low income and minority areas.
It's disgraceful!

I moved to Atlanta (from Cincinnati) ten years ago, to insure that my great-grandchildren received a good start in school. The public education that I've observed is disappointing. I volunteer every opportunity I get to teach children who lack basic skills. Is there a forum to allow retired educators to discuss their ideas for improving education in their neighborhood?

Education Comments

In order to attract quality jobs, it is to have a well-trained workforce. Interested community groups can tackle this need in their community.

Our school system is failing our children. The type of education should be expanded to cover professional careers as well as vocational careers. We need both area's for a good well rounded economy.

Education is here, we need to let teachers teach, students that disrupts classes. needs to put in the alternative schooling, I'm a firm believer, bring discipline back to the classrooms. Students that wants to learn they will. The others should be put in their setting they wish to behave like. Gangs do not belong in school. teachers that are 10 yr. they need to be performing, any abuse by a teacher, should be fired, with no pension. yes I come from a family of educators. Again let education be a private interprise performance will come back, if they want to be a teacher. Earn what you are hired to do. Testing is out of hands.

Our public school system needs improvement. This is vital for a good workforce and for the life of the community. I am a teacher so I think this is paramount.

Sir Thomas More, "If you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners corrupted from infancy, and then punish them for those crime to which their first education disposed them; what else is to be concluded but that you first make thieves and then punish them."

It doesn't do any good to bring in employers if the workers can't read and write. If the incentive is money to train locals for the workforce, that's great.

Charter schools work - support funding them only if we also work to improve regular public schools simultaneously.

Trade schools & temp services not the solution to structural inequality.

If employers need an educated workforce, they should develop it, not the taxpayer outside of typical K-12 education.

Property rights should allow the property owner to determine what they want to do with their land. Education and recommendations should be used to persuade owners to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Through education and recommendations. Not through laws and forced compliance.

Education Comments

The economic gap that is prominent in all neighborhoods is extending into the educational system of surrounding regions. Too many students are falling back or not being helped further. Without ensuring that our younger generations are getting quality education, we are setting our region up for failure. Those that ARE educated are leaving for other areas, cities, and states. We have to invest in our people and our region.

Developing Entrepreneurship and leadership skills should be a component of K-12 programs.

Quality education is a joke when we see things like what happened at Grady HS with their approach to biological evolution.

Ensuring that we are providing the right foundations for all of our kids from cradle to career is key to building a better and more successful region. No one wants to raise a family in an area with a sub-par education system.

And just how are you going to ensure that? Quality affordable education is available to all youth and always has been. Parents, culture, unions, and political correctness are the primary things that stand between our youth and a quality education. Throwing money at it hasn't worked and never will.

Support the technical schools.

Educational opportunities should be available for all motivated youth. Don't waste time and resources on those who have chosen to be underachievers.

Support those who have the motivation and intelligence to succeed in advanced education. The unmotivated ones are slowing everybody down.

More charter schools.

Remove and replace the insurance commissioner and governor. Improve access to health care through transportation. Mandate physical education in schools.

Georgia has one of the most disappointing educational systems for k-12. Unless you are very wealthy you simply cannot afford to live in areas that have well-rated schools. Even as a family with an income over \$150k, we cannot afford to live where schools are rated highly without traveling well outside of Atlanta proper (ie. Marietta, Alpharetta or Roswell -- 45-60 min commute for a new or updated 3-4 bedroom home priced under \$300k)

Our education is very affordable but not of very high quality. Our vocational schools are weak at supplying well trained workers to the workforce.

Education Comments

Absolutely not. Technology is no panacea. The problem with the education system is that it teaches relativistic garbage. Fix that. Government will never do that. That's why government needs to subsidize the consumer of educational services. It should no longer subsidize the producer, or be the producer, of educational services.

Get the government out of the business of providing education. Government can assist by subsidizing consumers, not producers.

Why do you need to provide artificial incentives? Isn't individual betterment enough of an incentive? By the way, who decides what constitutes an "advanced educational opportunity"?

Employers who benefit should help design the curriculums and at least partially pay for the educations

Focus on encouraging the two parent family, family involvement in education and instilling a work ethic and 99% of this problem will be solved

Make public schools compete with private and charter schools for funding via accountability systems they can't cheat!

This is for everyone's benefit, families, kids, corporations & communities. This should be done thru private and corporate sponsorships and competitively bid to educational orgs. with clear performance standards / expectations and not public school system where the curriculum creators and teachers have little accountability and poor performance takes an "act of Congress" to change.

This is the best way to get an innovation hub started. Get them involved in the recommending the education & training piece and as they succeed they agree to support the E&T in the future.

Cut the # of school administrators! more charter schools! school choice for all kids.

Incentives should be merit based. Get rid of unions and administrators and you would have better schools

Educate the people and empower "the little man" to become self sufficient and they will develop the confidence to create businesses and the jobs will follow.

Ensure quality education; no strings attached - No COMMON CORE agenda. The People from local communities are to make all decisions on the educational needs of their area; from the text books, classroom instruction methods, teachers, latest technology, music, arts, sports, etc. Refuse vaccinations! Truth and transparency is to be the motto!

get rid of common core, have our own education outline not fed. govt.

Education Comments

Government provides K-12 education today. It has dumbed down education from what it once was 5, 10, 50 yrs ago. More interference by more government is definitely not the answer. Firing half the administrators & non teachers might be a good start re re-raise the standards.

People need to fund their own education! ... easy loans, grants, just results in higher tuition. i.e. it makes things worse, and the bureaucracy just grows.

Aren't there already public schools?

Low taxes and good schools will do more to attract good businesses than any government interference.

This is the responsibility of schools and colleges, not government

Isn't that what our schools are suppose to be doing but failing miserably?

An employer needs to define the need. Government needs to fund the education system to deliver the need. The student reward is a well-paid job that pays taxes & spends money to raise a family. As business recognizes the trained talent base Atlanta has, more specialized businesses will be drawn to the state. The circle is complete.

Educational choice.

There seems to be increased awareness among recent high school grads of training available through technical schools, which is great. I wonder, though, how we make these opportunities available to - and affordable for - those who are long past high school.

Education should be open to all areas, and not regionalized.

The local school system is a real negative (outside a few pockets).

What a "loaded" statement. How can we ensure quality education for all youth with the corrupt, unaccountable systems we have in places like APS and DeKalb County Schools?? To include "affordable" in your question implies focus on primarily post K-12 education. That'll take care of itself. Fix K-12 first. To do that, focus on (invest in) accountability resulting in only the best teachers teaching and somehow holding parents accountable for student outcomes (including behavior!)

The National system of Common Core can not continue our education system is off the train track and no one seems to care of fixing.

Everywhere you look....people are just plain fat. Education and local availability of healthy food would go certainly help.

While I hate saying "no" to better educational opportunities, this doesn't seem to me to be the problem.

Education Comments

Educational achievement is key for business development and Realestate values. This takes a culture of honesty and integrity from the parents to the system structure and leadership. It takes champions for student achievement. Does our city have what it takes?

Example: train local people for jobs in expanding film industry so they do not have to import workers.

Our government's inability to manage the public school system is an atrocity. We need to get back to what made this country great and invest in our youth instead of cutting education funding.

Our government's inability to manage the public school system/budget is an atrocity. We need to get back to what made this country great and invest in our youth instead of cutting education funding.

All neighborhoods need convenient access to fresh produce. Also, more needs to be done in schools to increase nutritional education. Promote school and community gardens and incorporate into school lunches.

All efforts should focus on our schools first.

I can't say enough about this. We MUST focus on our schools at elementary level to ensure these children make it to college. Please follow brain development research (from Neuroscientists) to understand this priority.

It doesn't matter how many schools or materials are provided when there are crappy parents who don't value education and all that it entails - showing up on time/daily, obeying the rules, doing homework, getting involved...they think free education really means FREE, which it is not.

The first and most important role of the state is to create & fund a quality education system for ALL. Elected and appointed leaders, parents, and business should aggressively protect its school system from incompetance and corruption. This should be the region's first priority. Lower property taxes and stop wasting money on programs and personnel that are redundant and incompetent.

Give vouchers for private schools; this is an individual school district issue - not regional - unless all districts combine.

That's up to the specific school system.

Actually, I suggest that you focus on delivering the quality of education. You cannot force people to learn. The best programs should be filled with the hardest working and most diligent students. I believe smaller classes with qualified and dedicated teachers is the key to a student being engaged in their education.

Education on ways to have all the benefits of water use, without using as much water will engage citizens, create a mindset for conservation and save families money.

Education Comments

Private tech schools can do this better than the government.

The focus should be on adding and expanding arts programs in schools.

I thought that is what government schools were already supposed to be doing. How about monitoring those responsible on a regular basis (ie weekly), rewards for whistleblowers (example the test score scandal - how did that one fall thru the cracks?????)

This tend to be sink holes of money. Let private businesses help sponsor technical education.

Such educational opportunities already exist.

It's time for Georgia to increase their overall ranking amongst the rest of the nation, and quality public education is key to attracting business, as "good schools" is a major factor in relocation.

This should happen at our schools under plans developed by educators and the private sector.

Let schools get back to teaching reading, writing and math

Education is the answer. People make choices and should be responsible for them. Provide more integrity, let communities develop their own character, stop blaming others, look from within on community involvement. My yes vote on this goes to more police and social services for the communities that need it. But the answer is don't blame police for arresting people if they continue to make bad choices

society needs to change and education is the key. The reasons people choose fast food needs to change, by telling someone a hamburger has too much fat and sodium, won't change the reason they are buying them. But as they continue to eat it the demand on healthcare rises. Society starts in the home, we need everyday people to want the information then act on it. I think that is where the challenge is. Too many people settling for what is easy and not wanting to be parents or making hard choices or blaming others for where they are.

two part solution - change the mind and habits. We should add curriculum into the school system that re-enforce this message. Have them bring home information for the household and then have them track the households progress over a couple months. The toughest thing to do is to change habits

FUND THE SCHOOLS !!!! All schools in serious pain. having to dole out copy paper. have copy codes per teacher to limit worksheets. Giving only online text books - but not means for all students to have equal access to them. If a student rides bus they do not have advantage to use school library for access - so can not do work if no internet access available at home. AGAINST Internet only textbooks unless school provides all students with laptops and internet access in home.

Education Comments

I'm not sure what "ensure", "quality", "affordable", and "all" mean. It sounds "good", but what does it mean?

I recommend more detail, such as:

- Different high school and college education paths for manufacturing, technician, and the various professional tracks.
- How ARC and others might foster better education opportunities.

Start in the high schools with training in different fields

This should not be construed to eliminate important aspects of education, such as art, music, civics, and the humanities.

Education needs to become more locally involved because the present system does not work so do not throw any more money at a bad system.

also includes education. many people only know what they grew up with. need to work to change the poor eating habits through education AND availability

Stop funding Communist Core. Repeal CC. Allow local school systems to revise and develop objectives that are best suited to their population. One size does not fit all! Private schools and home schoolers should not be punished by having to support failing public schools. Let the money follow the student.

Communist Core is straight out Marxist propaganda. It does not teach math. It does not teach classical English literature. It devalues the family, morals and religious values. The way to ensure a quality, affordable educational opportunity for Georgia youth is to get the damn federal government out of our educational system. Stop taking federal grants!!!

That is called apprenticeship. It already exists for those motivated to seek the opportunity.

Deport illegal aliens so unemployed Georgia citizens can compete for jobs.

Don't just throw money at schools-be accountable (not just testing, real results, please)

Parents should pay some tuition for public school education.

Quality jobs will be attracted here if we have a highly educated population, who can also create its own jobs and innovation through entrepreneurship.

Each student should have a career planning starting at grade 8. Each student should have a path to higher education not every student is a Georgia Tech but every student should be guided and encouraged to get training or a best a 2 year college degree. No student should be left behind and we can have a work force available at all levels on top of the education that is in place.

Education Comments

Provide educational programs options like the University of Phoenix does at our local Universities. After age 40 it is very limited. UGA, KSU, GSU and Community colleges should have this program. I lived in Kansas City and the University of Missouri in KC had the PACE program for working adults. No program like this is here.

We can use our public libraries network in the area to provide space for training. This network is in place now and can even be used to enhance our education system.

Good K-12 education for all in public schools should be a priority.

Training should be provided by employers. Obviously education should prepare people so they can be easily trained though.

We need better education, less huge areas of lawns that need lots of water, but only sustain 1 or 2 people to live in it. we need alternatives.

Not every child is going to be a doctor or a lawyer and that's okay! Let's bring back vocational training in high schools.

Basic fundamentals are crucial, as important or perhaps more important than advanced training or college. We need to be sure we have good schools, that is the foundation for everything that comes after.

Regionalize education funding to reduce disparities between not only schools in a district, but between districts/counties.

These are luxuries. Love to have them, but don't want to see them take precedence over basic infrastructure and education needs.

Don't get government involved. Let schools and others do this on their own.

Need good food program in our schools. Need program where food isn't wasted like it is now.

Should be provided only to those have shown success in basic education; otherwise, it's a total waste of tax dollars.

Ok, but not at expense of liberal arts education.

How will technology-based education reach poor youth who may not have access to a computer at home, or who may not be computer literate?

Well trained, with truly quality education is a must for success.

Comes after quality education.

Affordable housing, and not just the traditional type of housing, is important. Changes to the education system to reduce the drop out rates would help. Managed care rather than the multitude of programs out there now might help.

Technical or vocational schools should be a part of this educational system. College isn't for everyone. We need skilled labor.

Education Comments

I believe that high quality education, is going to be more effective during the first few years of life.

Ensure a public education system that teaches young people "HOW" to think, not what to think. Push for an increase in the skilled trades and technical education (electrical, plumbing, carpentry...)

As a past recipient of the Hope Scholarship, I am grateful for having access to quality education at a more affordable price. Changes in the Hope structure however are proving to be disappointing.

Charter schools do not do this!

Homelessness is a symptom, not a disease. Increase resources to housing options, jobs, opportunities, education, after school programs, etc.

Probably more important than just bringing in "jobs", provide opportunities for entrepreneurship. Though not at the detriment of tax revenue.

Work with local school boards and counties to raise teachers' pay to attract and retain talent.

I believe once there will be a strong economy and educated workforce in the Metro Atlanta area the numbers of homeless people will decrease. Help to help themselves. They won't be able to get off the streets without jobs that can support them.

I can't tell if this stmt is suggesting gov't assistance programs. Educating children in public schools is a plus, but not in favor of gov't re educating adults.

It's very important that public schools do not practice wasteful spending in the name of quality education.

And do more to ensure that all youth take advantage of the quality education

This must include access to trade schools and trade internships as much as to colleges.

This requires a well funded active community forum for candid discussions with local businesses, and must include trade and college focused education.

Companies want to move to areas where there is a population that can meet company needs/requirements. A highly trained workforce is important.

Educate people, starting with young kids in public schools and going all the way up to adults.

It's disgraceful how uneven the quality of education is throughout the region.

don't we already and still have less than 70% HS graduation rate? focus on the HS graduation rate first, then worry about advanced education.

Education Comments

Improving our education system is far more important than any other selection in this group. If we create great jobs here but have no one to fill them, Georgians will still be in the same underprivileged situation.

As long as this is accomplished through current educational funding and not additional tax payer dollars.

With the employers contributing financially to the education of those who will benefit them.

Bring it to the schools and inform the children!

Including technical high schools and colleges.

Of course! Affordable??? You mean, I am sure, quality PUBLIC education - free to everyone - and funded as usual by property taxes and any other means available! "Affordable" education is PRIVATE school, which is hardly affordable to the majority!

The best education I got were: 1. Internships with local companies 2. An international internship with a Peruvian company 3. Research projects/papers

Create a unified school district in the metro area. make it possible to attend any school in the metro area - if you work in lawrenceville you should be able to send your kids to school there. Make the schools more of a charter environment - each cluster/school/city can have a seperate school board to set policies. Remove the "eduacracy" at the county level. Let the public school kids ride MARTA to school everyday. It is good enough for the private school kids...

I do believe in free access, but the government can't regulate access. Provide areas and situations where the companies can provide free access points to bring the homeless in a supportive enviroment and able to basic services and communication; allow the schools to help lower-income households access technology and internet services; provide free and public access at libraries in the region.

So desperately needed right now, especially considering the income and education gap in Atlanta. Reinforcing homelessness programs while also providing educational and vocational development opportunities will ensure that fewer residents are not left behind in a growing local economy.

Allowing lower income children the same education system as others is key. Good education leads to good jobs leads to a tax-paying citizen

Quality education and equipment for all communities.

support a state constitution change to allow new School systems in new cities

Bring grants for current and new non profits as well as schools to expand the network of knowledge.

Education Comments

Our school system in GA as a whole does not make moving here attractive. And the kids are getting dumber and dumber. A hard look needs to be taken of our schools and the education of our children.

help promote mentor ships in the public school system.

Keep education local, without regional & state-wide dictates. Allow vouchers so government money follows students, not their ZIP code.

Leverage online content to establish world class education.

Encourage and enable more parent involvement in education

Education and mentoring are key components to a vital educational environment for all residents, particularly our youth in our region. As communities improve, quality jobs will flow into this area and development partnerships and incentives for the total population.

The Atlanta Public Government School System is Rewarded for failure! It's a Jobs' Program.

"The worse job we do, the more jobs we get---smaller class size means more teachers and support personnel, more remedial programs means more teachers,etc... And, we get to build more jails to house the poorly educated graduates which means more jobs in security and construction.

And, AND, We Get to Blame Whitey for This! Hah! Hah! Hah!"---so say a NAACP Black in DC in 2003.

I've heard similar statements by White Chamber of Commerce leaders during past 20 years.

Solution? Taxpayer funded Education Vouchers! Save \$\$\$, Empower Parents, Educated Kids and Save America!

Education Comments

subways and bus service will improve air quality, make a variety of educational opportunities more accessible, transport locals to jobs in nearby cities and allow them to live in their hometowns.

technical college to work closely with schools to develop programs that track trades for students who will not go away to college.

Provide incentives, assistance and access to advanced educational opportunities for the region's residents , Attract quality jobs to the region through partnerships and incentives

Education and ethical standards should guide any plan, not just \$\$\$.

Expand choice in public schools, charter schools

Government typically wastes time and money on trying to run the arts themselves. They should let the private sector run and make work what will pay. Art in schools-YES!

Ensure quality education by recruiting the BEST EDUCATORS. Provide incentives for high performing and effective educators & principals to relocate to the Metro Atlanta region and teach in public schools.

Support public school systems with the best available resources.

Provide school choice/alternatives to schools that are failing, so that students aren't locked into another generation of poverty

Ensure access to quality affordable childcare, preschool, and pre-k (helps parents return to work and improves life chances for kids)

Integrate schools and colleges back into their communities instead of remote, fenced off campuses.

More programs for kids in neighborhoods that need after school care or latchkey programs that bring kids in from the streets to develop skills- computer, arts, gardening, sports

Quality, affordable education needs to be available to everyone, not just youth.

Education and private sector need to develop more technical schools in the more populated counties.

How many of these quality jobs come from communist China?

Are these quality jobs assembly line work? What is your definition of a quality job?

My suggestion is to repeal Communist Core so that our children have a half a chance to learn how to think.

The focus on technical education for youth should be expanded to youth and adults.

Pay local teachers well. Do NOT support vouchers as that would take money away from public schools.

Don't have a pay freeze in place for higher education staff and have a government that supports education. Deal does not.

Education Comments

There's nothing wrong with education and training, but it is not an inherently regional problem. State or local entities can take the lead on this and the region will still benefit.

The mayor rejected my suggestion that we send teams into low performing schools-teams who had the power and money to fix EVERY problem in a chosen school.

I suggest that part of providing education, the development of vocational programs to teach needed skills for industry.

I believe that high quality education, is going to be more effective during the first few years of life. Maybe universities could look at educational programs for infants and toddlers to give them life skills.

Pioneer educational policy that promotes resiliency, innovation, and a love for learning for our youth.

Education should be accessible for retired people as easily that it is for youths

Quality education is available today...Parents must be an active part and be responsible or they should attend parenting classes from birth. End the single parent, no father, practice.

Quality education is available today...Parents must be an active part and be responsible or they should attend parenting classes from birth. End the single parent, no father, practice. Employer input is necessary.

Improve educational opportunities for low-income parents, communities, and schools.

More charter schools with less Federal involvement. Limit or negate the influence of educational unions.

Offer adult education in the evenings at local schools

Start a city-wide advertising campaign to encourage kids to stay in school, to want to get an education.

Provide attractive teaching opportunities to entice top level educators. Make teaching the top priority for improving education.

Attract manufacturing jobs and train a skilled workforce for those jobs. Internet and "high-tech" jobs do not provide a large enough number of jobs to warrant a majority of the focus when trying to attract living wage jobs.

My ears perk up when I see an unelected regional government getting into the local business of education...

the involvement should start in the schools, churches, centers etc

Chronically underperforming demographic groups are a blight in American and a drag on the nation as a whole. Education matters. Say it. Education matters. But it is a trilogy, family, student, teacher. It is not just the teacher.

improve education for technical and skilled trade students

Education Comments

Encourage non traditional training and schooling. Much of public education is generic and a waste of time and money.

Ensure educational opportunities are accessible and near employment and residential centers to reduce commute times and support employment options to encourage reduction of VMT of its employees

The biggest obstacles that need to be addressed with a vision for this area are education and transportation options. Future success in our region depends on building a stronger, connected core with massive improvements to transit and employment centers that doesn't involve the car. Education has to be improved within our city as well and transit access has a lot to do with improving this.

Human scale, non-automobile dependent communities are our future. It is not possible to over-invest on education.

I believe public transit is essential for equitable access to education and jobs and necessary for sustainable growth. I will relocate from Metro Atlanta to a competing metro area if transit is not improved significantly in the next 5 to 10 years. The seemingly never ending debate and pumping money into planning studies that are never implemented is simply ridiculous in my opinion. I want quality public transit and to live, work and play in a truly progressive community or region. I will relocate if transit is not improved and expanded in the next 5 to 10 years. It is a quality of life issue for me.

Public transportation and public education are the biggest challenges I face in living in Atlanta. It is a regular consideration of mine when deciding where to settle down with a career and family.

I think Atlanta already does well in education and jobs/innovation. We need better transportation and a more livable downtown. I lived in the city in NYC, DC, and San Francisco, but would never do so here.

As a working adult in the public school system, I see the need to provide equitable access to technology; we must close the technological divide that plagues our low income citizens in their homes.

Driver Education needs to be a priority for the public.

I would like to help low income persons in my community get an education, housing, and employment. What grant is available for this project?

Keeping our population healthy, with high academic educational standards and having a healthy and strong infrastructure are critical for long-term regional planning and in my opinion are top priority.

Education, Housing, Transportation, Green Space, Arts and Culture- ALL make a city great. Look at the metro systems of cities this size and get going with a real plan!

Education Comments

Water, Education, & Transportation should be the top three. ARC should focus on Water and Transportation. The state should improve Education (funding, standards, \$/pupil, etc.)

Please make quality public education a priority. The new statewide option to allow schools to select how they will operate is worrisome.

More bike lanes, fewer cars, much better high schools. Tell people not to park cars and trash cans on the existing sidewalks (ie, use sidewalks for walking).

Education

Access to needs (food, medical care, education, etc.) for all

The whole has to work together, or we will fail if we attempt only one. Transportation, education, quality of life will allow for quality of health.

Education is the key to a bright future.

I think this is already in place with the world-renowned Universities we have here; Emory, Spelman, Morehouse, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, and Kennesaw State. And not to leave out University of Georgia. I would not neglect education but this is already a strong suit. If this were to become one of the top 3 priorities, I would focus on primary education, K-12.

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To add to the commentary above, I would recommend broadening and focus on more partnerships with in-depth work-study programs and internships to go along with the great Universities.

Provide equal educational opportunities that are affordable to the age group 18 and up

this category compared to the arts and recreation category is a bit misleading- thinking as if we would not support arts in education and jobs or on a professional level as well.

Provide more grants and student loans for education . Create more jobs and internship programs

Remove the School Superintendent as an elected official. Georgia is changing plans for education too often. We need to stick with one plan and move forward or we will remain at the bottom of the list forever!

Build in some type of "repayment through service" stipulation in all education grants and scholarships. It's nothing new but it helps to retain the knowledge we've generated and makes the community stronger in the process.

Education Comments

The city should concentrate on developing and the education system. Millions are being spent on a test scandle, when it can be spend on education and correcting the system for the future.

Not everyone needs a full University education, or can afford it. We need to concentrate on our Tech school systems so people will have the skills for the jobs that are created.

essential as the community continues rapid growth. Transportation impacts jobs, quality of life, education and all facet of life, work and play

Quality educational institutions produce creative and innovative graduates. A partnership with local business' to offer employment opportunities to students will encourage them to stay in Atlanta and make this an even better place to live.

More focus on TECHNICAL EDUCATION!

What does this even mean? every one is provided a public education. They should know how to find information. Why do they need nannies?

Not just for youth. The State & other educational institutions should put more on-line courses for anyone to take and improve themselves.

Not all are "bent" this way - we will need chefs and artists and other types of education as well

Education should be as broad based as well as technology based

Start with healthy education and creating safe connectivity through cycling and you will increase healthy lifestyles. Encourage business incentives for non traditional transportation to work or event tele-communiting

I think if we implement more water saving, green practices, we won't need to increase the water supply. I also don't really want my tax dollars going to a reservoir when children need education and teachers need raises.

Have parternship between local Universities and start up business. Encourage College students to get a co-op with start up businesses and partner them with more mature workers. Access the knowledge of the old and young to bring things together in a business. Retrain older workers with continued education. Have Business Incubators to help start ups. Help incourage mentorships between Industry Gaints and start ups in leadership.

Affordable does not make sense. We already receive public education by right. The focus should be on equitable access to high quality education.

We need to invest in closing the skills gap. Partnerships between business and education will help.

Education Comments

Some states offer free education to veterans. At least consider discounted education to veterans and government workers and their dependents.

Everybody talks good about quality education; however, when it is time for budget cuts education is one of the first items on the chopping block.

In providing quality local training and education that matches employer and business demands keep us constantly informed of such opportunities thru all forms of media

My example of incentive assistance would be pay the registration fee or for the transportation to/from the educational site; offer meal voucher or paid overnight hotel stay if the opportunity is a 1-3 day conference or seminar, etc.

Define affordable. Who actually pays for the "affordable" education?

Improve public education so that it is considered usable by all residents.

This solution is vaguely worded. We need to assess individual capabilities and interests, create technical schools that match regional needs, and help youth successfully matriculate from these institutions. There is no need for everyone to have a college degree.

We live on the west side of Atlanta and my children should have the same educational opportunities and exposure to state of the art technology that is in Alpharetta or Roswell...it's not fair!

Access yes - but it is not the role of gov't to provide incentives and assistance to the public to encourage them to get an education.

Develop a school curriculum that educates students and not teaches students how to pass a test. Do not allow a graduation test (that does not focus on the current educational system to dictate whether or not a child graduates.

higher education is not the need. Decent jobs to build stable families will improve our overall community

Not only access to healthy food but education as well

Healthy environment is critical. Educating low income on proper trash disposal, not in the streets.

The HOPE scholarship has grown to the point where it is not education for all but education for the B and above student- Spend HOPE money on the D/C student to get them assistance and move them for opportunities to better educate themselves

Find ways to expand the value of education and to eliminate crime and violence.

Education Comments

All universities and colleges should be included just the recognized land grant colleges/universities of the white population. To strength the regions potential all educational institutions should be included in this partnership

Most of what I did not classify as "As Important" currently exists in process or practice within the Atlanta and surrounding areas of development for education and tech improvement

Provide education opportunities (expand opportunities to take junior college courses in communities in metro ATL (e.g. - there are many abandon building in stone mountain that could be converted to classroom - which would help develop the area's workforce

Education and transportation are the two key things that will help turn Atlanta into an even greater city.

Transportation; Education; Arts

Education

Access to needs (food, medical care, education, etc.) for all

Grow into a top flight pre K-12 public ed system.

schools

Investment in schools.

I live in Fayettee county. It has great rural characteristics and great schools. We want to keep it that way. No high density development or rapid/public/mass transit.

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Build in some type of "repayment through service" stipulation in all education grants and scholarships. It's nothing new but it helps to retain the knowledge we've generated and makes the community stronger in the process.

The city should concentrate on developing and the education system. Millions are being spent on a test scandle, when it can be spend on education and correcting the system for the future.

Not everyone needs a full University education, or can afford it. We need to concentrate on our Tech school systems so people will have the skills for the jobs that are created.

essential as the community continues rapid growth. Transportation impacts jobs, quality of life, education and all facet of life, work and play

Quality educational institutions produce creative and innovative graduates. A partnership with local business' to offer employment opportunities to students will encourage them to stay in Atlanta and make this an even better place to live.

If we don't have the skill workers, we won't attract the business. We need to improve our schools and trade schools.

More focus on TECHNICAL EDUCATION!

What does this even mean? every one is provided a public education. They should know how to find information. Why do they need nannies?

Not just for youth. The State & other educational institutions should put more on-line courses for anyone to take and improve themselves.

Not all are "bent" this way - we will need chefs and artists and other types of education as well

Education should be as broad based as well as technology based

Start with healthy education and creating safe connectivity through cycling and you will increase healthy lifestyles. Encourage business incentives for non traditional transportation to work or event tele-communiting

Education Comments

I think if we implement more water saving, green practices, we won't need to increase the water supply. I also don't really want my tax dollars going to a reservoir when children need education and teachers need raises.

Have partnership between local Universities and start up business. Encourage College students to get a co-op with start up businesses and partner them with more mature workers. Access the knowledge of the old and young to bring things together in a business. Retrain older workers with continued education. Have Business Incubators to help start ups. Help encourage mentorships between Industry Gaints and start ups in leadership.

Need to return to discipline in schools and reinstate teacher/principal control, not student control. Go back to basics, the children graduating today are incapable of being productive in a business environment due to lack of spelling, grammar and basic reasoning skills.

Affordable does not make sense. We already receive public education by right. The focus should be on equitable access to high quality education.

We need to invest in closing the skills gap. Partnerships between business and education will help.

Don't the public schools do this already. If not, why do I pay property taxes?

Some states offer free education to veterans. At least consider discounted education to veterans and government workers and their dependents.

Everybody talks good about quality education; however, when it is time for budget cuts education is one of the first items on the chopping block.

In providing quality local training and education that matches employer and business demands keep us constantly informed of such opportunities thru all forms of media

My example of incentive assistance would be pay the registration fee or for the transportation to/from the educational site; offer meal voucher or paid overnight hotel stay if the opportunity is a 1-3 day conference or seminar, etc.

Define affordable. Who actually pays for the "affordable" education?

Improve public education so that it is considered usable by all residents.

This solution is vaguely worded. We need to assess individual capabilities and interests, create technical schools that match regional needs, and help youth successfully matriculate from these institutions. There is no need for everyone to have a college degree.

Education Comments

We live on the west side of Atlanta and my children should have the same educational opportunities and exposure to state of the art technology that is in Alpharetta or Roswell...it's not fair!

This is by far the most important item. Improving the public school systems so ALL students get a quality education is critical.

Access yes - but it is not the role of gov't to provide incentives and assistance to the public to encourage them to get an education.

Targeting elementary and middle schools is the foundation to building a well-educated workforce...igniting a fire to learn.

Develop a school curriculum that educates students and not teaches students how to pass a test. Do not allow a graduation test (that does not focus on the current educational system to dictate whether or not a child graduates.

Until discipline is restored in the school system and parents held responsible for their children's behavior nothing will be improved, especially in an urban environment.

higher education is not the need. Decent jobs to build stable families will improve our overall community

last time I check grades 1 thru 12 were free schools.

Get the public schools right first. Provide a high quality pre-k through 12 experience and the rest will come on its own.

Not only access to healthy food but education as well

The HOPE scholarship has grown to the point where it is not education for all but education for the B and above student- Spend HOPE money on the D/C student to get them assistance and move them for opportunities to better educate themselves

Find ways to expand the value of education and to eliminate crime and violence.

All universities and colleges should be included just the recognized land grant colleges/universities of the white population. To strength the regions potential all educational institutions should be included in this partnership

Provide very high quality city/county programs for youth and families that are connected to schools to address childcare, after school care, and weekend enrichment.

Most of what I did not classify as "As Important" currently exists in process or practice within the Atlanta and surrounding areas of development for education and tech improvement

Provide education opportunities (expand opportunities to take junior college courses in communities in metro ATL (e.g. - there are many abandon building in stone mountain that could be converted to classroom - which would help develop the area's workforce

Education and transportation are the two key things that will help turn Atlanta into an even greater city.

Education Comments

Transportation; Education; Arts

Create more training and technical schools

CARPE NOCTEM: Use existing infrastructure to support business, educational, recreational, and social activities around the clock. Some families would occupy the PM routine, others the AM routine. Give up this nonsense where the whole city gets on the road at the same time, goes to school at the same time, etc. Humans are more adaptable than that!

Create less need for auto transport. More virtual educational and business pursuits from home. More social and recreational activities available around the clock in neighborhood settings.

Education of young people should be shared btwn 3 contexts: home, school, community. Indeed, even businesses should have a stake in the education of area residents.

Get all your "foreign students who graduate from USA college & universities to come to Atlanta and start up companies or work for international global businesses with offices & plants in the ARC. What happened to developing at home current Georgia students by common sense reforms which include strong discipline in public schools, strong presence of the criminal justice system which holds parents & students & educational personnel personally responsible for their illegal, immoral and unacceptable actions in the classroom and outside the classroom. WE HAVE A MORALS PROBLEM IN ARC area to be solved before we can be an effective and viable Innovation Hub. The whole state of Georgia should become an Innovation Hub for agriculture, transportation, technology and responsible and quality education from K-12 and Graduate studies. You are dreaming if you think this great vision you seek will ever succeed if these areas of concern are totally fixed now to be viable in the future.

Work to get the school systems on board with educating the future workforce and offering more opportunities for internship to help shape their career choices

This includes helping the educational system to understand that the arts, reading, and other "soft" skills are just as vital as math and science and not a waste of time or tax dollars. The arts change lives.

Tech education will follow the market anyway. We need to invest more in the arts which are the true measure and identity of our culture.

People do not respect the importance of water. Water conservation should be taught early, in

Education Comments

schools.

Responsibility for education should rest first w the family, second with the community, third w the business community.

How can we solve the problems with APS and Clayton County Schools? Throwing money at the existing educational establishment will NOT solve their problems. Without fixing what is so terribly broken there, we cannot "ensure quality, affordable education for all youth throughout the region."

This assumes that all will remain the same. A high end educational system with internships would work much, much better. Jobs, industries and businesses change in what they do and what they need over time. This is too geared to "NOW" and not the future of the Atlanta region.

More vocational education in high schools and support tech colleges.

Carpe Noctem, the social architecture of the future. Let us show the world how social, educational, and business innovation is done.

Community Development

Community Development Comments

We need to promote the neighborhoods to reduce the reliance on highways and the current transportation system. By locating business centers nearby these neighborhoods, we can truly experience many live,work,play neighborhoods.

Don't spend any money on this. There are plenty of "vibrant" neighborhoods, and "vibrancy" is not going to fix Vine City or English Avenue. People just need to be able to cross major roads, interstates, and train tracks without risking their lives so they can get from one to another, and do something about the sidewalks! I've never seen a city with such awfully maintained sidewalks before. Is there a way to enforce property owners to maintain them? I know the trees make it tough, but something can be done.

Not everyone wants to live in a live play work development.

Marta Transit should develop rail system not only to the northside but also to the south side, riverdale, fayetteville, peachtree city, fairburn. the east side ellenwood, conyers, henry county ect...west side Douglasville, ect... serve the neighborhoods of all citizens.

I believe if you have the first three - transportation, vibrant neighborhoods, and arts and culture - being an innovation hub and having skilled workers will follow especially as we have great universities here already.

Community Development Comments

People more and more want to live in areas that are walkable and have a mix of uses - innovation, quality of life, and educated workforces depend on this.

Creating safe and interesting neighborhoods to walk in will improve the health of all, and increase the property value.

Having a comprehensive transportation system supports all the other facets (an improved workforce, improved neighborhoods, improved quality of life)

ample greenspace in neighborhoods

The walkable neighborhoods will only happen with transportation improvements, but because that's the goal rather than the infrastructure in itself, I chose that to include in my top 3.

Must be a top priority for anything else to develop. With additional growth comes additional traffic and care should be taken to provide alternate modes of transportation. MARTA is already doing an excellent job of re-branding itself for the future. Additional lines, Transit-Oriented-Developments, & upgrades to stations all contribute to a more positive experience. At the risk of promoting sprawl, other areas near major highways should be developed as business centers to spread out the concentrated work force that currently commutes into Midtown/Downtown every day.

These neighborhoods should be affordable and not just for a select few.

I see this one as a function/result of having a comprehensive transportation system. Until recently, the walkable, vibrant neighborhoods that exist do so in spite of transportation oriented almost exclusively around the automobile. In my opinion, the transportation system can't diversify fast enough.

Absolutely, as a city of Neighborhoods, every neighborhood should feel authentic, walkable, bikeable and vibrant.

Absolutely, as a city of Neighborhoods, every neighborhood should feel authentic, walkable, bikeable and vibrant. This means larger sidewalks, bike lanes, slower traffic speeds (20 mph or less)

And not just the urban neighborhoods!

Walkable vibrant neighborhoods lead to innovation, better quality of life and a more educated workforce

With Arts and Recreation for a high quality of life for all members of the community in place the rest of the list will come together.

Community Development Comments

Walkable vibrant neighborhoods - We need to put more pressure on parents to parent and not leave their children for the state to care for. The reason why there is so much crime is because the children have nothing to do and resort to robbing and stealing. If we shorten the curfew to 8:00 for minors and hold the parents responsible, maybe we can have communities where it is safe to walk the streets and vibrant neighborhoods free from robberies. In order to have a highly developed and well educated workforce, we need to strengthen our education system. We need to invest in ALL of our children's future and not some of them. Was it not Sir Thomas More who said, "If you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners corrupted from infancy, and then punish them for those crime to which their first education disposed them; what else is to be concluded but that you first make thieves and then punish them."

I think if you have a walkable, vibrant neighborhood you will have Arts, rec and a Healthy quality of life. The people who walk and live in vibrant neighborhoods bring those things with them

Are we talking about neighborhoods or summer camp? Vibrant neighborhoods require safety, which means effective policing. Regional LEAs need to de-militarize, move away from Drug War battles, and emphasize community policing that treat property crime as a serious threat to the livability of neighborhoods.

The government can not through economic development create jobs out of thin air; like the FED does with FIAT currency! What will create jobs is the Free Market, if the insane regulations that are stifling companies from creating good paying jobs, are lifted off of their proverbial backs! And huge tax incentives, basically giving away the farm to get them to come here, is not the answer! The answer is what has drawn businesses here for years: Nice Quiet Neighborhoods (suburban lifestyle), Low Taxes (instead of trying to tax us into oblivion), Good Schools (that are not dumming down and teaching our students to be workers for the collective), and a Low cost-of-Living (in other words a person does not have to spend all of what they make to survive, they have some disposable income left to spend on whatever they choose); which seems counter intuitive to the government on all levels!!!

We already have designated areas of Vibrant Neighborhoods, and others will grow up out of necessity through free-market enterprises, without the wasteful direction and control of Central Planning!!!

Develop neighborhoods and communities where people can live and work without having to drive long distances to get to work.

We already have great neighborhoods. We don't need government to create them. A "comprehensive" transportation system is doublespeak for more rail.

Community Development Comments

I want walkable, vibrant neighborhoods as much as anyone. But the private sector will build it..when they think "they will come". ARC and any other quasi governmental entity will be so busy being politically correct, this type of effort becomes a boondoggle.

I think ensuring walkable and vibrant neighborhoods is a prerequisite to having a highly developed workforce; arts, recreation, and quality of life; and an innovation hub. If ARC creates the neighborhoods, the other things will come.

A highly developed & well educated work force wants smart, safe, usable environmentally friendly transportation systems and walkable neighborhoods. NOT long commutes and smoggy air conditions.

A highly developed & well educated work force will consider a vibrant neighborhood to include the Arts, Recreation, & a Healthy quality of life. The vibrant neighborhoods should be developed with the arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life in mind.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to become an innovation hub, but the highest priority they can have in this endeavor is to become a city that innovative people love to live and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Innovation Hub should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. Innovation will follow.

Statistics clearly show that the very best thing a city can do to attract a highly developed & well educated work force is to create walkable, vibrant neighborhoods. If you don't have these all other efforts to keep these workers will fail as they move to cities that offer these type of neighborhoods. Tech grads will move to Seattle.

The neighborhoods of Atlanta are why I choose to stay in Atlanta.

Stop zoning codes that require minimum parking and start building a city for people rather than automobiles.

Top goal should be to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. Walkable neighborhoods reduce reliance on automobiles. Even if we have increase adoption of electric vehicles, some (if not most) of the electricity will come from fossil fuel sources, i.e., natural gas or coal. So we should focus on walkable, vibrant neighborhoods.

I find this topic to be of equal value to the topic of "Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods."

"Arts & Recreation and Healthy Quality of Life" will also create the strong sense of community and will strongly influence the vibrancy of a neighborhood through the actions and involvement of the very people living in these neighborhoods.

Community Development Comments

This is not a huge issue in the suburbs, I can't speak to in town neighborhoods. They are throwing tax dollars away on sidewalks and foot bridges to nowhere in Johns Creek & Alpharetta. A greenway & cute little town square is plenty.

This is my top priority because if neighborhoods are stronger other improvements will follow.

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods is but one style of many that must be supported by the plan.

Every new neighborhood should be required to have side walks and single family neighborhoods should have plenty of green space between houses with lots at least 1/2 acre

New neighborhoods where residents can walk or bike to shopping, library, and other services ties in with the transportation plan.

Zoning and development should be built around the transportation that exists now and is being built.

Too many neighborhoods in middle and lower class sections are plagued with crime. Pay the officers what they deserve, hire more officers and get the crime out of the city.

This is likely to come about if we achieve walkable, vibrant neighborhoods and quality education.

atlanta has a huge income disparity. Educated workforce mixed with comprehensive transportation means existing communities can access jobs regardless of geography, along with receiving the training necessary to get these jobs. Also, Atlanta has a crap school system - no one is going to want to move here and start a family, not everyone can afford private schools, especially if you want to grow the middle class here, and there are only so many charter schools you can approve vs investing in the public school system

I think this would be wonderful. In particular I would love to see and meet friendly police officers in my neighborhood. Currently the Kennesaw police drive behind dark tinted glass windows and feel sort of threatening. I can't help it. I want to feel safe and secure in my little and the thought of having the ability to say, "Good evening officer" when I'm walking my dogs seems terrific! yes, walkable vibrant neighborhoods sound like were I want to live and a place I'd love to visit in the city, too! :)

When you revitalize a community, like downtown Woodstock, exciting things start to happen. People want to be outside and they don't want to have to drive all over the metro to find places or recreation or the newest hipster restaurants. Walkable neighborhoods mean healthier neighborhoods.

Community Development Comments

These are not separate, but they are hierarchical. If you develop a well educated workforce, they will produce the rest below it. Similarly, a healthy quality of life in vibrant neighborhoods will help keep them here. ...And so on down the list. "Pushing" the top priorities will "pull" the bottom priorities.

I placed Education high on my priority list, but I feel strongly that education is about much more than just workforce development, as it seems to be described here. It is also about quality of life, economic equity and opportunity, neighborhoods, families and much more.

An absolute must! Who wants to emulate Los Angeles?!? Plan for & develop the top 3 - water, neighborhoods, & transportation - and the other items will develop as a result!

These type neighborhoods attract the "best & the brightest" to move here...obvious benefit for economic vibrancy.

With a better public transportation system our neighborhoods will become vibrant, highly developed and accessible to all.

Build more nice shops, shopping areas and movies so that people can have these things closer to their home to visit as opposed to having to travel on another side of town. Include more small\large dog parks in the community and walk\bike trails like the beltway and silver comet.

Restructure Underground Atlanta to build another type of "Atlantic Station" so that people will have more shops, nice restaurants, movies, clubs, etc. to visit. Add man made water for a nice feature such as a lake to add to the scenery. I believe this will give people more reason to want to come and visit and hang out. Add out door patio feature for dog friendly restaurants and a small\large dog park.

Also, build more access roads or lower bridges under the expressways to help reduce traffic congestion. Please do not build any high bridges since there are some active senior citizens who are very independent and like to travel but may not want to go over any high bridges. Also, if it's possible, please build a dedicated bike\moped access separated by a concrete wall to avoid danger to people who would be willing to commute this way to go throughout downtown and beyond.

Stop building neighborhoods without sidewalks!!!! People want to feel SAFE walking through their neighborhoods, not afraid that they'll get run over by their fellow residents! Walkable neighborhoods encourage people to get to know each other as they stop and talk to each other while walking. Walking is also great exercise! People will feel more a part of their neighborhood.

Maybe start encouraging every municipality to develop mixed-use districts?

Community Development Comments

Affordable, rent controlled neighborhoods close to public transportation

Greenspace, woodlands, safe neighborhoods for children to play

Safe neighborhoods where anyone can walk (or drive or skatebo..., whatever)without fear.

Many transportation woes in Atlanta are the result of intrusive Government regs that forbid people from living where they want! ie It is illegal for people to live in commercial or industrial areas. Stop the zoning madness and THEN we can have 'walkable, vibrant communities! 'Government isn't the Solution'---usually, Government is the Problem.'
Ronald Reagan

Safe diverse (racially ethnically and economically) affordable neighborhoods with a common sense community policing approach.

Bike-able neighborhoods!

Issue one for one building permits when old structures are torn down to reduce abandoned neighborhoods

Bikeable in addition to walkable, vibrant neighborhoods.

Work with neighborhoods to meet their needs and desires over those of consultants

Land use planning that seeks to address environmental factors, not exacerbate them.

Safe, friendly, healthy neighborhoods

Revitalization of crime-laded neighborhoods surrounding downtown area attractions/colleges to encourage more big business.

Diversity and inclusion, and a recognition/respect off/for existing neighborhoods and communities

"Arts,Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life" goes hand in hand with "walkable, vibrant neighborhoods" and, to me, these are the same goal.

Safe & Clean Neighborhoods

improving road-network by reconnecting historic neighborhoods and creating a "grid" to allow for multiple connections in all directions.

Community Development Comments

Without qualified and energetic staff, other priorities cannot be accomplished as easily. Once hired, ai think that walkable vibrant neighborhoods should be a priority because the residents in these neighborhoods help to provide grassroots support.

Ensure that there is a reasonable amount of workforce housing (affordable for young business people as well as aging population)

Use of smart-growth techniques and low impact design elements in all development projects .

1. Organized infill development
2. Zoning that accommodates affordable housing development other than apartments, condominiums, and lofts
3. Regional implementation of clean energy standards and practices
4. Preservation of historic buildings

If we have vibrant neighborhoods, this will come.

Having a comprehensive transportation system and vibrant neighborhoods will help draw more talent to work in Atlanta and to live in Georgia.

With the improvement of transportation and added green space, this can become a reality only with a massive overhaul of rail transit and more options of neighborhoods built around mass transit.

There are neighborhoods that are willing to work to be more walkable. Perhaps have a "grant submission" to help prioritize where the best investment for sidewalks, traffic improvement, etc. can be made based how willing and eager the people are in the neighborhood are to change. Open it to all neighborhoods in Atlanta, and have them list specific needs and why they should be met first. It would be a good community -builder as well.

to avoid unnecessary commutes to neighborhood outlets and to promote healthy life style, pleasant walkable neighborhoods are important

Beautify all neighborhoods that are attractive to people and businesses.

In order to promote health and well-being, we need to address multiple issues - education, poverty, transportation, housing, food and water, safety and violence prevention. To some extent, this priority encompasses almost all of the others.

Slow down development! Our infrastructure and our water supply is not adequate to support endless development.

the beltline development is a good idea for this area, plus better communication between groups and within marta

Community Development Comments

Neighborhoods that promote economic and racial diversity in a highly dense and walkable area are a key to creating places where Atlantans want to be. There should be a renewed emphasis on creating places for *people,* and not cars. A great step would be in discouraging parking as a land use, especially in neighborhoods with ready access to public transportation. Atlanta is full of vibrant neighborhoods, and their success should be an example for the rest of the city. Miami's innovative Miami21 is an incredible example of using zoning codes to create environments where people want to be.

The Beltline laid out an incredible groundwork for connecting in-town neighborhoods, and it needs to be a top priority in finishing this project. Furthermore, I would love to see MARTA become a more full-bodied system, as its current state is quite skeletal. I am extremely disappointed in the exorbitant amount of money spent on highway initiatives that do little to offer long-term solutions, but rather offer up short-term fixes. The key to alleviating traffic isn't more capacity (this, in fact, leads to increased usage), it's increasing density and creating less demand for the roads.

We've seen the great outcomes from the Beltline, and if we're able to replicate this across the region and connect neighborhoods with each other in an environmentally friendly manner it will help create safer, higher-value, and make our transportation problems decrease.

Neighborhoods connected by mass transit

The city needs to start encouraging higher density neighborhoods. Sprawl is a huge problem!

Atlanta is a great city but the fact that a car is the default for the majority of trips taken by ATLiens is not okay. MARTA is great, I don't care what people say but it needs to be more accessible EVERYWHERE inside the loop. I think this entire list of priorities starts with creating a transit system that can keep up with the large footprint Atlanta has. Most people criticize Atlanta on Sprawl but I think this is our cities greatest asset if used properly. Having under developed space in a major city is what is going to attract business professionals. This is exactly what people want when looking for a place to build a company. We need to create places that people want to go and Atlanta has so many different neighborhoods that are completely unaccessible via transit. When my family comes to visit I wish that I could take them on a train and show them all my favorite spots of the city but instead I had to fight traffic and deal with expensive parking and make it to half the places I want to see.

Community Development Comments

Walkable neighborhoods are critical to quality of life. We used to live on Peachtree in Midtown and loved it. Now we live on the Westside, which we like, but one thing that is sorely missing is walkability. It's within site; there are shops and restaurants. But the roads and sidewalks are dreadful. It isn't safe to walk.

I think Atlanta has many walking vibrant neighborhoods

A high quality of life can be achieved through walkable/bikable layouts. Whether its fixing side-walks, connecting more buildings with bridges, or creating more mixed use development like Atlantic station. Avoiding getting in a car makes residents healthier, improves the environment/traffic, and helps local businesses on the streets.

But, in order to implement this, people need to want to live in closer communities, preferably near their work. Suburbanites are wary about living in the city due to their perception of crime and the education system among other things. Improving people's perception of city life by improving city life will bring new residents.

ALL of these are important for our future growth. Someone may argue that walkable, vibrant neighborhoods can be subsumed under comprehensive transportation system. Without a comprehensive plan, there will be no walkable neighborhoods!

Neighborhoods, quality of life and educated workforce will undergird innovation hub and I would suggest that these three things are inter-related and key to our success & growth.

Other areas surrounding the Atlanta area has made strides in creating walkable viable, vibrant neighborhoods

I recommend focused development boundaries around areas of existing infrastructure. Recruit new companies to existing rail lines. Consider outlawing greenfield developments - we have enough parking lots, blighted industrial sites and underutilized areas in Atlanta that we don't really need to build "out" any more. Plus, the benefit of this is that it keeps the suburban areas at their current population, which their infrastructure is built for. A win-win!

Need affordable as well as high end neighborhoods! I would love to walk to work/shopping but cannot put my life at risk on the busy highways!

The lack of walkable spaces in low income neighborhoods is a significant factor causing chronic health problems, like obesity and diabetes. Higher end developments and road renovations should have additional costs to cover the expanded street lighting, and wide sidewalks.

There needs to be a connection between development allowed and infrastructure in place or in work. Not the way it has been in the past.

Community Development Comments

This should be the case with all neighborhoods in all of metro Atlanta, not just the wealthy neighborhoods.

Now that we're planning for better connections through a robust, multi-modal transportation system (re: my first priority), let's make those places somewhere we want to be or want to go. Each "downtown" should offer recreational as well as service uses so neighborhoods can become decentralized activity centers that people have social capital interests in maintaining and improving for quality of life.

I added walkable vibrant neighborhoods last because I think it would go along with Arts & healthy quality of life.

Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods go hand-in-hand with a Comprehensive Transportation System.

More sidewalk should developed around all major counties including Cobb, especially around schools. More sidewalks means more happy and active people, more added security and safety for the people as well. Many neighborhoods can use the advantage of small parks and playgrounds inside their subdivision or around them. This would be highly beneficial for I wish I could have one in my own neighborhood, since the neighborhood across the street of mine has one small park, pond, tennis court, walking trail and kids playground. These add-ons can really change our communities, our happiness and bring more interaction.

Stop building megahousing neighborhoods isolated from services, stores, and entertainment, so we don't have to drive everywhere. Incorporate sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes as standard practices.

There is nothing comprehensive about the transportation system when:

-no proper waiting area all over the metropolitan city for patrons to sit...often standing in grass, when it rains there is mud and the areas for waiting for the bus and there is not a strong connection system from area to area.

-taking buses off of main streets in neighborhoods i.e. Benjamin E.Mays Dr. between Beecher and Lynhurst Dr.& Tuckawana Dr. SW. The weekend wait time for a bus...is awful.

We do not have sidewalks now and with Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods there needs to have "Safety" as a priority...Where is that component of the plan?

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods means more police visibility, less violence in our communities, more eat-in restaurants, and other services and activities that encourages self sustainability.

Use the advanced auto technology to solve the commuter problem and design the city to take advantage of new building technology and building & zoning codes to shape the growth.

Community Development Comments

In order to attract highly trained and affluent individuals and groups we must provide desirable neighborhoods and amenities. It's a quality of life issue

W/O "neighborhoods" where people bond we become isolated and disinterested

I believe that my top three — transportation, workforce, neighborhoods — will attract the kind of population that will support arts and innovation hubs. So the top three create the others. Secure water supply goes without saying. I don't think it's even optional.

Neighborhoods that are walkable ought to be safer, so you're discouraging crime at the same time.

Walkable, Vibrant and Safe throughout Atlanta; Focus on catalytic projects that encourage the private sector to come to intown neighborhoods that have seen disinvestment over the years

Neighborhoods with these features would attract families that are educated

Of course a beautiful, clean and usable neighborhoods are vital for growth and development and new businesses wanting to move to the state. Walking to school on sidewalks is not a bad thing. Never hurt the older generation, might make a few thinner children.

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods are the link between the "Arts, Recreation..." category and the "Comprehensive Transportation" category -- you can't have one of these without the other two. If you have all three, you will attract innovation and a well-educated workforce, leading to the production of future home-grown generations of such a workforce. Splitting up these priorities into a list, in which one would have to choose among them, encourages the illusion that they are possible without one another.

Bring Marta to Cobb, Gwinnett, and Clayton and encourage development to take advantage of it

Strive for more integrated neighborhoods

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

This is always a good choice because that way people can afford where they live and will contribute to there neighborhoods

single use, auto dominated zoning and transportation planning continue to degrade potential quality of life and future potential. Existing ill-conceived government policies continue to stunt development potential. Enhanced street density -- more connectivity; more narrow auto lanes would help.

Community Development Comments

Atlanta should look to Minneapolis to see all they are doing with walkable neighborhoods, arts, and parks/recreation. They truly have a first class system!

You can't legislate community involvement, but creating local groups who monitor their own neighborhoods is critical to ensuring pride in where people live.

Have you ever wondered why all the fast-food chains are in the poorer neighborhoods?

Even though I suggested this as a favorite, I suggest modification to it, as information alone is not sufficient to promote healthy behaviors. The environment that we live in (built environment, housing, neighborhoods, air and water quality, transportation availability, walkability) has a significant impact on health. For many people, especially those with limited incomes, these factors are out of their control, as they cannot move to a better neighborhood, or improve their homes, or even travel to a place where they can find information or access healthcare, if they can even afford health insurance, or have it provided for them through an employer. In addition, with the lack of Medicaid expansion, and lack of attention to the working poor, this is even more difficult. We need to ensure that Georgia takes advantage of the opportunity to expand healthcare coverage for all of its residents, and that prevention programs are implemented and accessible.

It is key to recognize that many neighborhoods have a variety of residents: old, young, poor, rich, owners, renters, etc. Make sure that there is more than one way to access information so you reach as many of these groups as possible.

More food options for areas that are food deserts. There should be walkable options for people to eat in their neighborhoods. more local farmer's markets!

Just providing information will not change behaviors. The community structure, like walkable and safe neighborhoods will help improve health behaviors. Access to health care is important.

Poor neighborhoods are groups of people who make bad life choices. Trying to force them to make good life choices won't work. They complain about lack of healthy food because they like to blame other people for being sick and fat.

I live in Midtown Atlanta and it's a huge pain to get to a grocery store without driving. I can't imagine what it's like for folks in "food deserts." I think the city should find ways to encourage grocery chains to open stores in low-income neighborhoods.

Healthy food shouldn't be a regional or income based proposition. Farmers markets and local neighborhood gardens should be the main focus. Not finding ways to decrease the cost of food in specific neighborhoods that are low income.

Community Development Comments

could start with improving the availability of food period in some neighborhoods (looking at you Turner Field vicinity)

Learned recently of a program through UGA that has bus that goes through designated neighbors that do not have grocery stores close. Consider more of that in all neighborhoods. Healthy food is a huge issue for low income seniors due to transportation

Include this feature in neighborhoods, assessible to everyone.

You do that by forcing in-fill development; forcing pride in neighborhoods by citing and sentencing litter makers to 500 hours of community clean-up and recycling for each incident of litter, including apartment owners and individuals . . . it isn't complicated.

Encourage and support the continued development of farmers' markets and community gardens. Create and support a network of farmers' markets and community gardens. Support sustainability.

Create online forums for neighborhoods where people can exchange ideas and comments.

It is not normal for the poorest people to be the fattest. Education is needed, as well as access to healthy food at affordable prices for everyone, no matter what neighborhood. Theft is always a problem in poorer neighborhoods when stores try to function. Maybe we need more "Mom and Pop" tiny stores, like San Francisco and NYC."

I mean, I won't say no to this, but I don't think information is the main issue. Not have sidewalks, not having safe neighborhoods, these are the things that keep people from exercising. Add bike lanes, build sidewalks, light streets properly, develop parks... people will use that infrastructure.

This is something that I think Atlanta already has going for it. I feel like the intown neighborhoods are active. If this can be promoted and supported in westside neighborhoods, too, I really feel like there's potential for those communities to thrive.

Anti-littering is a big need -- especially in poor neighborhoods and expressway entrances and exits.

and limit should be placed on the number of stores that are not good for those neighborhoods and do nothing to enhance them.

Yes, BUT, pair each key area with a sister area that isn't likely to get any support on its own. If Google wants to profit from our wealthiest neighborhoods, it should adopt our poorest.

Our citizens CHOOSE their neighborhoods and locations . . . it is a choice to move into an area without broadband; everyone does not need to pay for those choices . . . when you make that choice to move off-the-grid you make the choice to pay for satellite technology if you want Internet access at home . . . OR MOVE.

Community Development Comments

Atlanta and the region already have a huge surplus of parking, which is far too cheap - this also creates induced demand. NO new parking should be created. The focus should instead be other modes of transportation and non-car-focused development.

While we should preserve what's great about many of our neighborhoods, we should not be afraid to change - particularly by moving toward greater density and mixed uses.

It already is. Please institute a tax on parking so it becomes more expensive and other options become feasible. Taxes should also be placed on surface street lots to incentivize further development.

We need a comprehensive plan for infill development that allows for continued development but protects the look and feel of neighborhoods. I live in Kirkwood and the infill houses are comically large and look awful next to the historical Kirkwood bungalows.

More public transport and bike to connect neighborhoods and get around the city.

Historic preservation is extremely important in Atlanta. Plywood development is fleeting.

With well designed walkable neighborhoods more public parking wouldn't be necessary. I often see a lot of parking lots in the core midtown underutilized so I think there is already a glut of parking

I am OK with this, but not if it means it'll take an extra ten years to build a new retail, housing or mixed-use complex. Let's get building.

Creating more parking is antithetical to creating a walking neighborhood. If anything, neighborhoods need more sidewalks, not more places to park.

Surface lots should be heavily fined in the city of Atlanta and turned into high to mid density development. We will never be a world class city with huge amounts of parking.

Shelters for the homeless sure but as far as housing for citizens focus more on simplifying/repeal land zoning/ordnance rules that are unnecessary or out dated, so that more urban housing can be built anywhere and people can provide more types of types of housing t meet consumers needs. Maybe some people would like a traditional apartment or house and maybe others would rather live in a home that could fit in a parking space or live in a hotel room long term. Give people the freedom to develop more types of housing with out having to first go through a huge bureaucracy for permission.

The people that live and work in neighborhoods define said character. Everyone of them has a right to express their views however they feel. Protect property rights so that people freely make and change the neighborhoods character. It may not always be Pretty but it will be unique to Atlanta.

Community Development Comments

This would result in the opposite of walkable, vibrant neighborhoods.

Have strong and well enforced zoning codes on junk vehicles, building codes requirements, number of residents per square foot requirements, strong noise ordinances to allow for 24/7 society where someone is always sleeping

Yes, in that existing neighborhoods that offer low-income residents walkability and transit access should be protected from predatory developments. No, in that density in the city as a whole, and especially around transit lines, should be increased.

Yes! Please, whoever keeps trying to build Walmart Supercenters and other big box chain stores in Metro Atlanta is a moron and whoever is backing that moron up should be ashamed of what they've done to our city. Townhomes and big box chain stores is all I see in the city now. Even visitors I know from other cities are always stunned by this bizarre development. Atlanta has so much potential and we are not utilizing great minds to back our city's best interest.

In the land plan, although building and development of housing is a private sector responsibility

Via some historic preservation and character area architectural and streetscape standards, not to discourage redevelopment.

The city of Atlanta and the surrounding region already encourage excessive automobile use through limited restriction of on-street parking and zoning regulations that require overbuilding of parking capacity for new buildings.

This is fraught. It could mean ensuring long-time residents are not pushed out by gentrification; it could also mean architectural and historic controls prevent necessary density to ensure mixed-income development options. Clarify.

Parking is essential to thriving business in this region. Neighborhoods that resist it should be overruled - but it should be reasonably handled. And, in urban centers, developers should be required to provide a certain number of "affordable" spaces in their developments. For example, in Midtown Atlanta the new condos have spaces with 2-3 hour limits and you must be at a restaurant or store in that specific building. Otherwise it costs \$20+ to park. That discourages people from visiting the area as a whole and is counter to the idea of fostering an area people will visit and stay in for a while. The same is true for any residential/retail/office area in the region.

Community Development Comments

Here's an incentive: The farther you live away from work based on miles, the higher you pay in taxes. By implementing this, it will encourage those to move closer to where they work to ease traffic flow and spread out the concentration of housing and work to smaller or spread out communities. If it's so sprawl-y in Atlanta, take advantage by improving neglected neighborhoods that are still in the vicinity of metro Atlanta, like directly west of the City of Atlanta.

I like the neighborhoods, but I feel that protecting each identity will not allow as much in terms of progression. If fixing the city means losing some neighborhood identity, then so be it.

Although I think the role is in planning, the actual building and development is private sector

Although in a manner not to discourage redevelopment - mainly in line with the character and preservation of critical historic characteristics.

Perhaps through development density incentives, etc.

This is a NIMBY item. I say let the city densify, and for that the single use residential of some in town neighborhoods needs to go.

I feel as if we are tearing down some of our history. While I support development I would like to at least see Atlanta's history memorialized with landmarks and historical districts.

This is a great thing, but I feel like we are already doing a great job at creating a sense of community in our neighborhoods.

New residential development in centrally-located, mixed-use areas with access to transit should not be limited to "luxury" apartments and expensive condos. This was extremely frustrating about moving to this city.

Yes, another great idea. How are you going to determine which neighborhoods to preserve?

Making public parking LESS easily available increases the quality of life and vibrancy of traditional neighborhoods, keeping them and the people who live there healthy. Easy parking is never the highest and best use of land.

Why is this government's job? let the market decide. Deal with what we have already. You aren't dealing with the problem sections the way they are NOW and you want to look toward future developments? Give me a break.

To some extent this is good, but neighborhoods need to change or they die.

Of course for some neighborhoods it means restoring character and condition they once had that was better than current.

existing walkable neighborhoods...do not protect character of car-centered neighborhoods.

Community Development Comments

Preserve & maintain economic conformity in SW Atlanta/ S Fulton neighborhoods. Cease making these areas a repository for Housing Choice & Sec. 8 residents.

Provide variety of options in ALL neighborhoods. Cease promotion of multifamily dwellings in traditionally Black neighborhoods - SW Atl, South Fulton, South DeKalb.

I don't see how this contributes to walkable, vibrant neighborhoods.

Very few neighborhoods have a great deal of character. Sweet Auburn needs preservation, maybe East Atlanta and Va-Hi

We now have had added a condominium development the will feed many cars into a road that is already at gridlock during commuter times. This should be handled by zoning, but it is not being done adequately.

We have so many awesome neighborhoods. If neighbors would offer a lending hand to a neighbor that doesn't take care of their property, maybe they would begin to build a bridge of beautifying our city where something isn't so great.

Lots of neighborhoods throughout metro Atlanta are dirty; that character would change with citations and sentences to spend 500 hours cleaning up and recycling in those same communities . . . see hundreds of people here throwing trash out of their windows you need coercion to change this culture.

This only works by increasing in-fill development and creating work-live-play communities. Stop sprawl or it will never happen.

I'm split on this - some neighborhoods are badly in need of a change in character... however people should not be forced out of an area.

Better to have centralized parking, rather than massive amounts of land devoted to parking.

If existing neighborhoods are isolated and cut off from the city except by driving, then it's not good to try to maintain their character and integrity.

We have this already but it never seems to make it to the neighborhoods that are impoverished. The lower income neighborhood appreciate art and entertainment just as much as anyone else. Albeit, in a different way. You can't put a beer festival in Vine City. But you can come up with creative ideas that communities like Vine City for example, will want to come out to.

All parking downtown should be the same if parking in a lot or garage. Reasonable Fee!!!

In the form of parking garages, not miles of parking lots. I want green space not gray space.

more parking is needed in some areas, but it is more important to incentivize people not to drive everywhere.

Public parking encourages driving, so this is NOT a priority for

Community Development Comments

me.

Edgewood Retail has plenty of public parking. It was supposed to be a walkable mixed-use development, but the parking lots dominate the place, and pedestrians have to be constantly alert to the crush of cars moving through it. More parking just discourages transit alternatives.

It goes to quality of life. Sterile antiseptic development like the stadium complex downtown is a energy and vitality killer. You go for the game or event then leave. It is a failure of city design. Pathetic.

And ensure that all income groups are represented in all developments in order to eliminate these pockets of poverty that we see across the city.

within in reason and not in a manner that discourages market rate affordable development.

Support neighborhood revitalization efforts that enhance the quality of life of existing residents vs. displacing them as new development moves in

Don't over restrict sub developments in the planning process. Allow coffee shops, restaurants, stores, etc to mingle in with sub developments. That would give ugly urban sprawl some character.

I have never found parking an issue in Duluth

While I believe affordable housing to be important, I believe that putting policy in place to promote this type of development is at best difficult and at worst unsustainable.

Offer more free parking options.

Implement plans to improve safety in neighborhoods. Ex. increase presence of law enforcement in walkable communities and improved lighting.

"All" is just too broad here. Some neighborhoods can't be the neighborhoods they are if they have super-rich people in them; others can't be what they are with significant poor populations. And that doesn't even begin to touch on "lifestyles" -- it makes no sense to imagine a city with neighborhoods such that every neighborhood includes every lifestyle.

I am in favor of this, but only insofar as it means protecting the character and integrity of existing *walkable, vibrant* neighborhoods. The existing character of sprawl neighborhoods should be altered as quickly and drastically as possible.

I don't wish to say that neighborhoods aren't important, they are hugely important. But the character and integrity of many existing neighborhoods is going to need to change for them to be walkable, vibrant neighborhoods. That is going to mean providing for denser development patterns and greater mixing of uses, for instance, that will change the character of neighborhoods.

Community Development Comments

only through local zoning for people with businesses who choose to live where they work. This is a regulatory issue to be handled on local and state levels by elected officials who can be voted out.

yes, this is a decision by the county and city officials (who can be voted out when necessary) to abide by what the people want for their neighborhoods through public safety paid by local tax dollars.

Look at existing neighborhoods, figure out some of the transferable things and put them into new neighborhoods

Better parking solutions do not improve vibrant Neighborhoods. Only walkable, bikeable infrastructure improves a sense of place

Making self-sufficient neighborhoods would go a long way towards this. Articles on "food deserts", where the nearest grocery store is a long ways off, are a sign we've work to do.

The problem isn't parking, it's driving. Walkable neighborhoods connected by rapid, clean, dependable transit removes the need to drive and makes walking and biking safer and more appealing (no more breathing exhaust while getting buzzed by drivers).

This "solution" will reek havoc on neighborhoods and create additional water quality in streams from stormwater runoff. This should be removed from the list of "solutions".

NO! The minute the suburbs have access to downtown on transit for jobs, the urbans have equal access to rob, rape, pilfer and menace us in our own neighborhoods. Let them stay downtown, I will drive.

This is a good idea for the neighborhoods of Atlanta.

Adding more lanes is a temporary solution that will create more demand over time as more people use them and communities grow. Invest instead in alternate transportation, re-configuring traffic lights to increase flow of traffic patterns, and walkable neighborhoods.

Train stations should be more densely concentrated so that users can not only travel from neighborhood to neighborhood but within the neighborhoods.

Also, coordinate high capacity transit to also serve existing and future medium- and high-density residential development.

this is a given - not part of a development plan. the regional govns just need to do this

Be aware of and take care of the whole metro area, not just the wealthy neighborhoods.

This should be the new standard for all new construction and rezoning requests. In doing so, the gaps will potentially be easier to close.

Connect jobs w/ housing

Community Development Comments

Only if you can get an employer or commercial developer to work together so that the development has parking away from the buildings so the cyclist have the advantage.

Good thought, but the underlying goal is to create Atlanta NORTH (Marietta-Lawrenceville). Without a grid street system, the intensity of development CBD Atlanta cannot be achieved.

Impact studies need to be done, but development should be managed, not stifled.

There is currently vacant office space, shopping center space and yet counties continue to approve new development. We need to redevelop what is already there and move forward.

No more new developments, deal with the existing building that are already in disrepair.

We should rebuild not keep building new - Incentives for contractors to remake a space would go a far way toward diminishing urban blight and revitalize tired neighborhoods.

If we are limiting the impact of new developments to protect sensitive areas, then it makes sense to clean up messes we have already made to continue to protect both the land and water.

Ask corporations to sponsor groups to roam the neighborhoods at least once a month to pick up junk, rake up leaves, and de-litter the area.

Smart-growth development should sustain proper environmental remediation.

I think that when any developments are planned...sustainability should be a factor before any structure is built. All new residential project should all have faucets/ shower heads that are for saving water. Maybe stores should only Carry these products in order to conserve more water.

Stores in the region and throughout the country should only sell shower heads that conserve water. Also new public developments should have economical faucets and toilets in restrooms.

They are ways to still grow but still incorporate the environment as a part of these new developments. If it is done right, the city can still flourish and still be environmental friendly.

Brownfield development will allow for environmental conservation and provide more time to plan the urban sprawl that has reached epic proportion.

Difficult to choose between limiting new developments and cleaning up already damaged areas

Community Development Comments

Creating green building codes are one thing, but placing too many restrictions and limits on new development has the potential to scare away development, or worse, force them to relocate to the outer edges of the metropolitan area further exacerbating the 'urban sprawl' Atlanta is so notorious for. Since about 2010, there has been a shift to build the core of the city up more and quell the sprawl and I think it is the single best thing that has ever happened to this region. Cities are meant to be dense and livable and reachable. Not a 200 mile wide suburb with no defined HUB.

Fully agree with this one. Concentrate on allowing more density in already developed areas. Stop greenfield development, Atlanta is way too sprawled already.

Promote development practices to limit the IMPACT of new development. DO NOT LIMIT NEW DEVELOPMENT

better and more thoughtfully crafted zoning laws would be nice.

Yes, but on the condition that development is diverted to other sites/is built more sustainably, not hindered.

especially invest in urban infill/brownfield development!

This is a fine line. Municipalities should engage with developers more to work on guiding development, not limiting it.

This needs to be more than lip service. ARC has repeatedly approved intense development in environmentally sensitive areas, especially in favor of politically influential developers. DRI#1239 was unconscionable in its deliberate decision to harm Lake Allatoona, and please note the letter included in the DRI#1239 file on pages 36-37 of the DRI. ARC needs to really work to protect our water supply, and stop favoring developers over real water and other environmental issues.

...and offer development trading credits for such.

always want to plan with protection of environmentally sensitive areas, but don't limit new developments.

Current restrictions are sufficient if we stop future urban sprawl and focus on in-filling development in urban areas near work centers.

Developers must be forced to pay attention to national trends; people don't want to drive to work, thus in-fill development in the urban centers should be the only new development for areas not already zoned for work centers or housing.

Rehab crumbling neighborhoods, rather than continuing to build new areas. Establish a minimum tree canopy for the metro area, and stop cutting trees. Encourage sustainability, community gardens, and farmers markets.

Stop new development. Rehab crumbling neighborhoods, rather than continuing to build new areas. Establish a minimum tree canopy for the metro area, and stop cutting trees. Encourage sustainability, community gardens, and farmers markets.

Community Development Comments

We need new development, just done wisely

Set population capacity limits. In some Florida counties, there is no more undeveloped land. They ran out. Natural resources are depleted. Stop and prevent over-development.

I do believe this would be a relatively small area. The greater impact would be in promoting sustainable development overall.

Great opportunity with the new development wave to clean up brown fields, must find a way to leverage and take advantage.

BUT only do this in neighborhoods that practice to protect the region's water quality and have many active greenspaces - spend your resources where people are already on board.

You are going to have development and you need it but reward development that adds to community. Have money put in a "community" trust and if the development adds to the community in five key components in 20 years the money can be split by the developer and the city.

New development should NOT occur until 1) there is proof that the existing infrastructure can support the development;
2) healthy trees, with trunk diameter suggesting > 5 years of age--based on tree type and location--are not destroyed (consult an arborist);
3) heavy equipment used for development does not damage the tree (too many trees perish because of the impact to soil on roots that extend beyond the trunk!);
4) a certified arborist must be consulted--not some tree guy looking for a 'cash cow'
3)

Use good engineering judgment to protect sensitive areas but not stifle all development. More than minimum standards will be needed for these areas.

Programs are less likely to be effective than simply changing development patterns in ways that require less water

Rather than encroach on environmentally sensitive areas, current developments should be regularly evaluated and maintained or modified/upgraded (as needed) to ensure that they are as environmentally safe and sustainable as possible.

Not sure of what the scope would be. Avoiding development on streambanks? Promoting brownfield over greenfield development?

Each County has economic development personnel. Use them. Not a Regional Government issue

Before new development and expansions are approved or even looked at the roads and in infrastructure needs a good look at. We do thing in the reverse. We build, build, build and then look at the roads. We need to look at roads and then build.

Community Development Comments

Start-ups probably yield the best bang for the buck for business development.

Networking makes cities grow, economies boom, and regions become centers for new development and affluence.

In communities that lack local business development and expansion. Offer business loans to community members. Offer classes to assist entrepreneurs with developing business plans.

Agreed, but incentives need to be structured in a way that is sustainable and will encourage intrinsic motivation. For example, DeKalb Workforce Development has an incentive policy for youth where money can be shelled out to youth for various reasons, but this doesn't incentivize education, it incentivizes money.

Improvement in local education that matches local businesses demands or those of companies being attracted to the area should lead to higher wages and cost of living. That should help in community development overall.

Who wouldn't want to attract quality jobs to the region? But what kinds of "partnerships" are being proposed? What kinds of "incentives"? Given how the government policies for the development of the Atlanta region has often favored the advantages of corporate "partnerships" and "incentives" over the quality of life for its residents, I'm skeptical.

Children need to walk to school. Not bus. Not drive. Close schools located in office parks where homes are not closeby. Build neighborhood schools.

Maybe look at examples of what some other cities are doing as far as neighborhood based economic development and small business support

With preference to youth in low-income neighborhoods FIRST!!!

Existing neighborhoods are too segregated; protecting the character and integrity lends to too much of the same

Create innovation hubs for start ups to share ideas. The new Switchyards development is a perfect example of clustering innovation start ups together.

Creating dense nodes of mixed uses, clustered around transit stations can reduce the number of car trips. By allowing users to drive to the station, commute to work, then return and run errands before departing home will reduce the number of small distance car trips and concentrate commercial areas around transit stations. Concentrating jobs around transit stations will give more people access to jobs without having to spend more of their disposable income on transportation.

Community Development Comments

Increased development of intown neighborhoods is pushing the poor to the suburbs where access to transit is low and causes them to spend more on transportation that in turn causes them less access to jobs. Mixed income projects are the key to creating a diverse neighborhood.

Tax incentives for developments that implement LEED standards for water conservation.

zoning should promote development of vacant and underdeveloped sites. existing neighborhoods should also grow and adapt

Food deserts are a major problem in Atlanta - new gardening programs, alongside zoning allowing for the right sized grocery stores would increase food access.

Investing in select neighborhoods for very high speed internet does not make as much sense to me as investing in all neighborhoods for equitable internet access. If a company really wants super high speed internet, they should be able to invest in it on their own.

it is important not only to have housing options for all income levels and lifestyles, but to price these options correctly. Suburban sprawl is ok for those who desire it, but it should come at the proper price so as to encourage more dense developments that are better for society.

Public parking is already easily available in many areas. Zoning laws should be updated so that developers can build higher density places without a burden of extensive parking.

Simply put, sprawl must be stopped. When developers arrive they often clear cut forests to make way for their developments. Rather than have replanting programs, we should incentivize developers to work around trees.

This should come about primarily through mixed-use developments, transit oriented development, and general retrofitting of the suburbs.

While in some cases this may be desired and necessary, it is not ok to allow impoverished neighborhoods to languish behind or allow elite neighborhoods to be exclusive to any one group. Atlanta has to take time to further integrate its income levels, races, and other groups into a less segregated region.

our area is already mostly parking garages. they are a blight that prevents ATL from being a beautiful city.

All kind of rules out there for new development. Don't need more.

Use the popularity of the Beltline as a harbinger of how this could transform the city. Connectivity, people-scaled neighborhoods, decreased crime...the benefits of this are numerous.

Community Development Comments

We need new developments, big businesses to bring prosperity. Don't talk about the one that is proud of their "dry county" but at home drinks moonshine.

No more free parking! We have way too much parking already, please put that land to a higher use.

The rents and home prices along the Beltline are ridiculous. Please don't focus all development on condos for rich people.

Too much parking already. Its bad for the neighborhood and it encourages overuse of cars

Using our public resources for automobile storage is a tremendous waste. We should eliminate zoning ordinances requiring a minimum number of parking spaces as well.

People can enjoy riding in many neighborhoods in the Atlanta region, but do not feel safe riding between neighborhoods. Safe, protected bike lanes will encourage bike travel to entertainment and shopping districts minimize dependency on driving a car for short trips.

Public parking should be targeted at letting people park in a certain area and walk to many destinations. Many lots post signs that the car driver must not leave the premises even if they are just going to a nearby store.

This should include curtailing water/sewer access for new development. Developers don't have a right to these services for low-density, sprawl property development.

Key neighborhoods usually means the north side of town and all people should have this access.

People with no transportation need transportation the most. They need to be able to get to jobs so development in areas where service is lacking need to be developed. MARTA to Stonecrest needs to be a priority. Most jobs are North of the city and people need to be able to get there in a reasonable amount of time. It is critical to supporting schools, neighborhoods and communities.

Pay attention to the Westside neighborhoods, particularly with the building of the new Falcons stadium.

Some areas have abundant public parking while others could maybe use more. Get rid of the surface lots in Midtown and Downtown - public parking should be garages. Also get rid of privately-owned free parking in these areas. Parking is too territorial in Atlanta, and it adds unnecessary vehicle miles traveled.

Westside neighborhoods being among them.

Again, ARC are you trying to appease a bunch of crying soccer moms? What you really are saying is don't connect neighborhoods, don't allow houses that are smaller or larger than mine to be built next door. This isn't about protecting historic character. Who wrote this survey?! One of the crying soccer moms' kids?!

Community Development Comments

This does not mean a four bedroom vinyl sided box in the suburbs for all, nor does it mean we should require a certain percentage of "affordable" units in multi family developments in the City of Atlanta. Allowing more density everywhere will bring prices down all over.

What the hell does parking have to do with "walkable"?! ARC, are you trying to appease your stupid suburban board members?

If you make parking convenient people will drive defeating the purpose of having walkable neighborhoods.

The current trend of rental rates is unsustainable and is hurting people and communities. Why is this "market" allowing such ridiculous rents? Pushing for \$2 sf was laughable but now they are pushing for \$3 - this is not NYC, our jobs do not pay NYC wages, we do not have an NYC transportation system - so why are we being charged NYC prices for rental units? Millennials cannot afford \$2 square foot - how do we have an innovation economy when Millennials cannot afford to live in the city center?

Supports economic development, civics, quality of life...

Minimum requirements for parking should be reduced or eliminated. A parking tax should be considered to cover alternative transportation costs.

Neighborhoods are always evolving. In all kinds of directions.

Neighborhoods need to be able to evolve with resident input.

Parking structures and lots are heat islands. Besides, if the rest of the transportation plan is aiming at reducing driving, why provide driving incentives?

Financial incentives are ineffective in attracting innovative businesses. Provide the neighborhoods innovative workers want to live in and the employers will come also.

I think this should be done by allowing the market to build density in walkable areas and those near transit. There are too many single family zoned neighborhoods, and these seem to be expanding.

There should be general design guidelines that make a neighborhood livable even with increased development. Keeping neighborhoods static hurts affordability. There is ample evidence of this. If a specific area has wider-community value, then it may be protected, but this needs to be done judiciously. NIMBYISM can turn ATL in to a poorly educated SF.

Find ways to keep longstanding home owners from being priced out of their neighborhoods. Prioritize housing options for people with low income.

public parking makes sense as a substitute for private parking and as part of a strategy to reduce overall parking.

If this is for all of ATL, how does this statement apply to neighborhoods that have been neglected?

Community Development Comments

Less parking or if parking is a hassle with BETTER travel options is my choice. If we don't get better options, than we will need more parking

Atlanta needs redevelopment, not preservation of bad planning decisions.

This includes options for families in walkable neighborhoods (i.e. not just 2 bdrm apartments).

This includes options for families in walkable neighborhoods (i.e. not just 2 bdrm apartments).

I'm presuming by "all lifestyles," this includes all productive lifestyles and not crimelords or gangs.

parking destroys walkability

This is a must!! Grocers must not charge more in the Southern neighborhoods and provide same quality as in the northern neighborhoods!

extend the funds to all neighborhoods. cedrtian neighborhoods are getting more development as an example I live off Rowland Road and there is NO development in that area. And Memorial Drive outside of the perimeter has NO development.

Protect but don't go to extremes. I don't think that every neighborhood needs to have historic designation for example. Contemporary structures could be the future character of Atlanta in some areas. I think some neighborhoods need help in figuring out what their character is.

Allow Peachtree to function as the trunk of our development and encourage mass retailers/restaurant chains here while allowing small businesses to thrive in the branches off the trunk.

With a caveat of more shared parking garage options and less surface parking.

The emphasis should be on controlling the impact. I hesitate to use the word limit here, because limiting the impact of development is often read as limiting development. Development needs to be smart.

Address long term flat parking lot owners by implementing a blight tax like in DC. Since impervious surface lots use more water/sewer runoff than development, use the tax as an incentive to spur redevelopment and denisyt on those parking lots. Also need to better fund the code enforcement offices of our local governments.

Use more mixed income housing incentives.

We do a pretty good job of this already. Be careful of creating too many mopre levels of beurucracy so as not to discourage development.

Sustainable development practices should be the guiding principle for our future planning.

Community Development Comments

Hold developers accountable for environmental costs, contribute to the schools etc. They need to take ownership of the areas they develop

Parking areas destroy neighborhoods and should be minimized.

Some preservation is important, but cities and neighborhoods need to change with the times or die

I would rather never get in my car again - please make walkable complete neighborhoods a priority!

Follow the Dutch and Danish models and/or the Complete Streets model. Add sidewalks to every roadway (preferably on both sides). Add bike lanes even if it costs car lanes.

Also, showers/lockers for employees in businesses/buildings and bike racks/bike lockers (or other bike storage alternates) as part of zoning requirements.

If "sustainable development practices" means Agenda 21, I am totally against Agenda 21.

All intown neighborhoods should be fiberhoods

Possibly tax incentives for businesses that specialize in healthy food choices in poorer neighborhoods. Also, creating green space areas where people can create and maintain their own gardens. This is common and popular in Germany, called a Schraebergarten.

I read this as "Stop all development in the suburbs to protect the decaying urban core"

This sounds more like politics than science. Stopping development in the region won't drive jobs to the urban core. It drives jobs outside of the region.

Ensure that adequate parking is provided for each development and school...

Where needed. This should be accomplished within the context of development and should occur on the front end not the back end. Impact fees would help only if they go directly to the area(s) impacted.

to the extent that zoning and permitting requirements become more efficient

Anything with "sustainable" in it is a dead giveaway that this is related to U.N. Agenda 21 which promotes "sustainable living", "sustainable development", "green" everything. "Sustainable" is about taking away personal property rights one way or another.

There is a lot we can do to support private development to do this in some areas.

Can be done with a shortfall level of benefit. Again, the level of development being pursued cannot be attained without a grid street network supported by one-way street pairs.

Community Development Comments

Control inappropriate development, e.g. plopping down a Walmart on a 2-lane neighborhood street.

Fuqua/Walmart development in SE Atlanta violates CDP, Beltline Overlay, yet City of Atlanta approved

I don't see any need for more parking. In the burbs. In Atlanta, if you have public parking, you will need security, anything you give away. Then you have crime. For a fee yes, needs close monitoring. Too easy for city corruption. Union employees dead beats.

I am suspicious of "sustainable development" practices. I disagree with using taxes for such purposes!!

Can we work with GA Tech and other regional institutions for alternative energy projects, water conservation and designs connecting suburban neighborhoods to mixed use centers?

New developments along the Beltline and in Atlantic Station are beautiful, but if they are expensive and just push lower and middle income families to new areas, we're not improving Atlanta for everyone.

Why do we have neighborhoods that are exclusive to local residents? The problem is that we concentrate traffic on major arteries only. There is no disbursement of traffic to make the flow easier. The practice of reducing lanes for vehicles and giving them over to bicycles just makes the problems worse especially since there is no viable alternatives to using your own vehicle.

Parking is already over-available and under-priced. This is in direct competition with creating walkable, vibrant neighborhoods.

FREE PUBLIC PARKING!!! For those of us who actually live in the city, the parking expenses are absolutely ridiculous and they stack up. I hate that if I want to have a guest come visit me, they have to pay \$5+ to park!

This depends on location. If in a dense urban developed area, maybe this doesn't make sense. However in the majority of the metro region, we are auto dependent and in those areas, parking availability still makes sense.

This should be left up to the individual neighborhoods. Property rights should decide, not non-owner government entities.

Atlanta needs to change and part of that change is "remodeling" neighborhoods to permit smarter development

Public parking undermines attempts to enhance transit ridership and cluster-TOD type development which support transit.

Community Development Comments

This is something my friends and I talk about a lot. We are all college graduates (or close enough) and we all still live at home with our families. We would love to move out, and into our own home but we can't because we can't afford it. The places we can afford are in... less reputable neighborhoods. Some I don't even feel comfortable driving down the street.

Character and integrity of existing neighborhoods should be protected, except where the current character is inconsistent with the community's and region's long-term vision for those areas. In some areas it would be entirely appropriate to replace existing suburban/subdivision style developments with denser, mixed, walkable, nodal development.

This is largely contingent upon the type of pre-existing development. Neighborhoods and architecture with a rich history should be protected. Suburban wastelands could easily be more efficiently and interestingly re-developed.

Factor population density into affordable housing development to balance area median incomes and attract a mix of retailers to serve all segments of the area population. Development of affordable housing should not detrimentally dilute buying power in a community.

Widen sidewalks in commercial areas to make walking from residential neighborhoods and neighborhood retail centers safer. Consider creating tree canopies in conjunction with widening sidewalks. Consider inter parcel access to commercial businesses as an alternative to multiple curb cuts to improve pedestrian safety and convenience.

There are neighborhoods that need facelifts and others needs total renovation.

The development of residential improvement districts would go a long way toward addressing many collective action problems within our residential communities.

Average rent ITP is getting crazy expensive. New development needs to have larger percentage (20% or more) of set aside for income adjusted apartments and housing for purchase.

Neighborhood associations and opportunities for coming together should be supported with public funding across ALL neighborhoods.

Only because parking encourages more people driving as opposed to taking transit. And where we need parking, it should be beneath or over mixed use development.

Entrepreneurial start ups can create the economic lifeblood for the community. Financial assistance is key and can be done primarily by the private sector, look at the program in Western North Carolina, AdvantageWest Economic Development Group and their "Advantage Opportunity Fund"

Community Development Comments

Common sense development, not special interest controlled. We are still a free ppl .

Just a way for politicians to get others to pay for neighborhood parks that neighborhoods should pay for

The People are to decide how to best move forward with ALL developments in the state of GA, not appointed, unelected individuals

Put an end to cul-de-sac developments. All Atlanta "neighborhoods" empty into the same few traffic arteries. We need to cut through these residential areas with sidewalks and bike paths. Perhaps even allow scooters. I live less than a mile from a Target shopping center if I could walk through the areas between my neighborhood and the highway. However, I have to drive over three miles on congested streets and highways to get there. Just a few yards of sidewalks and paths would make my neighborhood in Smyrna much more liveable.

"Sustainable development" sounds like arbitrary boundaries on growth. No likey.

Not sure what this solves. If businesses want customers, they have an interest in making parking or otherwise accessing the site possible

Residents of low-income communities should guide development and implementation of solutions. What those of us with personal automobiles, 9-5 work schedules and adequate childcare see as convenient may not be so for those whose circumstances are very different.

Typically people are involved in their communities through hyper-local, conduit organizations, i.e., neighborhoods, houses of worship, schools, clubs and service organizations, so I'm not sure that this is an appropriate regional priority.

This greatly depends on the cost factors to the taxpayers. Also, how such expansion would impact neighborhoods, property rights etc.

We need new development, but definitely not when it is contrary to a good environment. Safety measures must be taken to protect against environmentally unsafe production.

This option sounds nice, but also leaves things open to interpretation. This sounds alot like some of the old civic and neighborhood councils that would prohibit specific people from moving into specific neighborhoods based on the integrity of the neighborhood.

Let's be careful about incentives. Lots of "economic development" work is just piracy. Let's build real industries rather than just poaching companies.

Not necessarily. Some neighborhoods should certainly be preserved; others might as well be razed.

Community Development Comments

I think you just have to let neighborhoods evolve rather than trying to artificially control and impose the identity. It seems like you would block progress by trying to impose this control.

Not by transit, but by prudent design of new infrastructure and development.

Why should my tax dollars be used to enhance other neighborhoods. If it benefits only a defined area/people, let them pay for it. Private not public funds should pay.

Something I love about Atlanta is that there is a park in almost every neighborhood. These parks provide a place for neighborhoods to build and develop their communities.

The belt line has such amazing potential of connecting walled-off neighborhoods, and removing vehicles from the road. If I could safely bike in this city, I would rarely drive.

and mix these options in the same neighborhoods!

especially those near city centers that can be used for compact development

To be honest, Atlanta neighborhoods have small houses that cost way too much for their location.

We need to strike a balance that preserves historic homes and stabilizes home/rent prices (in both directions) but still allows neighborhoods to evolve with the times.

Well it doesn't appear to me in the last 20 years that ever takes precedent over building permits. Drive along 400 or through Milton and they're once again clear cutting for development without regard to traffic studies, impact on schools or commute times. If I'm sitting in my car on a 2 lane road trying to get to a major artery it impacts the environment.

I am not sure that "providing ways" will mean that people will take advantage of the opportunity, but if they did it would be better for their neighborhoods and their communities.

If you have strong neighborhoods and strong affinity networks I think these things will take care of themselves.

I'm not sure this is critical but it can't hurt and it might help. And farmer's markets are a great addition to neighborhoods. And if there isn't a supermarket anywhere close to where you live, that's a problem too.

This is the most important thing. Diverse neighborhoods will be better and more interesting neighborhoods. I can't imagine anything more dull than living in a neighborhood full of people just like me.

New developments are fine if done appropriately. There are plenty of zoning and permitting regulations to control growth.

I wouldn't say limit the development, but design the developments to minimize the impact.

Community Development Comments

All neighborhoods need convenient access to fresh produce. Also, more needs to be done in schools to increase nutritional education. Promote school and community gardens and incorporate into school lunches.

This sounds like 'one world order' nonsense. The government should not be in the 'development' business. Let private investment and private development provide the leadership in this area. Provide real tax incentives to all private development to promote greenspace and to assist in promoting water quality. Get the politicians off the boards and remove all elected officials from any group that makes these decisions. Stop the corruption associated with elected officials in this area.

Keep zonings compatible

Should be handled by local government and inhabitants of neighborhoods.

Establish guidelines for new housing developments that require a certain amount of square feet of neighborhood, or even public, park, based on the square footage or lot size. Ten percent would be a good start (10 acres of park for every 100 acres of homes, not including stream buffers, swamp land, or flood zones).

Protect neighborhood zoning, but don't infringe on property rights. Let me paint my house any color, cut trees, etc, but don't allow me to build another home on my lot to rent out (this would be increasing density). Establish height limitations and house footprint limitations. If a homeowner wants additional square feet, give them a shovel to dig out a basement, or have them purchase a larger lot.

The market should dictate the price of a home, not policy. Zoning should be respected - if all properties surrounding me are zoned for half acre single family lots, then it should stay that way.

making parking easily available causes people to drive around the neighborhood rather than walk around it. Adding so many cars breaks up the neighborhoods and makes it dangerous as well

Through thee rails to Trails, yes; in terms of putting these through existing neighborhoods, such as Peachtree Park, I would say a resounding NO, as it increases density on residential streets and would make parking for residents more difficult.

Stop and Enforce Commercial truck access through residential streets from large stores and supermarkets when truck routes are available, GPS devices program routes through neighborhoods - This results in Large commercial supply trucks of all sizes to egress through neighborhoods creating unsafe conditions for citizens - children - schools - school Buses dropping off /picking up children. Please address this promptly with POLICE ENFORCEMENT & DOT Truck Inspections . To curtail excess SPEED and Unsafe Trucks.

Community Development Comments

Keep new developments at a minimum and spend more money on revitalizing older areas

Provide housing for those at or below poverty level. Require those folks to learn a job skill or get a degree while in this housing. Have these folks repay money invested in them by working at govt. jobs that need doing: picking up trash on roadsides, painting government buildings, anything that can help the community which is helping them.

Mayors of these new cities sneer and ignore the wishes of the people and scoff at our wanting to maintain our neighborhoods.

Too vague. I don't think we should prioritize the integrity of neighborhoods built 10 years ago, necessarily just because they exist. Perhaps this should include the word, "historical"

allow some new development in character of the neighborhood though

Be careful with this one. Studies are not clear about the effects of subsidized housing 'pushed' into more affluent areas. Let's focus on safer neighborhoods, better schools and the opportunities will follow.

Connect neighborhoods to job centers and transportation options using light rail.

I live near lake Lanier and the amount of development is greatly impacting the lake. Limit growth around the lake especially high density living communities

Public parking is for the most part adequate. A better solution would be to stop trying to cram so much stuff into the inner city which is already oversaturated.

The green and sustainable development revolution is not what it professes to be and I do not buy into the concept. It is about controlling what individuals can and cannot do.

It is important to have comprehensive sensible zoning to protect the character of neighborhoods and prevent the homogenization of the area

Don't approve things like the Isakson Living development on Roswell Rd. right next to East Cobb Park. Too much development!!

Isn't there more demand for water because of more development? In order to conserve water, shouldn't there be a cap on development in some areas?

Key areas are generally seen as middle to high income areas. People in these areas can afford internet connection. To equalize access to information and job development skills, internet access must focus on low income neighborhoods

Definitely. there are so many neighborhoods I would visit more if it wasn't for parking (like VA highlands, Downtown Decatur)

Aside from zoning ordinances, I think this should be market-

Community Development Comments

driven.

Require that investment (taxes, fees, infrastructure contributions) commensurate with added burden be included in the cost of any new development.

Limit development now rather than wait until the last tree is felled before developers move on to other green spaces in other states!

Historic preservation is good, but Atlanta is a place that is always changing. We are never going to be Savannah or Charleston or even New York City. Going half-in on preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods gets us neither here nor there, but instead leaves us in a kind of "no man's land."

Do not allow new development where water service cannot be provided for 30 years

Affordable housing, and not just the traditional type of housing, is important. Changes to the education system to reduce the drop out rates would help. Managed care rather than the multitude of programs out there now might help.

It depends on how public parking is designed. What makes sense for a suburban low density community in Cobb County doesn't make sense for an intown neighborhood. I would prefer intown neighborhoods to provide walkable public storefronts while public parking is stacked behind or hidden but accessible and enough for the demand.

This is a bullshit line that NIMBYs use to prevent rezonings that they don't like. I am very disappointed in ARC for pandering to the NIMBY crowd.

Too many of the new-style neighborhoods being built today are only affordable for the older, affluent citizens. Young educated people need affordable housing as well as poor people.

So much greed and development; why isn't there a req to utilize abandoned properties instead of destroying wildlife habitat to create more new bldgs. that often get abandoned anyway.

Safety is a key element to sustaining integrity in neighborhoods.

Allow neighborhoods to change to meet new demands (or lack thereof). Don't fear change.

Don't fear change. Allow neighborhoods to change to meet new demands (or lack thereof).

Regulations should allow for neighborhoods to change to meet new demands (or lack thereof).

Only if they're gridded streets in dense mixed-use areas (e.g. Ansley, VA Highlands). The dendritic streets of Cobb County are unsustainable, expensive, and architecturally foreboding.

Low Impact Development should be required

Not dogmatically, but never raze neighborhoods or even swaths of neighborhoods for development

Community Development Comments

There's already more than enough parking. Surface parking is a scourge

Though we should be focusing on mixed-use development

No more food deserts. Consider pilot projects like post Katrina New Orleans Lot Next Door. Taking vacant parcels (in residential neighborhoods) and converting them to neighborhood gardens until they are sold or developed.

Proactive zoning!

Not only job centers, but neighborhoods throughout Atlanta should be connected by rail. A Beltline streetcar, which could operate efficiently on dedicated tracks removed from car traffic, would be a major feat for Atlanta.

The Buckhead cid has too much control and is not truly representative of the majority. Most decisions are made to the benefit of a few. Such as the redlight at lenox towers. Even the real estate agent said it was worked out prior so they got the redlight exclusive. Zoning variances are out of control.

Land use planning, and more to the point, zoning approvals, should take account of clear, specific goals regarding this.

I say no, because I think you need people to get to the neighborhoods without needing a car if you really want to see success.

Cities with walkable neighborhoods have good, desirable public transportation that connect the neighborhoods, allowing people to go to and from neighborhoods without driving. Interesting that public parking is an option to create walkable, vibrant neighborhoods, but a notion of reliable, clean, desirable public transport is not included in this category.

Events that match the interests of long time residents, not events to attract new, different people into these neighborhoods.

Particularly low income neighborhoods that have been used as dumping grounds.

Ensure no erosion. Require builders to build WITHOUT clear cutting. Builders have done it before. I'm thinking of neighborhoods in ROSWELL that were NOT clear cut when built! ALSO here in Mountain Park the woods are required to be preserved while houses are built! IT IS POSSIBLE!

Invest in existing neighborhoods. Require that buyers enhance the existing houses NOT tear them down and build McMansions!

Walkable neighborhoods and available public transportation!

Yes! When renovating old neighborhoods, make sure ALL residents have decent, affordable housing!

Encourage inclusionary zoning sorts of policies across the region.

Community Development Comments

It's already easily available. Price it appropriately, meaning highly -- and decouple it from development.

This entirely depends on the neighborhood -- protect the meandering subdivisions built without sidewalks, no -- protect the grid-based neighborhoods and their sidewalks, yes.

Good idea, since the individuality of Atlanta's neighborhoods contribute so much to the city's identity, but this may be difficult to do when trying to "revitalize" neighborhoods.

Reservoirs are an excuse for new development. This development will not be in Atlanta and will not contribute to the well being of the city. Rather, we should promote development and economic growth within the city. Also, Georgia has enough reservoirs and an ample water supply to meet Atlanta's demand.

Emphasize compact nodes as a transportation tool, allowing increased foot/bike use but also allowing flexible local solutions. Example: Avondale Estates is exploring the use of all-electric golf carts as a local transportation solution, pairing them with the MARTA station and a compact downtown.

Increase access to walking and biking trails in neighborhoods, parks and other public areas throughout the region.

1. Support the strategic development of shopping/retail districts that facilitate walkable communities.

2. Advocate for sidewalks and pedestrian safety.

Support the strategic development of shopping/retail districts that facilitate walkable communities.

Insure new development is dense, diverse in activities, and designed to facilitate walking

Implement "Fix it First" infrastructure strategy to rehab and enhance infrastructure in older communities, Also encourage transit oriented development that is walkable and inclusive

Share the funds to include all the neighborhoods. Let's make metro Atlanta a great and desirable city for everyone. Not just the inner city and inside 285.

Have templates available for local municipalities to implement smart zoning . recognizing the uniqueness of each city.

Work force housing should be a part of new developments. Encourage senior housing so people will not have to leave their communities as they age and need different housing and services.

Showers/lockers for employees in businesses/buildings and bike racks/bike lockers (or other bike storage alternates) as part of zoning requirements.

Increase opportunity for urban farming in low income neighborhoods to provide access, education, and understanding of healthy foods

Community Development Comments

In Cobb, allow citizens to participate in the zoning & rezoning process to insure quality of life in their communities. Don't exclude them from the process.

we need to have smaller neighborhood hubs... where you can walk from one to another... downtown East Point to Fort McPherson - to Sylvan Corridor Etc East Point MARTA Station to hospital and then over to Virginia - Booby Brown is Prime area for walking development

Only allow new development if there is walkable retail and dining or similar at street level. No setbacks. Hidden parking decks. More bike lanes

Limit growth. Give the zoning laws some enforcement and allow ordinary citizens to seek enforcement.

Expand MARTA and the Beltline to connect more intown neighborhoods, and outside the Perimeter. The more accessible public transit is, the less car traffic there will be

Stop using a "rack 'em and stack 'em" multi-use development approach. That is very unhealthy. Atlantic Station and other such areas are failures. People will learn to choose healthy lifestyles on their own. It should not be "legislated" and down with taxpayer dollars. That has never worked. Look at Cuba and the old Soviet Union.

Limit development to sensible levels.

improve connectivity of neighborhoods through sidewalks, crosswalks (with enough time to safely cross streets!), and bus stops

Transit oriented development and use of highway medians for heavy rail rather than BRT

These are really programmatic. I just want to see policy changes that enable healthy living like safe walking and biking; the elimination of exclusionary zoning, parking requirements, and cul-de-sacs; and fewer restrictions on neighborhood businesses.

Plan development in conjunction with utility infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) and ensure developers are required to pay to play.

We need more mixed-use development neighborhoods that combine the basic philosophy of live, work, play.

Promote funding opportunities for workforce development and technical education in the region.

Make sidewalks a priority. Walkable neighborhoods are fantastic!

Continue with the beltline and streetcar redevelopment. Increase gasoline tax and stop expanding highways that just induce traffic

Comprehensive run off plans needed for development

Attract high density housing development within walking distance of existing transit centers.

Community Development Comments

Build safe quality developments that will specifically target high risk neighborhoods and make them centers for hygiene and education about homelessness and poverty. Have an interactive dynamic that makes them safe and reachable for more fortunate people to come help and donate where they don't have to feel fearful about something happening to them bodily or to their personal property.

Add more light and heavy rail lines. Locate new rail stations directly in residential neighborhoods, rather than serving primarily as park-and-ride stations.

Put limits on development, like Portland OR does.

Priority funding for distressed neighborhoods in the south and west quadrants.

design communities to be bicycle friendly. make it a priority for zoning to limit building and to support recreational areas. ie. it becomes more difficult to rezone for high density, and more profitable, development of high density housing. Develop certain areas to be "aging areas" that take all aspects of the needs of aging people and builds these into a community. Safety, etc..

Provide flexible zoning and informed entitlement process to allow easy development of well-connected and pedestrian scaled development

Consider Zoning that corresponds with transit routes to provide for affordable housing and public schools along new and existing transit (rail/streetcar) routes.

Expand the grid inside the perimeter. This lays the groundwork for better denser neighborhoods and makes public transportation more feasible

Repurpose existing roads as bicycle paths. Build out more bicycle lanes in existing roads. Connect neighborhoods to shopping (e.g. Summer Hill to a Publix) with cycling options/paths.

1. Stop urban sprawl and force in-fill development; 2. Sentence litterers and polluters to 500 hours of trash recycling and pick-up in the community for each infraction. 3. Develop both above ground and underground water storage prior to the next drought cycle.

Encourage development for all income levels and with credits for accessing or connecting to mass transit.

Interstate highway kill neighborhoods. It is a fact. Bury all of the interstates and put in mass transit. Look at the Ga capital it is hideous Is this the best Ga can do?

Restore community, dignity of life at all economic levels. it is an attitude that all are contributors in their own way. I think of the folks riding marta from college park to Atlanta jobs. Beautiful.

Integrate shopping, restaurants & services into neighborhoods so that people have something to walk to.

Community Development Comments

Prioritize efficient use of existing infrastructure and provide incentives to invest in community development

Incorporate the learning of systematic critical thinking, and opportunities for self lead development.

Re-evaluate the 1973 Chattahoochee River Corridor plan for effectiveness in light of current development trends. The Plan, to be effective, needs to be able to evaluate its effectiveness and have enforcement capabilities.

Ensure preservation of the region's older neighborhoods (both residential and commercial) which help create the identity of an area

Support sustainable development from urban agriculture to walkable neighborhoods to supporting alternative modes of transportation to encouraging the use of solar energy and water conservation

Encourage/facilitate master planning/zoning that will yield walkable residential and commercial development in cities and towns

The southside of Atlanta below I-20 is really underserved and underdeveloped. It's really embarrassing. Public transit needs to be improved - high speed rail to into north Atlanta and metro Atlanta. Everyone pretty much knows both of these things already though - as well as major reasons for there underdevelopment.

Some options are too vague; providing resources without indicates of how or who pays is misleading. Providing quality food to the poor neighborhoods is great, but are we talking about zoning changes or using taxpayer funds to buy and ship cheese around the city? My answer would be different in different action items.

I'm a native Georgian who returned to live in my family's home state in 2000; I'll be leaving this hellhole soon. Undoing the damage done by irresponsible development in Georgia won't happen in my lifetime, so I'm taking myself, my family, and my business elsewhere. Get out while you can, y'all.

Increase density and encourage infill in areas already developed (downtowns, especially Atlanta). What about limiting development on undeveloped land until the land we've already disturbed is filled-in.

Many of the items on this survey aren't regional matters. Rather, they would be better addressed by the concerned community and neighborhoods. The only issues that really need to be addressed top down for the region are transportation and water resources. As for business development...stop with the incentives and corporate welfare, but also let's make regulations less onerous.

Community Development Comments

I live in Athens but grew up in Metro Atlanta and lived in Atlanta proper for a couple years. What is clear from the past half century of development is that the way Atlanta develops dictates the models of development that gets adopted through the entire region. The region seems to be at an inflection point with respect to development. My sincere hope is that Atlanta and the region can seize this opportunity to make our communities more livable, sustainable, and equitable for all of its citizens.

Friends and acquaintances are envious that I walk to work - I am fortunate that I was able to rent in Midtown and then buy a condo in Midtown before it started booming in the past year. While I love that my neighborhood is growing and changing, I hope that we can ensure that intown neighborhoods are hubs for people of all incomes and abilities so that others can enjoy some of the benefits that I have been able to from being a 'starving grad student' to a career person who's fortunate to live close enough to walk to work.

I live in Mableton, GA. We moved here so that we could have access to midtown within 20-30 min drive but also a nice home. Unfortunately our beautiful subdivision does not reflect the surrounding area that includes endless title loan and used car and used tire dealers + only fair rated schools, no walkability, hardly any public transportation or parks. Connecting this area of Cobb to Atlanta through public transit, expanded bike trail systems, etc would do so much good and really offer such an amazingly expandable and affordable area for families who cannot purchase a \$500k home in areas deemed safe in Atlanta and Decatur.

More resources for the Southside. Need transit-oriented development around the College Park MARTA station.

Developers should be charged impact fees and not receive incentives for development.

Transit oriented development can address almost all of the issues raised in this survey. Additionally, with the Braves moving to Cobb County, it only makes sense to expand Marta to Cobb. Cobb County Transit is just awful.

South and West areas of metro area need more smart economic development. Pushing to complete the Beltline would go a very long way towards improving the regions perception and reputation and general quality of life.

If you build an excellent infrastructure (planned development, water/utilities, transportation, education, recreation, etc.), they will come.

Community Development Comments

I'm am a recent transplant to Atlanta, having relocated from New York for work. I had an image of Atlanta as a sprawling car town, and a place where I did not want to live (especially watching last winter's media coverage of Atlanta's frozen freeway system), but have been pleasantly surprised by projects such as the Beltline and other trends toward increasing the density, walkability and cohesion of the urban core. When I recently bought my house, proximity to MARTA and walkability were my number one priorities (I plan to drive as little as possible). I would love to see more focus on walkable neighborhoods, bike lanes and bike share programs, and rail transit. This seems key to turning Atlanta into a desirable city to rival other US population centers more commonly considered to have a high quality of life.

I think Atlanta already does well in education and jobs/innovation. We need better transportation and a more livable downtown. I lived in the city in NYC, DC, and San Francisco, but would never do so here.

Transportation and neighborhood parks is what Douglas County needs!!!!

Development and structure has become a major part of my being. I think it's amazing to be affiliated with someone else who share the same feelings as I.

I believe in Atlanta but please, please do not follow the standard development patterns of the second half of the 20th century - i.e. sprawl.

I believe to be competitive in the future the metro area should be governed by a regional government. I feel the development of many cities in the past decade will inhibit the growth of Atlanta and serve to slow the growth of metro Atlanta.

This region is currently far too focused on the sprawling development pattern of the 90s that lacks the connectivity to drive a modern economy forward. In order to build a tech oriented future forward economy, transportation and quality of life issues MUST be addressed in the most progressive ways possible.

Community Development Comments

I think you really do a GREAT disservice and show a bias to Affordable Housing by burying it under the label of Walkable & Vibrant Neighborhoods. Rename the label to at least include the word "Housing"!! "Vibrant Neighborhoods & Affordable Housing", given the MAJOR LACK of it, given what currently exists!!

I guarantee most people won't go back to re-rank their priorities, once they see Affordable Housing got lumped in with Walkable Neighborhoods label!! On the surface, I doubt that being able to improve walkability out ranks traditional lack of housing /affordable home ownership (which amazingly never even gets mentioned, given such high foreclosure rates here locally!!) and major lack of infrastructure issues!

Stop Sprawl. We need tighter development that is affordable as renters or homeowners. As an example, all the housing growth in Dacula just puts a drain on the transportation system which already is not so good.

Please do something about the 2 lane roads, especially Salem Road and old Salem road. A lot of development was allowed along these roads without improving the roads, thus widening them to provide adequate access.

Everyone citizen needs to feel responsible for the development of our community. It begins with a voice. REGISTER, GET OUT AND VOTE. DEMAND GOOD HONEST LEADERS FOR THE PEOPLE NOT RICH MEN AND CORPORATIONS. FOR THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS NOT CATERING TO ANY ONE RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

I've only been in Atlanta for 12 years, but even in that time the change for the positive I've seen here has been really incredible. I didn't think much of the city when I moved here for grad school, but now I can't even think of leaving. Developments like the Beltline have everything to do with it. If the city weren't heading in this direction, I know I wouldn't stay.

I live in Fayettee county. It has great rural characteristics and great schools. We want to keep it that way. No high density development or rapid/public/mass transit.

Consistent Regionwide Land Use Policy

Consistent Regionwide Land Use Policy and Bring back a National Hockey League Team

Develop the location across the street from the Archive Center. We can put a learning center there for medical, technical, etc opportunities. Also, a nice hotel would bring more revenue and jobs to the area of Morrow/Lake City/Forest Park.

There are about 85000 parking spaces in downtown. Many south downtown blocks are nothing but parking lots, use after work hours as homeless encampments, drug distribution centers and unsafe, unclean, unmonitored empty spaces that bring down the

Community Development Comments

whole city

Do this in a way that keeps income diversity in neighborhoods. Maintain existing zoning rather than creating more restrictive zoning.

How about instituting consistent land use policy? Then, you might avoid suburban activity centers that demand high capacity transit.

Promote greater land use plans that encourages development near areas with access to mass transit, sidewalks, and/or trails and parks.

Have a Zoning Board that works for the people and not just for the TAX revenue. We in East Cobb have been over built...So I guess the Topic should be "Not over building the area"

Pay attention to what is needed for our community to survive and be attentive each other's needs!

community preparedness for older society

Secured, Well Maintained Communities/Neighborhoods

I live in Fayettee county. It has great rural characteristics and great schools. We want to keep it that way. No high density development or rapid/public/mass transit.

Consistent Regionwide Land Use Policy

Consistent Regionwide Land Use Policy and Bring back a National Hockey League Team

Include the paving of the roads in these communities. With pot holes, debris, etc., the appearance severely brings down a community.

Community Development Comments

The art world in Atlanta is not first class or remotely world class we continue to look pretty poor. Major investments need to be made in a truly remarkable symphony orchestra and most importantly a concert hall , like that in New York City, an opera building worth its name and a new and expanded art museum. the whole art scene needs to be enhanced by major improvements all around. Tax payers, and arts supporters can be found to achieve that goal.

If we are to create a truly walkable environment we need to look at more fountains in the city, broader sidewalks, more statues. Our planning has to take that into account if we are to become more special than we already are.

We are a great city with infinite possibilities for the future. so let's have high speed train service from Atlanta, to Chattanooga, to Macon and Savannah and Orlando, those investments are for the public good and will be used by the public if the price is right, the trains fast clean and comfortable with a coffee bar and good food. Trains are not profitable but are an absolute necessity in the modern community. Let's build a beautiful train station downtown from where we radiate public transportation with broad avenues and beautiful surroundings.

That will enhance the quality of life.

Living in a walkable vibrant neighborhood will bring the quality of life that is needed in our city. One where Southern Hospitality can be shared amongst us and our visitors. Not only will we be happy, but we will be exercising and looking for the arts and recreation you speak of. Business will be booming.

The ARC has ignored their own guidelines for protecting our water resources. Preservation and protection of our water should not be an option exchanged for any development or political agenda.

This success area will increase our economic development opportunities so much!

This would be my number 3 priority. The is a necessity of life. With the serious drought issues in the Western United States and the growing population of not only the United States but in the Southern States specifically, this should be addressed. I am well aware of the recent, ongoing water wars we are having with Tennessee, Florida, and Alabama. Metro Atlanta growth rate will not sustain at the current water levels. This should be HIGH priority for future sustainment of growth and development. Without this issue hashed out, none of the list of priorities will matter.

Community Development Comments

Southlake Mall would be great to have an outdoor, walkable, friendly space and, the Olde Towne Morrow space would be a great place to start. Right now, it is incomplete and could be put to better use for my community.

We need bus service in my neighborhood again!! When is Marta returning?

Offer city sponsored contests or activities between community parks and charge a small entrance fee and give some back to the communities/parks involved--it would be a win win situation. Look me up, I've got ideas for the kind of events and contests.

Important but not possible without the others - young innovators want walkable vibrant neighborhoods

This should be the core - neighborhoods are the key to all the other elements.

Create and restore sidewalks in the older neighborhoods.

I feel we are doing a great job in that area but we need to involve the community for suggestions and ideas

More security and cameras for the water supply . We need more community programs to promote awareness on topics about keep in our waters clean and free from pollution

water, nice neighborhoods, convenient transportation, good jobs, and high quality of life the innovation will follow

This tied to the educated workforce or economic development, but it's difficult for me to prioritize as a stand alone category.

First and foremost, a safe neighborhood. A neighborhood is not walkable if it is not safe. Police presence and cameras.

There are neighborhoods that need revitalizing so that people will live there, rather than simply building more neighborhoods.

Build in some type of "repayment through service" stipulation in all education grants and scholarships. It's nothing new but it helps to retain the knowledge we've generated and makes the community stronger in the process.

Fayette does not want or need public transportation. High density development follows that. We are the cream of the region and don't want to become skim milk.

This comprehensive plan needs to preserve neighborhoods and allow for morning traffic flexibility. The plan for 7AM to 9AM may be different than the rest of the day.

Everyone would like to see their neighborhood look good and crime free.

look at the street and fix them in every neighborhood not only in buckhead.

essential as the community continues rapid growth. Transportation impacts jobs, quality of life, education and all facets of life, work and play

Community Development Comments

to succeed as a community it needs workers for the 21st Century and beyond. Educated workers are a cornerstone of success in all facet of the city's life

Green space - small pocket parks in neighborhoods when houses need to be destroyed. enforcement of codes with trash and litter. Encourage exercise in widespread areas.

Yes, we need to have safer neighborhoods to enjoy walkables

Safe and walkable neighborhoods are importance for fostering neighborhood cohesiveness and also exercise.

I live in Lithonia, GA and this is truly needed --- if our City is revitalized like this picture portrays, we would have a better community.

People do not like to be involved as then everyone complains to them it is always sad that 20 % of people do 80 % of the community involvement. Encourage children to become involved and stay involved. Add the elderly to some type of project so they are involved. The middle aged people need to be involved through their childrens school and they need to help teach children to be involved in their community.

Work with the food desserts and encourage a community to keep the land and property clean....I am not sure how to do this in a blighted area. it needs to be learned and enforced as not one likes a ugly, messy dirty neighborhood.

Implementing community gardens and teaching the community how to use them to grow healthy, local food should be a priority. It will increase the availability of affordable healthy food, educate about healthy eating habits, minimize the amount of transportation necessary to bring food into the city, create greenspaces, and create a better food culture.

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This is important, however it is a more local, neighborhood issue. Also, many neighborhoods do a good job of this already.

Community Development Comments

Not only in low income areas but, there are some new developments areas that the close present of a full function grocery store is nil, let say within a 5 city block radiance.

Maybe that is an idea, though those of us who are inclined to be active in the community know how to make something happen and get involved.

I say yes but the government, local, county, state, or federal, cannot do everything. This has to be a matter of personal pride and community sense of pride. Only so much can be done by government and organizations, individual interest and participation is a starting and ending point.

Yes, but this is not solely on placing 'Whole Foods' in impoverished areas, the community has to demand it. If these are placed impoverished areas, how long would it take for these establishments to go out of business due to cheaper alternatives.

There are plenty of ways for people to become more involved in their community. Those who care, participate. Those who do not, do not participate.

How about increasing local neighborhood structures like the NPU and Athens-CC NNI to all core counties? Don't give lip service to participation while clinging to the bottom rung of Arnstein's ladder.

community service and ones decision to do it is not an area that should be enforced by government. Those that want to will and those that don't want to shouldn't be forced or they will not provide the level of service that should be provided. If you have broken laws then - yes, make community service an enforceable punishment rather than fines and prison punishment. Make the crime and punishment match.

We are too research-oriented now. What is needed is commercialization.

This option will not only boost the desirability of an area or neighborhood but access to greater internet speed, especially to the young aged population, increases productivity and allows for innovation

This is especially important and we could use our library systems to assist in low- income neighborhoods.

If a particular local government wants to provide this service, that's great - the region's leaders, however, should not pick the winners and losers by deciding which neighborhoods get the resources from a top down approach. I support this from a bottom-up manner, though.

look at touchdown centers/ mini office spaces for major employers with concentrations of employees in a neighborhood/ region;

First bring back the character and integrity of the neighborhoods then maintain it.

Community Development Comments

The majority of houthr housing in Doraville whether owner occupied or rental are in need of dire repair. City soosored low interest loans and forgivable loans to owners of home owners will help the community make major needed repairs and make homes livable.

Encourage Historal preservation and give tours of neighborhoods.

Have people in Neighborhood ones that are on HOA Boards become involved in events and parks and entertainment. Like NPU Units in the City of Atlanta but add other duties. Get college students involved and make events accessable to all people the disabled and the older generation.

community creates safety and security and you will return to the ways of the 1950's when neighbors knew neighbors and supported each other as needed.

This is what makes a community great! It has definitely strengthened Gwinnett County.

let the free market take care of funding this - govt should only be involved in removing zoning and other governmental barriers

One of the things that I love about Atlanta is the flavor of different neighborhoods. We need to keep that going.

Yes but not all neighborhoods need all lifestyles.

While I appreciate the purpose of low income housing, I have never seen it contribute to a community in a positive way.

This is important, but has nothing to do with walkable vibrant neighborhoods.

Everyone wants to have a sense of community. Strengthening this bond will assist in the upkeep of the community and create a bond between all residents, regardless of differences in age, income, and race.

Make every neighborhood more desirable to live in.

I am torn between this. I am all for gentrification. However, you have to take into account, putting poverty and lower class in middle and upper middle class neighborhoods. Section 8 is a great reference to lower income bringing down a community or property value.

The Zoning Board needs to fully understand what this means...I have been here 30 years and have come to the conclusion that if there is tax dollars to be made the word "integrity" has no meaning to them.

Assist neighbor groups without making it a government program. Perhaps you make How To information available thru the libraries, host a community organization conference to aid groups needing information on organizing events, best practices or even options on types of community groups they could form. The important thing is it is the community that does it.

Community Development Comments

Some neighborhoods have a strong sense of community that should be encouraged, while others need a complete change. Neighborhoods will always be changing and we can't be too stuck on the now. Some neighborhoods will be lost to provide for the improvements for the greater good.

Yes with the understanding - things don't stand still will need quality redevelopment to prevent decline

This is a solution that should be left up to the local community.

This is often a buzz word for no change. We overplan and underzone our neighborhoods. We also put so many restrictions on redevelopment that the goals of affordability are impossible without massive public funding.

I think the community associations can do this on their own, the government should just provide oversight in the creation of bylaws etc.

make partnerships with builders to assess the various demographics and provide housing development SFD and MFD for those proportionate to future trends as well. work with lender to assist and NOT prey on demographics that will need their funds and or provide housing partnerships which promote financial independence from loans etc.

if this relates to using taxpayer's money then no, I switch my answer. If this relates to making neighborhoods unique for different lifestyles and income levels by using different types of project plans or architects (or architectural styles) then I'm definitely excited about that.

But encourage ownership and have low income participants responsible for the upkeep and appearance of their community to instill pride in the surroundings.

Do this in a way that keeps income diversity in neighborhoods. Maintain existing zoning rather than creating more restrictive zoning.

ponce or other artery roads where development is planned/ built

No one wants a transit line in their neighborhood so use our existing interstate space for more lanes and instead use this for transit such as trains. When people see that the trains move faster than the traffic this may motivate them to use mass transit.

This has to be the number one priority if we are really going to be a GREAT community.

We have huge buses covering large spans of roads and we need smaller vans covering neighborhoods moving people to the train or bus system. Our bus system needs re-thinking ... it can work so much better!

Not only with the job-centers but also with the neighborhoods.

Community Development Comments

Who can argue with the Beltline? It will lead to rebirth to adjoining neighborhoods wherever it goes.

It is insane to think that we can keep adding highway lanes to our existing roads and think that we won't have highway gridlock like California. We need to put jobs and employment in close proximity and provide incentives to expand MARTA and development around its stations

How about instituting consistent land use policy? Then, you might avoid suburban activity centers that demand high capacity transit.

While I'm not sure this is the answer, N. Fulton could use more lanes. Enhancements were made prior and it remains insufficient. Development and building continues which clogs up road enhancements making more lanes necessary. It is a vicious circle.

New development should not necessarily be completely limited, but new development should put into place environmentally conscious practices in order to protect the environment. Sustainability should be key in all new development in order to help develop Atlanta while keeping an eye toward the future.

With the expected increase of ~ 3 million new residents in the Atlanta area in the next 25 years, new water reservoirs will most likely be necessary, however implementing water conservation practices should come before the development of new water reservoirs, as conservation will be able to limit the amount of reservoirs we need.

Urban areas need a lot of water to attract new business and to keep what we have. Water is becoming more scarce across the globe...we need to conserve and teach that to our children and to our corporate community!

This is the most important issue. If we have no water you can't have a thriving community.

"Environmentally sensitive" gets way over used to prevent reasonable development. Just look at what counts as a "wet land". This region has lost many jobs due to environmental regulations that have made the businesses move to other countries. We need a reasonable balance and governmental assistance to go with mandates.

We need to promote greenspace by limiting development.

Atlanta needs more new development, not less. The kinds of policies suggested here may result in a Portland or a San Francisco, but the average Atlantan cannot afford to live there. Atlanta can do better.

Drive along Campbellton Road or Allison Court and you will see abandoned properties that have been boarded up for years. These properties have a much more perverse effect on the community, yet the city delays in condemning and razing them.

Community Development Comments

develop a program were small neighborhood residents could have well water and have the runoff returned back to the water authority

the impact should be managed to limited the impact not the development

Be careful how this is done. Do not "limit development," but rather "limit the impact of development." VERY different things.

lowering property, income and sales tax rates encourage business development

I view this as economic development, not education. Important, but wrong bucket.

Develop community business as satellites so all workers will have the ability to work close to home.

higher education is not the need. Decent jobs to build stable families will improve our overall community

Not only youth, but adults who need job training. Support technical and community colleges.

Community involvement has been proven to lead to safer communities as well as healthier communities. Invest in your people not in things to move your community forward.

Improve local ordinances so that post-construction stormwater, construction sediment, and other water quality issues associated with development don't destroy downstream properties.

Require useable sidewalks and crosswalks for all new development and significant redevelopment

Promote greater land use plans that encourages development near areas with access to mass transit, sidewalks, and/or trails and parks.

Paying more attention to those neighborhoods teetering on the edge of surviving or decaying should be a major focus point in getting vibrant neighborhoods. Rebuild these neighborhoods and the surrounding areas will thrive as well.

Contrary to public claims, crime is a significant problem in low income neighborhoods. Landlords set standards for the communities they manage, so police should be much more supportive, particularly in terms of prompt evictions, prompt apprehension and prosecution of criminals, and minimal harrassment.

encourage development and implementation of autonomous shared vehicles in high density areas

The historic piecemeal approach to development hasn't worked. Regional developments must only be allowed along mass transit access. For example, the new Braves facility should not be allowed to be built or open without a train stop.

Create an Urban Growth Boundary and focus development in areas where walkability is feasible.

Community Development Comments

Most of what I did not classify as "As Important" currently exists in process or practice within the Atlanta and surrounding areas of development for education and tech improvement

The growth our community always be on the minds of our representatives,our children are our investments. Thank you for your hard work & your finished work. Keep going never STOP.

Building community with involved, knowledgeable citizens will help engage local resources to address the many challenges listed in the survey

There isn't a lot of incentive for the public to engage in these kinds of issues if there is already a desired outcome built into the questions. Same goes for local Comp Plans, particularly when the local commission doesn't require concurrency when zoning applications are filed. Or when inaccurate poverty rate data is plugged into an Enterprise Zone justification report, in order to help the desired area/landowners become eligible for a tax abatement.

Re read Sherry Arnstein's Ladder of Participation and consider where the planning practices in many metro Atlanta fit in. Or those of the ARC. Are you really about promoting sustainable and resilient communities or is it about promoting opportunities for capital?

Can this survey be designed for the collaborative leadership in my community? If so, how do I make it happen?

In today's age and society, you will never truly achieve walkable, vibrant neighborhoods again unless and until you bring morals and personal responsibility back into the people of our society. Crime statistics will continue to climb and unless you put fences and security guards around a neighborhood will you have vibrant walkable space. Then, you have the haves and the have nots, which is constantly being preached by the PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST MARXISTS rulers we have today. Divisive race baiting, them against us talk which consumes our "news media" and politics in today's world needs to change and change today for all this to be viable.

Having a "sense of community" is great, but we need to begin thinking about protecting the residents as well as making vibrant neighborhoods, because in the case of a catastrophic event, those people in the neighborhoods need to know what they should do!

Community Development Comments

This s vital but cannot come at the expense of inclusiveness and as a form of gentrification that pushes out older, poorer residents and replaces them with young and wealthy families, thereby causing resegregation of what had been integrated neighborhoods in transition.

Encouraging public parking is going to continue to destroy the character of the neighborhoods and inhibit the growth of a public transit system that works.

Desprately needed on existing routes, make the side streets better and add commercial real estate along the way for more jobs

rather than limiting development impacts, promote restoration credit trading programs to offset impacts in areas that are strategically located and create additional greenspace

Frankly, it is time to think away from autos to really grow our region's economics, health and capacity to support communities.

Health

Health Comments

It is my desire to afford and attend a center that offers water aerobics and strengthening exercises, and access the facility near my home.

Having local Recreation for All ages reduces stress from work, keeps kids busy so there not getting into trouble. Increases quality of life for everyone. Keep governments small no big master plans people are freaking out over this 2030-2040 government PLAN.

Current traffic problems reduce quality of life for Atlantans and create poor air quality/grednhouse gases

health, security and community involvement are important "Assets".

Key to a vibrant community is the culture and health of its residents. Atlanta could use more public park facilities to encourage healthy behaviors and help with our epidemic of obesity.

A healthy quality of life means being able to walk and bike to many destinations!

People more and more want to live in areas that are walkable and have a mix of uses - innovation, quality of life, and educated workforces depend on this.

We MUST be proactive!

Healthy living initiatives need to star earlier in one's life, and Arts programs need to start much earlier!

We try to go back and retro-fit!

Health Comments

We can create great vibrant areas all over the region and concentrate growth into these areas lessening sprawl and improving the quality of life

Having a comprehensive transportation system supports all the other facets (an improved workforce, improved neighborhoods, improved quality of life)

A healthy quality of life should be ranked separately as it is of higher importance than Arts & Recreation which should be ranked much lower on the chart at the bottom

Campaign against obesity. Campaign to change eating habits of local population. More free "quality" entertainment venues....concerts in the parks. Increase police patrols in neighborhoods. Police visibility is mayor crime deterrent.

Get these quality of life issues worked out (I include comprehensive transit system in quality of life) and employers will come in droves.

If people cannot get to know their neighbors, it won't matter how innovative, educated or culturally developed we are. Quality of life begins with the ability to walk safely in your community and feel free to interact with neighbors.

It isn't really the proper role of government to be concerned about quality of life.

Walkable vibrant neighborhoods lead to innovation, better quality of life and a more educated workforce

With Arts and Recreation for a high quality of life for all members of the community in place the rest of the list will come together.

This would need to address the importance of cars in the commuting process. Currently the congestion is a serious quality of life issue. I commute from Gwinnett County into Atlanta, and it is easily a 1.5 hour commute on a good day. To really promote the Atlanta area something needs to be done about the congestion.

emoryhealthcare

I think if you have a walkable, vibrant neighborhood you will have Arts, rec and a Healthy quality of life. The people who walk and live in vibrant neighborhoods bring those things with them

Quality of life is tightly bound to cost of living, and cost of living is a function of the cost of government. To maintain a high quality of life government expenditures per capita cannot outstrip population growth and inflation.

I think ensuring walkable and vibrant neighborhoods is a prerequisite to having a highly developed workforce; arts, recreation, and quality of life; and an innovation hub. If ARC creates the neighborhoods, the other things will come.

While education, water, and quality of life are all important, it is our lack of comprehensive transportation strategy and implementation that will prohibit any sustainable progress of the region.

Health Comments

A highly developed & well educated work force will consider a vibrant neighborhood to include the Arts, Recreation, & a Healthy quality of life. The vibrant neighborhoods should be developed with the arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life in mind.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to become an innovation hub, but the highest priority they can have in this endeavor is to become a city that innovative people love to live and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Innovation Hub should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. Innovation will follow.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to have a highly developed & well educated workforce, but the highest priority we can have in this endeavor is to become a city that highly developed and well educated people love to live in and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Highly Developed & well educated workforce should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. A highly developed & well educated workforce will flock here and choose to make their homes here.

I hear all the time about businesses choosing locations because of transportation options and proximity to public transit. The metro region has fragmented transit coverage. An integrated network of high-quality transit service is necessary for Atlanta's attractiveness and quality of life.

I don't prioritize Arts or Recreation nearly as much as I prioritize Healthy Quality of Life. Why are they lumped together?

I find this topic to be of equal value to the topic of "Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods."

"Arts & Recreation and Healthy Quality of Life" will also create the strong sense of community and will strongly influence the vibrancy of a neighborhood through the actions and involvement of the very people living in these neighborhoods.

Providing more greenways, walkways, bikeways, and parks are key to improving the quality of life, improving our air quality, physical and emotional well being, and relieving automobile congestion. This coupled with a greatly improved transportation system will make Atlanta a model for other cities to follow.

Not important to me. Health should be the individual's responsibility.

We have all of the people we need in the Atlanta area. The influx of more people strains the existing infrastructure and adversely impacts the quality of life.

This is a great option, but it is difficult to attract others when issues such as water/utility infrastructure, transportation, education and quality of life are not high in comparison to other cities.

Health Comments

It all runs down hill. This type of workforce with then create the demand for the "Quality of Life", the "Innovation Hub" & the great neighborhoods, we want for Cobb.

These are not separate, but they are hierarchical. If you develop a well educated workforce, they will produce the rest below it. Similarly, a healthy quality of life in vibrant neighborhoods will help keep them here. ...And so on down the list. "Pushing" the top priorities will "pull" the bottom priorities.

Adding a rail system into Cobb County and providing rail transportation into metro Atlanta is the absolute #1 most important priority for my quality of life.

I placed Education high on my priority list, but I feel strongly that education is about much more than just workforce development, as it seems to be described here. It is also about quality of life, economic equity and opportunity, neighborhoods, families and much more.

Water is vital for a good quality of life. It must be clean, safe and available. Developers should be required to include a comprehensive water use plan before building.

Other facets of Atlanta life and infrastructure are directly related - these vibrant neighborhoods improve quality of life and the arts, and require a solid transportation system (that include things like bike lanes and other infrastructure, not just MARTA or other "public transportation")

Promoting the health and well being of residents is good for the residents physically and psychologically and ultimately saves money for the region. Greater health and well being equates to lower healthcare expense and increased income from travelers, seeking this type of vibrant environment.

I believe we already have many opportunities for recreation, and enjoying art, but our environmental and transportation problems impede the development of a healthy quality of life.

If we employ our well-educated workforce to innovative solutions to global warming and urban problems, we have a winning combination of better quality of life and a healthy economy.

The gridlock, air ;pollution and effect of excessive traffic are all negative impacts on our health and quality of life.

Of course health may depend on reducing the number of places where guns can be carried.

Glad that the suburbs are retrofitting to be walkable...they just need MARTA rail and they'd be set. Also , it's critical that creating vibrant walkable communities near city centers not be a matter of pushing poor people of color out. If done right (thoughtfully and deliberately) it can be a way to improve their quality of life.

It's critical that YOUNG PEOPLE are the beneficiaries of improvements in art, recreation and quality of life.

Health Comments

Stop building neighborhoods without sidewalks!!!! People want to feel SAFE walking through their neighborhoods, not afraid that they'll get run over by their fellow residents! Walkable neighborhoods encourage people to get to know each other as they stop and talk to each other while walking. Walking is also great exercise! People will feel more a part of their neighborhood.

Access to healthy, local food

A transportation system that emphasizes walking and cycling. This will directly lead to greater health and a higher quality of life.

Working to eliminate disparities in access to jobs, healthful food options, and healthcare providers.

Health Care availability for every resident.

Cities and counties should make quality of life decisions

healthcare excellence

"Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life" goes hand in hand with "walkable, vibrant neighborhoods" and, to me, these are the same goal.

Bikable city/region which will promote carbon free transportation, higher quality of life, healthier workforce, and decreased congestion of roads. Bikability has a funny way of attracting an educated workforce which also brings innovation.

Im not sure it makes sense to put arts, recreation and health quality of life together...those are different outcomes with often inter-connected but very different metrics.

Reliable and accessible health care for all.

Traffic is the biggest obstacle to continued growth of the Atlanta area. It is a must that traffic patterns - including a monitored, well-functioning traffic light system and [perhaps] police or camera monitors - be implemented to keep rush hour traffic flowing and abusers to the system in check. New business is shying away from coming to ATL due to our overwhelming gridlock. Traffic improvement in the entire metro area should be top of the list not only for growth, but quality of life.

affordable health care

Senior citizens should services to direct them to good nutrition and safe homes, and all school children should be prepared for life after high school and encouragement to complete at least high school.

Sustainable Public Safety, Emergency, Healthcare, & Public Health Infrastructure

A health-promoting environment is conducive for every age group. Health and recreation planning enhances a more productive workforce, healthy active children and seniors who can live independently in their own homes, saving medical and care costs. The arts are so important in so many ways that enhance ones wellbeing. Programs such as nutrition for health and classes for fit ess and well being like tai chi and yoga would be beneficial.

Health Comments

The Arts , recreation promote a healthy and knowledgable society. Health Quality of life in the south is a must... Obesity is high in GA

If we are successful in providing water, transportation, and general quality of life, educated and innovative and creative people and activities will be here.

Improving health and overhauling the Medicaid system may help to save a lot of money in healthcare expenses. Sick people are a huge financial drain.

Many other countries in the world (Europe, China, etc.) have extremely reliable mass transportation systems. NYC and DC both boast very impressive transportation systems. ATL must embrace mass transportation and end our love affair with the car. This will improve our quality of life, environmental and public health, etc.

To my way of thinking, our region needs infrastructure improvements beyond roads and bridges (mass transportation, high speed rail, secure water supply, good education, arts, recreation & healthy quality of life, etc.) before we can become a true innovation hub so we'd best get to innovating as to how to accomplish laying the groundwork today.

In order to promote health and well-being, we need to address multiple issues - education, poverty, transportation, housing, food and water, safety and violence prevention. To some extent, this priority encompasses almost all of the others.

Georgia needs to catch up to other states on arts funding. Arts add greatly to the quality of life a city can offer.

Walkable neighborhoods are critical to quality of life. We used to live on Peachtree in Midtown and loved it. Now we live on the Westside, which we like, but one thing that is sorely missing is walkability. It's within site; there are shops and restaurants. But the roads and sidewalks are dreadful. It isn't safe to walk.

A high quality of life can be achieved through walkable/bikable layouts. Whether its fixing side-walks, connecting more buildings with bridges, or creating more mixed use development like Atlantic station. Avoiding getting in a car makes residents healthier, improves the environment/traffic, and helps local businesses on the streets.

But, in order to implement this, people need to want to live in closer communities, preferably near their work. Suburbanites are wary about living in the city due to their perception of crime and the education system among other things. Improving people's perception of city life by improving city life will bring new residents.

Health Comments

A high quality of life is where education starts as it creates a more successful home-life. But, Atlanta does need to be drastically modified in terms of its official education system. It might be worth considering a switch to a more Charter-School based system allowing for the equality of opportunity in education to be applied to institutions that have the freedom to be run like a private school, thus encouraging the educational innovation that is needed by Atlanta's diverse student population.

Atlanta universities are one of its largest assets. Ensuring that their vision is focused on building the future is paramount. I could eventually see a day when Georgia Tech is indisputably a top five university in the United States.

All of these are extremely important and it was hard to order them. Making Atlanta an innovation hub should be the overall goal, but encouraging that requires an educated populous and attracting more businesses and people requires better neighbourhoods and a quality of life.

Atlanta should continue to improve its policy to encourage innovative companies to move/be created. The recent extension of the Film Industry Tax Incentives to the video game industry is a good step, but there needs more incentives to bring companies in. Additionally supporting organizations like the Technology Association of Georgia will help grow new innovators here.

Helps build community and keeps people healthier

Has to be our main priority if we want atlanta to grow in a healthy way.

Neighborhoods, quality of life and educated workforce will undergird innovation hub and I would suggest that these three things are inter-related and key to our success & growth.

This is so important. I feel finding a better transportation system would have help things like quality of life as well as help the environment through less emissions.

While I would love to see better recreation and healthy quality of life institutions, including grocery and other retail shops I have to acknowledge that for my community, transportation needs (getting to work every day) outweigh arts and recreation.

While I would love to see better recreation and healthy quality of life institutions, including grocery and other retail shops I have to acknowledge that for my community, transportation needs (getting to work every day) outweigh arts and recreation.

It's also past time for the state to step in support mass transit

Health Comments

improve the quality of life (including economics, arts and recreational opportunities) for diverse residents (age, race, ethnicity, gender, educational level, employment status)

Gee, I only thought the state wanted the old folks to die off so they do not have to pay for any of their services. It would be nice to have a better quality of life but, I will not hold my breath.

Promote a healthy community

To enjoy life when your not working and to promote better health and well being of life.

Arts, recreation and entertainment are key in sustaining a good healthy quality of life. Contrary to belief good quality Arts, recreation and etc., does adds to the economy of a area. The area needs good jazz venues to keep our local talent here as well as venues and support for all Arts, performing and visual arts.

Limited supply, we must conserve. Pay the price now, increased costs to all OR pay the price later...limited water which affects quality of life and economic development.

Quality of life for employees is one of the factors in deciding where to locate a business.

These are completely separate categories and should not be clumped together. Does healthy quality of life mean bike paths or more doctors?

Generally, you create a healthy and vibrant environment that forms tight communities, and the above will come.

The hub should be metro wide with specific attention focused on South Fulton. There's a lot of potential and land ripe for something healthy and different

Now that we're planning for better connections through a robust, multi-modal transportation system (re: my first priority), let's make those places somewhere we want to be or want to go. Each "downtown" should offer recreational as well as service uses so neighborhoods can become decentralized activity centers that people have social capital interests in maintaining and improving for quality of life.

I added walkable vibrant neighborhoods last because I think it would go along with Arts & healthy quality of life.

Traffic congestion has become unpredictable, negatively impacting attitudes as well as the quality of life. All are important, but none more urgent.

More than just IT, we need to make this area the "go-to" location for manufacturing. Those jobs raise the tax base and quality of life far better than service industry employment.

Health Comments

Make sure that the Arts reflect the diversity of the population as well as alternative means of sustaining a healthy quality of life other than legal prescription drugs and cutting the body. Use other means as, Acupuncture, Reflexology, Massages, martial arts as Tai Chi, Yoga as other (not Alternative means) choices to maintain Wellness and a Healthy Quality of Life.

Healthy quality of life is imperative for young and old. Baby-Boomers abound. Obesity in our culture is out of control and our children are losing their way.

In order to attract highly trained and affluent individuals and groups we must provide desirable neighborhoods and amenities. It's a quality of life issue

W/O adequate water supplies no advancement of quality of life is possible

This component is critical to maintaining a good quality of life and attracting and retaining people to the region.

Maslow's hierarchy trumps quality of life. If we have all that, we will be an innovation hub and attract and sustain a HD and WE workforce

Quality of life is compromised when commuting to work takes 10-15 hours per week from Cobb county to midtown

Need to also consider connecting people and communities to or with recreation. Don't simply focus on business. People may find jobs and increase access to "business," but if quality of life does not increase or is not sustained at a high level, they will find jobs elsewhere, where there is a better quality of life (less pollution, easier access to recreation, etc.). Also, even if the only reason to develop a comprehensive transportation system is to increase access to business, that wouldn't increase the likelihood of my staying in metro Atlanta. I can telework and I can order off the internet for many of my needs. Having lived here during the entire '80s and early '90s, then returning five years ago, I find that transportation has not changed in terms of traffic congestion, little changed in terms of law enforcement, access (although HOT lanes have increased in price quite a bit- don't say no one has noticed), slightly improved in terms of recreational access (by that I mean for example moving from a decidedly bike unfriendly area to a somewhat bike tolerant area), and worsened for pollution from vehicles.

This will happen naturally if transportation, water, education, communities and quality of life are developed first. They will come.

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

Health Comments

single use, auto dominated zoning and transportation planning continue to degrade potential quality of life and future potential. Existing ill-conceived government policies continue to stunt development potential. Enhanced street density -- more connectivity; more narrow auto lanes would help.

Food options are a choice, not an entitlement. Granted, organic foods purchased at high end grocery stores like Whole Foods are beyond a low income families reach, but there are lots of healthy and affordable options. You just have to choose those rather than the junk. Others should not have to pay for that. We are responsible for our own health; not the government.

Atlanta has too many food deserts which have created populations with life long health issues & medical costs that drain public resources & decrease quality of life.

Healthcare is now more unaffordable then before. Dump government mandated rules that says one size fits all.

If we continue to just make available affordable healthy foods people will not get up off their butts and work for something. We need to make available healthy foods to all areas. There are disabled people in the areas that need assistance, elderly people that cant make it from month to month of SS. This is another area that needs some attention.

This is something that needs to be address all across the state and not just in the City of Atlanta. Even if we make available healthcare resources people may not go. It is also how they are treated once they do arrive. Worker are rude and this turns people away. It is not just healthcare, we need to provide dentalcare and vision care as well.

Access to health classes such as dance aerobics or cooking classes or nutrition classes. Include cooking classes and these other type things at Health Departments, available to anyone (maybe for a fee if not part of a program). Spread the news about this.

Information about and access to healthy food options is one of the easiest ways to reduce healthcare cost. Community gardens, real food labels, etc...

Mental health is the primary issue here. People will slip back into homelessness, and waste resources, unless this issue is addressed. Want to fix homelessness, spend more on mental healthcare.

Health Comments

Even though I suggested this as a favorite, I suggest modification to it, as information alone is not sufficient to promote healthy behaviors. The environment that we live in (built environment, housing, neighborhoods, air and water quality, transportation availability, walkability) has a significant impact on health. For many people, especially those with limited incomes, these factors are out of their control, as they cannot move to a better neighborhood, or improve their homes, or even travel to a place where they can find information or access healthcare, if they can even afford health insurance, or have it provided for them through an employer. In addition, with the lack of Medicaid expansion, and lack of attention to the working poor, this is even more difficult. We need to ensure that Georgia takes advantage of the opportunity to expand healthcare coverage for all of its residents, and that prevention programs are implemented and accessible.

Address the lack of funding for mental health issues in the State of Georgia.

Local food co-ops are a good way to feed the populace with healthy foods. This is also a very effective way to bind the entire community together.

broaden the definition of "healthcare", its not just going to the (MD) doctor to fix a problem with prescription drugs, but its a number of things including healthy eating, active lifestyle, preventative measures and alternative healthcares. it would be great to see how our health is related to our walkable or not walkable communitites, as well.

There are too many grocery deserts in this city. Smaller, local, urban grocers/markets should be encouraged to help fulfill the community's needs. Even an area as hip as West Midtown is essentially a food desert when it comes to needing affordable, healthy food options in a thriving corridor. Right now you have to pretty much drive to get to any grocery store.

No more food deserts. Promote farmers markets and make them available to areas that do not have access to farms or even supermarkets. Think about Mobile Market! Their mission is great to address affordable healthy food in low income areas. This also comes with education.

One city taught the police how to recognize mental health issues in order to deescalate tense situations. Get mental health patients into group homes and not in Woodruff Park. Educate adults and figure out how to deal with addiction besides stupid 12 step programs.

I don't find healthcare availability to be a problem, rather affordability would be the concern

Well-intentioned, but recent studies show that the mere presence of healthy food does not create demand for it.

Health Comments

Isn't this easy enough already? Plus there is little doubt we have any real idea of what healthy behaviours are. See: the vacillation between good and bad opinions on practically every food ever.

Real sex-ed and low cost women's health centers are essential.

Homeless are severely degrading the quality of life in ATL's public places. There is no rehabilitation, that is mostly a myth. All these programs do is subsidize addictions. Homeless shelters need to be moved outside the perimeter and laws need to be drafted and enforced that discourage public intoxication, loitering, etc. Also the parks are a mess. Freedom Park is completely overrun by homeless people, especially where it intersects with Ponce de Leon. The city must address this, left alone it serves as an open wound that drags property value, public safety, and peace of mind. I would love to use this park as it is right by my house, but it is virtually a refugee camp. Further, the homeless shelter on Ponce near Highland avenue needs to be evicted. It serves as base point for the degradation of the entire area.

I feel like this is more of a mental health issue

It seems to me the information is easily accessible, it's behavior changes that need support. Healthy options as the only option in schools and certain programs.

access to health resources? um, yeah, it's called obamacare. Universal healthcare is guaranteed in, what, every other developed country?

Not sure what is meant by addressing homelessness - providing housing is not enough, behavioral health services, health services and case management are all necessary as well as job training and attainable jobs.

Make healthcare affordable, but this should be done by making insurance more competition oriented in order to bring pricing down and bring quality providers back into the market.

make people who live in certain regions to plant their own fruits/vegetables and they can trade with neighbors down the street or around the area. That way minimizing having to buy and using more a barter system. thus supporting the local economy.

Great if you are lucky to have health insurance. But, if you cannot afford it or it is not available thru your employer. I myself think it is a right as a citizen of this county to be able to have affordable health care no matter what your income or status in life.....

Health Comments

Also (this is for the federal or local level) provide subsidies to businesses that grow, produce, or sell healthier foods so that we can bring prices down and make eating healthy the cheaper option in stead of the dollar menu. People eat what they can get the most of with the little money they have. If you make healthy food cheaper people will eat healthier. Subsidies could probably be offset by the lowered healthcare costs that come from healthier eating. Also give incentives to healthy food businesses to set up shop in underserved areas as well as more well off areas.

Again, this is already available. People will eat what they want, healthy or not.

People are what the eat. Good eating habits promote health, positive moods, and increase sustained energy levels. These are crucial to the success of any individual.

The biased action toward healthcare for ALL people shows the racial bias of this needed service.

expand the county health clinic program for the poor.

Just making it available and affordable won't make people eat it. They need the health education that goes with it. Start with kids, they carry info. home to the parents.

Yes, housing, mental health and substance problems.

Need more one-stop-shops and less passing-the-buck to other departments/organizations. Also need to establish a campaign to increase patience and compassion because most of the affected population would not 'choose' to be were they are, but sometimes, they face other mental and medical challenges that have put them where they are today. We need to be more concerned with their total health and well being to get them whole and productive members of society again if it's at all possible. Jailing them is not - and SHOULD not be - the only option for this population. Even moreso, the youth population of homelessness is increasing rapidly and not enough is being done about this population. Programs like Covenant House are doing what they can to bring awareness to the challenges of this growing population, but they can't do it alone. They need all of us to shine the light on youth homelessness and its impacts on being productive members of society.

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Mental Health Services must be at the core of any solution to homelessness. Also, at the federal level, a Basic Income initiative must be made a reality.

Healthy food is expensive for everyone. This needs improvement for all. EBT cards should be for healthy food ONLY.

Start by overhauling the State Department of Community Health.

Info is available. We know what is healthy. Info on implementation in our daily lives is key.

Why don't more poor areas have Aldi's?

The availability of affordable healthy food is really key to people being able to practice all of the information that should be provided about how to live a healthy lifestyle.

this seems more an effect than a cause of improvement in quality of life

Housing should be a natural right along with the right to healthy food.

Unfortunately if I have to rank, I need to prioritize the other options suggested ... food, healthcare and the poor/homeless is a huge problem.

This is included in other comprehensive plans, such as Healthy People 2020. Should not be in regional plan.

I believe that those with the most need should get the most resources. Start with those who dont have a home and work up to those who dont have healthy food.

Let's take advantage of some of these empty "old" Walmart/K-marts, etc and utilize them for indoor urban gardens to bring more "local" produce to urban kids.

Along with this we'll probably need education for low-incomers on how to use healthy foods and make it taste good.

Health Comments

We're not going to "cure" homelessness as long as there's no forcible incarceration for the mentally ill and addicted. We should focus on getting them off the streets so they don't impede business and degrade the quality of life.

Previous work suggests information on nutrition is missing entire, non-English speaking communities; outreach needs to be multi-lingual.

Encourage major grocers to construct smaller facilities in food desert areas to provide access to healthy foods for all.

Federal funding for affordable healthcare solutions are being blocked by state government officials. Federal funding for non healthcare initiatives should be contingent upon compliance with health care mandates.

No matter the efforts put into this initiative - it continues to fail as people want to eat what they believe taste good and easy. The only way you can make this happen is instead of giving food stamps you give them healthy foods with no choices and you can already hear the outcry.

this is better for public health, safety, equity and economic sustainability/recovery, and overall community fitness

I feel this one is equally import as that of healthy food. If people don't have basics the others will never be enough.

Gwinnett County is greatly lacking in that area. There is not a great art-centered community for adults here which is vital to a healthy community.

There has to be educational programs to teach people the correlation of nutritious food choices in enhancing and maintaining health.

Its a challenge to change your habits when you're comfortable with them and its all you know. I think it would be helpful to have signage explaining nutrition labels, healthier cooking options, recipe cards, etc. in grocery stores particularly in low-income areas. Even signage listing the pros and cons of healthy choices vs the consequences of unhealthy choices. "In your face" may not work for all, but it will work for those who actually want to be healthier. Hopefully they are in the majority.

Combine that with exercise and the benefits grow greatly. What about teaching people to farm their own community garden or something?

We need more mental health services

This can also fall under ways to get people more involved with the community. There are so many healthcare providers and hospitals in the metro atlanta area; clinics, private practices and state backed and privately funded hospitals supply a huge employee and customer/client base that can coordinate and distribute

Health Comments

This can also fall under ways to get people more involved with the community. There are so many healthcare providers and hospitals in the metro atlanta area; clinics, private practices and state backed and privately funded hospitals supply a huge employee and customer/client base that can coordinate and distribute information and access on healthy behaviors through free seminars informationals rallies, health awareness and education fairs in surrounding counties (similar to county fairs but geared towards wellness; with medical and herbal specialists, yoga instructors, personal trainers etc)

Make the places that allow for free health services more known. Further promotion of people already part of these action.

incentives should not be tax based but rather should be focused on quality of life

yes - but these events must be well designed and authentic. Use strong design thinking and empathy when creating entertainment. Make it healthy and not beer festivals.

Making public parking LESS easily available increases the quality of life and vibrancy of traditional neighborhoods, keeping them and the people who live there healthy. Easy parking is never the highest and best use of land.

Great, get the bike paths built so we can go to the store. That way we can keep in shape and have a much better quality of life.

Particular concentration on the elderly and access to community necessities like shopping, exercise and healthcare.

When n people have the option of walking to where they need to go they ar healthier, and community is safer since more folks are out and about and better sense of community

In Europe, people bicycle everywhere under 10 miles. They are healthier, eat healthier, and have little to no body fat as a result. They also have cleaner air. Let's get with it Atlanta.

It goes to quality of life. Serile antiseptic development like the stadium complex downtown is a energy and vitality killer. You go for the game or event then leave. It is a failure of city design. Pathetic.

Only if it enhances the overall health of the neighborhood and surrounding area.

Support neighborhood revitalization efforts that enhance the quality of life of existing residents vs. displacing them as new development moves in

Also give residents the ability to plant gardens/farms to keep food sourcing healthy and local.

Consider closing or re-routing roads that detract from quality of life. Ex. Portland, Oregons' closure of Hwy 5 & turning it into a park.

Numerous studies have shown that adding lanes does not reduce congestion, but does negatively effect quality of life.

Health Comments

Study after study have shown the result of induced demand. Adding to roads only continues to remove neighborhood spaces, increases congestion, and increases pollution exacerbating environmental health adverse effects.

This is what causes bad traffic. More lanes=more drivers=more cars. Have you even seen the connector? It's backed up almost all day. More transportation options will reduce traffic and improve quality of life. Street grids are a good addition to travel options as well. More routes to the same destination will reduce traffic because instead of drivers all taking the same road to get to different places, everyone can take a different route and ease the concentration of vehicles in one place.

I would rather see a focus on locally functional bike networks rather than regional ones. If we can get nodes of highly effective bike paths, local residents will use them for short trips. Once nodes are well established it will be easy to connect them to other nodes. We already have effective long-trip bike paths for exercise. The freedom trail works well to get some people to downtown. But once at these regional destinations local networks are so poor you just want to turn around and go back. Local networks are necessary to turn a regional bike path from a place you go for exercise into a corridor you use to get to a destination.

Rail - not bus. Is it hugely expensive? Yes. Does it have the potential to transform the region? Yes. So, it's worth it. Every successful, major, metro area (except for LA) has some sort of useful rail system. Even Charlotte has a better light rail system than we do. MARTA is terrible, but if it were coordinated with proper light rail options in Atlanta that also have connections elsewhere to other regional metro areas then everyone's quality of life would improve, and the city would be an even more attractive place to companies and workers.

let me explain the no. This city is still too sprawled for a network of bike paths to enhance our transportation system. this should be under the quality of life header.

This would give inter city dweller's more options.
Plus promote healthy exercise and a more robust
inter city community.

Improving mass transit will also improve air quality and improve quality of life.

Promote healthy living ... people have legs ...make them use them ... But make it safe! It's okay to walk/bike ...

MARTA rail is a great system. I wish it expanded beyond where one is currently is able to get to, because the bus system is a mess. I have no problem using MARTA rail for downtown events and to go to the airport. It increased my quality of life

Health Comments

Will improve the over all health of the region. The south is becoming a heaven for fat people. This will in turn lead to a increasing medical costs.

Atlanta is not a bike friendly town, but it could be and many Atlantans could bike to work or school if the prospect was safer. I recommend utilizing existing sidewalks and making one side for pedestrians and the other for bikes. It could be done in such a way that there are pedestrian crosswalks on the bike side, but it would safely move bikes out of traffic and give people more transit options. It could also help with health care costs by promoting practical exercise.

We cannot have a good quality of life without good quality air and water. To foster public transportation that would reduce auto emissions should be top priority in planning for the future and sustaining an increased populace.

More train service- less buses. Trains should run at every major interstate. Expand I20 E/W rail/ create a 285 loop similar to the London inner city loop. Go up and down 400/75/85 to get people off the roads. Beltline needs to be a priority to rebuild the city in terms of transportation and quality of life.

A good educational base is what leads to a smarter workforce and a better quality of life. We don't need anymore cheating scandals in Atlanta.

just a note: incentives should not include compromises to previously discussed issues relating to quality of life and environmental policy.

giving tax breaks to industry to locate in Atlanta is not a good strategy. Attract industry with quality of life benefits.

Who wouldn't want to attract quality jobs to the region? But what kinds of "partnerships" are being proposed? What kinds of "incentives"? Given how the government policies for the development of the Atlanta region has often favored the advantages of corporate "partnerships" and "incentives" over the quality of life for its residents, I'm skeptical.

And consider 'outside the box' activities like the arts and other non-profits which enhance our quality of life.

This is a challenge, however, such involve-ment can contribute much to mental and physical health.

There are too many food deserts in Atlanta. By ensuring everyone equal access to quality foods will reduce the health care costs and ensure all residents a heathly life.

Must end some population's reliance on cheap nutrition-poor foods, so that we can reduce diabetes and heart disease.

Health Comments

This should be accomplished through the creation of better outreach programs for enrollment in medicaid and the ACA's marketplace, as well as public health systems that encourage healthy behaviors.

Affordable food throughout the whole region not only in low income areas.

Eliminate healthcare deserts.

Provide transportation to medical centers or provide incentives for businesses that provide transportation for low income users of health services.

No more food deserts!

Make sure healthcare is affordable to everybody. Our politicians just fight each other out of ambition, not thinking that our health should not be a business opportunity. Healthcare should be for everybody the same, even if it would mean more taxes. It is not right that some people have to suffer because our idiotic healthcare system. Obamacare is the first step toward something better, and is fought by Congress.

We're seeing more and more cyclists, which is the sign of a vibrant, healthy city. It's about time! Please continue to expand the bike path network.

Good luck with finding the jobs. At the policy level, weak labor protections and absurd business allowances commit Georgia to expanding poverty, not growing a large middle class necessary to a healthy economy.

Please. What are you going to do, go house to house and talk to people? People know what's healthy. Access to healthcare = better transit.

In African American communities we rarely see a Whole Foods or Trader Joes. You have to drive out of your way to get healthy food.

Is this the role of ARC? Seems to me more of partnership opportunity with GA's Department of Public Health.

Supports economic development, civics, quality of life...

while public health is a priority, you need to define "resources" or use different word. This general term can be misleading.

This is absolutely a public health issue, and especially a means to improve access to jobs, healthful foods, and health care services.

This is the root of healthy living, and transportation justice could play a huge role.

we're pushing poverty into the suburbs and removing all opportunities for low-income Atlantans to have a good quality of life when we don't prioritize affordable housing

It's basically a crime when people don't have access to healthy foods.

Health Comments

The State should approve medicaid access for those who are need of this healthcare access.

Encourage WallMart Neighborhood marts and Aldi to expand in these ares with free land if higher locally

This will happen if you make the quality of life good

It's cheaper to provide a home for a homeless person that it is to jail them for being homeless. See Florida's study from this last year. Also, mental health improvements to decrease homelessness as a result of untreated mental illnesses.

Bargain investment in quality of life.

In my opinion, this is information that people have. When it comes down to it, it's about making the individual choices for a healthy lifestyle, which many are not willing to make.

Possibly tax incentives for businesses that specialize in healthy food choices in poorer neighborhoods. Also, creating green space areas where people can create and maintain their own gardens. This is common and popular in Germany, called a Schraebergarten.

What do they get now? Dogfood? Why don't they get healthy foods? Too much money for crack or heroin?

Healthy food does not have to be expensive.

Why are so many wealthy people fat?

The issue is education more that availability.

this is huge. Helping poor communities grow their own healthy food is huge. And celebrating local farmer's markets.

reform the food stamp program so they can't buy unhealthy foods

Remove Obama care and remove the regulations on the health industry. Encourage and promote competition and you will see it become affordable.

This is an area where if you want to be healthy you learn by your envioronment. This is an individual's choice. Educate, Educate, and be informed. Your CHOICE!

Require health care facilities to post their morbidity/mortality rates, as well as average charges for their top 50 procedures. Let consumers use the info to make choices.

HEALTHCARE is the absolute last thing our government should be involved in. We had a great healthcare system until the government destroyed it.

Given our penchant for cars, this is not a true transportation solution, but I consider it a quality of life issue.

Quality of life issue - not a transportation problem solver.

Focus on mixing income housing... studies show that lower income families have an enhanced quality of life by living with families with higher means.

Health Comments

Focus on prevention - healthy diet + exercise + healthy living (no smoking, etc.) - rather than treatment.

No money for arts and culture until every child is fed and educated.

Increased mental health services will help. Give people free apartments like they have done in other cities. It is cheaper than paying for the healthcare. Increase the minimum wage so people can actually save some money so they don't end up homeless when they have a temporary crisis.

People know this and have myriad resources for this now, they choose to live unhealthy, don't waste \$ here!

The jury is still out on whether the availability of healthy food makes any difference.

If we concentrate on the other priorities, this will happen anyway. For Atlanta to shine in a global marketplace, our economic development efforts should focus on "product development" (i.e., skilled workforce, a culture of support for entrepreneurs and innovation, and outstanding quality of life).

Passive, everyday encounters with art that makes me smile, makes me wonder, makes me think - that's what makes me love where I live and what shapes my impressions of places I visit. Performing arts, festivals, museums and attractions are wonderful assets, but architecture, public art and public spaces, I think, contribute even more to quality of life.

Yes, but not if it is socialized medicine. We need freedom to choose our health care coverage. Education on healthy living is good including holistic solutions but not dictating one size fits all attitude. Definitely not socialized medicine.

I'm not sure what this means -- it could be interpreted in ways that make me uncomfortable, or used to ignore a place where quality of life is not good.

Like green space, this is transformative, promoting healthy living, economic opportunity, community pride, and many other positive outcomes.

My belief is that people need to care about their community before they become involved. Providing better public edu, public health via community centers or..., and useable park space, e.g. Selena Butler park.

Food security and access is the most important thing for long-term health and safety of all communities--especially low-income communities.

It's not that I think health isn't important (I'm a physician) but I'm not sure the problem is lack of information. Georgia needs to expand Medicaid.

Local farmer's markets are great for promoting eating better.

Health Comments

All neighborhoods need convenient access to fresh produce. Also, more needs to be done in schools to increase nutritional education. Promote school and community gardens and incorporate into school lunches.

Define healthy without interest groups dictating the food pyramid. Reduce meat consumption, no processed food, eat plant-based foods. If that's the message, I'm for it. Don't think Wal-Mart grocery is the answer. Establishing community gardens and a community space where dietitians teach people how to prepare fresh foods. Also, teach people what each food does for their brain and body health. Don't just say "do this". teach them exactly "why"

Creation of community gardens with free healthy veggies available to all who live within the radius of that neighborhood.
<https://www.google.com/search?q=LA+man+community+garden+front+yard&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&channel=fflb>

There are millions and millions of people getting EBT cards & FREE food is everywhere.

40 million+ people getting food subsidies and the number has doubled under Obama. This is beyond corruption and government waste and fraud. Stop this madness. Get the government out of my refrigerator and stop driving the cost of food up with more and more silly and idiotic regulations and 'healthy eating' schemes.

Private business should be doing 99% of what is needed and the government should stay out of people's lives on this issue. The 'nanny state' does not work.

We already have dozens of programs that are funded to help the so-called homeless. These people need mental health care- not homeless care.

Add community fitness centers where people can become / stay healthy at affordable rates depending on income levels

120 in East Cobb on either side of new Wellstar Healthpark and re-configuring the Roswell Road/Johnson Ferry Rd interchange

The availability of healthy food is not, in my opinion, the issue. The desire to consume healthy food is. I believe demand will drive supply. How do you change eating habits???

Make affordable healthy food available in ALL areas in the region.

Live/work communities make a huge difference in the need to commute, which greatly reduces pollution, strain on resources, and enhances quality of life.

This is a quality of life issue and should be accessible to all levels of the community.

Health Comments

society needs to change and education is the key. The reasons people choose fast food needs to change, by telling someone a hamburger has too much fat and sodium, won't change the reason they are buying them. But as they continue to eat it the demand on healthcare rises. Society starts in the home, we need everyday people to want the information then act on it. I think that is where the challenge is. Too many people settling for what is easy and not wanting to be parents or making hard choices or blaming others for where they are.

need medical care, a national mental health system, - Deal with causes and prevention of homelessness.

Need to make healthy food affordable in ALL region not just for low income. I am middle class and can not consistently afford fruits and veg enough for a week - much less organic ones.

We need dedicated resources for the issues that drive homelessness, such as mental health

If a community has a well-educated workforce and high quality of life, companies will want to come here. No further incentives needed.

I'd like to see a program on how to build, take care of, etc, gardens to grow your own healthy food.

Obesity is straining our health care system.

Repeal Obamacare! Teach holistic medicine and healthcare. Take high fructose corn syrup out of drinks, food and medicine.

Repeal Obamacare! Teach holistic medicine and healthcare. Take high fructose corn syrup out of drinks, food and medicine. If you want a healthier population stop allowing the pharmaceutical companies from corrupting their vaccines with mercury, aborted fetal cells and other pollutants. Stop the U.N. from spraying our skies with aluminum, strontium, barium along with viruses so that we are all infected with these nano particulates. It is our government that is attacking the individual with unhealthy food, water(fluoride) and air.

Healthy food is available. The choice to eat/not eat it is made by the individual. Besides, healthier food is usually more expensive, so without the higher income levels, how would they afford it?

Find a way that healthy food choices be selected when using EBT funds or the free breakfast/lunches at school. Healthy food is available but people are not choosing them.

Atlanta is already attractive - low cost of development and high quality of life for their employees. They should be encouraged to develop training programs and apprenticeships though.

But this needs to be thoughtfully done. Don't encourage businesses that do nothing to improve the quality of life. Beats me why we are subsidizing filming here at the expense of other businesses while we close city streets to accommodate film shoots!

Health Comments

This partners nicely with a healthy community - focusing on this provides indirect benefit to a "healthy quality of life"

This partners nicely with a healthy community - focusing on this provides indirect benefit to other priorities.

very important for everyone to be able to access healthy food (and understand what healthy foods actually are!) one should not have to choose between paying rent/gas and healthy foods!

This is the most important thing in this arena. A healthy populace will do FAR more for metro Atlanta than anything else.

Decreasing travel time is more important right now than road repair. Quality of life in Atlanta is poor when Northwest metro areas have 1-1/2 to 2 hr commute one way Monday thru Friday

I am amazed at how much food costs in Atlanta considering the nearby access to farms and the beneficial growing seasons. More non-profit farmers markets should be set up to bring farmers in direct contact with consumers. We all know that the big box stores are not benefiting our communities - instead they truck in the big food producers' goods and the money leaves our community while providing us with an inferior quality product. Start taxing every parking spot at the major big box stores and start subsidizing the locally grown high quality sources of vitamins and nutrients (vegetables and fruit)!

Healthcare in GA is a joke. My husband and I don't want to break the law, but GA isn't making it easy for me to follow the new federal healthcare act. I want to buy affordable healthcare. How does GA plan to help me do this? They haven't, instead they have created barriers.

People have access to this information on a daily basis. People choose to be healthy.

This information is already easily accessible. More spending here is a waste. Since most people are required now to have health insurance most will have access to a bevy of healthcare resources via their provider. more spending here is overkill. Focus your efforts elsewhere.

Affordable or publicly funded healthcare

Affordable or publicly funded healthcare. There will not be a more important issue in our lifetime.

Homelessness is a serious issue in Atlanta. Not sure what the best answer is, but something needs to be done. Seeing the same people sleeping/panhandling in the same locations day to day is not ok because obviously nothing is being done about the situation and it will not change. Accessibility to mental health resources is key I think.

In dealing with obesity endemic to a motorized generation, we need to make exercise a priority in our lives.

Health Comments

A reduction in chronic illness would benefit our economy. Healthy people can be more productive and fully participate in society.

Obamacare is better than what we had before, but let's get true single-payor, universal healthcare (including mental healthcare) for all!

PRESSURE THE GOVERNOR TO EXPAND MEDICAID!!! FULLY FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL GOV'T! He's obviously ignorant of that fact and yes, I am shouting, because here in Georgia, **NO** one seems to care! Healthy residents mean we **ALL** are healthy!! Think of **ALL** the people who serve **YOU** your meals in **EVERY** restaurant in Georgia! **NONE** of them can afford **HEALTHCARE** and they are handling **YOUR** food! Think about it!

People need better access to healthcare. Georgia should take part in all of the benefits other states receive under the ACA. So many people are unnecessarily ill because they lack access to healthcare.

There are plenty of ways to be involved in the community. Georgia needs to put in place better access to healthcare for everyone (especially low income and disabled).

The outer counties need to stop keeping Atlanta at arms length, and expand regional coordination. Even if outer counties refuse to contribute to and connect to MARTA in a meaningful way individuals commuting to the city from the suburbs have a significant negative impact on the quality of life of in town residents.

Without healthcare, how will sick people contribute to society when they're busy with their illness?

A centrally located electronic "Information warehouse" of Various types of info. Not just health, could be cost effective and very helpful.

I'm on the fence about this one. Allocating more funding doesn't necessarily solve the homelessness problem, especially if mental health services are still lacking.

Increase support for non-profits engaged in quality of life efforts (both programmatic and policy)

Increase opportunity for urban farming in low income neighborhoods to provide access, education, and understanding of healthy foods

In Cobb, allow citizens to participate in the zoning & rezoning process to insure quality of life in their communities. Don't exclude them from the process.

We need a state imposed user fee for transportation to pay for transportation infrastructure and keep the federal government and all it's attached strings and hoops out of it. This could be a vehicle miles traveled tax (without GPS tracking) or other combination method of capturing fees based on amount of usage. Without a good transportation system, the standard of living is diminished and also the attractiveness for growth.

Health Comments

Start early in elementary and middle school. engage young people in "healthy affordable" and even subsidized activities such as 4H, scouting, mentoring, and boys and girls club activity to keep them involve, interested, and in school.

I don't believe any of this is the role of government. This is the role of church (in the case of homelessness and helping the hungry) and personal responsibility (in the case of healthy behaviors)

Must invest in improving transportation and quality of life in order to attract businesses.

Lobby the state to change law so that Medicaid can be expanded under the Affordable Care Act. We need to ensure that more people have health insurance

Design/renovate communities, workplaces, and public buildings with health and safety as a top priority.

Build a extensive and comprehensive greenway system to access ALL areas of the Atlanta. Metro area and beyond large enough to accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic to improve quality of life, recreation and SAFETY especially for bicycle traffic which needs to get off of the roads!

Quality of life infrastructure costs money, and the anti-tax attitudes need to be changed for progress to be made.

The title says Arts, RECREATION, and Healthy Quality of Life, but there is no mention of recreation. If you want to increase quality of life, and have walkable vibrant neighborhoods, then you need to have parks and recreation facilities available. Give people some decent green space and they will folk to it and form communities around it.

Employing a highly developed workforce will come with all of the aforementioned areas have reached a certain threshold. Individuals that are highly skilled will move to a place that has a comprehensive transit system, great walkable neighborhoods, a high quality of life and an established innovation hub. It makes an attractive place to be and a place where people want to live. Thus, thus category should be a given when the other areas have made improvement.

quality of life means quality of the environment - abandoned lots ought to be consolidated under the new land bank and converting (temporarily or permanently) into quality spaces like CSAs, pocket parks or gardens

Single-payer health care for all.

Encourage community exercise programs in local parks and educate about the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle. Do this also through the addition of bike paths and walking trails. Maybe do a program that helps low-income people (who maybe can't afford cars) obtain bicycles.

Health Comments

I'm retired, but actively volunteer with CATCH Healthy Habits and AARP Tax-Aide. I also volunteer in my church.

A regional plan that includes reducing the need for and ease of driving personal cars will encourage me to settle in Atlanta. Atlanta lags behind other cities in this regard, but it seems to be changing quite rapidly. We need action to get people to shorten commutes and improve quality of life in Atlanta region.

Childrens Healthcare of Atlanta. I take Marta bus #6 to work.

Its all about transportation. Quality of life means ease of transportation. Transportation equals job and business growth. Business and jobs equal economic opportunity.

Plans should consider all ages, income status, and mental health

The ARC needs more transparency in their work. Keep all decisions about quality of life LOCAL!

I believe public transit is essential for equitable access to education and jobs and necessary for sustainable growth. I will relocate from Metro Atlanta to a competing metro area if transit is not improved significantly in the next 5 to 10 years. The seemingly never ending debate and pumping money into planning studies that are never implemented is simply ridiculous in my opinion. I want quality public transit and to live, work and play in a truly progressive community or region. I will relocate if transit is not improved and expanded in the next 5 to 10 years. It is a quality of life issue for me.

While rating walkable communities and healthy lifestyle lower for issues of growth, if more interesting in maintaining a sustainable economy versus growth economy I would put those in the top 3 instead.

Transportation (commuting from work to home) takes a huge toll on my quality of life. I love the place where I live, but the amount of time I have to enjoy life is greatly shortened by my commute. I feel like if there were safer options that integrated biking and public transportation I might actually enjoy travelling to and from work.

South and West areas of metro area need more smart economic development. Pushing to complete the Beltline would go a very long way towards improving the regions perception and reputation and general quality of life.

Health Comments

I do not like working as far away from the city as I do, however the management team running the company I work for doesn't support city living due to misconceptions and misinformation. The only way that this region can be functional in 5, 15, or 25 years from now is to create a community connection (not a highway) between these areas. Alpharetta is not Atlanta but with the greater Atlanta metro area's influence - Alpharetta can stop sprawling and start collaborating. Unfortunately the trend has been to close bedroom communities off behind walls in this area instead of opening the living area into the community and into the city to increase community involvement, improve health and unite people. If there is one thing that will destroy this area - it is continuing to allow sprawl and continuing to dismantle the wildlife corridors that exist around the region.

I'm am a recent transplant to Atlanta, having relocated from New York for work. I had an image of Atlanta as a sprawling car town, and a place where I did not want to live (especially watching last winter's media coverage of Atlanta's frozen freeway system), but have been pleasantly surprised by projects such as the Beltline and other trends toward increasing the density, walkability and cohesion of the urban core. When I recently bought my house, proximity to MARTA and walkability were my number one priorities (I plan to drive as little as possible). I would love to see more focus on walkable neighborhoods, bike lanes and bike share programs, and rail transit. This seems key to turning Atlanta into a desirable city to rival other US population centers more commonly considered to have a high quality of life.

Building a true public transportation system that meets the needs of all walks of life would transform Atlanta and improve the quality of life tremendously.

The metro region HAS to embrace light and heavy rail in order to meet transpiration and quality of life needs. Living on the highway simply is not a good way to live life. Doesn't matter how many lanes, reverse diamonds, HOT, and busses are put into place, rail is the only way to keep the region moving.

Keeping our population healthy, with high academic educational standards and having a healthy and strong infrastructure are critical for long-term regional planning and in my opinion are top priority.

The ARC appears to be our only hope for attaining and maintaining a better quality of life in a region with so many local governments and power bases looking out for their own respective constituencies with little regard for others.

Education, Housing, Transportation, Green Space, Arts and Culture- ALL make a city great. Look at the metro systems of cities this size and get going with a real plan!

Health Comments

More roads are not going to be the solution. It encourages more drivers thus impacting the air quality. Comprehensive mass transit is the way to move in to being a major vibrant city with a notable quality of life. Cobb and Gwinnett counties need to get over themselves and get with the program.

This region is currently far too focused on the sprawling development pattern of the 90s that lacks the connectivity to drive a modern economy forward. In order to build a tech oriented future forward economy, transportation and quality of life issues MUST be addressed in the most progressive ways possible.

The solutions presented are all individually good. However all may not be necessary to accomplish the goal of a vibrant, safe, and healthy region with opportunity for everyone.

Our youth are our future, we need to invest in them to ensure they have a great quality of life.

I have lived in several metros with a million+ people, and none have been as fractionalized as Atlanta. People in Atlanta don't mix racially, culturally, or geographically. Until this changes, it will be impossible to implement a strategic plan that is forward-thinking and inclusive of all people in the metro. We need to stop thinking ITP and OTP, DeKalb v Fulton, City Limits v Unincorporated, and start thinking about the health and future of the entire region. Unfortunately, I don't see this happening.

Improving our transportation is essential. It is currently a huge economic and quality of life drain.

Living in a walkable vibrant neighborhood will bring the quality of life that is needed in our city. One where Southern Hospitality can be shared amongst us and our visitors. Not only will we be happy, but we will be exercising and looking for the arts and recreation you speak of. Business will be booming.

Good health and pride in self are very important. We need an environment that promotes that.

The categories of "Arts" and Recreation and Healthy Quality of Life" should be separate items.

Health Comments

Excellent idea! Over the last few decades man became preoccupi -ed with exploring other continents and more recently the galaxy, in an attemp to escape the carnage of we we have created on the planet Earth and now the atmosphere. We have known for a long time what was happening with the planet and atmosphere. We knew flouro carbons were being emitted from the burning of fossil fuels we also were aware that it was the number one contributor to the destruction of our ozone. We also new that excessive harvesting of our farmland would destroy our food supply but that was not enough to stop the plundering of of the soil and air quality . It is important for mankind to curb his excessive appetite for all the desires and wants for luxury, and convience. We missed the vital facts of preserving our planet. Now, hopefully we have oppotunnity to correct this error and reconize man's basic needs - food, health and shelter.

Without the Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life we are nothing more than robotons.

Our existence would be basically meaningless, empty and void of all spiritual and creative humaness..

Essential to quality of life, jobs, business and every part of life in the area.

Most definitely have all three (3) of the above, however, Health Quality should be 1st and foremost in order to enjoy the remaining two (2).

Low income? Make sure all people can have healthy food.

Have more people and Companies become involved in the homeless issues. Have companies help train people and have a dorminority style living for sinngle people while they are in a training class. Assist in mental help and physical health issues. Teach healthy living with exercise, cooking, shopping, finance classes.

Still a difficult issue with all people becoming insured. It is difficult to understand how to make this work without changing our entire health system when is very difficult for all of us.

We need to educate everyone on healthier living not just low income. Low income needs to be educated on so much more than food.

Welfare folks get free healthcare and low to middle class can't afford it. Need to make it fair for everyone.

Implementing community gardens and teaching the community how to use them to grow healthy, local food should be a priority. It will increase the availability of affordable healthy food, educate about healthy eating habits, minimize the amount of transportation necessary to bring food into the city, create greenspaces, and create a better food culture.

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Improve the availability of affordable healthy food in ALL areas throughout the region.

Great opportunity to support our local farmers and provide healthier options for everyone.

You always want to help but I think that should be left to churches and volunteer organizations. Dependency is unhealthy and does not make for happiness.

Food is an incredibly complex issue and healthy food is out of reach for too many of our citizens. We need to promote affordable quality health food for all.

All boats will rise. Improved productivity. Reduced health care expenditures

If we work on the other areas and strengthen mental health services this won't need to be a priority as it will drop naturally.

If we have well educated individuals who match job needs - will solve part of it. Other part must be addressed by mental health services and housing options

Need to make healthier foods more affordable

Leave this to the health care system.

There are already healthy food choices even in fast food restaurants. Food is a personal choice. You can't force people to eat what they do not want. Example of this are school children who refuse to eat the lunches served in school. Why not educate children that yes they can have a brownie today and have vegetables the next.

We need to teach children healthy behaviors especially sexual behaviors rather than encourage them to use contraception and abortion. discourage young people from sex before unhealthy behavior i.e.,

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a lot of information about eating healthy seems to be out there. the options and food choices out there are limited though.

Its a matter of personal choice. People will find access to healthcare.

Build dorm type housing where residents can get off the street & get a bite to eat if they are willing to do chores. They could serve as center for other types of assistance such as counseling and health and sanitation issues. It cannot take the place of a mental health facility for those that in another time would have been in a state hospital setting.

Substance abuse and mental health issues are major contributors to homelessness. Address those issues and the problem will reduce. Hand outs don't help, they only exacerbate the issue.

Affordable health food should be for all people whether it is low income or not.

I'm not sure about this one. I know my friend in Alabama does not have internet access. Is that an issue in the Atlanta area? Also, there could be health concerns with just broadcasting internet gratuitously. I think people need to work at work and when they are at home, be attentive to family and friends, not glued in front of another screen.

However, this should include allowing municipalities to institute "road diets" to facilitate walkable, healthy communities.

More important for health and quality of life than for transportation.

This should be the fore-front of developing jobs in the city and region. Small businesses are main provider of jobs. Adding and keeping these alive and healthy will build a sustainable process which decreases unemployment.

Healthy environment is critical. Educating low income on proper trash disposal, not in the streets.

Community involvement has been proven to lead to safer communities as well as healthier communities. Invest in your people not in things to move your community forward.

Restore the quality of life to All Dekalb County residents

High quality traffic regulation - TIMED lights, left turn arrows that actually give you more than 2 seconds (unlike at Ponce and Briarcliff) - this would add to the transportation system and quality of life

Health Comments

The whole has to work together, or we will fail if we attempt only one. Transportation, education, quality of life will allow for quality of health.

The art world in Atlanta is not first class or remotely world class we continue to look pretty poor. Major investments need to be made in a truly remarkable symphony orchestra and most importantly a concert hall , like that in New York City, an opera building worth its name and a new and expanded art museum. the whole art scene needs to be enhanced by major improvements all around. Tax payers, and arts supporters can be found to achieve that goal.

If we are to create a truly walkable environment we need to look at more fountains in the city, broader sidewalks, more statues. Our planning has to take that into account if we are to become more special than we already are.

We are a great city with infinite possibilities for the future. so let's have high speed train service from Atlanta, to Chattanooga, to Macon and Savannah and Orlando, those investments are for the public good and will be used by the public if the price is right, the trains fast clean and comfortable with a coffee bar and good food. Trains are not profitable but are an absolute necessity in the modern community. Let's build a beautiful train station downtown from where we radiate public transportation with broad avenues and beautiful surroundings.

That will enhance the quality of life.

Improving our transportation is essential. It is currently a huge economic and quality of life drain.

God knows we all need to exercise. I'd love to be able to walk out my door onto a walking trail.

Living in a walkable vibrant neighborhood will bring the quality of life that is needed in our city. One where Southern Hospitality can be shared amongst us and our visitors. Not only will we be happy, but we will be exercising and looking for the arts and recreation you speak of. Business will be booming.

Good health and pride in self are very important. We need an environment that promotes that.

Again, this is not my top 3 priority, but it should be highly valued. We need to really focus on the senior citizens and their quality of life, especially with the growing number of senior citizens, retirees, and the dependence upon social security and single income. Technology, globalization, inflation, and higher cost of living is really widening the gap for poverty and the well-being of our beloved senior citizens.

Health Comments

I think Georgia is far behind when it comes to transportation. Lack of a good transportation system ultimately impact our health. Sitting for hours in traffic increases road rage leads to stress, then eventually causes one to arrive to work tired, and then causes a person to scream at the employees, they in turn become unproductive and finally end up with health issues. A good transportation system enables one to connect with businesses, organizations, churches and various groups of people. I was appalled when I moved here and found out that I had to take a taxi or rent a car to get from one area to the next. I just assume it was similar to New York. Going to dialysis was a night mare. When I finally move close to a bus line, I found out that the buses travelled only one route and I still had to walk a good distance. There would be less cars on the road if reliable transportation was available. Citizens would be happier and healthier.

We need to face the racial issues why a city the size of Atlanta has a transportation system that causes a negative quality of life issue for its citizens.

Essential to economic growth and quality of life...uneducated citizens can't get jobs and create crime problems

without a regional comprehensive system that utilizes rapid transit, walking and biking companies will not move here - citizens can't take advantage quality of life amenities

The categories of "Arts" and Recreation and Healthy Quality of Life" should be separate items.

water, nice neighborhoods, convenient transportation, good jobs, and high quality of life the innovation will follow

Excellent idea! Over the last few decades man became preoccupi -ed with exploring other continents and more recently the galaxy, in an attempt to escape the carnage of we we have created on the planet Earth and now the atmosphere. We have known for a long time what was happening with the planet and atmosphere. We knew flouro carbons were being emitted from the burning of fossil fuels we also were aware that it was the number one contributor to the destruction of our ozone. We also new that excessive harvesting of our farmland would destroy our food supply but that was not enough to stop the plundering of of the soil and air quality . It is important for mankind to curb his excessive appetite for all the desires and wants for luxury, and convenience. We missed the vital facts of preserving our planet. Now, hopefully we have oppourtunnity to correct this error and reconize man's basic needs - food, health and shelter.

Without the Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life we are nothing more than robotons.

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Health Comments

essential as the community continues rapid growth. Transportation impacts jobs, quality of life, education and all facet of life, work and play

Essential to quality of life, jobs, business and every part of life in the area.

Green space - small pocket parks in neighborhoods when houses need to be destroyed. enforcement of codes with trash and litter. Encourage exercise in widespread areas.

Most definitely have all three (3) of the above, however, Health Quality should be 1st and foremost in order to enjoy the remaining two (2).

Safe and walkable neighborhoods are importance for fostering neighborhood cohesiveness and also exercise.

Low income? Make sure all people can have healthy food.

Have more people and Companies become involved in the homeless issues. Have companies help train people and have a dorminority style living for sinngle people while they are in a training class. Assist in mental help and physical health issues. Teach healthy living with exercise, cooking, shopping, finance classes.

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Great opportunity to support our local farmers and provide healthier options for everyone.

do this by restricting the use of welfare programs to pay for only nutritious foods; no cash payments to beneficiaries at all; payments for food, housing, medical should all be electronic, and paid directly to the vendor

You always want to help but I think that should be left to churches and volunteer organizations. Dependency is unhealthy and does not make for happiness.

Food is an incredibly complex issue and healthy food is out of reach for too many of our citizens. We need to promote affordable quality health food for all.

All boats will rise. Improved productivity. Reduced health care expenditures

Besides our own quality of life being enhanced by the arts, the presence of the arts makes a place feel kinder. Urban areas need all the kindness they can create to combat crime. Also, this is huge with companies wishing to relocate!

Yes, but this is not solely on placing 'Whole Foods' in impoverished areas, the community has to demand it. If these are placed in impoverished areas, how long would it take for these establishments to go out of business due to cheaper alternatives.

If we work on the other areas and strengthen mental health services this won't need to be a priority as it will drop naturally.

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Create more sidewalks (that are also wheelchair accessible), and bike lanes. This would help in reducing air pollutants and would encourage more walking (creating a healthier city).

Start with healthy education and creating safe connectivity through cycling and you will increase healthy lifestyles. Encourage business incentives for non traditional transportation to work or event tele-communiting

However, this should include allowing municipalities to institute "road diets" to facilitate walkable, healthy communities.

More important for health and quality of life than for transportation.

Health Comments

This should be the fore-front of developing jobs in the city and region. Small businesses are main provider of jobs. Adding and keeping these alive and healthy will build a sustainable process which decreases unemployment.

Not only access to healthy food but education as well

Healthy environment is critical. Educating low income on proper trash disposal, not in the streets.

Community involvement has been proven to lead to safer communities as well as healthier communities. Invest in your people not in things to move your community forward.

Restore the quality of life to All Dekalb County residents

jobs with livable wages will support families which will lead to a better quality of life. Water conservation begins with recognizing that it is a finite resource. Roadways in Atlanta are adequate traffic patterns are deplorable.

If you stop trying to cram everyone in the Atlanta Region into one big urban metropolitan area under one big regional unelected government thinking only of one area or region of the state of Georgia and start thinking of improving the lot and life of the entire state of Georgia, you will not obtain you Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life you seek. Only more of the same envy and distrust and disallusionment will prevail.

How big of a problem is homelessness actually? Yes, downtown Atlanta has a sizable homeless community and yes, there has been an increase in homelessness during the "Great Recession" which, hopefully, we are about to come out of, but I am not convinced that we can trust many of the "made up" statistics that are often thrown around by those in the homeless care "industry." Homelessness is linked with mental health and substance abuse and I see more success with private than with public attempts to address the problem.

Frankly, it is time to think away from autos to really grow our region's economics, health and capacity to support communities.

Transit

Transit Comments

numerous job opportunities in Alpharetta,norcross. we need a metro north or new jersey transit type system.

Expansion of MARTA to the rest of the core 5 counties needs to happen in order for the region to be more competitive, as well as incorporating BRT and light rail into other areas of the region that will still benefit from having more transit options.

Transit Comments

Every world-class city, or even decent-class city, and heck, some "lesser world" cities, have interconnected rail transit systems that make it easy to get around without a car. It is beyond embarrassing that Atlanta barely has one at all.

With better hours than MARTA has currently. Especially bus routes.

We need a unified, regional transit agency that actually builds a comprehensive (aka heavy rail-based) mass transit system for everyone, not just the inner city.

Atlanta needs a rail sys like San Fran, NY, etc. Fixing surface streets only rewards SOVs. don't fix roads, but create a rail sys 60 min outside of ATL in all direction, every 3- more lane roadway should have a rail system

I don't own a car so I use MARTA and my bicycle to get everywhere I need to go in Atlanta. I shouldn't have to choose my doctor based on my ability to safely arrive at her office. Expanding transportation will make the city a better place to work. Right now companies sometimes pass Atlanta by due to our terrible traffic. Better transportation will mean better jobs!

I don't own a car so I use MARTA and my bicycle to get everywhere I need to go in Atlanta. I shouldn't have to choose my doctor based on my ability to safely arrive at her office. Expanding transportation will make the city a better place to work. Right now companies sometimes pass Atlanta by due to our terrible traffic. Better transportation will mean better jobs! The Atlanta BeltLine and the Downtown Streetcar are a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to connect our neighbors to their jobs as well as to other parts of the region through means other than polluting cars and dangerous and dividing highways.

If we develop solid infrastructure and adequate public transportation then the other goals can follow, but we have to have the basics.

I'm not optimistic that the suburbs will ever cooperate, but in-town, just doing simple things like making safer bike and pedestrian crossings of major roads and more train-track crossings would be great. The streetcar is a great idea, but it needs to be more than just a tourist curiosity. Spokes that compensate for the quadrants that the train doesn't serve would be amazing.

With transit in particular, there shouldn't be so many jurisdictional boundaries. We should have a transit system for the whole region. Also, transit should support non-traditional commuting.

We must have mass transit I ALL areas including OUTSIDE the perimeter

Transit Comments

A transportation system that is focused on the efficient and rapid movement of people throughout the region is necessary for Atlanta to continue to grow. The exact form should be a regional investment in alternative transportation, especially bus rapid transit. The region should not, however, neglect the importance of the interstate and major arterial system. Any excess investment in transit at the expense of the highway system would be ill-conceived.

some progress on this is occurring here & in other cities; it's a happening thing; but it should not happen as part of a gentrification process that increases costs, especially housing; (which also is what's occurring all over); transit issues can help with this, tho the connections are complex.

This needs to be a REGIONAL system, and not all the different transits we have now!!

More shuttles for North Dekalb

There are too many cars in Atlanta and way too much traffic. Obviously this creates pollution and is very inefficient. People coming to work from the outlying areas need to take shuttles into the city.

There should be at least 2 or 3 transportation choices for every trip throughout the ARC metro area. Ped/bike or transit (bus, BRT, light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail) with reasonable headway and costs comparable to single occupant vehicle gas & parking costs for the same trip and less than a 50% additional travel time penalty for use.

Marta Transit should develop rail system not only to the northside but also to the south side, riverdale, fayetteville, peachtree city, fairburn. the east side ellenwood, conyers, henry county ect...west side Douglasville, ect... serve the neighborhoods of all citizens.

Atlanta needs to develop transit to provide choices to users in the metro region.

Need more transit!

Atlanta needs to extend MARTA's reach in terms of rail service. The streetcar project is a significant step in the right direction for the city center. However, there needs to be diversification and extensiveness in the transportation for the Atlanta region. Extending MARTA's rail service would accomplish this.

Extending MARTA into Clayton, Gwinnett and Cobb, key to growth in the inner ring of counties, build the northern arc to relieve pressure on I-285

More positive commercials, news reports on television of all the good things with MARTA trains, offer specials to those in OTP who ride for the first time.

Transit Comments

Quit trying to compress all of the services and business into Metro Atlanta. Metro Atlanta cannot afford it, the transportation systems cannot support it, nor can the aging infrastructure support it. There is simply no good reason why Cartersville, Griffin, Augusta, Carrollton or any other city should not share in the growth. Quit trying to jam the tooth paste back in the tube! You cannot maintain the transportation systems already in place. You cannot run MARTA without significant Federal Assistance. Why should we undertake increases in taxes, added T-Splosts and other funding when we cannot support what we have?

Unfortunately, the criminal element is the group most frequently using the metro transportation system, mostly MARTA. Don't know if more security is the answer, but it's very intimidating to try and use the system.

50 years ago we had trolley cars and they were removed and not they are being introduced once again Please remove the word sustainable which is government propaganda if you want to live in the city sell your home and move back in we have city buses that will take you anywhere. Be like NY and run 24/7 and walk like NY does....

The system of transportation must include all major aspects of transportation. Motor vehicles, circulators, transit systems (all forms, not just fixed guideway) on demand local transit, etc.

Transport is long lead time. Transport is not about rich or poor and has nothing to do with race. Unless you are thinking of the multitudes who rely on Marta to get to work. Planning for long lead time, big capital infrastructure is critical. For this item it is the vision thing. The question is does Georgia and Atlanta really have the vision to be world class. If you make decisions based on racial stereo typing, you are doom to mediocrity.

support Marta

Get these quality of life issues worked out (I include comprehensive transit system in quality of life) and employers will come in droves.

Fast internet won't drive jobs to the cities, it just makes it easier to work with lower paid team members in the Philippines, China or India. Fast automobile transportation from suburb to suburb will do far more to generate profitable local businesses.

Transit Comments

In 2040 100% of vehicles sold will be automated driverless vehicles. They will be able to safely and efficiently travel at 100MPH using less fuel per passenger than a bus does. (They can travel close together in packets, reducing wind drag drastically resulting in efficiencies similar to that of a rubber tired train) I suspect this will have a major effect on the viability of traditional public transit systems. Viable systems will use smaller vehicles operating on the same roadways as automobiles.

Only if the current Marta system has regional governance and transparent record keeping. Right now it feels as though Marta is trying to force itself into our communities.

Must be a top priority for anything else to develop. With additional growth comes additional traffic and care should be taken to provide alternate modes of transportation. MARTA is already doing an excellent job of re-branding itself for the future. Additional lines, Transit-Oriented-Developments, & upgrades to stations all contribute to a more positive experience. At the risk of promoting sprawl, other areas near major highways should be developed as business centers to spread out the concentrated work force that currently commutes into Midtown/Downtown every day.

The city elected to void all limited access projects in the 80's and the State dropped the outer perimeter, both with no vision of the long term regional needs. The upgrading of local streets cannot support the desired development of the region. The remaining option is transit with the high levels of development concentrated around the transit service areas. Still being ignored are the benefits of commuter rail (both to the commuter and rail freight movement) [alien to the highway/trucker/rubber tire lobbyists].

Allowing certain pockets of the city opt out of the (rapid transit) transportation question results in fragmented ability to get around the city.

A plan to provide actual access to all parts of the city encourages the use of the Transit system, reducing pollution, use of fuel for single-occupant cars, and increasing awareness of the needs of other parts of the city. Bike trails to work, with safe access along major routes fosters alternative modes of transport. The city planners need to be proactive in creating plans that can be enacted to bear the level of traffic, to workplaces and areas of entertainment. The piecemeal approach that has been followed for the past twenty years has reduced opportunity for those who want it to be able to use rapid transit.

MUST have better transport. Other large cities depend on transit and we should too

Transit Comments

It would be wonderful if we could have a workable transit system. I have lived in Chicago, visited Denver, D.C., Europe, and other states. They all have transit issues. Unfortunately Atlanta's MARTA is deplorable. Management is questionable.????

Would prefer NO RAIL LINES from metro Atlanta to Fayette County.

Of prime importance is an extended MARTA to Cobb County and to Clayton County among others. As long as we have the clogged roads we are unable to have a modern and innovative city. New business will not come here unless we do this.

Of prime importance is an extended MARTA to Cobb County and to Clayton County among others. As long as we have the clogged roads we are unable to have a modern and innovative city. New business will not come here unless we do this. It is shameful that we are the only large metropolitan area in the USA that have no money to its rapid transit. This needs to change.

Only the transportation systems that we can afford. Mass transportation via "trains to nowhere" that are straining the tax budgets: NO!

I'd like to see less dependence on buses that are slow and clog traffic lanes. Can we get more rapid rail? Ideally, I'd like to see a rail system that would allow me to leave my car at home.

More mixed use areas like Atlantic Station and the Old Fourth Ward. Also, more connections between the old suburban areas we already have and vibrant downtowns- these could include walking and biking trails and small rail lines.

No matter how many upgrades are done to the State's interstate system, congestion becomes worse. Eventually a clogged vehicular-focused system will deter new development. Extension of transit and bus services beyond Fulton and DeKalb Counties needs to become a priority.

There are thousands of people commuting into Atlanta every day from outside the perimeter. Is there no way to extend Marta routes to other regions?

A rail system from Macon to Atlanta or further north would be great!! The commute from home to work is what takes our energy and keeps our stress levels high. Hopping on a train would be nice!

Prioritizing public transportation, not more incentives for personal vehicles.

We need a rail and bus system that meets the needs of all residents--not just the chosen few, e.g. whites and affluent.

Mass transit is an unsustainable solution. Metro Atlanta does not have the density to support an expansion.

Transit Comments

It would be great if we could actually connect public transit between counties as well as trans alternatives between counties (ie. Silver Comet Trail to Beltline). It would really help generate a lot of additional BUSINESS cross-county.

Fayette County's position was very clear. No buses, trains or other mass transit.

No rail mass transit. Reduce high density development to reduce congestion.

Yes, a world class Transportation system that involves highways and roads that move traffic along at a brisk pace; as well as a comprehensive bus system that allows folks to get around to pretty much all of the Metro Area! If you have not seen the Georgia Public Policy Foundation's Transportation Plan, I would suggest that you get it and study it! Atlanta, is so spread out (and that is the way most of the people like it and one of the reasons they moved here in the first place), and does not have a high enough density of people in any one place; that Atlanta should have never built transit trains (Marta), but rather should have built the most sophisticated bus system in the world! Voila'

transit focused!!!! we have to build regionalism so everyone is paying into the regional transit system. MARTA is moving in the right direction, we must sell the region on this success and build on the work that has been done.

Let's not waste money on ineffective and costly mass transit projects. let use the gas tax proceeds on roads.

I hear all the time about businesses choosing locations because of transportation options and proximity to public transit. The metro region has fragmented transit coverage. An integrated network of high-quality transit service is necessary for Atlanta's attractiveness and quality of life.

Look at the city of Copenhagen's transit: clear bus systems that can take visitors virtually anywhere, continued development of a beautiful/save/clean metro system, and alternative regular and high-speed above-ground trains work together seamlessly.

For the love of God, please expand MARTA rail. A diagonal line from Lindbergh to Decatur to start.

Transit, transit, transit.

Like MARTA?? Really? Like the DC Metro it becomes a burden on taxpayers bc it is not efficient enough and operates in the red. You need more toll roads. Local citizens trying to get around are impeded by interstate travellers, especially 18wheelers on 85 & 285. Forsyth Co. Is one of the fastest growing & won't have to help pay to widen 400, 141, Hwy 9 into Fulton? It's a nightmare just to get to the Perimeter from out here.

Transit Comments

MARTA rail to suburbs incl. Marietta to relieve traffic; More urban commute bike lanes--ex. Clairmont Ave to connect northeast to Decatur path to downtown.

For potential riders to trust transportation options, they must be safe. Today, they are not.

As a CCT Express commuter into ATL 5x/wk. I want to be certain we are improving the commuter experience. The fact that the HOV lane does not extend to Cobb Co. is a deterrent to current/future commuters.

We have all of the people we need in the Atlanta area. The influx of more people strains the existing infrastructure and adversely impacts the quality of life.

You guys can't continue to prolong this any further. There needs to a complete rail system built. That will connect the area like it should. Widening the interstates is not gonna help, its time to dig!! I live in Cobb and would love to be able to get on the nearest train to the city but can't. There also needs to be a bypass or something for traffic that's just passing thru metro Atl. Atlanta can't continue to wanna be a big metro area and not make the needed changes.

I have been working on a comprehensive mono-rail system for Metro Atlanta and Georgia. Where can I present it or who can I send it to?

Larry Bost 770-971-2167, Marietta.

I think that the region should readopt commuter rail and or that Marta rail lines should be expanded in Cobb, Gwinnett and Clayton.

Many cities worldwide have excellent light rail systems..including Portland,Or,Boston,Ma,Seattle,Wa and numerous cities overseas...this would be less expensive to build and maintain than subway systems...I do not understand why Atlanta cannot have a system of light rail...it perplexes meall we seem to do is add lanes to interstates...thnx

Not Marta it produces unwanted crime & undesirable persons which lowers Home values

Light rail should be revitalized and expanded greatly throughout the metro area. Also street cars and/or circulatory buses for light rail use. While highways should be maintained, they should not be expanded further.

Fast rail system along the expressways from Atlanta to suburbs with pay and park lots spaced out every 10 miles

Transportation system should focus on convenient, efficient mass transit options, making them more attractive than individual automobile transit.

Rail needs to be expanded to make it a viable option for those who live outside of the perimeter and commute to work within the perimeter. Priority should be given to the Athens-Atlanta rail line.

Transit Comments

marta train, buses need to run later in evenings and cct buses need to run on the weekends

In the best scenerio, Atlanta would not let individuals drive cars in the city. To achieve this goal, we need to have better public transportation available.

rail and better use of existing mass transportation maybe moving through traffic to the HOV with fewer access points to enter or leave from

Top priority and maybe use rapid transportation to connect high tech and medical hubs with each other and the airport - and maybe time for two regional air hubs just much smaller than Hartsfied say Dalton and Gainesville

There is a need to extend bus and paratransit to the west cobb area and to northern county lines.

Be realistic about impact current densities have on transit. Stop trying to force people into centers and corridors. Build highway and transit infrastructure that accommodates, works with low density, accept reality of highway congestion that accompanies our personal preferences vs. those of transportation professionals educated in ivory towers.

I bought a home in Kennesaw in 2002 and since then I have worked in both Austell and in Atlanta. Currently I work for the home depot at their corporate headquarters. I wish every single day that there was a train I could ride to and from work and a train to and from the airport from my corporate office. I am getting older and I am SO tired of the wear and tear that commuting has on my body, mind and soul not to mention the expense and upkeep of a car. I have used vanpools but there is so little flexibility that the vanpool is not a very good fit. Please, please bring clean, beautiful transit to all of Atlanta. It's a great way to showcase public art (woot!) and a wonderful blessing to anyone that lives in fear of a terrible car accident. The lack of transportation has a huge negative impact on my life. I do not participate in many things that I would love to on the weekend because after commuting all week, I can't bear to get into a car and drive...anywhere. So....please bring us trains! Thanks for your consideration.

We really need more public transit.

Metro leaders MUST collaborate and stop squabbling about things like Marta. Like it or not, we're all connected and we all must work together to come up with transportation solutions.

Need to expand MARTA

Need rail on I-75 from Cobb/Cherokee to Atlanta.

Having lived in other urban cities and used public transportation, it is frustrating that I cannot use public transportation to get to work.

Transit Comments

Expanding public transportation and making public transportation time economical should be a high priority. Expanding roads and freeways should be a last resort fix.

Any comprehensive transportation reform has to consist of a combination of useable alternatives, not merely the pet projects of certain interest groups. Therefore, accessible, networked public transit and improved private transportation (e.g. roads) are both absolutely necessary, and to choose one while ignoring the other is to do less than half the job.

This must be the top priority for the Atlanta metro area. Some version of Marta expansion is required. The Clifton railway should be a primary expansion. Expanding rail stations along major highways to other counties (to Suwanee - Lawrenceville, to Alpharetta, to Kennesaw, and west) is needed. Also, the peach pass lane needs to be removed and converted to through traffic lanes. These lanes are not for local commuters, but rather allow drivers to enter along major highway cross-sections and drive out of the busier area at 70 mph. This would allow local traffic to maneuver in and out of traffic without navigating through non-local travelers.

Make it so I do NOT have to drive to Marta! I love public transport, but the layout of the system does not make it a functioning alternative to driving.

Adding a rail system into Cobb County and providing rail transportation into metro Atlanta is the absolute #1 most important priority for my quality of life.

It is unbelievable that a metro with such a sprawling footprint has yet to connect rail passages from the outlying suburbs to the downtown. Express buses and Peach Passes are hardly a solution to this overloaded highway system. Without the means to move quickly through the metro area, the rest of these priorities will continue to be stifled as the workforce and innovators will remain restricted.

Other facets of Atlanta life and infrastructure are directly related - these vibrant neighborhoods improve quality of life and the arts, and require a solid transportation system (that include things like bike lanes and other infrastructure, not just MARTA or other "public transportation")

MARTA is not wide-spread enough. I'd take public transpo daily if there were a depot close to my house in Tucker/Gwinnett Co. I could then read! It would have to be on time at least 95% of the time.

I always felt like a huge city like Atlanta is lacking the proper public transportation network. The Marta subway should be extended into the neighboring counties to alleviate the traffic off the roads. Furthermore the interstate network should be expanded/ re-routed to take the traffic out of the city.

Transit Comments

With a better public transportation system our neighborhoods will become vibrant, highly developed and accessible to all.

We must put an emphasis on public transit, making it possible to reduce vehicular use while getting people to and from work, school, worship, and play efficiently.

I would hope that your "comprehensive transportation system" would include a lot of public transportation rather than just increasing the highway sprawl that we have now.

A comprehensive system does not necessarily mean the development of MARTA. More money needs to be spent on educating people how to drive properly and courteously. Work centers need to be planned to be convenient to the work force.

Glad that the suburbs are retrofitting to be walkable...they just need MARTA rail and they'd be set. Also, it's critical that creating vibrant walkable communities near city centers not be a matter of pushing poor people of color out. If done right (thoughtfully and deliberately) it can be a way to improve their quality of life.

The region has to stop making transit decisions based on racial bias. Period.

All of these priorities should be on the list. Re: transportation, it seems every major city I visit (NY, Boston, SF, Toronto...) you don't even need a car! We must have a metro rail system and commuter lines that stretch from Macon to Chattanooga!

My hesitation to place this higher is because of the disaster MARTA is and do not want this to be construed as a scantion for this terribly mismanged, go nowhere entity.

Because some people find better job opportunities when they accept a position in another state, build a public high speed rail system that allows a person to work in one of the neighboring states but return to their home after they complete their work day.

All of you need to visit Switzerland and experience what public transportation really IS! For my first ever trip to Europe, I used the train and tram system. Excellent!

MARTA is perceived to be mismanaged and corrupt. Local busing options do not have the depth of services needed to have the desired impact of reducing cars on the road. The Braves are leaving the downtown stadium location in large part for the city never developing a transportation plan. Similar arguments have been made in the perimeter area where businesses have struggled with hiring in that area due to poor transport options. There are other examples throughout the metro area but the key is to realize that a diverse employment base requires transport options that work together and serve high density centers.

Transit Comments

Atlanta **MUST** improve its public transportation system. The counties need to work together on this. Traffic is awful, and there are too many people driving to the same place/area with only one person in the car! Need to promote carpools/vanpools and get more bus and train routes.

We really need to improve public transportation. The car culture is choking the city (both with pollution and time wasted in traffic).

More mass transit transportation is needed.

We need more parkways, and outside highways in order to decrease the flood on I-75 especially and other major highways. As well as more public transportation around the outskirts of atlanta that leads into atlanta.

Fluidity of movement between hubs via mass transit, auto, on foot and alternate modes of transit

Affordable, rent controlled neighborhoods close to public transportation

can not do this without mass transportation

Under the comprehensive transportation system, I would strongly support developing an integrated public transportation system to reduce our reliance on roads, decrease traffic congestion, and decrease pollution.

1. Up grade and coordinate our traffic control systems so we don't waste billions of hours and dollars waiting for traffic lights to change when there is no traffic competing for the same space.

2. Prohibit Marta buses and school buses from stopping in main thoroughfares for transit passengers. Current practices are ridiculously expensive in terms of wasted human capital.

3. More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board

Bring manufacturing back and turn marta into THE regional transit system.

Regional Rail

Develop more community centered retail & residential around existing MARTA stations to take advantage of existing infrastructure

More roads and buses, stop with the trains that go no where & leave you stranded when you get there.

Expand MARTA, More bike lanes.

More viable and trustworthy public transportation for the metro counties that work in Atlanta and other metro cities

Public Safety for citizens.

We need more Public Safety officers on the streets--walking, biking--more community police stations (storefronts in the neighborhoods).

High visibility reduces criminal activities. Police out of the cars and in the neighborhoods--working closely with citizens to deter

Transit Comments

crime.

Marta bus stops should have pull over lanes to keep from backing up traffic.

Reduce CRIME! Make it safe to go outside and on MARTA

Bring back the rail from Savannah to Atlanta with limited stops.

High Speed Mass Transit - A true alternative to automobiles.

Telecommute. NO expensive mass transit that people don't use in large numbers. Telecommuting is FREE.

Telecommute. NO expensive mass transit that people don't use in large numbers. Telecommuting is FREE. Have counties work together on single projects in ad-hoc ways when solutions ARE needed - not unelected regionalism that makes taxpayers pay for projects that won't even benefit them.

Highly developed rail network!

We need to develop a transit system for self-driving vehicles

Trains, trains, trains

Marta / Streetcar buildout

Comprehensive PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION system

**Funding regional fixed rail transit through a taxation mechanism
commuter and passenger rail service**

Mass Transit!!!

Transportation spending should be allocated to the most cost-effective projects that will do the most to improve mobility throughout the region per dollar spent. Economic development that comes as a byproduct of improved mobility is great, but we should not allocate dollars to ultra-expensive projects whose primary purpose is economic development, and will make little contribution to improved mobility. Go back to GRTA's RTAP and stop moving toward additional rail or BRT.

Mass Transit ...

Comprehensive metro-wide bike trails.

I have no easy access to public transportation. I would use it if I could. We need to expand rail lines to more communities so everyone can participate. It doesn't have to be MARTA.

Absolutely MUST get MARTA into all surrounding counties to get cars off the roads and give us more options than just sitting in traffic. I refuse to work downtown or even go downtown very often from Gwinnett because I don't want to give up 4 hours of ever day in traffic.

We absolutely need a better rail transit system to avoid the massive failure of snow jam 2014 in January and February 2014.

Transit Comments

With the improvement of transportation and added green space, this can become a reality only with a massive overhaul of rail transit and more options of neighborhoods built around mass transit.

Need fast trains/light trains

Greater Atlanta needs to develop a comprehensive MAS plan that will bind current transit authorities to work together. Until the authority is legislated that requires ONE board/commission to work on this issue we will continue to flounder in the area of transportation.

We need an extensive rail system like NYC, NOT more roads.

Build a system of mass transit available in all counties

It is absolutely necessary that Atlanta develops a complete, rail based transportation system.

We need a comprehensive, inclusive, and innovative transit system. Aerial gondolas could be part of the solution: www.atlantaskyway.org or contact info@atlantaskyway.org for more information.

Expand the rail system in other directions and routes other than N,S,E & W. Connect Emory University with the rail system

One rare week-long visit to Hamburg, Germany convinced me of the value of fast, well-managed public transit. Traffic gridlock was non-existent.

This was too vague. Sometimes all the transportation system does is clog the roads, bring more poor people to the area or make it take forever to get some place because you have to keep changing buses or whatever. Also current public transportation has gotten to be pretty nasty and a little scary.

This plan should NOT focus on more road construction but instead, focus on public transportation

To my way of thinking, our region needs infrastructure improvements beyond roads and bridges (mass transportation, high speed rail, secure water supply, good education, arts, recreation & healthy quality of life, etc.) before we can become a true innovation hub so we'd best get to innovating as to how to accomplish laying the groundwork today.

offer wifi on marta

Continue to study cities with successful public transportation and learn their lessons.

MARTA train(not buses) need to be more secure with security working at stops, it needs to be expanded in the city and to the suburbs. ALL people should be using MARTA, PLEASE look to BOSTON on how this is done. I get on the MARTA and sometimes it's just me and one other person and it's desolate... nobody around...scary

Transit Comments

the beltline development is a good idea for this area, plus better communication between groups and within marta

Mass transit solutions must be a priority in this city and the state at large. Building more roads and adding tolls is not a solution. The State must help fund MARTA and other regional transit systems.

Update and expand MARTA, work on removing the stigma that surrounds public transport.

This is the MOST IMPORTANT issue. We have the poorest transportation system.. You can't get downtown from Cobb without taking first a bus, then the MARTA from Arts Center.

Expand Marta to go more places.

Expand Marta to go more places. Coordinate traffic lights to reduce congestion

Lack of practical public transit and the resulting traffic is THE #1 problem in Atlanta

emphasis on public transportation, not roads. Can we take away that \$2B from the 285/400 interchange to get started faster?

emphasis on public transportation, not roads. Can we take away that \$2B from the 285/400 interchange to get started faster?
Need the MMTC and commuter rail, more MARTA heavy and light rail, streetcars, less parking lots

Number one priority! traffic is becoming unmanageable, if you do not have a car you cannot do much around the city. think about how much tourism can bring if the city would be well connected with a world class train /metro system that takes you everywhere in town, stop investing in highway improvements, invest in bike lanes, walkable cities, expand Marta please!. the city will become more alive and people will be more healthy instead of seating hours driving in a car, people will be walking to the Marta bus and train stations. Think outside the box, see how good is the public transportation is cities such as Madrid, Bogota, Paris, NY almost anywhere in the world but in the US where cars are the king of the cities :(.what is stopping Atlanta in becoming a city like those? more walking = more healthy= more alive cities

Neighborhoods that promote economic and racial diversity in a highly dense and walkable area are a key to creating places where Atlantans want to be. There should be a renewed emphasis on creating places for *people,* and not cars. A great step would be in discouraging parking as a land use, especially in neighborhoods with ready access to public transportation. Atlanta is full of vibrant neighborhoods, and their success should be an example for the rest of the city. Miami's innovative Miami21 is an incredible example of using zoning codes to create environments where people want to be.

Transit Comments

The Beltline laid out an incredible groundwork for connecting in-town neighborhoods, and it needs to be a top priority in finishing this project. Furthermore, I would love to see MARTA become a more full-bodied system, as its current state is quite skeletal. I am extremely disappointed in the exorbitant amount of money spent on highway initiatives that do little to offer long-term solutions, but rather offer up short-term fixes. The key to alleviating traffic isn't more capacity (this, in fact, leads to increased usage), it's increasing density and creating less demand for the roads.

This topic above all will be the key to vibrant, sustainable growth in the region. If we create a smart, efficient comprehensive transportation system - which looks at all modes (walk, bike, road, rail, etc.) and works to optimize each to reach the most people and have maximum potential, then I think the other items will follow.

Neighborhoods connected by mass transit

Atlanta is a great city but the fact that a car is the default for the majority of trips taken by ATLiens is not okay. MARTA is great, I don't care what people say but it needs to be more accessible EVERYWHERE inside the loop. I think this entire list of priorities starts with creating a transit system that can keep up with the large footprint Atlanta has. Most people criticize Atlanta on Sprawl but I think this is our cities greatest asset if used properly. Having under developed space in a major city is what is going to attract business professionals. This is exactly what people want when looking for a place to build a company. We need to create places that people want to go and Atlanta has so many different neighborhoods that are completely unaccessible via transit. When my family comes to visit I wish that I could take them on a train and show them all my favorite spots of the city but instead I had to fight traffic and deal with expensive parking and make it to half the places I want to see.

One thing I hate about living near Atlanta is the constant traffic jams. A lot could be relieved by expanding roads and highways and/or adding more dual left turn lanes. I'm all in favor of a comprehensive transportation system as long as it doesn't involve expansion of public transportation, ie: MARTA.

Make Cobb County let the commuter trains come through going all the way up to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

We NEED mass transit out to the suburbs, these long commutes aren't helping anyone. Imagine the about of traffic we can cut down by expanding the Marta lines. We are bigger than DC, as big as NYC and both have great mass transit systems. When will someone realize it's time for Atlanta to do the same?

We need more rail system throughout metro atlanta

PLEASE - bring rail transit to Cobb county.

This is a very big priority. The metro counties must come together to expand rail transportation to the suburbs.

Transit Comments

Invest more in mass transit, specifically rail that serves densely populated areas that people want to go to.

This is a MUST HAVE. I travel all over the country for work and seeing the transportation other major cities have is embarrassing, Atlanta has horrible transit.

Build a regional comprehensive transportation system , not more highways

This is extremely important. Last time I used Marta it took me longer than it would have if I had driven. Also, I don't want to get stuck in another snow jam again. We can't effectively move the people we have around now.

Quick rail from Griffin to Buckhead including all stops between and the airport.

I think an extensive network of streetcar and feeder bus lines could support this concept. I would LOVE to be able to park my vehicle and hop a streetcar or bus to run errands. The key, and this is something MARTA doesn't "get", is frequency. If we can throw away the schedules, transit becomes must more tenable.

The MARTA heavy rail system that we already have is a good starter system. But we need additional lines to Cobb and Gwinnett County, as well as links to Emory University and around the Perimeter. At some point, I'd like to see a Circle Line (a la London or Madrid) connecting the various MARTA spokes.

Expanding the MARTA train system would be an excellent idea with hubs leaving Marietta (and other suburbs) and express lines to the airport.

Expanding MARTA's rail system is one of the best ways to ease vehicular congestion on streets. The easier it is for people to get to more destinations in other ways besides a car, the less people are in them! Also, add protected bike lanes on busy streets!

Atlanta is far behind other large and similarly sized cities when it comes to public transportation. Lets make this a priority! Greater walkability will never happen without an improved public transportation system. More lines, more stations, extended reach, transit oriented planning around station, etc.

Atlanta has consistently put transportation on the back burner. We are a huge, developing city with some of the worst traffic in the nation. Yet our public transportation system consists of buses (clogging traffic more) and an extremely minimal MARTA system. When are we going to start putting money into expanding the MARTA around Atlanta? We took out the one lane that encouraged carpooling and replaced it with the "peach pass" lane. Why does the money from the "peach pass" not go to creating a more sustainable public transportation system?

Transit Comments

public transportation that is reliable and actually goes somewhere. Preferably downtown AND the suburbs (I currently work downtown but it would take me an hour to get to the nearest marta station which makes marta pointless for me)

I have been riding MARTA for 7 years. I do NOT own a car and I don't bike. People like me need more buses and less wait time at train stations.

The current transit system in Atlanta is tragic! If this doesn't change, people won't want to live here. No one wants to spend hours of their lives everyday stuck in traffic or waiting on MARTA to show up (sometimes it doesn't). Please fix this soon!

Atlanta needs a more efficient form of transportation. Marta is not convenient.

MARTA does pretty well for not receiving any state funds. I applaud the new revenue-generating plans like selling real-estate rights above stations and improving its perception in order to increase rider-ship. Likewise, the efforts of the Atlanta streetcar are excellent and I hope to see phase II implemented and maybe even more phases that would go beyond downtown and midtown into Buckhead or Sandy Springs.

Growing the private backing of Atlanta's mass transit is imperative, but I would also be open to more public funds being devoted. Development should spring up around mass transit rather than high ways, so extending MARTA into less developed and developing areas would be optimal.

To me, this is the highest priority. All this surface street driving is killing us! We need dedicated HOV lanes on I-75 and I-575 for buses. We also need an expressway between I-75 and I-85 on the northside, above GA-20--an outer loop. We need Marta to extend up GA-400 to Exit 14.

Having choices is the major point here. MARTA rail serves very few destinations even within the city of Atlanta, and I would categorize the bus system as "extremely unreliable." I sincerely wish that a car-free or 'low-car' lifestyle was possible within the city/region, but sadly it is far from manageable.

Take into consideration the strategic location of Atlanta as the Transport hub of the Piedmont Atlantic region and consider high speed rail as a viable transportation option. At minimum incorporating light rail within the region will help Atlanta compete with other major cities.

This city needs diversity in transit if we plan to be competitive later this century. As the walking trail on the beltline has spurred growth and development, access to reliable and sustainable transit will also create positive growth.

Transit Comments

A rail system in which you can actually use to get to multiple areas within the city - not just north/south access. And not more wasteful trolley car/tourist use transport.

Moratorium on road building. More roads will only mean more vehicles, sprawl, pollution, and will not improve commuting. Moratorium may induce an end to sprawling development and spur development in existing locales to increase the density. We need trains, not highways. This is the 21st century, not 1955 when we lacked an interstate system. Trains, trains, trains.

While I would love to see better recreation and healthy quality of life institutions, including grocery and other retail shops I have to acknowledge that for my community, transportation needs (getting to work every day) outweigh arts and recreation.

It's also past time for the state to step in support mass transit

we must have an integrated public transit system with options for residents and visitors to move thruout the metro area w/o depending on cars.

Atlanta proper and downtown district is a destination point from early A.M (5:30am to 5:300 til late eveing only during the 5-day workweek. All transportation corridors are heavily congested as well as all surrounding corridors. Commuting to Atlanta is horrendous and iscourages people from attending social events. MARTA is limited and not accessible to everyone.

I recommend focused development boundaries around areas of existing infrastructure. Recruit new companies to existing rail lines. Consider outlawing greenfield developments - we have enough parking lots, blighted industrial sites and underutilized areas in Atlanta that we don't really need to build "out" any more. Plus, the benefit of this is that it keeps the suburban areas at their current population, which their infrastructure is built for. A win-win!

Existing Rail Road Trains lines connected into a central hub connecting to the existing subway and bus lines. Future should include expansion of the subway system through out metro Atlanta.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT ITEM TO DEAL WITH - MASS TRANSIT IS A SMALL PART OF THE SOLUTION

Good public transportation is a must in order for all the other things to work. It needs to pick up in proper locations and travel to where people want and need to go.

The MSA needs light rail to the counties like Cobb - either exiating lines or a monorail dn the center of the interstate.

I have been taking public transportation since GRTA started. I think more people would use it if there were more busses and closer intervals. Railyystem or busses with their own bus lane (instead of the mostly clogged expensive HOT lane) would be great.

Transit Comments

Ease of commute will bring more educated workforce and economic growth for residents and businesses.

Failing to expand the use of mass transit both inside the perimeter and outside will result in blight. Consider the solution implemented in Bogata Columbia:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cU6ImWY4IBc>

Rail that goes everywhere and/or streetcars that do the same, particularly from the suburbs. This would cut down on congestion and pollution.

We need the Beltline train ASAP as well as additional MARTA routes

From hearings in the Sandy Springs/Alpharetta area, Planners representing "Heavy Rail" , bus, and highway folk don't seem to work together as they ought

What has someone been smoking ?? Atlanta and Delta don't want any competition coming in, re. a new, smaller airport. See what happened to SW Airlines 10 or so years ago when they wanted in. The railroads don't want any passenger trains on their tracks (the pride railroads used to take in their passenger service , such as The Broad way Limited, the California Zephyr, etc. is forgotten history nowadays). We're told by "leaders" that any increase in gasoline taxes (to pay for road repairs and to fix bridges) is bad (all taxes are bad, apparently , as are tolls - no more Rte. 400 tolls), etc.

Everyone wants to drive, but no one wants to pay. A "comprehensive transport system" as a concept might hold some appeal in another country, or maybe some other state. Here, just look at how many people in North Fulton County even ride the bus !!

Public Transportation is key to the success of Atlanta!

I disagree w/ the premise that this is about "Developing" walkable, vibrant Nhoods. How about supporting those here now and those emerging w/ better amenities and Transit and alt mode choices -- making them stronger and more compelling

Atlanta is going to HAVE to start looking more seriously at mass transit instead of putting such a large percentage into roads. Roads are nice, but people need a quick reliable way to get to work thru mass transit. The present MARTA system needs money from the state to grow an expand the system in the way it needs to be expanded. It also needs to get and keep good, knowledgeable and honest management in place in order to do this. DO NOT let the same problems come to pass that have in prior decades with such gross waste and mismanagement.

Transit Comments

Absolutely the most critical component that affects our future growth (rather than causing a decline). Transportation options are necessary region-wide, or people will start leaving the region in favor of more long-term decision-making. Most notably, our transit system is dismal. Not only should it accommodate intra-city transportation, but it should also provide commuter services outside the major employment centers.

i joke about this...metro atlanta and other systems that service the area took the worst of the other system's mistakes. marta needs to work with the other systems in the area to make it easier as well. marta does not seem care about working with the other systems

with children, bringing them in for sporting events is fun for them. however, public transportation to/from areas such as turner field make it a hassle

We need an affordable mass transit that will cover the metro and get people out of their cars.

This should include bicycling and mass transit. This is NOT about building more highways - we already have more of them than we can afford to maintain.

I commute at least 2-3 hrs a day to go to job 25 miles from my house. The amt of time I spend on the bus or in my car is affecting my mental and physical health. We must get fast rail up 75 N to Cobb county. It is outrageous that anyone would spend 16 + hrs on the bus after 1-2" of snow. If I could find a job closer to home, I would take \$10,000 cut in my salary so I didn't have this awful commute.

Atlanta will never be a great city without investing in some alternative transportation like a more comprehensive subway system that ALL residents can use. Let's not build it up to be like New York City in terms of buildings without also putting in the infrastructure that NYC built!!!!

A system of mass transit that help people travel through the city without the need for cars.

Why has Marta not considered an elevated train or a monorail to minimize land use impact.

Marta must have more spokes!

Ask any 5th grader how he or she would efficiently transport huge numbers of people across an expansive area, the answer would be "MASS TRANSIT"not more roads & bridges!! Why can't educated adults understand that? The State of Georgia transportation department is clearly out of touch with this region's transportation need. How long has China had mass transit? Send a coalition to China instead of New York to see real world possibilities.

Transit Comments

Stop dependence on cars and polluting individualized transport. Transform the city with affordable public transportation that serves all sectors of the city.

Stop building and widening roads. Focus on alternative transportation and prioritize a network of multi-use trails. MARTA trains should be extended to all metro counties.

There is nothing comprehensive about the transportation system when:

-no proper waiting area all over the metropolitan city for patrons to sit...often standing in grass, when it rains there is mud and the areas for waiting for the bus and there is not a strong connection system from area to area.

-taking buses off of main streets in neighborhoods i.e. Benjamin E.Mays Dr. between Beecher and Lynhurst Dr.& Tuckawana Dr. SW. The weekend wait time for a bus...is awful.

expand rail transit and invest less in highways

Atl should lead the Nation by designing a separate self driving commuter automobile System for the short term and an express light rail system for the long term.

including and prioritizing rail development to serve existing development

Present auto traffic is discouraging business development. get rid of the STUPID hot lane instead of affordable lite rail systems

I live on the south side of Atlanta. If you don't have a car, you can't get anywhere. Yes, there is GRTA; but you need a car to get to the park n rides to get the bus. Also it only runs during rush hour. There is no public transportation during the day here.

We have worst traffic in the nations. we need more public buses and trains. Expending highways and roads is not the answer we need good public transportation.

change Marta to CTS comprehensive transp sys which includes other counties. merge GRTA and other systems into the comprehensive system.

I live in Gwinnett. I took Marta to downtown for work. The negative experiences I encountered are too long to list...the last day before I started on the Discover Mills bus I caught a hand in my purse...he ran off when I grabbed his hand. I watched them take a survey on the Marta car I was in when they were trying to promote Marta in the outlying counties...they didn't survey one anigo saxon in that car. It's time to stop gearing everything we do for people in the community based on a specific nationality and/or race. If this doesn't change we're going to see a reverse in the future of our country for the worse.

Transit Comments

We **MUST** expand mass transportation options to move people. Looking at the fact that the Metro in DC and BART were both created at the same time as MARTA shows how woefully behind we are on providing transportation options that people feel safe using.

We need one that follows the old railroad system going from the south of Georgia to the North. So that commuters can hop on the train and commute to any location, without worry. MARTA is fine, however it is limited to the Atlanta area only and is not very accessible nor could it really be made so the way it is now.

While I think this is important, you also need to change the perception about public transportation. Atlantans have not been receptive in the past at the thought of giving up their cars. I know, I'm just as guilty.

HOV lanes which extend beyond the perimeter.

MARTA well up into Cobb county.

Stop promoting anything that propagates automobile dominance- promote bicycling, transit and walking

By comprehensive trans plan I **DONT** mean transit, just a better road system.

Expand MARTA to where people actually live. Buses are not the answer. Trains/subway is! MARTA thru cobb county, up to Mall of GA. and East West connect the north suburbs

You can't build enough express ways we must have rapid transit. However Marta needs a redo. Customer friendly, reliable and using the most economical ways of moving people.

Better mass transportation is needed. I previously lived in a city that expanded mass transit. It was better place when I left than when I moved there 13 years before.

After being in NYC this past weekend, I was again reminded that Atlanta will always lag until we create a real transit system that works for all Atlantans.

Atlanta's suburban counties need to get over their fera of public transportation and help to develop a regional rail system linking Atlanta and smaller cities in the 10 plus county area. Until that happens, Atlanta will never reach its economic potential.

mass transit

We need better public transportation, monorail system instead of underground, need 18 wheelers to have their own roadway, need better maintained roads. This should be funded by toll roads as many other states are doing this and able to create and maintain good quality systems.

Transportation, specifically traffic, is by far worst problem. Used to ride MARTA but too inefficient, hard to use if use infrequently.

Transit Comments

Allow the HighRoad rapid transit system to be built. Its financing plan is reasonable, low cost, and sustainable without taxes. Its performance exceeds that of MARTA. Call 404-683-1331

Commuting into the city from Smyrna is ok for now, but with the Braves moving to Cobb I am very concerned. Traffic in the city is horrible all around, and I was sad to see so much money being used on a seemingly useless downtown "trolley" that only tourists will use, versus providing traffic improvements for Atlanta residents. The trolley will only add to the downtown congestion, as now two lane roads have been converted to one lane. GSU and Capitol traffic downtown in combination with constant movie filming and construction traffic adds about 15-20 minutes to my commute for about 1 mile of travel. Something really needs to be improved here!

We need a system like NYC that will allow everyone in the Metro to go anywhere in the metro area by mass transit.

Decide on transit funding and build first class system

Bring Marta to Cobb, Gwinnett, and Clayton and encourage development to take advantage of it

I use Amtrac and bus to travel all over the country. I meet many business people who do the same to avoid cost, confusion and delays of planes. Our bus and Amtrac stations are a disgrace, presenting a most negative picture of Atlanta. As our population increases, gas prices rise and highways clog, we need better transportation choices. The Greyhound bus to Charlotte, Nc has many daily riders. Charlotte has a lovely bus/train station; Greenville, Nc has a large, beautiful one as does dozens of other small cities w/one bus and train terminal. Our two are a joke. If you don't agree, I invite you to visit them. Lura Smith, 678-6426790. Thank you.

Hard decisions must be faced if the transportation needs of the Region are to realistically be addressed. The Interstates can be widened with exponentially increasing costs. New roads were ruled out in the mid 80's. The State Highway Department (non-DOT) can't accept the benefits of commuter rail (due to monetary support of the road construction, rubber tire lobby, etc.). Once an acceptable level of congestion is reached, businesses/workers will move elsewhere. Without substantially improved transit to the Atlanta CBD, quality business development will move to the suburbs at an increasing rate [taxing all infrastructure systems].

Transportation, including mass transit in outlying areas will be a major block to growth unless addressed now

At present, Atlanta public transportation is one of the worst in the country

Transit Comments

We need to ensure mobility for all ages and abilities as well as freight. A stronger focus should be on transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities

Gwinnett County needs to have more buses and trains running throughout the region that allows for "ample" travel times. This MUST include weekend services. As of now, it takes a minimum of three hours to travel from Lawrenceville into Atlanta via public transportation with the first two hours being just traveling through Gwinnett County alone. This is absolutely ridiculous!!! Not to mention, not having the option of weekend services (except very limited service from Sugarloaf Mall) to travel into metro Atlanta. This does not allow the non-driving citizens (or those who do drive and prefer to use public transportation as an option) the ability to attend such events as the GA Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola, sporting events, etc...on the weekends. For those who do have the access to #10 on Saturdays, would still have to leave events early in order to make it back before the last bus stops running. This is preventing a lot of residents the abilities to do more recreational things with their families on the weekends including something as simple as attending a movie. There are a lot of events and options for the residents of Gwinnett County to also within the county, but not having the option to attend because of limited transportation is a very frustrating thing. Please reconsider this option very strongly. Thanks.

Develop programs that house the homeless. Hire more social workers to help make transitions more accessible to those in need. Look to other countries and states who treat their homeless with dignity, or do not have a homeless issue, and ask why?

We need to find ways to help people transition from homelessness to a stable life. Peachtree-Pine Shelter is a good example of how it should not be done. Every time I ride by, there's a drug deal going on in broad daylight. It has a huge negative effect on the neighborhood.

Homelessness is a huge barrier to economic development. If homeless people were diverted from Downtown Atlanta's streets into a transitional, healthy environment that focused on training and education, I think increased property taxes and corporate taxes would more than offset the investment made by the City/Region. This is a REGIONAL issue, and the City of Atlanta shouldn't have to carry the cost burden.

Making it harder to find parking will keep the drivers away. BUILD RAILS to communities.

Transit Comments

Cars are choking our communities. Transit needs to be our #1 priority and that means LESS CARS. Support MARTA at the state level, and explore funding new transit options that are for residents, not just tourist attractions like the street car

cycling, mass transit, walking - all of these alternatives to cars should be prioritized

More public transit. Less cars.

We have enough parking. We need better short-distance transit, like light rail.

Find ways to let people park in church parking lots between the hours of 6-6 for a buck. Encourage ridesharing and use of MARTA.

This is at least important in the short term when there are no convenient or reasonable mass transit options.

More public transport and bike to connect neighborhoods and get around the city.

Again, a no brainer. Get people out of their cars. More rail. More transit.

IT ALREADY IS! I have lived in Boston - try parking there! Ha! That is why you do not drive - you are encouraged to walk, bike, use transit by having limited parking options. We have more than enough parking and need to rid this city of ridiculous surface parking lots!

Reduce the need for public parking by providing better transit alternatives.

public parking should be easily available, but not at the expense of walkability. Emphasize on-street parking. Locate larger decks (and parking lots) at the periphery of high-density areas. Enhance connectivity for bikes, pedestrians, and transit. Encourage drop-off/pick-up areas. Don't be afraid to charge for parking.

too much preservation will limit our ability to create density needed for transit.

transit >> parking

Have public parking decks with ground floor retail or restaurants. Include a pre-paid MARTA pass with every paid parking visit. Put lots in places where people can walk to multiple things such as parks, stores and restaurants.

This encourages driving and discourages walking and public transit.

Rail network and streetcar.

Yes, in that existing neighborhoods that offer low-income residents walkability and transit access should be protected from predatory developments. No, in that density in the city as a whole, and especially around transit lines, should be increased.

Transit Comments

Commuter rail service from the outer suburbs to Downtown Atlanta. From locales such as Dalton, Alpharetta, Athens, Covington, Macon, and Columbus. Using the center of the already existing interstates. No more lanes, more rail.

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Possible future expansion to Birmingham, Chattanooga, Augusta, and Charlotte.

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Possible future expansion to Birmingham, Chattanooga, Augusta, and Charlotte.

Within the city, expand the PATH network. While the Beltline is a good start as the "rim", "spokes" need to be built as well. Along the existing Marta lines, esp. To Decatur, and existing RR lines.

Parking should be easy but not cheap. It is the cheap parking is why many residents don't use public transportation

It would be better to improve public transit and walkability so that public parking was less necessary

None of this Park Atlanta garbage or LAZ park. Their abuse and gauging is unapologetic and the city is to blame. If parking was simplified or other modes of transit were widely available (besides buses, nobody rides those) then places likely midtown would receive double the daily visitors.

Because the public transit station is not adequate enough, combined with the fact that Atlanta should be accessible to residents in its neighboring suburbs, some parking should be available. Particularly near Marta stations.

If Marta stations were just a little closer then this would be possible. They wouldn't have to be large stations but simple platforms would do.

Especially critical to this solution is that alternative methods of transportation are RELIABLE. Traditional bus service is still subject to the same traffic congestion as POVs and is almost always running later than scheduled. Investment in increased rail transit service, or BRT at the very least, will be much more effective toward this goal.

Transit Comments

New residential development in centrally-located, mixed-use areas with access to transit should not be limited to "luxury" apartments and expensive condos. This was extremely frustrating about moving to this city.

There is already too much parking in the inner city, and it disrupts walkability and transit access in the urban environment. Provide alternative methods of transportation before increasing parking/encouraging more people to drive.

depends on the environment - in areas with transit access, should not be easily available

Although I've often been frustrated by Atlanta's parking situation, free parking would reduce demand for good public transit.

absolutely not. There is already an oversupply of parking that encourages far too many people to drive vs using transit and walking.

This 'No' is to be seen in connection to providing better public transportation.

we need trains, trains, trains. changes will have to arrive.

How about making it more easily available and more affordable. Or forget more parking and invest in better PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

This will only decrease recognition of the need to support better public transportation.

As much as I get upset when enough parking space has not been provided, this is a short term solution. Rather than spending 100's of thousands for parking, I would think the money would be better spent in public transportation modes

We should invest more in parking decks rather than sprawling parking lots, particularly around MARTA Stations and in downtown. This should include automated parking systems.

when making a neighborhood vibrant and 'walkable,' this should not even be on the list. Again, get people out of their cars and walking. People are by nature way more likely to walk into a store when walking by compared to when driving by. Instead of making public parking available, make sure that the neighborhood is easily accessible by trails, paths, bike lanes/corridors, bus route, and mass transit. My overriding theme, MOVE AWAY FROM THE CAR! ;-)

I got my catalytic converter stolen at the North Springs Marta parking and they wouldn't do a damn about it. Make the parking secure!

You won't get people walking and using public transit if you continue to act like parking is a giant priority. It is not. So many great cities function without it.

Transit Comments

**Get rid of Park Atlanta, minimize number of parking garages.
Improve public transportation, make safe bike lanes**

Perhaps if this 'Regional Commission' was think outside of it's pants you all would realize the transit system doesn't work - and bringing more cars is not the answer - but it is a sure way to pay yourselves millions and get very little done.

If you can't find a parking space, you think about taking other forms of transit

If we make public parking too easy, it'll encourage more people to simply drive around rather than reduce car congestion and take advantage of the walkability/bikeability/public transit-friendly infrastructure.

Only where it serves public transportation. For example, look at all the paid parking at MARTA on the RED line. It's hardly used. Make that free and expand on it to encourage ridership!

Make the public transportation for affordable and available in all regions of the state

We should continue to provide transportation between counties, mass transit to and from all surrounding counties

**MASS TRANSIT!!!!
EXPANDED BUS ROUTES!!!!**

Again, Atlanta needs to have an extensive mass transit system connecting to the other major cities in GA, e.g., Savannah, Augusta, Macon, etc.

I think this takes away from public transport. How many people go to games and concerts using Marta, that wouldn't if they could park easily?

I don't think finding parking is an issue now, so I don't see why we should focus on it, particularly if we focus on expanding public transit.

Every major MARTA station should have free parking - should have a place for pick-ups so that bus pick-ups are not blocked when buses are servicing their passengers as in the Civic Center MARTA station, Xpress buses and the others cannot pick up their paying passengers because of all the cars that pull up and park along the sides. The paying passengers are made late because of this and it causes accidents. Get busy Atlanta, do what you're supposed to do. If you can't handle what's set up now, how will changing make it any better?

The need for parking would decrease if there were more access to effective public transit. Creating increased parking also encourages the use of cars. The more inconvenient driving is, the less people will want to drive.

People should have incentives to not use their cars whenever possible. Safe bike routes, walkable communities, better mass-transit.

Transit Comments

Light rails have been discussed; the Beltway project is underway and there is a very limited route street car route being built.

This is public transportation - we have it! Does it need to be better supported and better managed -YES!

Edgewood Retail has plenty of public parking. It was supposed to be a walkable mixed-use development, but the parking lots dominate the place, and pedestrians have to be constantly alert to the crush of cars moving through it. More parking just discourages transit alternatives.

viable transit is far better in the long run. Disincentive for parking is better.

not as necessary with good public transportation

When mass transit isn't a feasible option due to low densities, explore other options for folks w/out cars

This one is tricky. One of the biggest challenges we have are all the cars. The more we can provide areas and option that don't require cars the better off we'll be. That's why living in town is so good. You can walk or use public transportation to get places. You don't have to get into traffic. Find ways to encourage people to use public transportation to get into Atlanta on Marta. The free ride on the subway was a good start. Partner with some of the best advertising agencies to come up with creative solutions to problems. They're marketing minds aren't tapped enough with these problems. Give them all the facts and let them brainstorm.

We need more and better public transportation

Yes to adding transit options for getting to jobs from outside the city - No to additional projects like the downtown trolley.

If public transportation was more efficient and convenient, more parking wouldn't be needed.

parking availability will just encourage people to drive everywhere. Transit- trains are the answer.

No public transportation in PTC, please!

While big public parks are important, so are small neighborhood parks make sure there are plenty of them near where people love and work, also use parks and playgrounds as joint facilities for schools and the community

More bicycle and public transportation infrastructure. Connect Atlanta Bicycle Plan and streetcar/Beltline integration plan

The problem isn't parking, it's driving. Walkable neighborhoods connected by rapid, clean, dependable transit removes the need to drive and makes walking and biking safer and more appealing (no more breathing exhaust while getting buzzed by drivers).

Develop heavy rail plan to connect suburbs and exurbs to central metro hub(s)

Transit Comments

As a region we need commuter rail. We could be so much more/better than we are. I know the politics behind it, I know it's not likely to happen in my lifetime, but I still hold a glimmer of hope that maybe.

Buses, yes, but only if they use natural clean gas or solar energy. Better to use smaller, more frequent local buses connecting major transportation hubs.

Expand the MARTA light rail system within the Atlanta Metro area in order to reduce the need for as many vehicles on the road. Create more stations to make taking the subway system more convenient. Expand the system outside of 285 so it makes more areas accessible. Especially in areas such as Cobb and Gwinnett counties where a large amount of the population lives.

Traffic is already insane. Adding more lanes will only increase the accidents. A mass transit system will help solve the traffic problem while encouraging the community to venture out.

Ridiculous that a city as large as Atlanta and its surrounding regions quibble about mass transit. Get it together, and stop making Atlanta a laughing stock regarding mass transportation!

Force MARTA to relinquish their hold on the fares for transfers to other services.

No way! Rail is the way. Add the rail lines and the drives will switch. Don't give them more incentive to continue driving every day!!!

Transportation is VERY important expanding bus service and trains is essential instead of what happened when it snowed in February 2014.

NO! The minute the suburbs have access to downtown on transit for jobs, the urbans have equal access to rob, rape, pilfer and menace us in our own neighborhoods. Let them stay downtown, I will drive.

The Clifton Corridor is the most obvious place for this to happen. It needs to be put at the top of the list for any transportation plan for these reasons: 1) it is one of the largest employment hubs in the city; 2) there are people who already take transit when they can; 3) there are MANY people who would actually start taking mass transit if it were conveniently available and actually faster than driving (which wouldn't be hard for a train). It's a slam dunk success story and is overdue by about 20 years.

Bingo!!! ,if you can achieve it. I got old waiting for light train connection between Marta stations and Emory,-CDC corridor. If you put it on the ballot any of thiagain, it will be voted down ,because people will look their narrow interests first. Atlanta needs one bold individual or entity, which can rise above fry and start moving things.

Transit Comments

How about one bus service company, instead of little fiefdoms, with enough buses feeding existing and expanding underground or above ground trains, with no more of 10 min between departures, like in all big modern cities of the world. If Atlanta wants to be world class city, ditch parochial mentality including addiction to the car. And bite the bullet of the cost to achieve that. In other words grow up, but not in size, as in maturity. And how about novel idea, that the metro Atlanta become one city with one government and one mayor. Last winter first ice storm showed the true malfunction of the present system. And we want more cities, more local government, more people in charge of small entities in disregard about everybody around. Without coordination i.e. nobody is in charge when big thing happen.

We need a rail system that connects shopping, education centers & recreation. It needs to be pervasive, not just to job centers.

What about rail??

I have a MARTA station across the street from my office in Dunwoody, but there is no reasonable way to use it to travel from my home in Duluth.

I know people that bike to work with what infrastructure we already have. I support this if it is comparable transportation investment compared to other modes of transit.

More lanes encourage more traffic. People will only use public transit when the cost (time+money) of using their cars becomes prohibitive. This can be seen by comparing ATL to other major cities. It has been confirmed in studies. The history of ATL supports this idea as well.

Desperately need rail in Gwinnett county and across the top end

I think the belt line should be completed and external trails outside of the beltline connected to the beltline like spokes on a wheel.

Expand MARTA with light rail directly connecting in-town neighborhoods, and extending wherever it is welcomed in the outer counties.

The additional lanes need to be "free" no tolls which does not work on the north commute although the press releases say it does, they do not travel that route daily to watch the bottlenecks and arrogant commuter buses that exists now.

This project should be mirrored after the DC Metro system, spent 11 years traveling there and used their mass transit for business and pleasure needs due to the many stations centrally located for the area.

If transit were improved we would not need more lanes

Emory University, Emory University Hospital, and the CDC are not connected via rail. Also, Clifton Rd is in desperate need of repaving.

Transit Comments

Like the idea of rail, but not crazy about buses.

There is no reason light rail can't run down the center of I-20 in each direction.

Buses are the way to go. Once rail is laid i cannot change.
Buses can be rerouted.

One state transit system would be the way to go. State funding to MARTA, it is a huge economic engine for the state!

This is not a way to encourage the use of mass transit, and the resources that would be devoted to this could be used to create transportation options.

Research shows that expanding/creating new roads just leads to more traffic. The focus needs to be on transportation alternatives (biking, buses, trains,etc) NOT adding more traffic.

BRT sucks.

Better public transport is a must for Atlanta. The current MARTA train and bus schedules have too few options

Better public transport is a must for Atlanta. The current MARTA train and bus schedules have too few options. For train and bus, we need more routes, and more frequent service.

Buses are great, but waiting outside in the ATL heat is no fun...
MARTA RAILS is the way!

look at 285... there's plenty of lanes... it's a death trap.
It's like driving in a third world country , no signs, left and right exits...

MARTA IN TH E BURBS!!!! Imagine getting on the train and seeing people in suits, college kids, elderly, teenagers, families, all income workers all at once living and breathing life into the community on the MARTA, now I go and it's empty and scary as there are no people around.

YES! We need rail to expand to the burbs and all parts of ATL.
IMMEDIATELY, please look at the BOSTON model. It's amazing!

Rail? Hell no! Why is the answer to every question "Mass transit"? Rail is a billion-dollar boondoggle that does NO good when demographics change years down the road. You can't move rail! You think busses are so wonderful? Let private bus firms transport people if that's needed. Bus lines can move/reposition.

MARTA must be firced on Cobb and Gwinett by the State.

MARTA must also be built to follow major interstates with spurs to major entertainment areas

clayton needs help for
people to get to jobs. have more express buses

Rail Only.

I would prefer to see an expansion of rail transit instead of bus service. Especially when thinking about how to bring folks from the suburbs into the city for work.

Transit Comments

Really? Y'all can't seriously be entertaining this as an option. If the population is going to continue to grow, we will be building new roads and adding lanes forever. It'll never end. Instead we need to be getting cars off the road and making way for rail, buses and bike lanes.

The single lane transitions of I-75 and I-20 and other major change points are well overdue for correction

Heavy rail transit should be built to expand the MARTA system. Bus rapid transit is just a bus!

We must expand RAIL services, including high speed rail. Buses can be used to support, but not the main focus of expanding regional transportation problems.

Unless we want Charlotte to continue to act like they are in the same league as us, we need more transit, everywhere.

Light and heavy rail build out is more important in the short term. Bus is useful for last mile connectivity, but not as much of a priority.

expand marta rail lines into Gwinnett and Cobb counties and create a rail belt line

This is the most important transportation solution. A truly comprehensive metro/subway system will solve most of the transportation issues of the future.

Trains should be the predominant regional transport.

How are there so few MARTA bus routes on the Clifton corridor?!?!?

Rail systems WITHIN the perimeter should be a number 1 priority to encourage smart growth and to facilitate urban living

Rail needs expanded greatly.

The bus system has a serious image problem, and I would rather see an emphasis on the streetcar as opposed to the bus.

Worst idea - adding more lanes will only increase the traffic, not decrease it... <http://bicycleuniverse.info/transpo/roadbuilding-futility.html>

With the near invention of "driverless cars" traffic congestion will hopefully be a thing of the past, but until then, we need to focus on creating alternatives to driving on existing highways, as well as maintaining the current roadways/bridges we have now. Leveraging heavy-rail/high-capacity transit in new and expanded areas/regions as well as providing additional trains/service would ease the congestion .

Stop using taxpayer money to build roads for non-Atlantans and build mass transit!

Transit Comments

Stop using taxpayer money to build roads for non-Atlantans and build mass transit!

Highways should clear the breakdown lane and encourage drivers to use them if exiting at the next exit

Maybe consider taking some of the existing roads and transitioning them to rail

Instead of adding more lanes for cars add more lanes for alternate modes of transportation. Streetcars, bike lanes, walking trails etc. Take for example a street like Howell Mill. An extremely busy two lane road that is a nightmare during rushhour. If one lane on either side was added for a street car and this lane also doubled as a bike path the amount of traffic that would relieve would be incredible. Not to mention it would make this area much more vibrant and walkable.

Whatever happens with rail will have to work with the streetcar and MARTA. One big cohesive system!

This is by far the most important thing Atlanta needs to do so succeed in the coming years. Millenials like myself simply hate driving and love rapid transit. It's better for the environment, it's cheaper, it reduces drunk driving, it's safer than driving down the freaking connector.

This is by far the most important thing Atlanta needs to do to succeed in the coming years. Millenials like myself simply hate driving and love rapid transit. It's better for the environment, it's cheaper, it reduces drunk driving, it's safer than driving down the freaking connector.

I truly and strongly believe that this will bring about many of the other items on this strategic plan survey naturally, without any effort on the part of the city. Certainly not as well or as effectively as otherwise, but I believe this alone would be a respectable strategic plan.

While this is certainly a good idea for growth, where necessary, we need to focus on getting people out of cars and onto bikes or into rapid transit. Adding more lanes is an easy band-aid for too much traffic, but would be a very poor strategic decision. The long-term solution to traffic is to work to offer other transportation solutions so that traffic is actually reduced, not simply accommodated.

**please no more roadways.
mass transit and bike lanes!**

Extend MARTA! It's reach is severely lacking. Traffic is horrible and adding more lanes doesn't fix the problem.

MORE STATIONS throughout the city will be the only way MARTA has a chance to survive

Transit Comments

New rail is prohibitely expensive. Try bus routes or maybe commuter rail. Better yet, build nice multiuse areas around existing stations,

With google it is very easy to plan bus trips and estimate travel times and routes. Promote this. Also use analytics and nicer busses in areas where you are trying to woo car commuters. A person won't switch from car to bus if the bus is nasty, crowded and uncomfortable. Also keep the dregs of society off public transportation (loud cursing, relieving themselves in clothes, belligerent, etc)

Counties have to coordinate with each other. However bus transit is not enough. We need rail!

We do not need more lanes. We need more rail transit!

This growth cannot be skipped by people who want to focus on Mass Transit. We must grow roads to support commerce.

Add bike and bus lanes, but not more lanes for vehicles. Enforce HOV lanes.

work centers already have both rail and bus routes. Adding more won't effluence more commuters to take these modes of transportation

We need a transit system similar to the London Tube!

A more extensive transit system will go far in connecting the Atlanta region and helping the area to grow as a single community rather than a collection of competing regions.

Atlanta has horrible transit compared to other major cities in the US and around the world. We need to make this better.

These would be great on a community/city basis. Regional connections should be concentrated on rail service.

This will not relieve the traffic congestion, unless there are dedicated bus lanes. Rail lines for a network of commuter rail would be better.

We need to reduce congestion through functional mass transit.

Offer incentives to people who actually use public transit to congested areas like Perimeter Center

Expand Marta train system to all surrounding counties and expand throughout city

RAIL RAIL RAIL RAIL. Atlanta does NOT need more buses on it's roads. This is a city that has a heavy dependence on motor vehicles as it is. When given the choice between a bus or their own personal car, 95% of the time people will always side with their own vehicle. We have to offer BETTER alternatives to the personal vehicle, and rail, as displayed in other world class cities, will do just that.

Atlanta needs to be one metro area like New York city is. We saw this in the snow jam. One area. One mass transit system.

Transit Comments

I think it would be better in the long run to provide better mass transit and find ways to get people to use it.

Create a rapid transit system that goes from Atlanta to Macon to Savannah. Maybe even hit other cities like Athens. This would allow families to spread out more away from the city if they wish to commute to work in another city. Each railroad hub would have shops and restaurants. This would create more jobs and more tourism to places like Savannah (vice versa). You could even build factories (more jobs) that manufacture (more jobs) the construction of the rapid transit system. I still scratch my head on why we don't have a rapid transit system applied to every state. There would be so many jobs created and so much more tourism to neighboring cities. We can learn so much from other countries that have done this for years and come out on top.

We need trains. Simple.

Connect job centers, population centers, and shopping areas with rail. Millennials usually don't own cars - if we want a vibrant innovative workforce, we need to have city infrastructure that will support it. Without that, we'll have a city of retirees and drug dealers.

In my opinion, MARTA rail is the future of Atlanta. This is perhaps the only way to keep a strong enough connection with the suburbs to stop places like John's Creek and Sandy Springs from leaving the city of Atlanta.

Rail is the future, but bus is better for connecting many stops, with fewer passengers.

NO MORE BUSES on non-interstate roads or major roads. There are already a ton of them, they do not fit on existing streets, and they are under-utilized. No one here wants to ride the bus. It has a stigma.

Rail - not bus. Is it hugely expensive? Yes. Does it have the potential to transform the region? Yes. So, it's worth it. Every successful, major, metro area (except for LA) has some sort of useful rail system. Even Charlotte has a better light rail system than we do. MARTA is terrible, but if it were coordinated with proper light rail options in Atlanta that also have connections elsewhere to other regional metro areas then everyone's quality of life would improve, and the city would be an even more attractive place to companies and workers.

Cobb County needs to wake up in the 21st century. This is America and home to the most diverse group of people anywhere. By restricting the movement of certain people to certain places will only leave you behind. Related, transit to coordinate across county lines will tremendously improve the metros growing traffic issues.

I'd ride transit more if it were connected to more parts of the city. Heck, I'd sell my car.

Transit Comments

Rail > Buses

Instead of expanding bus routes I would rather the focus be on expanding our rail (MARTA) lines.

Extremely important, but need to be practical, design for 10 mile commutes with public transportation connection to these areas.

Adding more buses to an already traffic clogged city is not the solution. We need to expand the MARTA around Atlanta and encourage carpooling.

We need rail not more buses

Getting to work should be easier for people who live outside of Fulton county. The current four points on the MARTA rail system isn't nearly enough.

a million times yes!! I would ride MARTA more often if it could take me to work. I work in Riverdale.

This seems to me to be the smartest way to spend tax dollars in a way that will have the biggest long-term impact. Every forward-thinking urban center in the world has an advanced, easily accessible, comprehensive public transit rail transportation system. Atlanta must do the same to remain economically competitive. In short, car traffic in Atlanta is a nightmare that threatens the long-term prosperity of the City.

Need smaller busses. These HUGE MARTA buses that roam our streets too often only have four passengers. Why aren't we using short buses that would be more nimble, provide more options for transit, and would be more affordable?

Train stations should be more densely concentrated so that users can not only travel from neighborhood to neighborhood but within the neighborhoods.

transit needs to adequately connect people's homes to people's work. This is more than just making job centers a transit hub, the transit has to also get people to and from HOME.

You can't be a big city without transit. It's about 30 years past time for rail in Cobb!!!

Rail out to the suburbs!

Do more to encourage ride sharing, van pooling and light rail first.

This shouldn't just be major job centers. Without "less major" connection points, high capacity transit can't readily be used by residents

More lanes is not the solution. The more lanes, the more merging ensues, and the slower the traffic is. Either invest in mass transit or innovative ways to improve high-way speed like the "Slow down to get there faster" idea.

The division of counties has greatly contributed to Atlanta's sprawl and inability to form an effective mass transit system. Merging county services is an excellent idea.

Transit Comments

Don't think this will be necessary if more efficient and effective public transit is added.

There is irrefutable evidence that widening lanes makes transit worse, not better.

Also, coordinate high capacity transit to also serve existing and future medium- and high-density residential development.

need some kind of extended rail system to the north all directions

Your question is too limited. You need to coordinate bus service with MARTA and other possible light rail. You may even want to consider monorails in some districts and potentially adding more streets to create a grid system.

Focus on expanding other forms of transit like light rail and heavy rail

Please! Enough with the concrete and asphalt. We do not need to pave our community to make it prosperous. Provide transit links (other than roads) and people will be able to get out of their cars!

It depends. If the bridge serves bikes, pedestrians and public transportation infrastructure, then I would support repairing and maintaining them. But roads and bridges that only serve automobiles are not ones I want to see given top priority.

MARTA has a lot of potential. The future lies in public transportation. Expand on it.

There needs to be more focus placed on light rail and rail systems. The region is continuing to grow and there is only so much capacity you can get out of adding more lanes.

Busses get stuck in the same traffic that cars do, plus they have to make regular stops. I'd rather see BRT or rail.

There are several parts of the city that I won't go because of the traffic. Rail or BRT could make those areas accessible.

Avoid spending money on wasteful, unsustainable, rail systems.

Roads are already too big. We need alternative transit options.

People should be less afraid of rapid transit making it's way further out. It's necessary. We have to many people in this city. This is the best solution. Better rapid transit. Less pollution, more jobs and I would spend a little extra to make sure it's monitored and safe.

By increasing train service and EFFICIENCY as well as affordability, more train commuters would mean less need to expand roads.

Transit Comments

Public transit is the way of the future as our cities grow. Especially in places like Atlanta with this massive sprawl we have, I think a re-marketing and designing new lines and types of services for train or light rail service will prove very useful in the future. The millenials are VERY public transit friendly and even WANT it. We don't like long commutes, some of us don't drive at all. But we do care about efficiency and overall travel times. We;d rather ride our bikes than sit in car traffic, but if we can catch a light rail for part of the ride (especially in the heat of summer or cold of winter!) we most definitely will! Therefore efficient but affordable public transit will be the future. Plus its FAR more environmentally friendly, which we also care about. Lets build it now!

Bus service is inadequate (with aging buses). Many commuters do not use service so more should be done to get riders.

More lanes and paid lanes are NOT the answer. Better transportation options (rail) to connect counties would better serve.

Rail transit to outlying counties (i.e. Cobb and Cherokee and Gwinnett) would reduce much traffic, more so than extra lanes.

Why don't we have one Regional Carrier instead of Marta, CCT, Gwinnett Transit that will coordinate this type of undertaking. Whoops that is to obvious

More rail!!!!

near empty buses impede traffic

We need commuter rail services, pronto. The air quality in Atlanta is not good. We need to breathe to live. Forget buses. We need rapid rail commuter trains.

We have to stop thinking as individual counties and more as a regional center, a metropolitan city. Let's start thinking of the bigger picture. If public transportation isn't extended past DeKalb and Fulton counties, there will be too many cars on the roads causing more lengthy commutes and possible a loss in tourism revenues.

We need a functional subway system comparable to NYC and DC Metro. The traffic in metro Atlanta is horriffic and makes the work day a chore to arrive/ depart from. Work/life balance would be much better if we had a way to commute around the city from outside counties. Ex. Gwinnett County offers buses to Downtown Atlanta but not to the Perimeter area. My highest traffic congestion is on 285 to spagetti junction. We need alternatives to ease the traffic ASAP. I voted for the tax to improve transit that was not approved.

TRAINS TRAINS TRAINS. There should be no additional discussion of transportation growth in Atlanta that does not include a comprehensive and far reaching commuter rail system that goes throughout the region. Look to the SF Bay Area, DC, New York, Boston, for ideas.

Transit Comments

To be competitive with Western Europe, and other regions, we will have to have a top notch rail network connecting all of north Ga.

But no rails in the streets and no Street Cars. Rails above or below street or beside streets.

Marta rail service to 85North into Gwinnett stops at Sugarloaf Mills and Mall of GA

Ease of commute using efficient transit systems.

NO - provide road diets and traffic circles instead to calm traffic and encourage bike use and transit use

Rail, not buses should be a priority. Cobb must have rail connecting to Martaa rail system. Current highways are inadequate and adding lanes to highways will not solve bottlenecked interstates. Build a truck by-pass to ATL

NOT buses.. they just crowd the road and make lanes unusable. We need Rapid Transit.

Rail only, buses just add to the already existing road traffic.

Develop a commuter rail system to reduce commuter traffic

As long as we provide more roads and lanes, people will continue to drive. Force them to consider alternatives by providing better public transportation and mass transit option and alternate transportation methods

Develop a MARTA line to the southern region which is one of the fastest growing areas of ATL and is currently served only by Bus

Atlanta has low population density and many widely dispersed employment centers. Ultra-expensive fixed guideway transit cannot meet the needs of a region with low population density and widely dispersed employment centers, and is not a cost-effective use of our limited transportation dollars in this region. - Managed lanes, express buses, revisit GRTA's RTAP

Please revisit GRTA's Regional Transit Action Plan (RTAP). RTAP was the best plan for a comprehensive transit network providing good efficient connectivity throughout the region at a tiny fraction of the cost of Concept 3.

Could have stopped at rail. BRT is still subject to traffic and still relies on fossil fuels at the present moment.

Encourage density in areas where public transportation already exists. Bus rapid transit tends to reinforce segregation

This will NEVER solve the problem, we need a working transit system

We have more than enough roads. The more roads you bill the more people on the road. We must improve public transportation.

We most definitely need better public transportation and access my least favorite but needed until we have a rapid transit that works across the lines.

Transit Comments

This is my second favorite choice. Why don't we take advantage of existing rail lines. Other sites have?

You collect millions of dollars to 'study' transportation - then you never invest in light rail, and you buy giant buses that cost \$1000s a day to carry 3 people. But smaller buses that run more often at peak times, and put in the light rail to locations needed and stop duplicating the existing subway lines. Light rail is not a tourist element, it's for the people who live and work here.

Rail should be the first priority. Increasing buses does not positively impact traffic.

More lanes makes it easier to drive increasing traffic providing no reason to take mass transit

if people want bus service, then they do not need to move to outlying areas that do not have those services & do not want those services offered in that area. if people want buses, they can move to counties that already have them.

Absolutely most important to stimulate the economy. A connected region will open the door for employed individuals to move all over the Atlanta region, not just where they work. The lack of transit is the reason some individuals only live in the area in which they are employed.

Very important key in eliminating our carbon footprints. Bus lines need to be easily accessible and provide transportation throughout the region.

I hate buses! They feel industrial and utilitarian unlike an old trolley which are fun and an enjoyable experience

Money for transit is extremely limited versus the high cost of rail. Given low density in many areas of the region, bus is the best option. ITP may have areas suitable for light rail if combined with density.

Expand rail service across county lines should also be included in the plan.

As feeders to rail, yes. Also, as the "final mile" to homes, yes.

Reduce overall roadways. Repurpose some roads for light rail, MARTA, etc.

BUssiness are branching out to other areas of the city. There is still a hub in Buckhead, Midtown and Downtown areas, but due to the cost of rent and the associated commutes, many businesses have moved out of the city to the more suburban areas; Sandy Springs, Alpharetta, Marietta. Transit should be convenient to all the various neighborhood in the Greater Atlanta area, not just to the "business centers".

This number 1. Many states have great public transportation but certainly not Georgia.

We only seem to "add a lane" and ignore public transportation. Where the we add the lanes again becomes political favorites.

Transit Comments

I think MARTA should coordinate WITHIN county lines. It seems like MARTA ignores heavy traffic patterns and the routes and schedules are assigned randomly. I live in 30033 zip code and I believe that many, many residents would use public transport to get to Emory, CDC, and the hospitals if the buses were convenient. Maybe we need to create parking nodes along transport routes so we can get folks to and from the "last mile" comfortably- a compromise. Or monitored, sheltered, secure bike parks.

i'm not sure buses are the right answer to our problem- MOST people would drive over taking the bus, but rail is a good alternative to driving

If you add lanes, the traffic will come! We need to encourage bus and train ridership for regular commuters. That means Marta needs to be perceived as safe and comfortable. A tax break for those who demonstrate they use Marta regularly or if our idiot legislators would quit punishing Marta, it could reduce fares to a very low level for those who use it for commuting. Businesses could reward its workers who use Marta by providing Breexe cards as a benefit.

Where possible of course. We are going to have to have rapid rail like other large cities if we are going to survive. But it will be important to add lanes on secondary roads when land is available.

Improving mass transit will also improve air quality and improve quality of life.

Our density clearly doesn't begin to support rail, as evidenced by MARTA's consistent \$500m annual losses. High speed buses are better, but shouldn't rely on subsidies from non-riders.

Make 400 a toll road throughout its length. Use the generated funds to pay for the rail expansion. Toll price should be per exit travelled and car collects a ticket as the enter the highway and pays once they exit. As each station is built the toll moves north. The price of the toll should be comparable to that of MARTA

MARTA needs to be privatized and the function of ticketing (Breeze) and policy be passed to an expanded GRTA thus allowing for the introduction of a zone based ticketing system. MARTA's issue is that its that its seen as a public service and thus is run like one with no accountability in private hands it will be ran as buisness not a charity for the employees. The system needs shaking up in a very radical way before its destroyed

Low priority vs. mass transit. Are you suggesting a bike path from Stone Mountain where I live to downtown Atlanta???

Connect the entire metro area with public transportation.

Transit Comments

Instead of continuing to create more roads, traffic, congestion, and pollution, invest in high functioning all-accessible public transportation.

Not just job centers, but very importantly living centers. Make it easy and affordable for residents to use public transportation to get to work, and other activities.

Safety is a perceived/real issue on trains and buses. I just got back from Washington and loved the Metro. I would not use Atlanta's Marta in the same way.

In order for Atlanta to be a 'magnet' city and to thrive and be vibrant it needs to have a 24/7 rail system enabling connection to the suburbs. At least have buses that run more frequently and further out. That's Atlanta's major downfall, it's so spread out with very limited transportation which is the cause for the horrific traffic congestion on the roadways.

That's the problem now, there are too many expressways, highways and by-ways making more room for more cars which makes for more traffic congestion! Copy NYC or the Washington, DC metropolitan transit system and again, maybe it will cut down the traffic congestion. If you add anymore highways it's going to look like spaghetti junction all over the place. Not a good thought at all.

MARTA needs to be expanded across county lines and funded by all counties for a system that allows travel from one section to another in less than 2 hours.

Not just major job centers, because workers come from all sections of the metro area. The transportation system must include residential areas also with rapid buses and rail service. That means service that is funded adequately and runs on time to all areas of the metro Atlanta.

most people will not ride buses --
rail is preferable -- no bus transit

We need additional rail lines (period). The south line should branch off into Henry, Clayton, South Fulton. The North line should branch off to Norcross, Alpharetta exit 11, and Cobb - Windy Hill. The west line should be extended to Douglasville and the east to Gwinnett and to Turner Hill Road.

Must be able to adhere to a schedule. Unlike the current rail or bus systems now.

When I started riding the Discover Mills bus they increased the cost by \$25.00 the next year. What they did (probably due to the Fed's) was make us pay the cost to start up the local bus service. Every time I saw the local buses there was either zero people or a token 1 or 2 on those buses. We don't need the addition influx of the outlying areas because chances are they will bring more of a negative impact....jobs, crime and additional expense for those that usually carry the burden....middle class worker

Transit Comments

Without reliable mass transit the city will never be able to grow. In the last 5 years my commute has lengthened from 30 minutes to 45 minutes on the same route, and I have a relatively short commute for Atlanta. We need to get past the idea that we are individual counties and come up with a comprehensive transit plan to link the outer suburbs to each other and to the city itself. We don't need more lanes. We need good mass transit.

..but, we don't need to focus on connecting areas that are already connected via public transit. Focus on allowing more people the opportunity to use public transit by expanding destinations.

I would love to have transportation that already exist, to have a stop by the local MARTA station, or future railway. For those who do not want, or cannot drive into the down town areas.

This is a great idea, have a railway that goes from the south to north, also east and west where the railway tracks cover the distants from one end to the other without having to get off and switch to a different way of commuting.

Lite rail is the best answer long term.

After 22 years in Atlanta I am still shocked when perfectly good roads are resurfaced. It seems like roads could be resurfaced half as often and the money put to use promoting transit and bike lanes.

while this is important, it is not as important as basic public transit for people who need to get to work.

Any large metropolis that does NOT have an infrastructure of mass transit, should make it a top priority to sustain growth for the long term.

MARTA expansion is desperately needed especially with the population of the metro are expected to reach 9 million by 2020. Come on folks, have you been to D.C.?

Change, improve, upgrade, make safer our MARTA system ... no need for more drivers, traffic, pollution and noise.

Change, improve, upgrade, make safer our MARTA system ... no need for more drivers, traffic, pollution and noise.

If Marta took me where I wanted to go or needed to go, I would use it all the time. As it is, I have to drive miles to get to the nearest station to my house and business.

Marta also needs to be expanded into additional counties - both bus and rail.

Transit Comments

GA and the USA in general are decades behind world standards for rail transportation. If managed with minimal political ignorance, mass transit would be preferred transportation. Try traveling from Alpharetta to Stone Mountain. Nightmare and 1/2 trip. What about Stockbridge to Douglasville? Kennesaw to Lawrenceville? Too much traffic is brought into Atlanta that does not need to be congesting the roadways. Commuter options take riders into Midtown or Downtown when people do not need to be there. It's a huge mess.

MARTA rail is a great system. I wish it expanded beyond where one is currently is able to get to, because the bus system is a mess. I have no problem using MARTA rail for downtown events and to go to the airport. It increased my quality of life

GIVE TAX BREAKS TO PEOPLE THAT TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

No more buses! We need more rapid transit with better connections

This is critical, and hopefully won't wait until 2040 to be achieved. I would love to see MARTA outfitted to be more appealing to bike commuters. Bringing a bike on a crowded train is possible, but not ideal. If train cars had bike corrals, and stations had bike lockers, it would be much easier to dispense with a car altogether. Currently, however, I don't use MARTA at all (except airport access) because anywhere MARTA can take me, I can get to for free on my bike, and if it's raining or what have you, multi-moding my commute is not very easy.

Rail please... we need a dedicated path. Buses wont help if traffic is snarled.

Atlanta has a gem in Marta. but the jobs is only part done. Finish the job. People think roads are cheaper. They are not. They are far more expensive. But with roads, the poeple subsidize the system by buying the vehicle, paying for the fuel and buying the insurance. You get convenience but the cost is high.

Buses should go where the people go. Political boundaries just get in the way.

This is a no-brainer but rapid rail is sort of like adding lanes to the express way. Buses that are clean and maybe novel or cute. Like the belt way would be a lot cheaper. Marta has terrible and even arrogant customer service.

Encouraging the use of mass transit in the Atlanta metro area should be one of the highest priorities of Plan 2040. Expanding road capacity and making individual car use easier will only contribute to future traffic problems.

Make a combination system rail ,light rail, and regular transit hubs.

Transit Comments

Tentatively yes, some areas are going to have to have more roads and lanes just due to growth. Even with mass transit options, Atlanta will still be a car heavy city.

Easing traffic by adding more lanes would discourage (or, at least, not encourage) more energy-efficient travel such as carpooling, cycling, and use of public transit. Also, it would cost millions when the roads we have are in need of fixing. It would also congest traffic for a number of years due to construction and would cause increased habitat destruction.

Stop letting 'private' bus companies use the 'public' transit stops. They siphon off all the profit and the public pays for all the stops.

We have 10+ lanes on the connector, and it still stops during rush hours. You can't pour enough concrete to fix the traffic problem. Mass transit must be insisted upon.

Specifically, I'd like to see more rail options and connectivity throughout the city. The existing MARTA lines are great and can be very useful, but they are also only a partial solution. In many cases, you have to travel by car to a MARTA station.

Promote rail in areas that have lacked it for decades. Don't try to push bus rapid transit in such areas that have not had an opportunity to access rail lines. Learn from the transportation referendum debacle.

Buses run empty most of the time. Consider smaller equipment to feed the major routes.

Atlanta is not a bike friendly town, but it could be and many Atlantans could bike to work or school if the prospect was safer. I recommend utilizing existing sidewalks and making one side for pedestrians and the other for bikes. It could be done in such a way that there are pedestrian crosswalks on the bike side, but it would safely move bikes out of traffic and give people more transit options. It could also help with health care costs by promoting practical exercise.

Buses -- not expensive rail.

Buses are highly flexible and much cheaper than rail.

A statewide tax for transit funding comparable to one of the 49 states that do fund transit.

Expand on MARTA System. Bring light rail system to Gwinnett and Cobb County, Expand rails system in North to Windward Pky. Connect Macon, Athens, Augusta, Savannah with Atlanta. Tie in Chattanooga to Atlanta Airport.

Build out the rail system to cities that fall outside of the perimeter. We are too large of a city to have such an inadequate rail system. This should have been developed before Atlanta's growth became so rapid and aggressive.

Transit Comments

Establish a connect station at county lines, include bus arrival and departure times. This will prove very helpful to seniors and others needing transportation to medical out-of-county.

We do not need to connect major job centers... we need transit from outlying suburbs to the city! People can travel via car to meetings... it's getting to work and getting home that's the problem! Transit to the new Braves stadium would be a great way to decrease already horrible traffic congestion around 75 and 285.

Connect the MARTA stations - do not bring everyone downtown for them to ride out in a different direction).

Expand MARTA to outlying counties!

I would like to see a light-rail system, such as the beltline in MY LIFETIME. This is a good use of my tax dollars.

Improve transit options and connectivity to provide alternative measures of transportation to mitigate existing capacity constraints.

Just an absolute waste of time and money. No matter how many lanes we add, it isn't sustainable. We need to provide more meaningful public transportation options that connect vibrant and distinct city centers.

This is a critical component of the plan. We can't have half of the metro area participating in a transportation plan and another half completely ignoring it. In order to progress and provide a sustainable city, we need to find a way to get all the metro counties involved and participating in mass transit projects. It is absolute insanity that the Braves stadium is moving to an area of Atlanta that does not have public transportation options.

We cannot have a good quality of life without good quality air and water. To foster public transportation that would reduce auto emissions should be top priority in planning for the future and sustaining an increased populace.

I've lived in Atlanta since 1987. I don't think there has ever been a time when I've traveled the city when I did not see a roadwork or construction sign. Traffic is still terrible, and now-- at least on one major interstate-- we have to pay for the pleasure of sitting in it. I think its time to come up with other solutions to the traffic nightmare. How about making the public transportation system more accessible, particularly in the outlying counties? Increase incentives for carpools, direct buses and trucks to certain lanes on the interstate, etc. Anything other than more construction.

Bike paths answer many problems- health, obesity rate, congestion, lack of public transit

Transit Comments

More train service- less buses. Trains should run at every major interstate. Expand I20 E/W rail/ create a 285 loop similar to the London inner city loop. Go up and down 400/75/85 to get people off the roads. Beltline needs to be a priority to rebuild the city in terms of transportation and quality of life.

Stop adding lanes and run trains under existing highways.

Not important at the moment. Atlanta itself has control of the Southeast in terms of talent and is the only legit city here so expand on that by building a city that promotes businesses and people to come here. Where would you build a high speed rail to? Miami? NY? Waste of money. Get on a plane for now and the next 20 years. If we grow, the trains could come. If we were close to another actual city, that might make sense

The goal should be to get more commuters off the road and use public transportation or ride sharing.

This is vital as in most major metropolitan areas, you are not limited to what jobs you can take based on accessibility/location. Most large cities have public transit that supports the entire metro area.

This is vital as in most major metropolitan areas, you are not limited to what jobs you can take based on accessibility/location. Most large cities have public transit that supports the entire metro area.

Major job centers can provide private transit to pick up employees from afar parking areas and these companies can pool their resources to develop a route to serve those businesses who pay for it. If it is a value to the company, they will offer it. This is another reason to reduce their tax burdens and regulations.

I would rather see us expand light rail and bus services. Unless we develop these alternatives, our roads will always be clogged and there will always be a need to add more lanes. The answer lies in getting more cars off the road and providing people with alternative ways to get to work and other activities. they do it in Europe and we can do it here.

More lanes equals more traffic. We need a commuter-friendly transit system, safe bike lanes, multi-use trails and other innovative transportation strategies throughout the city. Adding more lanes is the outdated norm. Let's break away from paving the world and find alternative solutions.

Please get this together and just use Marta.

Atlanta needs to have a regional transit system across the metro area; and not all the different systems currently in operation. It makes no sense!!

NO MORE LANES!!! There must be other options available to ease congestion on "feeder" streets. And more public transportation options.

Transit Comments

trolley and/or light rail; more cost effective is better.

Please no public transportation here please... obvious reasons!

Ensure ease of connections to heavy rail and explore light rail options and combine separated bicycle facilities with expanded sidewalks

Increase densities (both residential and employment) to areas near transit and where transit is planned in the future

We don't need heavy rail that's fixed in place and expensive to operate/maintain. BRT is the way to go!

Implement current Beltline/Streetcar Implementation Plan, provide MARTA connectivity to Cobb County all the way to Kennesaw State University

Bus rapid transit seems a realistic option, but existing bus services are a mess. Perhaps improve them - I should be able to look at a stop and look up when the next bus is, whether it's running late, where it's going, etc. Also, why are there stops every 2 feet? Buses are too slow due to that to consider for anything where time matters.

Real bus rapid transit, on dedicated lanes in center of highway with fares paid prior to boarding and grade-level access to the bus (no stairs), would be awesome.

too many of our streams & lakes, including the Chattahoochee are polluted and unsafe; essentially open sewers. This and extensive subway/rail lines are the most important objectives on Atlanta's horizon.

Create "waterfront" areas (think San Antonio Riverwalk-esque) around town along creeks and connect them to nearby rail stations for access without a car.

make sure the companies are interested in having offices in town and have an interest in not adding to our traffic problem, i.e. public transportation initiatives

Creating dense nodes of mixed uses, clustered around transit stations can reduce the number of car trips. By allowing users to drive to the station, commute to work, then return and run errands before departing home will reduce the number of small distance car trips and concentrate commercial areas around transit stations. Concentrating jobs around transit stations will give more people access to jobs without having to spend more of their disposable income on transportation.

Free parking and parking minimums takes valuable land away from development and creates hazards for pedestrians and cyclist. Multi-level parking structures will free up land for tax-paying developments or greenspace.

Transit Comments

Increased development of intown neighborhoods is pushing the poor to the suburbs where access to transit is low and causes them to spend more on transportation that in turn causes them less access to jobs. Mixed income projects are the key to creating a diverse neighborhood.

The fragmented transit agencies of Atlanta is not working. There needs to be a truly regional transit agency that coordinates the bus systems allowing riders to seamlessly travel between counties. More express and BRT needs to be implemented along major transportation corridors. Even creating rapid bus service, with high frequency and less stops along major roads is key is moving people along corridors, eg: LACMTA Rapid Bus lines. BRT is not successful unless it is implemented with grade separated lanes. BRT in corridors is cheaper than implementing rail-based transit and if done right can have the same level of service.

Where are buses btwn lithonia and stone crest?

The more public transportation coordination, the less vehicle traffic.

We need to make parking as difficult to access and make it more expensive to drive to give priority to transit

More pop-up weekly farmer's markets near high-rises and low-income communities. Also, increase public awareness, via local and national news outlets, of the SNAP EBT program for farmer's markets. Coordinate with Marta Mobility.

Through education and work programs from disability services, let citizens become active in creating livable spaces. Allow contract city hiring for people with mental disabilities. Use Marta Mobility to coordinate those with physical disabilities back into employment - for working is one of the greatest expressions of our common humanity.

Providing better high capacity transit options and connections would reduce a need for parking over time.

People move out of the city to get away from mass transit bus systems. High capacity transit just makes higher crime. Too much big government, let us keep some of our tax dollars and we would be fine. Do a 10% tax across the board on all earned income no other taxes.

along with greatly improved transit options within business centers

The various transit agencies should either be unified into a single umbrella organization, such as an expanded MARTA with a similar charge to its original goal in the 1960s, or through a coordinated branding effort to make various systems appear unified to the greater public.

Transit Comments

This best way for this to be done is by extension of the existing MARTA rail service using the same technology - riders will come when the ride is same-seat, quick, and overall the most convenient option.

This should come about primarily through mixed-use developments, transit oriented development, and general retrofitting of the suburbs.

How do you think the city got into the situation that it is in now with all the traffic? No need to add more roads or lanes. It will not help. Transit is what the region needs, and the state needs to help.

Rail lines will be more widely used than bus. Adding more lanes is much less appealing than expanding the rail system and encouraging walking or biking.

Except in farther out communities where growth demands exist but transit is nonexistent.

Consider this comment a 50,000 thumbs up. It's ludicrous this I have to drive 20 minutes to the closest train station so I can take MARTA to the city. Bring the stations OTP!!!!

Question: How long and in how many ways does it have to be stated: RAIL/SUBWAYS to and from Savannah, Augusta, Macon as well as north GA..

Rail. Fixing roads will only reward SOVs.

I think this is much more part of the problem than a solution. We need to make parking LESS available to disincentivize auto travel and add mass transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.

Prefer increasing the focus on public transportation options to making driving easier.

Cross town bus transit with bike capacity would be great.

Bus Rapid Transit might be the only viable public transit policy for Metro Atlanta. Maintain what we have and re-tool it for BRT.

Coordinating bus service can be costly so how will you have everyone involved pay their portion and while connecting with MARTA, counties should pay to support MARTA as well. No Free Ride for the counties who bring their citizens to MARTA.

People with no transportation need transportation the most. They need to be able to get to jobs so development in areas where service is lacking need to be developed. MARTA to Stonecrest needs to be a priority. Most jobs are North of the city and people need to be able to get there in a reasonable amount of time. It is critical to supporting schools, neighborhoods and communities.

Absolutely! Transit should support variable commuting behavior, non-traditional work commutes, and non-work trips. Traffic = lack of transit.

Transit Comments

Freeways and roadways already have many lanes. We need to transition out of the automobile culture and get people onto transit. The only road in which I may suggest a moderate expansion is the Spring-Buford Connector (GA-13). Otherwise, additional lanes should be bus rapid transit (BRT) lanes.

**NO, we need improved Marta stops and more safe bike lanes
we must have dedicated bus roads if rail is not to be expanded**

A well connected transit system is woefully needed!

Please. What are you going to do, go house to house and talk to people? People know what's healthy. Access to healthcare = better transit.

We need ONE transit system folks. Just one. Combine them all.

Depends on location. No one will take transit if its too easy to park. Let the marketplace drive pricing.

we need a regional mass transit system - buses included. this piecemeal crap that Gwinnett and Cobb are doing is not beneficial to our region. we need one regional authority that connects people to jobs, not office parks to one another.

I think this should be a very high priority. As the city increases in density, the use of transit will likely increase. Planning the transit system ahead of time instead of after the fact would be a more successful endeavor.

All public transit needs to be expanded, re-funded, rationalized; people simply assume that Atlanta is an autopolis, & must stay that way. Public policies certainly do. That must change, because of its irrationality & its unfairness to the working class (the majority of people) many of whom don't own cars.

This would encourage mass transit, lessen automobile pollution and relieve traffic congestion.

paid parking will discourage people from driving and encourage more use of public transportation.

"Easy" parking is one of the ways auto drivers evade carrying their full share of the cost of motor vehicle travel. Thus, driving is enforced, and alternative transit is discouraged.

Bus services here are pitiful! That's helpful, right? Srsly tho, I think more people would ride marta if key routes ran more frequently at least during rush hour.

I feel that Atlanta has a good variety of art related experiences. There just aren't enough transit options to get people there!

We need rail service - it's more efficient than buses and doesn't add to already-congested roadways.

There is a nationwide downward trend in driving. More young people are moving into city centers and require better transit options, not more roads.

Transit Comments

Better to increase resources to treat mental illness and addiction, with shortterm transition housing availability for critically stressed families.

all of the metro area should increase transportation options especially by rail since more people are able to commute faster by rail than my bus. Our train line is so limited. That is why so many People in Atlanta have to drive.

I think this should be done by allowing the market to build density in walkable areas and those near transit. There are too many single family zoned neighborhoods, and these seem to be expanding.

I like this idea but MARTA needs to be better funded and expanded first.

Busing around the city means the buses sit in the same cramped up streets and highways the rest are in. Plus, it's hard to keep the bus system esteemed where junior to experienced business professionals want to start their day there. Finally, taking transit to and from work for me as a working mother of 3 who drives 70 miles a day is not practical. If I'm needed in an emergency I have no way to get around town to loved ones.

This will be an issue for retail and work - at minimum. Parks and entertainment venues as well. But then it is contrary to bikes and trails and transit.

I will say that parking is ALWAYS an issue in the city. Not so much OTP.

ATL is sooo far behind on this. Elevated trains over existing roads (North Decatur for the CDC and Emory commuters) would be amazing.

I take MARTA every work day and love the stress-free commute. However, it would be nice to be able to go other counties.

I've lived in Europe and the #1 thing I miss is being able to bike to work on dedicated bike/pedestrian tracks. I was healthier, happier and less stressed. I take MARTA in Atlanta, but would love to be able to bike to/from work. Right now, I don't want to die on North Decatur Rd. like other pedestrians.

There needs to be a high capacity rail transit that connects major job centers in Winward Parkway all the way down to at least Peachtree Center. Those in turn can be hubs for branched out bus lines.

Transit expansion is vital to the Metro Atlanta Region. Everyone can't afford a car; especially all new college graduates. So reliable transit is a must!

I've indicated "yes" because I don't think parking should be difficult. We drive and will for a while until transit catches up. I think if parking is impossible, vitality is at risk. That being said don't add a ton of parking and destroy the walkability. There's a balance to be struck.

Transit Comments

By making public parking "easy" and free, we are disincentivizing transit.

connect with transit

This is the best step in the right direction for the Atlanta region. A city that is growing as rapidly as Atlanta cannot possibly maintain a sustainable, livable lifestyle for its citizens without high-capacity transit. This should be a no-brainer.

The problem with the transit system is it is not convenient to use.

Maybe work towards rail/train service from Atlanta to Augusta, Savannah, Athens

This is critical for regional travel, but there is also a critical need for circulatory transit within activity centers. Downtown Streetcar and future extensions of it (cross towns and to the BeltLine) are critical!

No BRT. Rail Only.

We need an expanded and accessible rail system in the metro area. It needs to reach all parts of the region

Transit hubs are key. Public parking needs to become obsolete. along with streetscape improvements - sidewalks, and transit

Build the Beltline and interconnect the regions with bike and walking trails

coordinated and prioritized with high capacity transit improvements

on a location by location basis - prioritize transit investments

Rail, definitely rail. And connect with other cities (ATL to Orlando, ATL to DC, ATL to Charlotte, etc.)

There are less bus routes through my intown neighborhood than there were 30 years ago.

Light rail and trolleys whenever possible.

We do need to build more roads and highways however we will never be able to build enough roads for the needs we have now. We must be bold and start moving people through high speed passenger rail.

I live in Grant Park but work in Technology Park in Norcross. To take public transportation I would need to take a bus to Marta, Marta to Doraville, a local bus and I'd still be short 1.5-2 miles from work. Terrible.

Do more to promote light rail, MARTA trains etc.

More in depth publicity of each neighbor on television and local radio stations

Most (if not all) additional investment in high-capacity transit should be in solutions which are adjustable and scalable

Specifically reversible lanes like the north I-75 project with a dedicated bus/transit lane

You can't justify the cost of the trains. It's not smart.

Transit Comments

Cumberland Galleria and CDC/Emory need to be connected to MARTA HRT.

The lack of efficient and reliable transit will be what forces me to eventually move from Atlanta. I used to live in D.C. and loved the Metrorail and bus systems there. If Atlanta could expand and improve MARTA, and institute the failed TSPLIT initiative, the region would be better for it. You have to do the right thing even if it's not popular.

We do see a connection between public transportation and crime. We can look back at Lenox Sq when rail came to Lenox they saw increase in crime around the shopping center. I witness this 1st hand as my father-in-law a local business owner met with other shop owners. We only need to look at South Cobb Dr. Where multi family housing lines both sides of the road and 1st Cobb Transit route was South Cobb Dr. You don't see this on Atlanta Rd! Again protecting the community is very important Protecting All Communities is very important Take a ride down Franklin Rd that was once "Upscale Apartments in the early 70's (I know because I lived on Franklin Rd in 1972!

Many roads are already at their maximum needed width. Some will need widening but after we first prioritize building alternatives to driving (i.e. mass transit) and then we can reassess the need for road widenings.

If this means more rapid transit, I am against it.

the routes take too long/indirect and don't run frequently enough- I prefer more trains/street cars

Consistency and continuity. Universal high standards. Ounce of prevention versus pound of cure. Improving and maintaining is a bargain compared to rebuild an new construction. What about maintaining transit infrastructure ?

Consistency and continuity. Universal high standards. Ounce of prevention versus pound of cure. Improving and maintaining is a bargain compared to rebuild an new construction. What about maintaining transit infrastructure ?

How about incremental refinement like systematic park and ride hubs linking to downtown with a system of loop buses to navigate there - free transfers.

No crainer - win win. I went to Kyoto Japan, it There they have world class bus transits according to a systematic plan. It integrates with ad compliments the subway and regional and nation rail systems there. Can anyone say road trip to Kyoto, benchmark the best.

Expand Marta

Transit Comments

Public transit doesn't work for my day-to-date commute. I've always longed to be a bicycle commuter, but as a not-great cyclist, I've not felt safe riding to work and home. I'd love the bike-friendly area to be expanded so that commuting to work-- and other common trips (groceries, shopping, shows, etc) can be bike trips.

Not cost effective with current technology. Bus rapid transit will be obsolete when driverless vehicles arrive.

If the buses ran on electric or natural gas, I might favor expansion. I would prefer to get vehicles off the road rather than add more buses.

Bus rapid transit is cheaper. MARTA should go where needed most and the cost should be shared regionally.

We don't need any more roads - it simply encourages more car traffic. I ride in a carpool and pass hundreds of cars with one person in the car. People will stop driving cars when there is DEPENDABLE transit alternatives. Buses that don't stop to pick up people waiting at a bus stop don't help.

Light rail is less expensive and has the potential for more rider capacity.

This is in direct opposition to increased transit.

Research and local experience repeatedly shows that adding more lanes makes congestion worse by encouraging more driving. Adding more public transportation (comprehensive rail and more frequent bus), bike lanes, and side walks will reduce our dependence on cars, improve air quality, and improve overall health.

Not a responsibility of government. MARTA provides a textbook example of how a government-run transportation system fails. MARTA riders are subsidized at around 470% by taxpayers through local sales tax and tax dollars from the Federal government. Get government out of the transportation business. This country had scores of profitable private bus transportation companies prior to 1955, when the Federal government entered the field and destroyed those private businesses. Entrepreneurs would identify profitable routes and service schedules and make a profit by doing so. In the transportation environment, the government wastes money and serves as just one more wealth distribution mechanism.

Better bus service both in the city and throughout the region is an essential transportation alternative to driving. Bus-only lanes would be great.

Obviously the roads we keep need to be maintained. But, frankly, I think that some of the roads we have need to be put on a diet, and capacity needs to be added for public transit and bike lanes.

trains more so than buses.

Transit Comments

Absolutely. Connecting major job centers with rapid rail, transit or bus would be HUGE for Atlanta!

Atlanta has the least expensive public parking in the nation (compared with equally sized cities). We should make public parking more expensive and less convenient, to encourage other modes of transportation, such as biking (free parking!) and transit. (no parking necessary).

This would also be the most economical solution for Atlanta - a coordinated bus system, as long as it's easy to use and fast. Making lanes solely for bus transit, like they have in Bogota Colombia, would allow for faster commuting by bus, and therefore make it more of a real alternative. But when it takes 2 hours to traverse town, no one unless they have to will take the bus. Frequency and coverage are very important factors.

MARTA rail and bus service must be greatly expanded to include Cobb, Gwinnett and Clayton counties, and competing transit systems must be merged into MARTA.

extend marta to rome/macon/savannah/ cobb/gwinnet/athens park and ride

let them use marta/bus /streetcar along rail lines/not center of peachtree and park at stations

MARTA should be the regional system. Each county having a system complicates usage of transit making it a turn off.

Should be MARTA.

Use appropriately sized buses that go from park and ride lots to employment centers like hospitals, Lockheed, etc.

Busses don't alleviate traffic. State support the trains and MANDATE counties to have marta lines so we can have a transportation system worthy of being a major metro area.

Rail, transit NOT BUS. the busses are just as subject to traffic and add to the traffic as a van or car does.

Teh beltline is a marvelous way to do this. We need better rapid transit too so that peopel can cirulate for work and for paly. We have a world class symphony orechestra which is readily accessible by MARTA To me this is very important.

We expecially need the MATTA trains.

Absolutely not with rail- our density is completely inadequate to justify rail transport.

This is not a government role, but one that should be done by the free market. Non-riders are subsidizing riders (with MARTA alone, it's \$500m annually).

Charge enough to cover expenses; consider providing low income riders with a (partially) pre-paid pass.

Transit Comments

Parking needs to be cheaper as well. It costs just as much to park as it does to attend an event, which is very discouraging. If you are not going to provide a capable transit system, parking needs to be cheaper.

too many cheap parking options will continue to make Atlanta a car-dependent city and prevent people from trying out the new public transportation options that might be offered

Add more light rail and less vehicular lanes! Expanding existing roads with more lanes should only be done as a final option, when all else fails. I feel this is why the Transportation SPLOST failed - because we were not following the smart growth ideals that we promote and encouraging sprawl.

Light rail would be better. Bus Service should be looked at more comprehensively, but bus fares are too high and the current bus network makes little sense.

Promote Transit and parking decks below the surface, not a fan of large surface parking lots.

Promote Transit, not parking lots.

Affordable housing that can access transit and jobs is important for the region.

ABSOLUTELY NOT. Adding more lanes only increases the amount of traffic that travels on them. Instead of adding lanes for cars, add or adapt traffic lanes for mass transit.

Bus service is inefficient and less desirable than high-capacity mass transit.

I work on the Emory campus and was so looking forward to the "Brain Train" . But even if that doesn't happen, we must use the rails we have to create new connections.

It seemed like a great idea to move many families from the large public housing projects to title 9 homes around the city; unfortunately, MARTA didn't move with many of those families and now they are farther from grocery stores, doctor and jobs. And where they were is high rise apartments mostly unrented. Give those folks a chance!!!

Way too many bus routes were axed a few years ago. It takes forever to get anyway in the area if you have to change trains or buses. I am so tired of getting to the train just as it is leaving and standing around for another 15 minutes. It's worse with the buses, if you have to take multiple buses to get somewhere, a trip that would take 15 minutes by car, takes 90 minutes. Seriously.

as great as this sounds in theory, the trolley system is completely unnecessary, and has caused more of a pain through the construction traffic than it will solve by existing. I literally don't know a single person who supports the trolley being put in place. Nobody will pay \$2.50 for a two block ride. Expanding MARTA is a MUCH better option.

Transit Comments

I am for transit connection of high capacity areas with significant projected ridership. I prefer bus rapid transit due to the significant savings in cost to build, operate, and maintain as well as the flexibility it provides if routing should change due to activity changes.

This region is too spread out to be able to rely on transit to address the transportation demand. Transit should be buses not rail for economic viability (they are significantly cheaper than rail). However adding lanes is realistically the best option for much of the suburban growth in the greater metro region.

Yes, buses, not trains. Buses are much cheaper to operate and maintain and they can utilize the existing roadway network. Also, if one breaks down, the whole line isn't shut down, rather just the one bus is. It is easier to bring in a backup bus to replace a broken down bus than it is to clear the rail tracks of a malfunctioning train.

Public parking undermines attempts to enhance transit ridership and cluster-TOD type development which support transit.

The only way to remove public parking is to enhance public transit. Why spend time, \$ and space on vehicles when you can invest this in public transit?

It's time Atlanta invest in major transit improvement. Road widening to accommodate roads already at capacity is not a solution any longer.

Not feasible financially. Need to develop jobs around existing transit stations.

All major companies and universities should have a shuttle bus that can easily connect to the Marta system.

BRT is a suboptimal solution. Buses and rail should be the focus. BRT has most of the negatives of both rail and bus with few of the positives of either.

I do think this is important but as it makes sense based on ridership. I think enhanced rail options will capture more ridership as time goes on.

Park and ride lots with express bus service is needed in SE DeKalb Co. to attract more riders and improve commute times on I-20. MARTA bus service should connect to existing industrial job centers located less than 10 miles from the Cobb/Fulton and DeKalb/Clayton County lines. Improve scheduling to reduce commute times for riders connecting between rail and express buses.

Transit Comments

Park and ride lots with express bus service is needed in SE DeKalb Co. to attract more riders and improve commute times on I-20. MARTA bus service should connect to existing industrial job centers located less than 10 miles from the Cobb/Fulton and DeKalb/Clayton County lines. Improve scheduling to reduce commute times for riders connecting between rail and express buses. Improve access to jobs in Kennesaw from Atlanta and Marietta.

Rail as a first choice. BRT as alternative. Connect Cumberland to downtown Atlanta using rail only. CCT express already does what BRT would.

Rail as a first choice. BRT as alternative. Connect Cumberland to downtown Atlanta using rail only. CCT express already does what BRT would.

Rail as a first choice. Bus Rapid transit as alternative

Marta buses need to run after 11pm for people that work evening shift. You pay too much for marta, then after work you end up paying a taxi to take you home.

free public parking discourages walking short distances and transit use

last mile connectivity via more timely, reliable transit in the metro core is needed to promote greater walkability

marta/subway system is way more efficient than bus stops. Also takes less road space!

Public transportation should not just focus on connecting job centers, rather it is crucial to connect the entire city. This will relieve congestion on the roads and decrease the wear and tear on the infrastructure, and by decreasing pollution will improve environmental conditions.

Streetcar, Light rail, and commuter rail, but NOT BRT.

Seems to me like this is definitely NOT the answer, but getting people out of cars and into buses and onto bikes!

Only because parking encourages more people driving as opposed to taking transit. And where we need parking, it should be beneath or over mixed use development.

Put them ITP on the south side near MARTA stations.

BRT MIGHT make sense in some corridors that already have high bus usage.

Stop with the trains. They go nowhere and you are stranded when you get there. Buses can go anywhere. No trains.

I would much prefer rail over bus rapid transit.

Transit Comments

Bring MARTA rail to Cobb County. We need alternatives to cars. I live near the proposed Braves stadium and I am scared to think of what traffic nightmares lie ahead. We need REGIONAL solutions to our problems. Atlanta is chopped up into too many counties and towns. The Balkanization of our region is very sad. Expand MARTA to serve the entire region.

I wish that MARTA served all of the metro region. CCT does not serve my needs in Cobb. I would like for it to be seamlessly connected with the entire region.

Again, old fashioned transit that requires expensive maintenance and taxpayer subsidies DOES NOT WORK! Let good roads, low taxes create some free market, competitive solutions. Get out of the way!

Rail is useless as a low density area like Atlanta and can't support itself.

I'm torn about this -- if we have better access to public transportation we don't need so much room to park.

Need to enjoy more transit rides not parking options

This is the most important improvement when speaking about regional advancement. Atlanta will never be seen as the "international city" that city officials want to market it as if the transit systems are disjointed, convoluted, poorly planned, don't access all areas and don't soan across the vast Metro Atlanta region. First, the stigma that MARTA = unwanted ethnic people and crime needs to be eliminated so an effective and comprehensive marketing and branding campaign needs to be activated. Then, somehow, MARTA needs to be shown how to stop operating and decision making the way they always have. Clearly, the old ways aren't working. Atlanta is the "city too busy to hate"...but we just redistrict and limit mobility to control others instead. It's embarrassing.

I'd like to say yes to this one, but I can't without seeing the way forward on the fundamental problems with traffic congestion & MARTA

we can't go on adding lanes to existing roads and building new ones..while not maintaining the existing ones well. We've got to mend the racial divide somehow & develop public transportation.

Not by transit, but by prudent design of new infrastructure and development.

I said yes to only add lanes where it makes the most sense and to keep up with the changes of the future and to have several options of transportation. ex. care, marta, walking, biking, cabs, buses etc.

I've lived in Fulton or Dekalb County ever since MARTA came into existence. I've been paying the 1 percent Marta tax for forty years. Now that I'm retired Marta suddenly wants to improve access to North Fulton County.

Transit Comments

Many of the high-quality jobs are out of reach for those who do not drive cars. I have many friends who are limited this way, because so many jobs are in suburban areas not covered by MARTA where other transit systems (if available) take hours to navigate.

This would open up job opportunities for many people in the region who don't have cars but are limited in job options due to the excessive travel times caused by multiple disconnected transit systems.

This type of information could be disseminated via community centers or communication boards at MARTA stations.

Again, providing better options (belt line, public transit) would reduce the need for this.

work to increase ridership (TODs, lower ticket price, etc) for existing transit

It is not possible to add more lanes, for example, on Ponce, or on 10th Street, or on Lindbergh/LaVista. But what we CAN do is take cars and busses off the roadways by providing more MARTA Rail. Additionally a comprehensive, connected system of bike lanes will help get cars off the road.

No more BRT. The solution to so much in this city is RAIL. Put it above ground, build structures over business, whatever you have to do. We will not ever "solve" the sprawl of Atlanta, which contributes to our horrific traffic. We can only hope mitigate it by getting more cars and busses (including BRT) off of the roadways.

Heavy/light rail into all surrounding counties

More roads = more traffic, every time. Never add more roads to the Atlanta system with the idea that it will reduce pollution, congestion, and increase mobility--in fact it will increase pollution and congestion and make people more dependent on cars rather than transit.

Reducing road lanes should be a priority, or at least conversion to dedicated bus lanes and bike/ped corridors.

We have to focus on a regional rail, BRT, and commuter rail system. More lanes on existing roads = more traffic. It does not solve the problem, just makes it worse.

Focus more on rail which is not dependent on highway use and typically has higher ridership.

Yes, but price it high enough to make transit more attractive.

Expand transit options to reduce traffic in the city.

Study after study has shown that adding lanes only encourages more vehicles!! Use funds to increase viable mass transit and alternative commute methods such as bicycles!!

Transit Comments

Taking advantage of current rail services to other cities (ex: Lovejoy) and making them dual purpose (commercial & Transit) then expanding to cities farther away such as Macon, Chattanooga, Birmingham etc.

Light rail options would be amazing. Check out Phoenix's system

Not without complete and total approval by the voters and the citizens who will live near the transit stations. Crime is horrible near and around the existing transit hubs. NO expansion without a total overhaul of the security system and new proposals designed to limit criminal activities associated with the rapid transit system we have now.

A more comprehensive rail line would help immensely. The bus system is too unreliable.

Make Marta usable with more train line and stations. Atlanta needs to have a system like New York and Boston

What about rail? Buses are secondary to rail transportation.

No! If you build it, they will come...and we don't need any more road traffic. We need a rail system that extends to Cobb County and an education campaign to broaden the minds of those unwilling to consider the benefits of public transportation.

Rail! As someone who has recently moved back to Cobb County after living in other parts of the country for 15 years, we absolutely need to connect Cobb to areas inside the perimeter in order to alleviate traffic, reduce the stress on commuters, and lessen our environmental impact.

Add lanes to I20 but add commuter rail service throughout the metro counties

Encourage safer walking/bicycling environments and expand the MARTA train.

Every person on a bike is a person not in a car. Too many times I read about increasing the lanes, widening the roads, etc. There is rarely mention of reducing the vehicles. Atlanta's topography does present some challenges for less fit cyclists, but using existing sewer easements could provide for a more flat type of trail. I have heard discussion of using power line right of ways, but those are generally quite hilly, but still worth exploring. The connectivity should target MARTA train stops as hubs and the trails the spokes. Mandating new office buildings install showers and lockers (based on total building SF) could encourage more people to use human power to commute.

If I use transit but still have to walk multiple blocks to get to my job then the transit system is still inefficient.

We have to make it easy to go from Midtown to Atlantic Station to WestSide. Preferably with a streetcar

Transit Comments

Adding more lanes will not help. Need to favor telecommute and mass transit.

This will definitely help and the affect will be immediate as it does not require new infrastructure as required for rails etc.

Comprehensive public transportation is a cornerstone of major cities, and one sorely lacking in Atlanta.

Fix the SPLOST laws so counties can collaborate on transit matters.

Fixed guideway transit is expensive and not flexible. GRTA, MARTA and local bus systems need to grow. Counties need to work together to plan.

more roads means more people will continue choose to drive. You need to change the mind set. Choose transit over a car travel

that's through transit, you can't forget how hot it gets in Atlanta and as exciting as mass transit sounds I don't know how many are going to take a trolley, ride a bike, walk, when it gets over 85 degrees.

Dependable convenient Affordable mass transit will be environmentally and economically sound. MARTA costs are high - cost more for Marta than to drive and park.

Stop and Enforce Commercial truck access through residential streets from large stores and supermarkets when truck routes are available, GPS devices program routes through neighborhoods - This results in Large commercial supply trucks of all sizes to egress through neighborhoods creating unsafe conditions for citizens - children - schools - school Buses dropping off /picking up children. Please address this promptly with POLICE ENFORCEMENT & DOT Truck Inspections . To curtail excess SPEED and Unsafe Trucks.

High speed rails along the expressways with park and ride lots

No more buses in the suburbs! Build sidewalks, round-a-bouts and divided roads for safety

The Athens-Atlanta line would not only connect many Universities, but it would also be a viable option for commuters who work at/attend those universities. It should also connect with MARTA.

We need improved public transportation not more parking spots marta crime equals increased violent crime. everyone knows that. NO marta

NO MARTA TRAINS !

Great plan, but you have to protect people taking public transportation for it to every be viable.

Prefer rail to bus. Start with Lindbergh MARTA spur to Clifton Corridor

I am less enthusiastic about BRT.

Transit Comments

We can't build enough roads to get out of the traffic mess. There must be comprehensive rapid transit that extends beyond the city limits of Atlanta. It must be clean and users must feel safe to ride.

Money talks and the state should be running Marta overlaid over the ARC service area grid

They can also be light rail or bus or even narrower for small car

Every county that connects Fulton County should have light rail service connecting. We need to get all counties to provide enhanced services within their communities. Bridging the areas together will become the key in recruiting major companies in the area. Cobb, Gwinnette can do better. We have to break the political structure and work together. It will cost more but it will benefit the region. Also connecting other cities via rail lines to Atlanta to connect those communities to our airport.

If we can have the best airport in the world we can get more companies into the area. However, I do know for a fact and have heard CEO's will not come to Atlanta due to the traffic and lack of Public Transit.

We need to enhance major interchanges for the growth. Adding more lanes is not the answer - adding public transit options is the key for our area.

Consider charging more for parking in areas already too congested; this will encourage people to walk or use transit.

The buses would need access to priority lanes or service would be too slow to attract riders but is a good idea. Buses could feed people to rapid transit hubs.

This approach has failed miserably. Build it and more SUVs will come. Meanwhile the MARTA trains are almost empty except at rush hour.

Having quality public transportation and small vibrant "city squares" makes it easy to know your neighbors, reduces traffic and pollution, and increases jobs.

More lanes cause more traffic. London experimented with reduced traffic lanes and designated bus lanes and found an increased number of people took public transportation thus reducing traffic in the other lanes.

Bus is the least-desirable of all public transit alternatives. A combination of light and heavy rail are far superior, primarily because with their own corridors, they aren't stuck in the same traffic as the cars.

Not bus. Heavy and light rail. Rapid transit can only be rapid if it is not subject to the same traffic issues as vehicular traffic.

public parking to match the need is important, but more important is to have public transportation that has stops at the places people want to go!

Transit Comments

ugh there are already too many lanes on the highway and some of the more major streets. We need a better public transit system and stop encouraging all these cars with just 1 passenger!

This may ultimately be required but you can only get people out of their cars and onto transit if you make driving unpalatable.

Rail: YES!!!!

Bus: No

Bus transit will only continue to add to the problem. We need to get away from this asphalt dependence and find better options for commuting.

Expand local coverage as needed and interconnect the hubs with rail. Stop trying to add more buses to these choked highways.

Double-edged sword - more parking reduces use of public transit.

No way, no one likes to live by a big dangerous road. Why build more of them. More bike trails please.

Rail please. No one likes to ride a bus.

Cross-county coordination, a big yes since the core city contains more than one. However, I think people should be encouraged to live closer together rather than farther apart so am wary of the buses proposal.

Public transit should be an attractive option. Currently wait times too long, system too unreliable, and cost too high to attract most of those who have cars.

I went to UGA and would have definitely benefited from high-speed rail to and from Atlanta in my years after graduation, searching for jobs and opportunities.

Make public TRANSIT easily available. Let's focus on the important stuff that can have a real impact over the long term.

Again, an incentive for tech start-ups to come to the city. Fiber optic cabel should be ran through the BeltLine, Silver Comet extension, or any other new trail.

If Cobb County can get its act together and get BRT.

If there are more options for transit then each business won't need its own parking lot. Centralize parking like at the airport and use trams, bikes, and (moving sidewalks?) to get people to destinations (like gates)

Please connect them to homes, businesses, and transit; and not only for recreation. Currently most paths are in rec islands. You should not have to use your car in order to use your bike.

Making parking easily accessible is counterintuitive to promoting walking and alternative means of transportation. You can argue that easy parking brings more people/business to the community, but that can be better achieved through means of public transportation (which need improvement!)

Transit Comments

Not only job centers, but neighborhoods throughout Atlanta should be connected by rail. A Beltline streetcar, which could operate efficiently on dedicated tracks removed from car traffic, would be a major feat for Atlanta.

We need light rail and to look and building roads on top of roads. Adding lanes is not the solution. Look at other cities that have light rail, such as Portland, OR. It's been very successful.

Because our city is built within the circle of 285 and is divided by I-85/I-75 and I-20, seems to be an infrastructure for a transit system that reaches outward connecting the major job centers. With the east west, north south lines in place, adding a line that runs in the median of 285 could provide a relief on the roads and connect the job centers of the metro.

I would like to see the MARTA system be incorporated as a state agency that is used by all counties so that there is consistent and efficient. Having each county fund and run separate systems does not build corporation between the communities and counties. If we continue to be strive to be a individual state, we will continue to grow isolated within the state.

If we had decent mass transit, people would use it. I used it in several cities and even here when I worked downtown. However, it is not feasible for most commutes, especially to the Clifton Corridor.

The problem with buses is that they are stuck in the same traffic that is ruining Atlanta commuters. Their current routes are also useless... an hour to go 3 miles from the North Ave MARTA to poncey-highlands???

This absolutely absolutely needs to happen. You will never compete with the northeast unless you have public transit that actually gets people where they need to go and quickly. Do NOT make it a wheel and spoke system like now, and even like DC. Atlanta is too windy and the middle of the "spokes" too important. You need to be able to get to Emory/CDC by transit. Either send a Marta line through, built a gondola/monorail. The boom of neighborhoods around the beltline are desperate. It already takes 30 minutes to drive 3 miles and people are angry... thousands of people are moving in with new condos, how is anyone going to move?!!! I am a successful 30 y/o professional relocating away from Atlanta and this is the number one reason why I can't see myself here to raise my family - no public transit and ridiculous traffic.

Buses are nice, but they face the same challenges as a personally owned vehicle. Traffic is traffic on an already busy road.

Transit Comments

Cities with walkable neighborhoods have good, desirable public transportation that connect the neighborhoods, allowing people to go to and from neighborhoods without driving. Interesting that public parking is an option to create walkable, vibrant neighborhoods, but a notion of reliable, clean, desirable public transport is not included in this category.

It would be great to see more charging stations for electric cars.

Buses sit in the same traffic I do.

Think about getting people off of the road.

Rail first! Must have rails!

ATL is no longer a provincial town that only needs mass transit between Fulton & DeKalb. Expand MARTA (or replace the fairly corrupt MARTA) to include all of the metro counties.

Atlanta's highways are already a nightmare! Increasing lanes adds to the problem! MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION!

Bus and trains NEED to be STATE WIDE and state supported! Other states (I'm thinking of the Northeast do this! Check it out!

Bus and rail MUST be regional and/or statewide for funding! Visit Switzerland to see a well run (reliable and timely) RAIL system!

NO, no and no! The highways are a nightmare all times of the day! Expand the RAIL system in FOUR directions!

This is a no brainer! People who live in NJ commute to Philly (my son does). People who live in CT and NJ commute to NYC. People who live in MD, VA and DE commute to DC on trains!

Walkable neighborhoods and available public transportation!

If it's easier to get to places by walking or if places are accessible by public transit options then more public parking probably will not be needed--or, if needed, it could be increased near transit access points, as needed.

BRT! It's cheaper than rail and can produce similar results.

Coordination is key. Or better, a single transit authority across the region.

Create a unified school district in the metro area. make it possible to attend any school in the metro area - if you work in lawrenceville you should be able to send your kids to school there. Make the schools more of a charter environment - each cluster/school/city can have a seperate school board to set policies. Remove the "eduacracy" at the county level. Let the public school kids ride MARTA to school everyday. It is good enough for the private school kids...

Get rid of GRTA and MARTA. Force the counties in the metro area to accept transit as a legitimate part of the transportation network or stop road funding and/or remove state route designations.

Repairs are needed, but more use and an expansion of other forms of transit will result in savings for future repairs.

Transit Comments

The outer counties need to stop keeping Atlanta at arms length, and expand regional coordination. Even if outer counties refuse to contribute to and connect to MARTA in a meaningful way individuals commuting to the city from the suburbs have a significant negative impact on the quality of life of in town residents.

Expanding Marta will decrease traffic and CO2 emissions from cars.

To know that Washington DC's Metro system and Atlanta's MARTA system are the same age is discouraging. So many major cities have excellent rail/bus systems, we should have been on that route. Hoping the next 25 years will show way more growth than the last 40 years.

Make sure recent graduates have an easier transition, with training classes, and paid internships, for that the future can grow.

We have got to go to a more extensive rail system. Bigger buses on bigger roads are not the answer.

Europe has it all together when it comes to transportation. I have traveled extensively and their bus and rail systems are wonderful and used by their masses.

We need to add bus and rail service that works and is cost efficient.

Little to be expended on existing norms of transit. More focus on mass transit and discourage continuation of ridiculous pvt auto us

We have the worst bus system as the metro area is the most spread out city in the US, but no buses to go across from east-west or north-south. Crazy!

Truly integrated regional transit system - be open to more options such as BRT, light rail

Emphasize compact nodes as a transportation tool, allowing increased foot/bike use but also allowing flexible local solutions. Example: Avondale Estates is exploring the use of all-electric golf carts as a local transportation solution, pairing them with the MARTA station and a compact downtown.

Don't waste money on half-baked Bus Rapid Transit. Build the dedicated lane. It will be worth it. Furthermore, any designs for "streetcars" outside of tourist areas should include dedicated lanes or full-grade separation.

Encourage more employers to encourage MARTA and alternative transportation options for their workers instead of subsidizing parking.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bus_rapid_transit

Transit Comments

Fifty percent of federal, state, and local transportation spending should go toward non-single-passenger auto infrastructure. That is, half of all spending should be directed toward mass transit (BRT, light rail, etc.), enhanced pedestrian access, and bicycle projects. This is necessary if the area expects to attract both young professionals and retirees, of course. These fast-growing groups are moving to areas with precisely those priorities.

Don't always be looking at existing. Do an elevated rail system so traffic doesn't affect transportation system.

Also, there are thousands of miles of rail tracks already laid that go to venues outside MARTA. Make use of them.

Install safe crossings at all transit stops. For regional travel, safe access to transit is more important to pedestrians than a regionally connected network of trails. David Haynes has referred to a regionally connected network of shared bike-ped paths. Above, the sentence refers to bike paths and lanes. That's more realistic, as even marathon runners don't need a regional network of trails. Most cyclists don't either.

Develop a commuter rail system apart from MARTA that allows travel between counties in Metro Atlanta.

Implement "Fix it First" infrastructure strategy to rehab and enhance infrastructure in older communities, Also encourage transit oriented development that is walkable and inclusive

Create areas that are "go to" areas such as a Theatre District and make that area accessible to high-capacity transit system. Also, forget buses and do trams or just make areas more walkable. Study what other cities do...such as how NYC made people walking feel safe.

Build a light rail network of transit around the Atlanta BeltLine and across the City of Atlanta

Build a rail network for transit around the Atlanta BeltLine and across the City of Atlanta

Eliminate MARTA in favor of a regional transportation authority.

Stop thinking of spokes in a wheel. This has never helped anything-only added to problems. We have to decentralize and use grid for transportation, esp. MARTA (study NYC, etc). Doing the same thing over and over is insane. How about double decking interstates? Instead of additional "Top End" Build the right and left side highways of metro atlanta that connect I75/I85/I20. Seems that would relieve Florida/Alabama/coast auto and truck traffic from major rush hour jams. Also preserve North Ga. tourism and conservation/natural habitats.

Transit Comments

It is time to consider man made water ways to shuttle water from areas that have had plenty of rain to drought stricken areas. It could begin with a network with Georgia, then we could extend it to our border States. With cooperation, a water diversion system to prevent flooding & relieve drought could be networked throughout the entire Southeast

Add different rail options that expand outside of the perimeter in different directions.

I am for some rapid transit train system but not the BRT bus. It is a waste of taxpayer money.

Consider light rail as an alternative to bus or heavy rail.

Again, commuter rail is a significant alternative that is not being adequately pursued (lip service only).

More streetcars; encourage car-sharing; shared taxi-style minibuses to serve some routes.

Build Commuter Rail to serve the entire metro area and augment that with regional rail that serves all of Georgia and our neighboring states.

we need to have smaller neighborhood hubs... where you can walk from one to another... downtown East Point to Fort McPherson - to Sylvan Corridor Etc East Point MARTA Station to hospital and then over to Virginia - Booby Brown is Prime area for walking development

Expand MARTA's rail transit system and local bus lines and regional BRT system

Can we promote and develop clean energy in the region instead of our heavy reliance on coal? What about pilot solar roadways, solar panels over cars in parking lots with electric charging stations, and solar projects on government roofs?

The MARTA Rail should wrap with I-285 & have connections at every exit that disburse throughout the metro area.

Raise money from the private sector to self-fund high-capacity transportation improvements, upgrades and expansions with real estate revenues.

Make transit self-funding with private investment, real estate revenues, the aggressive sales of large and small private sponsorships and private sponsorships.

Use Value Capture taxing districts along transit lines instead of 1% sales taxes to fund transit.

Marta, subway, bullet train, whatever you want to call it.... WE NEED IT!

Marta, subway, bullet train, whatever you want to call it.... WE NEED IT! (underground or way above ground please!)

Mass transit for all 31 counties.

Transit Comments

Construct a high speed rail service through out Georgia

Expand MARTA and the Beltline to connect more intown neighborhoods, and outside the Perimeter. The more accessible public transit is, the less car traffic there will be

Add more localized transit options.

Encourage public transportation to diminish so many cars on the road.. London makes parking so expensive and actually charges to bring cars into the city so as to diminish pollution. This will not happen over night but we need a plan to shift peoples' dependence on their cars and encourage public transportation as a viable and money saving option.

Intensify uses around existing transit and bicycle infrastructure

The solution is more RAIL, not more busses that clog up our already congested roadways. Rail runs every 6 minutes, the bus by my house comes once every 45 minutes. Tell me how much time it would take you to get to work if you missed a bus that only comes every 45 minutes.

Transit oriented development and use of highway medians for heavy rail rather than BRT

Complete streets solution plus transit corridors with electric trolley cars that do not use tracks

Provide businesses with incentives to push for more employees to use alternative transportation options. For example, providing shower facilities for bike commuters and transit cards for bus/rail users.

There are existing rail lines. Why can't Marta use them ? Why does everything have to originate from scratch?

Comprehensive rail system that allows residents from all over the metro area to ride without traveling an unreasonable distance to a station

Utilize and expand (multi-track) the Georgia Owned CSXT to accommodate both Commuter Rail and Freight Operations from Cartersville GA to the long proposed Multi - Modal transportation operation in Atlanta's Five points location. This could also service the east side of Atlanta through Gwennett County.....

No more Rapid Transit. Expand GRTA if necessary and increase cross region bus transit.

I live in Chamblee and love using MARTA for the airport and special events. Budget cuts have made it an unfavorable choice for commuting for job purposes and is limiting my job search. If I miss the bus from MARTA at the train/rail station, it can be an hour until one comes along.

Please develop a better rail system. Feeders trains from the suburbs would be great. Look at the metro DC rail system. Look at VRE and MARC trains.

Transit Comments

Develop a more comprehensive rapid transit system to serve the entire metro area

Expand MARTA train system

Expand MARTA rail so that stations reach more neighborhoods

Expand MARTA Rail system. There are problems with "the last mile" (or really the last five or more miles) from a MARTA Rail station to work or home.

Expand MARTA rail throughout the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, and DeKalb County, Gwinnett County, Cobb County, Forsyth County, and Clayton County. Expand MARTA lines to suburbs 60 miles away from the center of Atlanta.

With all the apartment buildings going up in Midtown (i.e. North Ave and the old Sears bldg) we are in dire need of better public transportation. Each apt unit will have at least one car. Our traffic is already bad in town ATL and it can only get worse with all the new living spaces being built.

More rail and light rail interconnecting areas in a grid instead of NS/EW - the Beltline is a GREAT start

Bring back the 400 toll to pay for Marta expansion north, and pay for expanded path400 and beltline trails.

MARTA is badly needed along I-75. I would take it every day to go downtown if it existed!

Developments in air transportation suggest the possibility of air taxi services, solar powered aircraft and lighter than air cargo aircraft. In order to take advantage of these possibilities and developments, Atlanta needs a new, small and specialized airport out of the way of the Hartsfield flight path to take care of this specialized flying segment. The easiest way to encourage this development is to build mass transit capacity into Atlanta business hubs and centers.

More roads are NOT the solution but a comprehensive rail system is the way to go.

MARTA expansion into metro Atlanta counties other than Fulton and DeKalb. The decision to allow MARTA to come through these counties should not be left up to county residents. This is why MARTA can't expand now.

The public transit system we have now is not very usable. It's difficult to get around once you're in town, and it doesn't feel very secure.

Improve rail systems, better maintain existing highways and infrastructure

Rail to navigate the 5 core counties (clayton, cobb, dekalb, fulton, and gwinnett) must be a priority

Run MARTA into Gwinnett County using the I-85 corridor and the existing Park and Ride lots at Discover Mills Mall and I-985/GA20 interchanges for rider pick-up. Probably put a station near Jimmy Carter Blvd as well.

Transit Comments

Line the perimeter with inexpensive public transit and do not permit personal automobiles inside the perimeter.

Also more far-reaching regional projects like high speed rail to Columbus and Savannah.

build more light rail. build high occupancy bridges over top of existing roads like in houston and miami. Put WIFI on all trains and buses - people can communicate and work - more will ride.

Create a train system that links more places than Marta does now. To the stadium, Verizon, and ALL venues as well as work places.

Existing Marta and any new public transportation options needs to be safe in order for the public to use it.

Since regional approaches have failed to bear fruit and the state is little help, let's find money to put into the existing MARTA system to expand the reach and frequency of transit within the current system. Add trains where we can; add buses where we have to; and if other counties want to join later, great. But don't wait for them to come along --they've proven they're too shortsighted.

A more extensive Streetcar is needed to accommodate an influx of intown residents who prefer commuting options beyond vehicles.

Create a comprehensive streetcar network as a short-trip city transit system, using MARTA rail for longer trips

24 hour bus service and extended train service. Perhaps more bus lanes

Optimize MARTA service by studying how people use it

Continue with the beltline and streetcar redevelopment. Increase gasoline tax and stop expanding highways that just induce traffic

Expand MARTA

Employing a highly developed workforce will come with all of the aforementioned areas have reached a certain threshold. Individuals that are highly skilled will move to a place that has a comprehensive transit system, great walkable neighborhoods, a high quality of life and an established innovation hub. It makes an attractive place to be and a place where people want to live. Thus, this category should be a given when the other areas have made improvement.

Increase transit, sidewalks, and bike lanes in areas that are already dense (like parts of the city of Atlanta, Decatur, etc). This is more important than trying to make really long expensive transit lines all throughout the sprawling suburbs.

Transit Comments

Road dieting wherever possible. Work on restoring the grid and increasing travel route options for those who must drive. Increased funding for MARTA to become less car-dependent. More tolls to fund transportation projects. I was actually disappointed to see GA 400 toll taken down - it was quick to get through and cheap. I thought it was good for Atlanta as a whole. Bike lanes in highly dense neighborhoods.

Rather than build new roads that will become toll roads, convert existing interstate lanes into tolls and expand rail/bus transit system through out region. If you expand commuter transit along existing interstates and highways could save money and tolls would incentivize more people to use transit who wouldn't normally while simultaneously reducing traffic.

MARTA heavy rail service should go into both COBB and Gwinnett counties. The North line should be extended to Alpharetta/North Point Mall Area; the East Line should be extended to the Mall at StoneCrest; and the South line should be extended into downtown Jonesboro.

County transit systems cannot cross into Marta areas: MUST become part of Marta

Attract high density housing development within walking distance of existing transit centers.

Build a streetcar system to better connect downtown and midtown.

Lord have mercy make Marta more useful. Those lines need to be expanded.

Enhance rail and streetcar development in the Midtown/Downtown/Buckhead areas as well as the Clifton Corridor and West Midtown.

Having adequate transit syr ca eliminate need for increased parking. Expand transit so those south of Atlanta don't have to drive in

Work with southern counties to develop a regional high speed transit system via train.

MARTA is an extremely wasteful, severely top-heavy bureaucracy, far too many overpaid, underworked lifelong employees, needs to be privatized

We need to develop a transit system that works with self-driving vehicles

EXPAND MARTA NOW!

Have a comprehensive train or light rail that goes where people are. ie. Around the perimeter and into Cobb Co.

Transit Comments

Add just a light rail to each interstate. In most cases in Atlanta, the state already has buffers and right of way zones that would enable an easier way to procure land and transit routes. I would much rather take a rail line down 75S to Atlanta every morning then drive my car and sit in traffic.

Expand rail routes and hours making more useful and possible to get office jobs without having to get on a bus or wait. Like the metro in DC

More Marta rail lines or expansion of the street car lines.

Extend MARTA to Kennesaw so I can visit my Dad!

There seems to be a major rail solution that is not ever considered. We need a line that runs the top end of the 285 corridor (along with the MARTA 400 expansion). It does not need to be and should not be heavy rail. At the very least, we need an option for those in Cobb to get to 400 and home without driving. The 75/285 intersection is prime for the next stage of development similar to the Perimeter district's current boom. These two corridors would be unstoppable with a solid, reliable transportation option. This would also be much more readily accepted by an unnecessarily wary Cobb County when it comes to connecting to MARTA.

Expand MARTA to connect the entire metro area with transit rail lines.

Atlanta needs to improve MARTA to mirror transit systems like Chicago or DC where people from the suburbs can depend on a reliable mode of transportation besides their cars. An expanded train and bus system would alleviate some of the high traffic areas and hopefully reduce the amount of cars on our congested highways.

Add more light and heavy rail lines. Locate new rail stations directly in residential neighborhoods, rather than serving primarily as park-and-ride stations.

Fund and build the Beltline as well as expansions of heavy and light rail throughout the region. Retain the electric car tax credits to encourage more electric cars.

Reduce lanes on roads

Introduce a High-frequency transit network and stick to it

Expand the train system throughout the heart of the city. Include tons of stops all throughout, reducing the need for as many buses on the road.

Provide flexible public transportation options within a neighborhood to entertainment areas, so people don't drink & drive

Add more rail. Atlanta's mass transportation is a joke in the world. Until we take rail seriously and get folks out of their cars, gridlock will continue and get worse. Buses are stuck in the same traffic.

Transit Comments

Expand MARTA and build the multi-modal hub in downtown.
Unify all the agencies under one organization.

Would love to see transit that goes out to the way-out suburbs like Acworth/Kennesaw that relieves the horrid traffic congestion that snarls the city every day during rush hour.

More express buses need to be added daily for job hub locations. And look to the future for Light rail.

Extend MARTA rail north up 400 corridor; increase frequency of MARTA trains

Expand MARTA trains and improve service and safety

encourage light rail where possible and make use of train service on old tracks if possible.

A Rail/Train needs to extend into multiple suburbs to relieve commuting extremely long commutes.

Get rid of buses; we need real trolleys like New Orleans & San Francisco have. Concentrate on using systems that don't use fossil fuels.

Rapid rail lines that connect walkable centers of commerce and employment.

Consider Zoning that corresponds with transit routes to provide for affordable housing and public schools along new and existing transit (rail/streetcar) routes.

Expand the grid inside the perimeter. This lays the groundwork for better denser neighborhoods and makes public transportation more feasible

Expand MARTA to create a world-class mass rapid transit solution. It will be painful for 10 years, but after that it will provide the foundation for Atlanta's future.

Make commuter rail more desirable..more accessible, more directions.

Also more multiple person commuter lanes.

We've already got the major thoroughfares for a full MARTA expansion. Taking 400 as the model, build MARTA in the middle of 285, 75, 85, and I-20. What an amazing way to serve the city. Keep the cars outside of 285, while providing transportation to the entire city. Don't underestimate the visual impact of seeing trains fly by while you're stuck in traffic.

This is an idea I had not a solution, but can we get buses with workout equipment on them? Something like recumbent bikes?

Expand and improve routes for Marta's train system.

Expand MARTA Train routes

Privatize MARTA and responsibility for safety, policy and ticketing passed into state control. Leave the day to day running of the network to a private company

Transit Comments

Make this city accessible by public transportation. Get the cars off the road, and let us travel together. And make it affordable. The more affordable and convenient public transportation becomes, the more people will use it. Right now we are on a downward slide, with a focus on cars and roads. Let's turn that around!

High speed rail to connect atl with charlotte, birmingham, florida, etc

Give incentives for living close to your job. I moved to be closer to work, from the suburbs to intown. There are incentives for people taking public transit, but not for moving! Maybe a subsidy or grant, to help people move intown.

Develop rail lines that parallel the interstates and make stops at major locations along the way. I grew up 75 miles north of New York City. The train station is 5 miles from my house. I would park at the train station and the train would ride on the east banks of the Hudson River making stops about every 8-10 miles heading to Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan.

If you go to youtube and look up "PRT" transit there's a video showing pods that are similar to the Atl airport shuttle. They can be built quickly in highly dense areas. Something like this would be ideal for the Cumerland Mall / New stadium area, the Perimeter Mall area, Buckhead, etc. It would remove mid-day traffic if it connects to shopping, venues and hotels, and spread out parking.

The need is to reduce the impact of traffic coming INTO the city and LEAVING the city.

Perhaps a rail service between the city and the surrounding suburbs. Buses are inefficient for this purpose employees.

Encourage development for all income levels and with credits for accessing or connecting to mass transit.

If we're really thinking about 2040, why not go wild and consider things like car trains? Corridors for self-driving vehicles? Car traffic wouldn't be so bad if it were centrally controlled and efficiency were maximized, especially as electric vehicles rise in popularity.

Atlanta will never be a world class city without a world class transportation system. As our population ages, more and more people will need public transit to get around.

Interstate highway kill neighborhoods. It is a fact. Bury all of the interstates and put in mass transit. Look at the Ga capital it is hideous Is this the best Ga can do?

Restore community, dignity of life at all economic levels. it is an attitude that all are contributors in their own way. I think of the folks riding marta from college park to Atlanta jobs. Beautiful.

Expanding the existing rail system further out to the greater Atlanta suburbs, frequency of trains,

See Cable Propelled Transit called "Gondolas" that are used in parts of Colombia.

Transit Comments

Provide options for a growing elderly population--walkable commercial areas and more public transportation options

Connect outlying communities with rail service of any kind

MARTA trains not viable for suburbs--trains don't go to Turner Field (moot now but curtailed our attendance), trains too slow to airport--create airport express trains.

See the earlier suggestion regarding effective, affordable and sustainable HighRoad rapid transit. WWW.OTG-Inc.com

Bullet trains that are in Europe.

high-speed regional intercity rail service to not-only connect commercial nodes, but ensure accessibility to the residential areas where the workforce lives, learns, and plays

Create accessible transit to and from suburbs, especially adding transit specifically to the new Braves Stadium to keep people off 75N and 285N and adding to already congested roads.

Increase Rapid Transit access throughout the Region.

Link MARTA Stations without having to come into downtown Atlanta

Connect communities - north, south, east and west - with rapid transit and bus service.

Metro Atlanta absolutely needs to develop a sustainable public transportation system. Existing rail lines can be used and light rail systems can be built that will truly connect the sprawling metro area.

Integrate MARTA, Cobb, Gwinnett systems into a seamless transportation system

More mass transit and less roads.

Again, where is commuter rail? It should be a high priority for implementation, but has only been given lip service by the Highway Department for over 25 years.

Create a structure to support transportation in the whole Atlanta area! Not just job center areas. Expand rapid transit to cover most of the areas of Metropolitan Atlanta.

We need intergovernmental unity for public transit of all kinds and that needs to be priority number one before all of the other priorities are even considered.

We just cannot continue down the path we have been on for years as it pertains to transportation. One person per car to and from work, etc., is impossible going forward. We need more choices, bus, rail, etc.

The biggest obstacles that need to be addressed with a vision for this area are education and transportation options. Future success in our region depends on building a stronger, connected core with massive improvements to transit and employment centers that doesn't involve the car. Education has to be improved within our city as well and transit access has a lot to do with improving this.

Transit Comments

Government is already too big. The plan is a bad one army corps cant handle what they already have. EPA doesn't enforce current laws. MARTA DOESNT WORK TOO CRIME RIDDEN. TOO MANY FREE WELFARE PROGRAMS, NO INCENTIVES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. IF YALL REALLY WANT TO DO SOMETHING GREAT, JUST MAINTAIN WHATS ALREADY THERE, STOP ADDING WHAT YOU CANT EVEN AFFORD NOW!! THE MIDDLE CLASS IS DYING IN AMERICA. SOMEONE NEEDS TO AACTUALLY LISTEN TO AMERICANS WE DONT WANT THIS WHOLE 2030-2040 PLAN IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FROM. MOST DONT HAVE A CLUE WHAT ALL OF THIS IS ACTUALLY ABOUT. WHAT IF I LIVE IN A AREA YOU HAVE DESIGNATED NOT FIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION OR I DONT WANT MY NEIGHBORHOOD TURNED INTO A GREENSPACE. THIS WHOLE NATO 21 THING IS UNREAL, YOU WORK THERE I REALLY HOPE YOU REALIZE WHAT YOUR A PART OF. I would love to sit down with this group and see if any of you have a clue as to what you are part of and if you even realize what your creating.

I like what you're doing here, but let's not forget I'm a professional, college educated, 23 year old, armchair urbanist with a weird fondness for regional planning and trains. If anything, I've skewed your data because I represent nobody. For goodness' sakes I look at a parking lot and worry about rainwater runoff, air quality, nearby transportation options, and affordable yet dense housing. So, if there's some way you could throw weight my answers (or throw them out because they're just outliers), that'd probably be for the best. That being said, I love the ARC and I applaud all your efforts.

High speed rail to RTP.

Some ideas in the survey sound good, but at what expense? Middle class is getting smaller so who will be left to fund all of these projects? People need to work harder, do more for themselves and not expect the gov't to hand them everything. Live closer to work, move if you can't find a job. Gov't needs to get smaller, not bigger. Only think I would support is a regional rail system.

The southside of Atlanta below I-20 is really underserved and underdeveloped. It's really embarrassing. Public transit needs to be improved - high speed rail to into north Atlanta and metro Atlanta. Everyone pretty much knows both of these things already though - as well as major reasons for there underdevelopment.

Atlanta needs more inexpensive public transportation all around the city!

I would like to see Marta lines extended into Cobb County as far as Powder Springs.

Transit Comments

gentrification is a real issue, as well as pushing people out further from work forces. candler road is a perfect example. why a train system doesn't go out in that direction should be more on the table. not just the beltline--which covers areas that already have some access. the reach has to get with the times. we also have to shift attitudes about metro usage and bus usage as not just for people of color or poor people. there's still a ridiculously classed notion of public transportation, which the local government reinforces in policy and attitude.

A more comprehensive public transit system that avoids the congestion on the roads (i.e. rail) is essential. More buses will just be caught on the surface street traffic just like everyone else and it doesn't alleviate the problem. If a train/subway system were in place that could take you to more places than just a plus sign that the current system services, this would alleviate the major traffic congestion.

Provide small collector buses to express bus and transit stations in suburban and rural areas should be highest priority now.

Childrens Healthcare of Atlanta. I take Marta bus #6 to work.

We need a rail transit system that goes all over the region. I have lived in Chicago, NYC and DC and all have rail systems that rock the commute. We need it here.

The priorities are hard to argue with; must find a way to increase transportation and transit (rail) funding

Implementing a smart growth building code and expanding our Marta rail or trolley system is critical to slowing the crippling traffic problem.

The public transportation system in Atlanta needs a major overhaul. We need dependable alternatives to driving cars.

Mass transit is NEEDED. However, it needs to be a well thought out program with connections to employment areas. Not just down a major roadway.

highest priority is remove car dependence/ car only thinking. for example, make it a rule that whenever someone gives "directions" or "how to get here" transit info must be given first.

Transit. Transit. Transit. That is what we need and with it will come the innovative companies and better environment to 'create'. Simply, the interaction between different types of people from different backgrounds on transit can do wonders.

Expanding on the current public transportation is the biggest issue in my opinion. I do not plan on staying in Atlanta because of the commuting. It is awful.

MARTA needs to expand to the major counties or you will see attrition from those counties as a result

Transit Comments

Transportation is my main issue. I have a long commute; there is no mass transit from home to work. Traffic is a nightmare.

I believe public transit is essential for equitable access to education and jobs and necessary for sustainable growth. I will relocate from Metro Atlanta to a competing metro area if transit is not improved significantly in the next 5 to 10 years. The seemingly never ending debate and pumping money into planning studies that are never implemented is simply ridiculous in my opinion. I want quality public transit and to live, work and play in a truly progressive community or region. I will relocate if transit is not improved and expanded in the next 5 to 10 years. It is a quality of life issue for me.

Low or no cost common-sense solutions are needed. 1) only allow now construction if it will make the area more walkable (retail at street level) 2) attract employers to midtown and downtown with tax credits similar to the successful film credit 3) safe bike lanes are cheaper and faster to install than mass transit 4) more bus routes in urban core (14th st for example to connect the west side to the east)

I live in Mableton, GA. We moved here so that we could have access to midtown within 20-30 min drive but also a nice home. Unfortunately our beautiful subdivision does not reflect the surrounding area that includes endless title loan and used car and used tire dealers + only fair rated schools, no walkability, hardly any public transportation or parks. Connecting this area of Cobb to Atlanta through public transit, expanded bike trail systems, etc would do so much good and really offer such an amazingly expandable and affordable area for families who cannot purchase a \$500k home in areas deemed safe in Atlanta and Decatur.

More resources for the Southside. Need transit-oriented development around the College Park MARTA station.

Stop MARTA from expanding where it is clearly not wanted.

The main thing in this survey that I didn't agree with was adding more lanes and capacity to roads. Improving traffic lights, intersections, and road quality are important. More important is increasing funding to alternative transit such as heavy rail, light rail, and to a lesser extent busses. The beltline is vastly important and it's continued development will only further drive nearby development in residential, retail, transportation and parks/recreational development.

I'm an Atlanta native. I've experienced a great deal of the sprawl strangle the metropolitan area. This is a main reason for my in-migration to a more urban and transit accessible area. Thanks for providing an opportunity to voice my opinion.

Transit oriented development can address almost all of the issues raised in this survey. Additionally, with the Braves moving to Cobb County, it only makes sense to expand Marta to Cobb. Cobb County Transit is just awful.

Transit Comments

Transportation (commuting from work to home) takes a huge toll on my quality of life. I love the place where I live, but the amount of time I have to enjoy life is greatly shortened by my commute. I feel like if there were safer options that integrated biking and public transportation I might actually enjoy travelling to and from work.

ARC should VERY strongly encourage all metro counties to join MARTA. MARTA needs to be significantly strengthened if Atlanta is going to continue to grow and not turn into another Los Angeles (i.e., traffic nightmare).

Mass transit friendly is the way to be. I would love to be able to stay in Atlanta, but this can only happen if the city grows up (and stops growing out). Would love to live in an Atlanta that opts for green transportation and public transportation over more traffic and more roads.

Would LOVE to be able to take public transit to work. Our area has the worst public transit of any large metro area I've ever visited.

I am working in ATL for the summer (internship) and will be going back to Washington, D.C. to finish my Master's degree. I want to move to Atlanta but the lack of public transportation options and car centric culture (i.e. no protected bike lanes in Downtown, Midtown area) make me apprehensive to make the move.

Would be great to be able to ride rail to the airport from East Cobb

We need viable public transportation, more greenspace, less multi family developments and better code enforcement.

I favor the Multi Modal Transportation Center, the expansion of Marta rail into Cobb County and readopting commuter rail for the entire region.

Please, for the love of all that is good in this world, bring true mass transit to Cobb.

Marta rail should be expanded across top end perimeter and 75 corridor from midtown to town center.

Transit Comments

Would love to see a better developed rail system like in the DC area. Feeder trains from suburbs into the perimeter. Better/more development at MARTA stations. Need to make MARTA safer and a nicer experience. Still see fights and panhandlers in the stations and on the train. I try to ride MARTA whenever possible. Always take the train to and from the airport. I always wonder what all the visitors think about Atlanta when they leave the airport and ride into downtown Atlanta. It is not always a pleasant ride. Maybe create a direct express train to/from the airport to/from Sandy Springs/Buckhead/Midtown. Very fast service from airport to businesses. A "Business" train with a higher fair would be cool too. I am sure most people here on business would pay more for a direct route to the work center such as Buckhead or the Perimeter that is also less expensive than a taxi or car service.

Atlanta needs an expansion of the rail system. This is the most important requirement.

please stop pushing trains and transit. the Atlanta area is a CAR community. accept that fact and deal with it instead of bringing in urban planners and designers to tell us how they think it should be. ignoring the car is stupid. please stop midtown alliance from screwing up transportation in midtown. NO more trains. marta is awful.

clayton county needs major repair from roads highways,pot holes in road,lighting among highways and residential areas,grafiti on walls building,jonesboro ga,what are they doing ,look at duluth areas the people pay taxes as well as all the areas in the metro of atlanta whats wrong with the system,help me to understand,they do not even have transit system in area why why is the goverment if they know is allowing it they say taxes help out road ways look at the exit 75 south riverdale exit pot holes every where some one has to see it or is it they just ignoring it,

Public transportation and public education are the biggest challenges I face in living in Atlanta. It is a regular consideration of mine when deciding where to settle down with a career and family.

Expand mass transit! Expand and develop Marta as a reliable, safe, and convient mode of transportation.

Add more free charging stations for electric cars.

Transit Comments

I'm am a recent transplant to Atlanta, having relocated from New York for work. I had an image of Atlanta as a sprawling car town, and a place where I did not want to live (especially watching last winter's media coverage of Atlanta's frozen freeway system), but have been pleasantly surprised by projects such as the Beltline and other trends toward increasing the density, walkability and cohesion of the urban core. When I recently bought my house, proximity to MARTA and walkability were my number one priorities (I plan to drive as little as possible). I would love to see more focus on walkable neighborhoods, bike lanes and bike share programs, and rail transit. This seems key to turning Atlanta into a desirable city to rival other US population centers more commonly considered to have a high quality of life.

Bring back a new tspot to pay for transit (rail) and parks/beltline.

I'm most passionate about getting MARTA up I-75.

We need expanded Marta rail systems throughout Fulton/DeKalb Counties. Specifically, we need the beltway line and the Clifton line. Also, we need to encourage heavy/light rail development into neighboring counties that parallel major highways (I-75, I-85, I-20, Highway 400 & Highway 78) to provide viable options to driving and to reduce traffic congestion.

Please develop MARTA and make it safe to ride. It should be extended both North and East to the suburbs. But, businesses should provide shuttle service from train stations to the offices. Look to DC and New York. Many business professionals use those systems everyday. Not here in Atlanta. It is the poor and homeless that make up a large proportion of MARTA ridership. That is one of the main reasons middle class suburbia will not ride MARTA. Not only does it need to be convenient, but also safe.

Building a true public transportation system that meets the needs of all walks of life would transform Atlanta and improve the quality of life tremendously.

I think we should have a central connection point for all the buses and trains to connect. I would suggest the old Norfolk Southern on Spring Street as an option.

The Rail System needs to expand. "If you build it, they will come".

We need more bike lanes, more sidewalks, more buses, more rail, and, most of all, less prioritization of the automobile!

I am very concerned about improving transit options, especially for the disabled. I'd like to see better options for a unified system that serves regions, as opposed to counties.

We need comprehensive transit now!

Transit Comments

Traffic is the greatest obstacle that Atlanta has to future development. It is the number one issue that will determine whether we can attract & keep new residents. We MUST develop a rail system that is as pervasive as NYC. Our road system is obsolete as soon as its' built. Roads are not the future.

I am concerned about the changes that happen when buses like CCT come into an area and would be against having that in Paulding County

Public transportation is not the governments responsibility.

I would really like to have more walk-able towns and rail service to more areas, like gwinnett (lawrenceville).

extend marta train all the way to cumming

It is IMPERATIVE that SOUTH Gwinnett be given the same opportunities as other parts of the county. There is NO public transportation or even taxis in the area. I have to RENT a car if I have a problem with mine. The only public transportation is the 418 Gwinnett/GRTA express bus which is very unreliable. Something needs to be done about this. Also, there are NO sidewalks anywhere near Norton Elementary school. Have they been forgotten in GDOT's walkable program?HOW can this be in this day and age????? PLEASE, PLEASE give this area some benefits. Thank you

Education, Housing, Transportation, Green Space, Arts and Culture- ALL make a city great. Look at the metro systems of cities this size and get going with a real plan!

increase MARTA rail lines!!!

Please, please, please do whatever you can to improve transit and make suburban folks comfortable with its existence.

The more people can walk/bike/use public transportation, i.e. the less they are reliant upon cars, the better Atlanta will be. Saves the individual money, helps air quality, and begins the reversal of Atlanta's national image of sprawl & gridlock.

Expand Marta Rail.

Light and heavy rail, completing the Beltline, and Google Fiber will have the biggest impact on Atlanta.

Transit is the most critical issue to maintaining Atlanta's role as a premier city. We must have alternative transportation options rather than being forced to drive everywhere. The State needs to be involved and institute a regional transportation authority.

Please give us reliable transit.

For the love of all that is good...please learn from other metro area on how to implement good public transportation solutions. Atlanta should be ashamed of its poor transportation options. We are 25 years behind already. It is going to take MASSIVE investment to get this done. Good luck convincing Georgians to plan ahead. T-SPLOST taught us they don't care...even with a great plan.

Transit Comments

We NEED mass transit. I cannot stress this enough. Thank you.

We need transportation options that don't require automobiles. Finish the Beltline and add transit would be a great start. Expand MARTA or have a regional transit authority. Have one municipality for the greater Atlanta area.

PLEASE - bring rail service to Cobb County. Also, the GA 400 interchange is possibly the dumbest thing i've ever heard. A billion dollars goes a long way in creating a sustainable mass transit system. Do I think a few extra fly-overs and 4 years of construction will ease traffic? LOL

Better transit is a must!

Expensive of rail for inter-city transportation, as opposed to intra-city commuting, is beyond critical. It easily and completely trumps all other priorities.

Linking the Vinings area and up 75 to rail service and across the north end Perimeter would be a great addition as well.

Better subway system, better subway system, better subway system, better subway system. We're they laughing stock of the nation when it comes to mass transit.

Please expand MARTA (trains)!

More roads are not going to be the solution. It encourages more drivers thus impacting the air quality. Comprehensive mass transit is the way to move in to being a major vibrant city with a notable quality of life. Cobb and Gwinnett counties need to get over themselves and get with the program.

Expand MARTA

We need a better transit system! Atlanta will not improve without better, more convenient transit options (ie New York, Chicago). Marta is a joke!

I would like to see marta rail run 24hours it would lower drinking and driveing cases during nighttime entertainment hours

With an increasing population mass transit is a must or we'll choke on the traffic. Was just in Portland OR and the transit was great and well used. Need frequency as well, if people have to wait too long they will opt for the car instead.

Please connect Buckhead and Midtown / VA Highlands with rail.

Mass transit needs to focus on heavy, subterranean rails given that Atlanta has the perfect geology for such a tunnel network. Tunnels will enable the city to continue pushing towards the population density that enhances the sustainability of future endeavors. Having transportation routes underground will allow for development above the lines and prevents from further scarring the current transit system.

The transportation thing needs to be done NOW. Marta planning to plan to extend lines in 2017 is ridiculous....planning to plan??? Just do it already!!!!

Transit Comments

MARTA idea- split Red & Gold Line in two at West End station, with the Gold Line having the following stations: AUC/Castleberry Hill/New Falcons, Dome (cross with blue and green lines), Ivan Allen/Aquarium, Georgia Tech, West Midtown (10th and Howell Mill), Atlantic Station, and Peachtree Street, with the line intersecting with the Red Line at Lindbergh Center. This would greatly complement the BeltLine and streetcar and would greatly expand transit connectivity within Atlanta.

To invigorate metro Atlanta the single best thing we could have is personal rapid transit. Please see the web site: <http://www.taxi2000.com>

Please try to make Atlanta an eco-area that is pedestrian friendly. More density, build up, less cars, push users to transit.

Encourage public transit and bike infrastructure, discourage auto-centric development and sprawl, and get ahead of other cities hindered by income inequality by keeping up residential supply with demand.

just moved to atlanta from nyc last october. it feels like atlanta needs to figure out what it wants to be as a city. so much going for it but the downtown area needs a retail boost. perhaps the new streetcar will spur that boost. i do think moving the braves out to cobb county is a huge mistake

Transit!!

This survey needs to be advertised on local TV channels and radio stations to get better participation and from a more diverse group of the region's population.

Trains and bikes, clean water. No more road building and no more sprawl.

Enable physical and virtual collaboration with future needs in mind... Highest speed internet and public transit are needed to keep Atlanta relevant. Walkable, safe neighborhoods are also key.

We need to expand MARTA up the existing rail right-of-way to the Mall of Georgia, through the new Suwanee Town Hall. Traffic is driving people away from Atlanta!!!

Public Transportation is extremely important. So are job offers (that pay decent) in the areas where people live. That way they don't have to commute for 1 1/2 hrs. one way - every day.

To be a REAL regional powerhouse you need regional planning and cooperation. No high speed mass transit throughout the metro area, keeps Atlanta 2nd tier. High speed rail to Macon, Augusta, Savannah, Chattanooga, then we become a first tier international city and stop losing business to other metro areas

Transit Comments

Fix existing roads (make it easy to report problems and get them fixed via app or Internet), enhance our expressways, adding additional lanes if necessary and encourage work from home. Expand MARTA trains. Thank you!

We would be a healthier community if we had more public transportation choices. Walking, Biking and Rail.

That's great we are doing regional planning for 2040. I would love to see information on planning, specifically transportation in the immediate future. I strongly feel this region will miss out on opportunities if we don't start a comprehensive plan to address the gridlock in this region. Mass transit should be included in any regional plan. It should incorporate methods of connecting the entire region, not just select counties.

I do not drive and never have had a licence. I use GRTA Xpress and MARTA and see a huge difference between the 2 systems. I lived in Cumming since 2009 after moving from Roswell, in that time I have seen a considerable increase in congestion on the 400 corridor and inept decisions by the Governor and DOT have made the traffic worse. Its time the state takes the traffic issues in Metro Atlanta seriously instead of using a band aid to patch a gaping. wound.

I am a transit Consultant. 44 yrs experience.

If the goal is movement of the workforce, MARTA fails on almost all levels. It isn't directed to the right areas and the schedule of service isn't meaningful for todays workforce. And I don't mean a rail system to Athens. I'm talking about a rigid schedule, no delay, workforce ready option that puts people where they need to be, when they need to be with little hassle and delay.

Need better transportation (bus or rail) following I-20 East.

Add public transportation to the south side of Atlanta - Henry County and Clayton County. We're part of the community too.

A comprehensive high speed transportation system can beneficial for the sustain growth and development of Metro Atlanta and other areas. A high speed train to link Atlanta to Charlotte and Birmingham, and as well as Macon/Savannah with extension to Jacksonville. The train can be in the middle of I-20, I-75 and I-85 with a local corridor express on 285. ((Also, adding bike lane like in DC will be a plus)) NB: in launching the initiative to connect metro Atlanta too Charlotte, Birmingham and other places, there will be less resistance from various communities. In the meantime, the transportation add strategic stop along I-20, 75, 85 and 285. At the end of the Day, Georgia or metro Atlanta needs a high speed transportation system like in Europe, DC, Montreal and so on! Joseph Alfred, Educator 678-508-3231

There should be state funding for Grady Hospital and statewide public transportation

Transit Comments

I recently moved to Texas but have been a resident of the Metro Atlanta area for 19 years and I absolutely plan on moving back. However, one thing that has me considering other metro areas throughout the country is Atlanta's lack of a comprehensive public transit system. It will greatly decrease our traffic clogs and will not greatly increase crime in high income areas. It's beyond time for Atlanta to truly embrace a working public transportation system.

I think the biggest improvements need to focus on public rail, bus and bike transportation. I feel like a large metropolitan area hinders itself with an underdeveloped public transportation system.

Encourage investment and implement the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition's Connect Atlanta Plan and the entire Atlanta Beltline plan to include transit/streetcar/MARTA integration.

I understand the need to protect our communities while maintaining a healthy sense of security, but you have to also look at the growth of Gwinnett County and prepare to adapt to changes as needed. This is one of the largest counties, therefore, we should have a better and more reliable public transportation system. My transmission went out on my car and it is very frustrating to be limited in my weekend activities due to not having adequate public transportation as an option in between time. Would also like to still utilize the service once driving again to minimize my commute to events I'd like to attend. Also, I am in school, but not have to resort to online classes when I prefer (and was attending) classes on campus due to not having the option of using the bus during and after class times because it takes too long to get there, then the bus routes end by the time class is over. Please consider future students, parents, residents, and the current generation of people who need this service on a DAILY basis. Thanks again for your consideration.

- Lower water costs.
- Lower taxes.
- Have Magistrate's courts impose "loser pays"
- Accelerate evictions to discourage deadbeats
- Impose tolls on expressway exits & use fund to make buses free.
- Convert rail lines to bus lines. Make free.
-

I live in Fayettee county. It has great rural characteristics and great schools. We want to keep it that way. No high density development or rapid/public/mass transit.

With good transit this can happen and should happen.

Yes, I love the theatre and concerts. Easy public transportation would really enhance that.

Transit Comments

Try to model after DC, that is the gold standard. Obviously gonna be hard to develop much of a rail system if counties won't let it in, reward N Fulton for allowing rail to move northward and get building.

Heavy Rail connecting the metropolitan area counties and the suburbs of Atlanta is necessary. We do not need any more highways in the region.

too many vehicles on the road...contributes to too much pollution. more buses and trains

Peachtree street should become the Fifth Ave. of Atlanta. Make it a one way street from Buckhead to downtown with broader sidewalks and plenty of shops and maybe a streetcar type of service possibly consider no cars at all only emergency vehicles.

continue to build out the Beltway in the most beautiful way we can and integrate it with the city center.

Consider covering up the whole Connector and create green spaces and connectivity for the whole city instead of being separated as we are now.

We need better transportation. Marta need the freedom to go through all state of GA....

God knows we all need to exercise. I'd love to be able to walk out my door onto a walking trail.

We need bus service in my neighborhood again!! When is Marta returning?

I prefer a public transit system that is timely - more trains and the buses don't run often enough for them to be beneficial

without a regional comprehensive system that utilizes rapid transit, walking and biking companies will not move here - citizens can't take advantage quality of life amenities

Stop making it easier for people to live farther away from services and rely primarily on the automobile. Public transportation - Bus, train, light rail - and bicycling should be the primary focus of transportation. Not roads and highways.

We need a lot of work in this area.. Traffic is awful and is getting worse.. Rush hours now starts at 3:00pm and ends at 7:pm .. We need to expand the routes on Marta and make the connections easier. The subway system is not very efficient ..needs more rails and underground subway..

mass transit for work, cars for everything else

Get rid of rail. Rail's cost per passenger mile is a loser. Make buses free. Toll expressways to provide funding.

Atlanta's population has grown and will continue to grow. A comprehensive public transportation is needed. . . .

Transit Comments

There is an extreme need to reduce the number of automobiles and promote alternative transportation, especially MARTA trains. Develop system similar to other major cities like NYC, Boston, Chicago, Portland, etc.

It appears that MARTA is reducing services. This hampers people who rely on transportation for work and other important matters and isolates sectors of the residents.

I once knew someone who managed to commute to NYC from Philadelphia because mass transit works on the East coast! We have a long way to go.

This DOES NOT MEAN rail or high speed rail! It does not mean expanding MARTA.

only to the extent that this public transportation is self-supported through riders' fares

We need more lower income housing options with access to public transportation

Must be able to walk between stores or make transit between shopping hubs easier.

We would love to attend but parking and transit access is always an issue. Need to find transportation solutions so we do not need to rely on cars.

"right sized" solutions - smaller busses, ride share, etc. - do not run massive MARTA bus/billboards through small municipalities, ruining our sense of place and our peace.

Less parking would push people to use transit, which strengthens transit.

Get people out of cars. Have parking at transit hubs

RAIL!! We need a better subway/Marta system

This would be amazing and really connect our city, metro Atlanta region, and state. If we could get from Athens to Atlanta by rail, not only would our economy grow, but pollution from drivers commuting to Atlanta for work would decrease.

NEED TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS - ex : extend MARTA routes, etc; safer commuter bicycling, etc

Rail can never provide good transportation for the metro region. There is not enough density.

The region is need of a Transportation Hub to house buses, trains and acts as the major docking point for all Public Transportation. We spend 30 years studying a problem until it becomes obsolete when it is time to implement. Why can't we model ourselves after more progressive Cities. The way of thinking about transportation for this region is OUT DATED.

Transit Comments

Please do and be quick about it. I will be taking the 121 or 122 bus to the train station there should be a train station between E. Ponce and going down to where you turn on to Memorial Drive. That's too long of a bus ride going to Kensinton Station or Avondale. MARTA overall transits' should be extended and not with buses. We should visit other cities and find out what's working with there transits system and try and duplicate. MARTA just doesn't go far enough.

Rail, rail, rail, rail.....Where is it? It works everywhere else - so why is ATL so against it? We need it to grow and stay relevant!

As I stated, we need convenience in our options, rail is by far the most effective and convenient. Send the rail up to Windward and make our lives a lot easier. You will absolutely funnel more people into downtown this way than any other option

only to the extent that such projects can be funded/maintained through fares charged on those trains/buses

Rail for sure. Inside the city of Atlanta there should be more rail connecting the Westside to Eastside. And there should be commuter rail connecting various parts of the Northern Suburbs to one another and to Midtown/Downtown Atlanta. The universities, including Kennesaw State, should be part of a rail network.

bus and trains not just bus

Rail would be better. Get rail into Cobb County. Enough already.

Rail is the only way to grow this city. No more roads....let's figure out how other cities such as Chicago and New York move millions of people everyday. We need to educate people that public transportation is very cool!

Being in favor of high capacity transit, this will assist the growth of the city. Having these amenities available will also assist in creating density in-town and near job centers.

Definitely! We can also look at expanding the rail system into suburbs.

Increase the reach and integration of public transit systems in the Metro Atlanta areas.

Not enough roads and lanes can be built to meet the growing need. Dependable, cost-effective and quality transit system should be a big part of the solution. High quality of service important so that people will use it as a choice and alternative to driving cars.

We have huge buses covering large spans of roads and we need smaller vans covering neighborhoods moving people to the train or bus system. Our bus system needs re-thinking ... it can work so much better!

We need trains going to Emory. And we need bus lanes going to South DeKalb to encourage ridership. Also, quick bus travel across the city suburbs with small safe places to change buses that run on a reasonable schedule.

Transit Comments

Expand rail service

I have already commented on this one in particular. However, there is an opportunity to complete this with the former GM location.

That is why the new State Farm campus and the Dunwoody and Sandy Springs office park areas are so popular to attract new HQs because of the location and access to the transit systems. Also, develop buildings and towers on top and in the immediate vicinity of the rail stations to promote increase ridership. Ensure the transit systems are safe and secure with MORE than adequate presence of Marta Police and partnership/cross jurisdictions with local police.

This is the most substantial resolution outside on the metro area exclusively using Marta buses and extended Marta rail lines and Marta transit hubs in other metro counties.

Selected Roads but other modes of transportation is also needed including integrated bus and rail systems.

This is one of the major cities that is AFRAID of public transportation. Other cities like Chicago embrace public transportation. My son who lives in Michigan can drive to a station in 15 mins in Indiana and then catch a commuter train that will take him all the way into Chicago. Washington DC along with New York city are not afraid of public transportation. It would definitely reduce my stress level.

Create underground transit and more bus rail that connects to major job and sporting arenas

Consider light rail. BRT does not seem to have the appeal that was originally anticipated.

Smaller busses, not the typical larger buses that run half empty. "Right size" the bus for the service area and patronage.

We need light and heavy passenger rail service throughout Metro Atlanta! Busses DO NOT get vehicles off the road. Trains also can't stop at every freaking place along the way.

High capacity transit such as rail or bus rapid transit should not be regionally provided.

Rail is not cost-effective. It cannot be moved as demand changes. Replace all rail with buses. The new trolley on Auburn Ave. is a boondoggle for high income progressives and their fellow travelers.

Yes, coordinate connectability between bus systems AND MARTA RAIL. There is no excuse for the County and GRTA buses to come from the suburbs all the way to downtown Atlanta. They should only go to the nearest MARTA rail station, provide free transfer and go back to their origination location and let the Rail bring people to downtown.

Transit Comments

It is insane to think that we can keep adding highway lanes to our existing roads and think that we won't have highway gridlock like California. We need to put jobs and employment in close proximity and provide incentives to expand MARTA and development around its stations

I'm not as much in favor of rail due simply to the infrastructure needs and cost. A high-end, luxury bus service (with work space, wi-fi, etc) between job centers (Perimeter, Galleria, Midtown, Buckhead, etc) would provide the opportunity for commuters to use mass transit to get to and from work in a more realistic and immediate way.

This is important, but not as important as a coordinated, regional plan for cars. The Beltline and its off-shoots (especially if connected to Silver Comet Trail in Smyrna) will address this aspect.

This may seem in contradiction with my earlier answer about bus rapid transit, but I am not in favor of expanding MARTA bus service, CCT, etc as it exists now as the white-collar worker simply won't take it. It needs to be new, "cooler," and catered to yuppie style.

and the trains too.

In addition to connecting major job centers with high capacity transit rail systems, the rail systems need to be extended to more cities and communities. Thousands of workers commute by car, 30 minutes to an hours to get to the nearest bus or rail systems. A rail system from Carrollton, Marietta, and other cities would reduce the number of cars on the road, gas usage, accidents, and time on the road by commuters.

For heaven's sake, get MARTA efficient and extended at least 25 miles outside the perimeter. Make it easier to transfer from rail to bus if necessary.

until mass transit is safe it will not be used.

Do not add more lanes or change free lanes to tolls or add toll roads. Develop bus and rail through MARTA extensions and partnerships.

Develop alternate means of transportation by light rail and better bus lines that don't stop every 45 seconds. Not very useful.

We need to really put our differences aside and mature as a metroplex. Rapid transit to the suburbs should be a HIGH priority or we'll continue to be a laughing stock and will soon see people LEAVE the area!

Buses do not go anywhere convenient. There is no such thing as bus transportation in the Metro Area.

CDC/ Emory needs a MARTA station!!!

Transit Comments

MARTA is not an adequate public trans system- having lived in other cities which had much broader, USEABLE systems. Where I live now- it is actually quicker or takes the same travel time as using public transportation. Marta is not convenient and park/ride are not either.

This does not solve the problem!!! It makes things worse. This lesson should have been learned by now. High quality, expansive public transportation is the way to go.

more rail than BRT

While there should be focus on expanding or coordinating transit coverage to surrounding counties, the core bus network operated by MARTA should be strengthened. Focus should not be entirely on coverage. Frequency is also critical to making transit useful and attractive.

Attraction with adequate public transportation!!

Rapid transit from suburbs to city

Increase parking rates to get more people to use transit

Connect Transit to major areas inside and outside of Fulton, such as Cobb/Cumberland, Gwinnett and Alpharetta

Please look at how Portland, Oregon has created a sustaining high-speed rail network solution in this exact same situation.

Got to expand MARTA already!!!

Do not use gas buses but electric trolley.

Completing the Beltline and merging it with an improved MARTA should be the ultimate focus of any plan to increase Atlanta's viability in international settings.

We need to do a much better job incenting use of mass transit, biking to work, and carpooling.

Get rail service to Cobb County.

Develop and connect residential areas to high-capacity transit equally important along with connections to job centers!

Expand MARTA

Expand the MARTA train system

Run existing rail/transit more regularly and frequently so that transit become quicker and more efficient than driving.

Build a rail solution that integrates with MARTA

The historic piecemeal approach to development hasn't worked. Regional developments must only be allowed along mass transit access. For example, the new Braves facility should not be allowed to be built or open without a train stop.

Transportation is key. We need rail that goes out into the suburbs of Atlanta and the communities within Atlanta. Rail like the New York City Subway that goes to every part of the city would be great.

Commuter rail! Greenspace!

Transit Comments

Clayton County is in need of Marta which will create jobs and improve the way of life.

I would use Public Transit if it a) came to my area and b) assisted me to get to where I needed to go easier.

Stop building bike paths, expanding transit, lower taxes

- Lower water costs.
- Lower taxes.
- Have Magistrate's courts impose "loser pays"
- Accelerate evictions to discourage deadbeats
- Impose tolls on expressway exits & use fund to make buses free.
- Convert rail lines to bus lines. Make free.
-

I live in Fayettee county. It has great rural characteristics and great schools. We want to keep it that way. No high density development or rapid/public/mass transit.

With good transit this can happen and should happen.

Please Atlanta is so congested with it's one passenger cars. A much better public transportation system would help tremendously. It should go further than it's present route.

Yes, I love the theatre and concerts. Easy public transportation would really enhance that.

Try to model after DC, that is the gold standard. Obviously gonna be hard to develop much of a rail system if counties won't let it in, reward N Fulton for allowing rail to move northward and get building.

Heavy Rail connecting the metropolitan area counties and the suburbs of Atlanta is necessary. We do not need any more highways in the region.

too many vehicles on the road...contributes to too much pollution. more buses and trains

If we are to have a world class city, we need to act like one and create an effective and innovative transportation system system most importantly public transportation which will allow anybody anywhere in the greater Atlanta area to reach a bus or public transportation all in walkable distance. This kind of system should not be profitable but be sustained via tax support and reasonable fares. Of course we need to continue to expand an effective highway system probably by building a second Hwy 285 bypass to remove more trucks traffic from the city.

Transit Comments

Peachtree street should become the Fifth Ave. of Atlanta. Make it a one way street from Buckhead to downtown with broader sidewalks and plenty of shops and maybe a streetcar type of service possibly consider no cars at all only emergency vehicles.

continue to build out the Beltway in the most beautiful way we can and integrate it with the city center.

Consider covering up the whole Connector and create green spaces and connectivity for the whole city instead of being separated as we are now.

The art world in Atlanta is not first class or remotely world class we continue to look pretty poor. Major investments need to be made in a truly remarkable symphony orchestra and most importantly a concert hall , like that in New York City, an opera building worth its name and a new and expanded art museum. the whole art scene needs to be enhanced by major improvements all around. Tax payers, and arts supporters can be found to achieve that goal.

If we are to create a truly walkable environment we need to look at more fountains in the city, broader sidewalks, more statues. Our planning has to take that into account if we are to become more special than we already are.

We are a great city with infinite possibilities for the future. so let's have high speed train service from Atlanta, to Chattanooga, to Macon and Savannah and Orlando, those investments are for the public good and will be used by the public if the price is right, the trains fast clean and comfortable with a coffee bar and good food. Trains are not profitable but are an absolute necessity in the modern community. Let's build a beautiful train station downtown from where we radiate public transportation with broad avenues and beautiful surroundings.

That will enhance the quality of life.

We need better transportation. Marta need the freedom to go through all state of GA....

Business is what helps us grow, so this too is very important. How do you prioritize? These are all very important priorities.

God knows we all need to exercise. I'd love to be able to walk out my door onto a walking trail.

Living in a walkable vibrant neighborhood will bring the quality of life that is needed in our city. One where Southern Hospitality can be shared amongst us and our visitors. Not only will we be happy, but we will be exercising and looking for the arts and recreation you speak of. Business will be booming.

Transit Comments

I think Georgia is far behind when it comes to transportation. Lack of a good transportation system ultimately impact our health. Sitting for hours in traffic increases road rage leads to stress, then eventually causes one to arrive to work tired, and then causes a person to scream at the employees, they in turn become unproductive and finally end up with health issues. A good transportation system enables one to connect with businesses, organizations, churches and various groups of people. I was appalled when I moved here and found out that I had to take a taxi or rent a car to get from one area to the next. I just assume it was similar to New York. Going to dialysis was a night mare. When I finally move close to a bus line, I found out that the buses travelled only one route and I still had to walk a good distance. There would be less cars on the road if reliable transportation was available. Citizens would be happier and healthier.

We need bus service in my neighborhood again!! When is Marta returning?

I prefer a public transit system that is timely - more trains and the buses don't run often enough for them to be beneficial

without a regional comprehensive system that utilizes rapid transit, walking and biking companies will not move here - citizens can't take advantage quality of life ammentieis

Stop making it easier for people to live farther away from services and rely primarily on the automobile. Public transportation - Bus, train, light rail - and bicycling should be the primary focus of transportation. Not roads and highways.

Having an excellent public transportation system will definitely decrease the traffic. Visitors will have an easier time getting around. Remember when Atlanta had the "snow deadlock," the national news kept saying that the Atlanta Metro Area didn't have a good public transportation. There needs to be better public transportation connecting the suburbs with Metro Atlanta.

We need a lot of work in this area.. Traffic is awful and is getting worse.. Rush hours now starts at 3:00pm and ends at 7:pm .. We need to expand the routes on Marta and make the connections easier. The subway system is not very efficient ..needs more rails and underground subway..

In order for the city of Atlanta to compete with the best cities around the world; it is very important to consider 24 hrs round the clock rail system. There are too many cars on the road. If we have a reliable rail system that can go around the cities and suburbs surrounding Atlanta, it'll be wonderful. There will be less traffic and less cars on the road.

mass transit for work, cars for everything else

Get rid of rail. Rail's cost per passenger mile is a loser. Make buses free. Toll expressways to provide funding.

Transit Comments

The transportation system is terrible. I currently commute daily in Marietta. The bus system does not run on Sundays and it takes 2 hours to get to Atlanta. I would like to attend church also I believe day passes should be available. I am not from here and this took me by surprise

Atlanta's population has grown and will continue to grow. A comprehensive public transportation is needed. . . .

Create and provide training programs to poor young adults to equip them with skills to find jobs. This can be done by partnering with local businesses. . . .

There is an extreme need to reduce the number of automobiles and promote alternative transportation, especially MARTA trains. Develop system similar to other major cities like NYC, Boston, Chicago, Portland, etc.

It appears that MARTA is reducing services. This hampers people who rely on transportation for work and other important matters and isolates sectors of the residents.

Fayette does not want or need public transportation. High density development follows that. We are the cream of the region and don't want to become skim milk.

Thousands of workers commute to downtown and metro Atlanta daily. We need a better transportation system. The train is a start, but it needs to be expanded to more areas. The local bus and Xpress bus is not adequate for the number of people needing service. This is a must, especially with the city's anticipated growth.

Essential to quality of life, jobs, business and every part of life in the area.

Attracting high tech business will bring the educated work force. Lower business tax rates. Business' do not really pay taxes any way. The cost of tax is added to the cost of their product and the customer (us) pay.

Quality educational institutions produce creative and innovative graduates. A partnership with local business' to offer employment opportunities to students will encourage them to stay in Atlanta and make this an even better place to live.

I once knew someone who managed to commute to NYC from Philadelphia because mass transit works on the East coast! We have a long way to go.

If we don't have the skill workers, we won't attract the business. We need to improve our schools and trade schools.

We will not attract businesses if we don't have these issues under control. We need to settle the A. S. O. war that is going on now in Atlanta.

This DOES NOT MEAN rail or high speed rail! It does not mean expanding MARTA.

Transit Comments

More focus on public transit and walkability. Transit, biking, and pedestrian travel should be coordinated well.

I tear up every time I see homeless people, even when I see senior citizens walking miles from a bus stop with grocery bags and other bags in their hands.

I just think that more can be done. More resources allocated to them.

Yes, but this is not solely on placing 'Whole Foods' in impoverished areas, the community has to demand it. If these are placed in impoverished areas, how long would it take for these establishments to go out of business due to cheaper alternatives.

If there is a market business' will move in for the opportunity provided it is a safe place to do business.

Substance abuse and mental health issues are major contributors to homelessness. Address those issues and the problem will reduce. Hand outs don't help, they only exacerbate the issue.

universities are already busting our piggybanks.

This is a solution that is an outgrowth of our universities and major businesses.

I like this, yet think it would be abused. Political favoritism would put investment in certain locations driving property gains for the well connected.

The ARC should come to the table with Major Developers when planning new places of business. We need to get our citizens out walking.

only to the extent that this public transportation is self-supported through riders' fares

We need more lower income housing options with access to public transportation

Must be able to walk between stores or make transit between shopping hubs easier.

We would love to attend but parking and transit access is always an issue. Need to find transportation solutions so we do not need to rely on cars.

The focus should not be building businesses on the North and Northwest side for jobs and expand them to other areas such as the East or the Southside. It is ridiculous that most of the professional jobs are in Alpharetta, Marietta or Perimeter. It is sad that I travel from Conyers to Alpharetta each day to work.

Do not use the contracted parking company Atlanta currently uses. They are in the news way to often for spurious behavior issuing tickets to generate revenue. Who's getting paid off to allow those scamsters to do business.

Transit Comments

"right sized" solutions - smaller busses, ride share, etc. - do not run massive MARTA bus/billboards through small municipalities, ruining our sense of place and our peace.

Atlanta feels overcrowded with no where to park without paying a small fortune. Park Atlanta and the city seem to be the only businesses profiting from all of the new facilities being built in the downtown area.

unfortunately ,Atlanta has lost a lot of its character, appealing to the Hollywood crowd.It feels as though we are all over the place in our building,some could call it eclectic,but it looks as if we build without a plan of what the city will look like as a whole. Afician-American communities have suffered the most because the city doesn't invest in them, they just come up with ways to move its residents for the betterment of big business and the convenience of young white Americans.

Less parking would push people to use transit, which strengthens transit.

stay out of the real estate business.

Get people out of cars. Have parking at transit hubs

RAIL!! We need a better subway/Marta system

This would be amazing and really connect our city, metro Atlanta region, and state. If we could get from Athens to Atlanta by rail, not only would our economy grow, but pollution from drivers commuting to Atlanta for work would decrease.

NEED TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS - ex : extend MARTA routes, etc; safer commuter bicycling, etc

Only if the counties are willing to participate in the tax increase. It is not fair for the current counties to have the burden of funding bus service.

Rail can never provide good transportation for the metro region. There is not enough density.

The region is need of a Transportation Hub to house buses, trains and acts as the major docking point for all Public Transportation. We spend 30 years studying a problem until it becomes obsolete when it is time to implement. Why can't we model ourselves after more progressive Cities. The way of thinking about transportation for this region is OUT DATED.

Please do and be quick about it. I will be taking the 121 or 122 bus to the train station there should be a train station between E. Ponce and going down to where you turn on to Memorial Drive. That's too long of a bus ride going to Kensinton Station or Avondale. MARTA overall transits' should be extended and not with buses. We should visit other cities and find out what's working with there transits system and try and duplicate. MARTA just doesn't go far enough.

Transit Comments

I feel this one is very important as I take Express bus from Hiram to Atlanta daily and love the freedom of not having to deal with the traffic and put miles on my car or have added risk of wrecking or other issues. Subsidizing and making the cost savings much greater than driving would entice more people to try and would help greatly reduce traffic during rush hours. Also this would be potentially a cheaper solution to adding more lanes to interstates and roads.

Rail, rail, rail, rail.....Where is it? It works everywhere else - so why is ATL so against it? We need it to grow and stay relevant!

Start with healthy education and creating safe connectivity through cycling and you will increase healthy lifestyles. Encourage business incentives for non traditional transportation to work or event tele-communiting

As I stated, we need convenience in our options, rail is by far the most effective and convenient. Send the rail up to Windward and make our lives a lot easier. You will absolutely funnel more people into downtown this way than any other option

No one wants a transit line in their neighborhood so use our existing interstate space for more lanes and instead use this for transit such as trains. When people see that the trains move faster than the traffic this may motivate them to use mass transit.

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This is the most substantial resolution outside on the metro area exclusively using Marta buses and extended Marta rail lines and Marta transit hubs in other metro counties.

Regional bus services should be available on the weekends.

Selected Roads but other modes of transportation is also needed including integrated bus and rail systems.

The issue is not to expand the roads but to lessen the traffic on the roads through public transportation

This is one of the major cities that is AFRAID of public transportation. Other cities like Chicago embrace public transportation. My son who lives in Michigan can drive to a station in 15 mins in Indiana and then catch a commuter train that will take him all the way into Chicago. Washington DC along with New York city are not afraid of public transportation. It would definitely reduce my stress level.

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Create underground transit and more bus rail that connects to major job and sporting arenas

Consider light rail. BRT does not seem to have the appeal that was originally anticipated.

Smaller busses, not the typical larger buses that run half empty. "Right size" the bus for the service area and patronage.

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We need light and heavy passenger rail service throughout Metro Atlanta! Busses DO NOT get vehicles off the road. Trains also can't stop at every freaking place along the way.

High capacity transit such as rail or bus rapid transit should not be regionally provided.

The citizens of individual regional counties should have the option of whether or not they want expanded bus services or any bus services within the individual counties.

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How about instituting consistent land use policy? Then, you might avoid suburban activity centers that demand high capacity transit.

For heaven's sake, get MARTA efficient and extended at least 25 miles outside the perimeter. Make it easier to transfer from rail to bus if necessary.

staggering the business day so employees neither start nor end at the same time will free up more commuter travel space.

until mass transit is safe it will not be used.

Do not add more lanes or change free lanes to tolls or add toll roads. Develop bus and rail through MARTA extensions and partnerships.

Expand bus service BY coordinating across county lines

Develop alternate means of transportation by light rail and better bus lines that don't stop every 45 seconds. Not very useful.

Unfortunately, most of those in the Atlanta area WILL not ride a bus. EVER

We need to really put our differences aside and mature as a metroplex. Rapid transit to the suburbs should be a HIGH priority or we'll continue to be a laughing stock and will soon see people LEAVE the area!

Buses do not go anywhere convenient. There is no such thing as bus transportation in the Metro Area.

CDC/ Emory needs a MARTA station!!!

The buses get caught in traffic and can't maintain schedules

MARTA is not an adequate public trans system- having lived in other cities which had much broader, USEABLE systems. Where I live now- it is actually quicker or takes the same travel time as using public transportation. Marta is not convenient and park/ride are not either.

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more rail than BRT

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Transit Comments

Reach out to local businesses and ask if they would "volunteer for the day", by allowing employees to clean up, paint, and/or plant flowers. In return, provide a certificate, a write up and picture in local newspaper (AJC), recognizing their hard work.

Urban areas need a lot of water to attract new business and to keep what we have. Water is becoming more scarce across the globe...we need to conserve and teach that to our children and to our corporate community!

"Environmentally sensitive" gets way over used to prevent reasonable development. Just look at what counts as a "wet land". This region has lost many jobs due to environmental regulations that have made the businesses move to other countries. We need a reasonable balance and governmental assistance to go with mandates.

This tends to be more abusive than effective.

lowering property, income and sales tax rates encourage business development

Have partnership between local Universities and start up business. Encourage College students to get a co-op with start up businesses and partner them with more mature workers. Access the knowledge of the old and young to bring things together in a business. Retrain older workers with continued education. Have Business Incubators to help start ups. Help encourage mentorships between Industry Gaints and start ups in leadership.

Tax credits for companies coming to the region....more business more tax revenue

Attraction with adequate public transportation!!

Attracting business into our area keeps our personal taxes down and provides good jobs.

Make Atlanta a competitive market to attract new businesses to the area.

Need to return to discipline in schools and reinstate teacher/principal control, not student control. Go back to basics, the children graduating today are incapable of being productive in a business environment due to lack of spelling, grammar and basic reasoning skills.

We need to invest in closing the skills gap. Partnerships between business and education will help.

This should be the fore-front of developing jobs in the city and region. Small businesses are main provider of jobs. Adding and keeping these alive and healthy will build a sustainable process which decreases unemployment.

Yes! We must support local business and be supportive of small business too. This is what sustains communities.

Transit Comments

While I want to encourage businesses in the areas, I'm concerned about the level of incentives/tax breaks we give large corporations to locate here.

In providing quality local training and education that matches employer and business demands keep us constantly informed of such opportunities thru all forms of media

The people are coming to the region, that's a fact. Businesses already receive several incentives for coming to the region

Yes, but only if the business that benefits helps pay the bill.

Develop community business as satellites so all workers will have the ability to work close to home.

Simplify licensing for small businesses. Make compliance SIMPLE, with clear, non confusing directions.

Tax incentives work well. It is very expensive for small business' to operate in my county. Many Mom and Pop places can't afford the license and other fees and wind up going under leaving only deep pocketed national chains. It stifles innovation and variety.

lower taxes for all is the best way to attract new business to georgia.

Rapid transit from suburbs to city

Increase parking rates to get more people to use transit

Connect Transit to major areas inside and outside of Fulton, such as Cobb/Cumberland, Gwinnett and Alpharetta

Please look at how Portland, Oregon has created a sustaining high-speed rail network solution in this exact same situation.

Got to expand MARTA already!!!

Do not use gas buses but electric trolley.

Promote greater land use plans that encourages development near areas with access to mass transit, sidewalks, and/or trails and parks.

Completing the Beltline and merging it with an improved MARTA should be the ultimate focus of any plan to increase Atlanta's viability in international settings.

We need to do a much better job incenting use of mass transit, biking to work, and carpooling.

Make communities more alternate transportation friendly, electric buses, bike paths, etc..

Get rail service to Cobb County.

Develop and connect residentail areas to high-capacity transit equally important along with connections to job centers!

Expand MARTA

Expand the MARTA train system

Run existing rail/transit more regularly and frequently so that transit become quicker and more efficient than driving.

Build a rail solution that integrates with MARTA

Transit Comments

The historic piecemeal approach to development hasn't worked. Regional developments must only be allowed along mass transit access. For example, the new Braves facility should not be allowed to be built or open without a train stop.

I believe the ARC is another bureaucracy that has been created by the legislature that will in time become detrimental to business and become more powerful. There are, however, merits to the ARC in so far as environmental issues are concerned. These merits do not justify the ARC's existence.

Transportation is key. We need rail that goes out into the suburbs of Atlanta and the communities within Atlanta. Rail like the New York City Subway that goes to every part of the city would be great.

Commuter rail! Greenspace!

Improve unincorporated Fulton County with businesses or programs to improve property values.

Clayton County is in need of Marta which will create jobs and improve the way of life.

I would use Public Transit if it a) came to my area and b) assisted me to get to where I needed to go easier.

TOO MUCH justification information on the first 30 pages. I would have liked to read a summary of the plan. Based upon this survey, there is no real plan yet. I could have summarized the first 40 pages in about 3! Waste of working/busy person's time. Cut to the chase and summarize issues. Way too many pages and mired down in obvious facts and details - -too many pages to explain Atlanta growth trends - way too many pages justifying the regional plan. I wanted to read "The Plan"!

REGIONAL rail to exurban counties

I support autonomous vehicles. BRT has a future in Atlanta. Perhaps automated, solar powered, elevated "pod" transportation. Light and heavy rail, however, are far too expensive to install and to operate to be viable in Atlanta in the foreseeable future.

Transit Comments

We do not need anymore big transportation road projects in the Atlanta area. We need Interstate projects which run Northeast from Macon to intersect with I-20 to go to Augusta and beyond I-20 to Gainesville and North to I-40 in N.C. We also need Interstates which go Northwest from Macon up to I-20 and North beyond to Chattanooga. U.S. Highway 80 should become an Interstate from East Georgia through Macon to Columbus and west into Alabama. High speed rail from Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson to Macon airport, Columbus airport, Augusta airport and the Port of Savannah would be a passenger's heaven to save time and money going to an airport and waiting for flights or going through all the security. Spread the wealth of the economy of the WHOLE STATE OF GEORGIA will give all of us in Atlanta Region a better quality of life, a respite on a bad water supply, traffic congestion in the Metro area and give the rest of Georgia a place to come to enjoy the Arts, Recreation, etc. Think about it, there is only so much room and so much timberland to be had to enhance are current quality of life without continuing to destroy our whole region.

It is time to put a train system for local/regional travel up the middle of the interstate. More auto lanes, tolls, etc. are just delaying innovation to move people around the region. Maybe time to replace the GDOT folks who are not public transportation focused?? After all, construction folks can change from auto lanes to laying track as it is all about the \$\$.

I am originally from San Francisco California and I grew up on the Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART). This provided me with the opportunity to explore the bay area in a convenient way. I think Atlanta should have a similar system.

Bus, yes, Rail, HELL NO! We cannot afford to maintain the existing MARTA system and you want to add more rail??? This, to me is a major reason NOT to change the ARC bylaws to allow so much power in the Chair and to even allow "private citizens" who head CIDs to have positions of power on the ARC board. These people have a vested interest in bringing rail stations to their CIDs to benefit local development at the expense of ALL of us in the region.

It is time to just STOP this mindset. If Los Angeles can begin to do this, we can do. I went home to LA and got around on both trains, public transportation and a little auto travel. Got from SF to LA without a car too.

Transit Comments

supporting biking, walking, and mass transit as healthier and more economical ways for transportation than cars

Expand Marta. Use the middle of 75 and 85 if necessary like JFK in Chicago. As people sit in grid lock and watch others go flying by reading the paper they'll reconsider driving. Marta should have been in Gwinnett county 25 years ago.

Do more with the subway/rail system to outside 285
Add WiFi to bus and trains on marta. More riders will come.

Less roads means less cars. More marta services means more riders. Add density to rail stations with residential. Add WiFi to rail and bus. Add services in kiosks at rail stations like NYC greenCarts program. Win win.

Transportation - General

Transportation/General Comments

We need reliable transportation to make it to our jobs and careers, so that we can promote a healthy future for ourselves and our families.

It would be nice to have, as part of the transportation system, streets that are pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly.

To recruit the nation's top talent to Atlanta, I need to be able to point to a modern, world-class transportation system.

The perimeter center area and the top end of I-285 need real solutions to traffic congestion or growth stops!

Innovation workers will only settle in Atlanta if walkable communities and transportation alternatives are provided.

Most through vehicular traffic should be routed away from neighborhood streets and vehicular speeds reduced to 20 mph using roadway geometry, not relying on regulation and enforcement, using roundabouts, raised and/or signalized pedestrian crossings, lane narrowing and curvature, raised intersections, landscaping, etc. to reduce fatalities and serious injury pedestrian & cyclist crashes with motorized vehicles.

Transportation System move people about where cars can't.

I believe if you have the first three - transportation, vibrant neighborhoods, and arts and culture - being an innovation hub and having skilled workers will follow especially as we have great universities here already.

Since a water supply is a necessity, Transportation is really the #1 optional item on this list.

Unless we correct congestion, our economy will fail!

Transportation/General Comments

The number one impediment to success in the region is traffic. While all items are important, transportation should be the top priority.

Regional transportation lays and other infrastructure along with Arts Recreation QOL attract attract and keep a well educated workforce who in turn create the Atlanta region as a Hub of Innovation

This is a must with the area being wide spread and too much traffic congestion.

The number one issue in Atlanta is transportation. Let's stop sending businesses to Dallas, Houston, Austin, Charlotte, Chicago and others.

A system where we can pay the operations and maintenance. We are going in the red now.

Traffic will pepople like me and many others away.

Having a comprehensive transportation system supports all the other facets (an improved workforce, improved neighborhoods, improved quality of life)

Don't add stress by overbuilding and causing traffic snarls that frustrate people.

Why does Atlanta allows interstate traffic to travel through the city. This is a short cut to Florida. Trucks need to travel around the city not through it. Move big business to the suburbs and government office i.e. dept of Law to Athens, Agriculture to Tifton etc and have dept head come to Atlanta only for big meetings. That is why we have Skype and conference calls calls.... t

The walkable neighborhoods will only happen with transportation improvements, but because that's the goal rather than the infrastructure in itself, I chose that to include in my top 3.

I feel that the voters spoke in the defeat of the SPLOST on the unrealistic transportation issue. To now come up with a plan to move ahead of it UNFUNDED leaving the taxpayers in the lurch to pay for it, is absolutely unacceptable.

I see this one as a function/result of having a comprehensive transportation system. Until recently, the walkable, vibrant neighborhoods that exist do so in spite of transportation oriented almost exclusively around the automobile. In my opinion, the transportation system can't diversify fast enough.

People in Atl area are Tired of cars/traffic. Live, work Play in on backyards

Infrastructure for transportation and such: yes. SERVICES: NO! Not the role of government.

A combination of means of transportation must be developed so people can get around to work and shop and play.

Transportation/General Comments

This is the most critical of all top priorities. So many of the other priorities I don't think will move forward in the best possible way without a comprehensive transportation system. This is an area the region has so much opportunity to be innovative and lead the south and similar kinds of regions by developing the best transportation system.

If the plan is to become the hollywood of the south or the next big city, then without a fail that we need better transportation system. Take the time and do it right. Don't just react... think about the bigger picture before making any changes.

It is imperative that the Metro area understand its future transportation needs and act to develop more efficient connections between residential areas and job nodes. While we can't ignore here and now problems, we need to have a vision that is at least mid-21st century.

I don't care for any more highways - I want to see non-personal vehicle options built out and NOT any more highways.

Transportation is very important wherever you live.

Without a transportation plan that deals with grid lock we will never incorporate 3 million more people to the region. Building more lanes on the interstate IS NOT THE ANSWER! Multi-modal REGIONAL transportation is the answer.

"World class" is meaningless. Do the roads have enough capacity (and are they properly priced) to get people where they want to go? Trying to ramp up density in order to support hugely expensive fixed rail projects is doomed to failure. Also, telecommuting and flexitime/4-day work weeks MUST be treated as serious components of any regional mobility effort and NOT as competitors to contractor and developer favored massive construction projects.

I think the city of Atlanta has made some very poor choices in their transportation decisions and do not trust them to take on more.

Reduce dependency on transportation to get to and from work by clustering communities and workplaces to reduce travel demands

No- Government should STAY out of this arena. Let the FREE market dictate transportation initiatives & stop wasting my taxes on expensive schemes that only cost more & more.

Until the myriad counties get over their prejudices and embrace a comprehensive plan there is little hope. I'd like to see commuter rail paralell to all interstates.

Without a better transportation system, Atlanta will fall below standards of being a world-class city. If you can't get around effectively, you can't take advantage of the city.

While education, water, and quality of life are all important, it is our lack of comprehensive transportation strategy and implementation that will prohibit any sustainable progress of the

Transportation/General Comments

region.

Why not put a whole of a lot more emphasis on fixing what we have first. Smart traffic lights, roundabouts and flyovers come to mind. We already have underutilized bus systems and traffic snarls that could be relieved with current innovation.

We need to stop making one step forward and two steps back. Putting in a street car but then allowing surface parking lots built right near the tracks is ridiculous. Stop accommodating vehicular traffic.

Once you can navigate a neighborhood without a vehicle, you'll want to be able to access the neighborhood from other locations.

A healthy transportation system should be easily navigable for the elderly, the youth, and the intoxicated. If that is achievable, you'll have a fantastic transportation system..

Stop zoning codes that require minimum parking and start building a city for people rather than automobiles.

This is not a huge issue in the suburbs, I can't speak to in town neighborhoods. They are throwing tax dollars away on sidewalks and foot bridges to nowhere in Johns Creek & Alpharetta. A greenway & cute little town square is plenty.

this is my second priority as long as this doesn't mean more expressway capacity. That is *not* what we need.

I can't even comment here, Atlanta's been dealing with this issue for a long time. TRAFFIC is horrific here and the driver's are the worst. (I'm a native Atlantan)

NO more taxpayer funded transportation schemes. The taxpayers are sick and tired of this nonsense. Stop the socialism.

Transportation system needs to be developed as the population of the city is growing and traffic is becoming more congested.

Although I put transportation second, I see our traffic and road system as a major problem now and one that will only get worse with more people. Traffic, congestion and infrastructure needs to be very high on the list.

Every transportation effort seems to be sadly misguided and a waste of public resources. Let private industry do it.

Its great to have lots of shops and restaurants, but we need to add enough parking so that people get to them.

Time the traffic signals so more than a couple of cars can go through each light.

The metro area must focus on nodes in the suburban areas like Marietta. Transportation is directly relevant to this.

Should be part if the transportation plan

Transportation/General Comments

Too much of our lives are spent in our vehicles, cost keeps rising

We need routes/interstate system STRICTLY for the tractor trailer trucks. An underground tunnel system with sufficient ventilation, and a way move goods from the trucks to the stores. Also, the drivers training needs to be instituted. In my travels in and around Cobb County, almost ALL of the drivers don't know the rules of the road, or don't heed them. Driver's training needs to be MORE comprehensive and have higher standards for passing the timing AND the driving tests, both written and driving. For this state to advocate that driving is a "privilege", and NOT a "right", the vast majority do not seem to know how to execute that "privilege".

Zoning and development should be built around the transportation that exists now and is being built.

Current transportation is insanely unbalanced and promotes automobiles over healthier, "greener" and more cost effective alternatives.

Of the 6 priorities listed, 3 are public goods but not inherently regional in nature. Only Water, Walkability, and Transportation are inherently regional challenges that simply cannot succeed without regional authority or regional cooperation. There is nothing wrong with the other priorities, but they can just as easily be accomplished at the state or local level. Regional involvement for these is not as critical.

A major problem here and lack of a good transportation system here. Just take a look at the snow storm from earlier this year. Ridiculous! More importantly, how do you change the driving culture of metro Atlanta?

If metro Atlanta doesn't fix the I-75/I-85 Connector's capacity, the metro region will be forever fragmented into several "workforces" and the region will suffer as a result. The highly educated people in Peachtree City will not want to take a job in Alpharetta if it means a 150 minute commute (each way) by 2040.

Though transportation systems rank at the top of needs, Atlanta and the US are in the early stages of rejecting cities such as New York. We face a major social change and ignoring it will waste years and decades.

I ranked this one second, because from the studies I have seen a good transportation system increases efficiencies, which in turn enables economic growth that can fund the other priorities.

Make our metro area Bikeable - remove parking spaces from the streets and replace them with bike racks. Tax the strip malls that build massive parking lots but have 0 bike racks and minimal pedestrian access.

Transportation/General Comments

the government and quasi-government agencies need to stay out of things. want to improve traffic? make the roads bigger and don't have them funnel together. stop taking away lanes for wider sidewalks like midtown alliance screwed up peachtree. stop doing dumb things like eliminating the HOV lane outside of 285 on 85

One of the goals of improving our transportation system should also be to improve air quality for reasons of economic development and public health.

An absolute must! Who wants to emulate Los Angeles?!? Plan for & develop the top 3 - water, neighborhoods, & transportation - and the other items will develop as a result!

This issue should be front and center. And, excluding interstates, a complete streets policy should be instituted. Citizens should be able to move safely and enjoyably from one neighborhood to the next through interconnected pathways.

No more capacity!! New roads = more congestions.

A comprehensive transportation system is critical for enabling people to work and play with less stress. It allows for bicycling, either for utility or recreation; walking to stores, schools, work, recreational centers, and entertainment (or transportation hubs) SAFELY. It gives people more choices about where to live, work, and shop. A system of gridlock drives businesses and residents AWAY. The opposite - having a modern, innovative, comprehensive transportation system, attracts businesses and people.

Promoting the health and well being of residents is good for the residents physically and psychologically and ultimately saves money for the region. Greater health and well being equates to lower healthcare expense and increased income from travelers, seeking this type of vibrant environment.

I believe we already have many opportunities for recreation, and enjoying art, but our environmental and transportation problems impede the development of a healthy quality of life.

Need more options for people especially getting to and from work. If not, the current gridlock that we are experiencing on our interstates will potentially make it such that it will take us longer to get to and from work as it does to actually work at our jobs.

Traffic is the worst problem in Atlanta. A 30 minute commute in 1998 has become 1 hour plus now.

The metro area needs to build a true transportation system. That of DC, for example.

Transportation/General Comments

The metro area needs to build a true transportation system. That of DC, for example. DC targeted the use of business professionals and their transportation routes when it developed the Metro. Currently, Atlanta doesn't have reliable, clean, desirable, convenient transportation to some of the most highly traveled corridors such as the Clifton corridor. The typical Atlantans-especially those from outside the perimeter- do not see the value in investing in public transport...I would say because it's never provided a desirable service to them.

Comprehensive MULTIMODAL Transportation System. Need less concentration on highways

Build more nice shops, shopping areas and movies so that people can have these things closer to their home to visit as opposed to having to travel on another side of town. Include more small\large dog parks in the community and walk\bike trails like the beltway and silver comet.

Restructure Underground Atlanta to build another type of "Atlantic Station" so that people will have more shops, nice restaurants, movies, clubs, etc. to visit. Add man made water for a nice feature such as a lake to add to the scenery. I believe this will give people more reason to want to come and visit and hang out. Add out door patio feature for dog friendly restaurants and a small\large dog park.

Also, build more access roads or lower bridges under the expressways to help reduce traffic congestion. Please do not build any high bridges since there are some active senior citizens who are very independent and like to travel but may not want to go over any high bridges. Also, if it's possible, please build a dedicated bike\moped access separated by a concrete wall to avoid danger to people who would be willing to commute this way to go throughout downtown and beyond.

Expanded feeder roads for commuter traffic

Concentrating all business and activity in one location is strangling the metro area and the state. Prevents any transportation "fixes" now or in the future.

Road development. Not comprehensive transportation. Build the outer loop. Get the trucks out of the metro area. A northern arc is the relief to rush hour traffic.

More lanes of traffic.

Improve automobile access.

Better roadways

Building Roads. Your options have little to do with transportation.

Transportation that puts human-powered transportation front and center

Transportation/General Comments

**Engaged and connected people
Access to good schools, jobs, stores, and services
Affordable homes, transportation, and other daily needs**

Encourage staggered work times/ telecommuting like during the Olympics. It was evident in the extreme during the snow storm that having the majority of commuters on the road at once contributes the most to congestion.

**Public safety
Transportation safety**

transportation

I think that maintenance of our roads and bridges is most important. I would like to see our tax dollars go to their original intended purposes and not all of these gimmicky new projects.

Double the capacity of the I-75/I-85 Connector.

Bikeable city - make it safe to bicycle from the Airport to Alpharetta, and Stone Mountain Park to Sweetwater Creek State Park! We should push for a Metro Area law stating that any road that is resurfaced in the region must incorporate safe bike lanes and safe walking access. Put people before vehicles!

Better traffic plan with more left turn lanes, arrows, flexible lanes

Greater focus/incentive on telecommuting, alternate work schedules and other ways of making metro jobs more accessible by reducing commute times/traffic

Number one is transportation

Provide and promote energy efficient/ green alternatives in housing and transportation.

Dense enough to support options other than driving a single occupant vehicle

New or expanded roads to relieve congestion.

Traffic is the biggest obstacle to continued growth of the Atlanta area. It is a must that traffic patterns - including a monitored, well-functioning traffic light system and [perhaps] police or camera monitors - be implemented to keep rush hour traffic flowing and abusers to the system in check. New business is shying away from coming to ATL due to our overwhelming gridlock. Traffic improvement in the entire metro area should be top of the list not only for growth, but quality of life.

Construction of a highway system that would alleviate the traffic jams on the major highways.

Create incentives for businesses to expand outside of the perimeter. Specifically South, East and West of downtown. Ease congested traffic.

Quick, reliable transportation AROUND Atlanta (485?) and from the Center OUT

Transportation/General Comments

Add more roads to relieve the congestion in the metro Atlanta area. Commuting in Atlanta is a nightmare during rush hour.

Manage the out of control growth. The traffic situation is pathetic.

Plan transportation so more metro ATL residents don't have to rely on automobiles

The Metro Atlanta Region must improve the transportation issue. This is something that impacts so many other areas within the city, including our workforce, reducing traffic and getting qualified entry level talent to jobs.

Having a comprehensive transportation system and vibrant neighborhoods will help draw more talent to work in Atlanta and to live in Georgia.

You cannot attract people here unless you have excellent transportation systems

Atlanta is behind in transportation

expand the rail service to more suburb areas to reduce the traffic congestion due to commute

Although the others are vital for growth, the city will stagnate without a viable transportation system that reaches ALL of the metro area.

This doesn't mean push for another tax (TSPLOST) for big projects. We need to encourage good behavior like carpools. The I-85 HOT lanes discourage 2 person carpools and are WORSE than the old HOV lanes. Big mistake, but it was a revenue play, not a traffic improvement play. Put HOV lanes all over Atlanta and extend current ones.

Atlanta has GOT to move from being one of the most congested cities. In addition to transportation reform, there has got to be a bigger push in incentivizing big business to allow staff to telecommute, not only in areas immediate to downtown, but also the suburbs that feed traffic into downtown. Why can't metro Atlanta be the first of its kind with a workforce where 50% telecommute at least one day a week?

There should be a viable transportation link to all counties to allow those who are not fortunate enough to have cars. This would also help to reduce air pollution, which in turn would cut down on a lot of the on going health issues associated with pollutants in our air now. This state is growing, and this is just one of many needs that need to be addressed.

To my way of thinking, our region needs infrastructure improvements beyond roads and bridges (mass transportation, high speed rail, secure water supply, good education, arts, recreation & healthy quality of life, etc.) before we can become a true innovation hub so we'd best get to innovating as to how to accomplish laying the groundwork today.

Transportation/General Comments

The current transportation system is very lacking and does not reach many people compared to other cities. Look at Boston's transportation system as an example. It is ridiculous that all adults feel that it is a requirement that they each have their own car in order to sustain even the simplest lifestyle.

In order to promote health and well-being, we need to address multiple issues - education, poverty, transportation, housing, food and water, safety and violence prevention. To some extent, this priority encompasses almost all of the others.

We as a region need to become far less dependent on cars. We need to look at Europe and older American cities and learn from the success of their planning. Transportation is directly connected to this also,

Transportation and a secure water supply are tied for 1st in my mind. Both essential to Atlanta's future

Work on making better live work communities, and better diversify existing communities, too much reliance on automobiles in this city.

The Beltline laid out an incredible groundwork for connecting in-town neighborhoods, and it needs to be a top priority in finishing this project. Furthermore, I would love to see MARTA become a more full-bodied system, as its current state is quite skeletal. I am extremely disappointed in the exorbitant amount of money spent on highway initiatives that do little to offer long-term solutions, but rather offer up short-term fixes. The key to alleviating traffic isn't more capacity (this, in fact, leads to increased usage), it's increasing density and creating less demand for the roads.

This topic above all will be the key to vibrant, sustainable growth in the region. If we create a smart, efficient comprehensive transportation system - which looks at all modes (walk, bike, road, rail, etc.) and works to optimize each to reach the most people and have maximum potential, then I think the other items will follow.

Atlanta's constant problem is a dubious reputation of heavy traffic and long commutes. With this reputation, many companies and individuals are hesitant to relocate here due to the extra strain added to commute times.

Just time the traffic stop lights. The electronic triped lights waste gasoline.

This city will never be able to live and thrive to its full potential if we do not have a fully wide encompassing transportation infrastructure. And that does NOT mean more bus route.

Metro Atlanta needs a transportation that has destinations in the suburbs; not having this option makes it difficult for people who travel from suburbs to get to inner cities for work.

Transportation/General Comments

Interstate to connect I-85 to I-75 = immediate reduced traffic on top end 285. Add lanes to key topend interstates, GA400 and other major thoroughfares

choices and alternative transportation should be developed ALONGSIDE the high density development we already see occurring. A 222-apartment building on the congested edge of an intown neighborhood cannot support as many cars and yet everyone still feels they need that car... let's make it so they DON'T need that car!

A high quality of life can be achieved through walkable/bikable layouts. Whether its fixing side-walks, connecting more buildings with bridges, or creating more mixed use development like Atlantic station. Avoiding getting in a car makes residents healthier, improves the environment/traffic, and helps local businesses on the streets.

But, in order to implement this, people need to want to live in closer communities, preferably near their work. Suburbanites are wary about living in the city due to their perception of crime and the education system among other things. Improving people's perception of city life by improving city life will bring new residents.

I touched on this in the walkable vibrant neighbourhoods section. In order to attract more residents. Follow the actions of the lot near the capitol: less parking lots, more parks.

Our neighborhoods are often disconnected by subdivisions that won't allow through traffic, or shopping centers that do the same. This only encourages traveling by car. If these subdivisions and shopping centers were connected by roads and sidewalks through numerous entry points, we could see a significant drop in car traffic, and more people likely to walk.

Atlanta's weakest link right now compared to other metro areas is our dependence on cars. It's just not practical as we continue to grow.

Must be multi-modal and consist of projects that will be most effective in reducing congestion.

Being able to safely and conveniently walk to and from destinations is a MAJOR concern for me. Not only would it improve traffic and over all personal health but also increase community involvement.

Transportation is the biggest concern in GA now, imagine when you add 3 million more cars to the mix, having alternative forms of transportation would help. In and out of the city.

This is so important. I feel finding a better transportation system would have help things like quality of life as well as help the environment through less emissions.

Transportation/General Comments

While I would love to see better recreation and healthy quality of life institutions, including grocery and other retail shops I have to acknowledge that for my community, transportation needs (getting to work every day) outweigh arts and recreation.

If you cannot cure the transportation problems, no need to make a hub

Traffic is getting worse instead of better. Need a better transportation plan

The current methods and modes of transportation that currently exist are completely intolerable and will be the primary reason that I leave Atlanta and the Metro area for good unless the problem is corrected. Traffic conditions are abhorrent. Too much unchecked development, not enough transportation options and too little GOOD areas where people want to live, and too many BAD areas where people don't.

This is crucial to the growth of the community, a excellent transportation system.

Atlanta area infrastructure is substandard and all the construction and repair projects are very disruptive to business and adds to the traffic congestion.

We have to start thinking of Atlanta as a metropolitan city consisting of more than DeKalb and Fulton counties. Transportation should reach out to the suburbs.

On the northwest I-75 corridor, I have waited WAY TOO LONG for improvement in traffic improvements.

To remain a viable alternative to competing locales, this region must adopt alternates to automobiles

I believe water, air, transportation, and Q of L, are going to be huge factors in the next 20 years

Good public transportation is a must in order for all the other things to work. It needs to pick up in proper locations and travel to where people want and need to go.

I like comprehensive. I hate Street Cars as part of any plan that is comprehensive. They are 19th century technology with 22nd century cost.

I already completed a survey, but I'd like to add that our interstates need more maximum speed limit signs. Not knowing the maximum speed limit causes traffic slowdowns and is not very hospitable to visitors. My last trip to Alabama was so refreshing; maximum speed signs every 5 miles, or so. They also place them adjacent to the fast lane and slow lane, which is great. In GA we have more minimum speed limit signs than maximum speed limit signs. GADOT also needs to ensure the few max signs we have are not blocked out by trees and shrubs. The lack of signage makes one think that it's set up for speeding tickets, which is not very hospitable.

Transportation/General Comments

Develop a Comprehensive transportation system in all communities not just North Atlanta areas. Clayton County has a transportation need as well.

One the single most complaint about Atlanta is traffic and the reliance on the car to get from one location to another. Providing safer streets, corridors, and connections from one neighborhood to another within the city will get people out of their cars and walking. This not only reduces traffic, but encourages healthy habits.

more traffic circles/fewer lights, fewer road expansions, more bike paths that connect things that matter, take bikes away from roadways - not safe to have these together, expand path, silver comet, beltline, and need more paths like these along our many creeks and waterways

Unless transportation is addressed, Atlanta will lose many progressive additions to our area.

Clean air is important and can be improved via the traffic plan, including working from home, where feasible.

Metro traffic is poor throughout large blocks of the day and wastes valuable time. This has to be addressed using all approaches we have available. I supported TSPLOST and think it needs to be tried again, with a better plan.

What has someone been smoking ?? Atlanta and Delta don't want any competition coming in, re. a new, smaller airport. See what happened to SW Airlines 10 or so years ago when they wanted in. The railroads don't want any passenger trains on their tracks (the pride railroads used to take in their passenger service , such as The Broad way Limited, the California Zephyr, etc. is forgotten history nowadays). We're told by "leaders" that any increase in gasoline taxes (to pay for road repairs and to fix bridges) is bad (all taxes are bad, apparently , as are tolls - no more Rte. 400 tolls), etc.

Everyone wants to drive, but no one wants to pay. A "comprehensive transport system" as a concept might hold some appeal in another country, or maybe some other state. Here, just look at how many people in North Fulton County even ride the bus !!

make sure the transportation system goes to all parts of the city and that people would only have to walk a block or two to get to their jobs.

Transportation/General Comments

Habits of those living in Atlanta will have to change and this can be done through the media. Most people would rather jump in their cars and drive a few blocks rather than walking or riding a bike. This is habit and mindset that will have to change. Also, the bike situation is awful here. There's not enough room to accommodate bikes AND vehicles. Often bicycle riders do not take advantage of those expensive Bike Paths that have been built for them, but instead would rather ride in the middle of a busy road made for motorized vehicles, holding up traffic. There's got to be a better way to deal with this problem for both bikers and commuters.

Now that we're planning for better connections through a robust, multi-modal transportation system (re: my first priority), let's make those places somewhere we want to be or want to go. Each "downtown" should offer recreational as well as service uses so neighborhoods can become decentralized activity centers that people have social capital interests in maintaining and improving for quality of life.

IF the City of Atlanta wants to promote economic growth (even via tourism), then the number one priority is to provide SAFE streets, safe surroundings around office buildings. I AM SICK OF SEEING NUMEROUS SEEDY CHARACTERS FROM THE WEE HOURS I COME TO THE OFFICE AND ALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY....If I was a tourist I would avoid Atlanta in it's current state like a PLAGUE! I work here so it is NECESSARY to travel here.

I'd like to see a system that provides an alternative to more roads and more cars. The great cities of the world have options other than cars to get from here to there.

Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods go hand-in-hand with a Comprehensive Transportation System.

Provide excellent transportation and all the other items will be handled BECAUSE more business will come, tax collections will grow and all the other needs will much easily addresses such as education etc.

We need better roads, being stuck in traffic wastes gas and polutes

This would increase economic op. And decrease traffic.

We need a very comprehensive transportation system to provide all of us to move around in a safe environment.

I would have placed Transportation first but the water supply was scary.

Transportation/General Comments

I can say about this is that the state of Ga has the sorriest transportation dept in the country !!! Georgia / Atlanta traffic is a Joke !! G-DOT AND FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION DEPT, NEEDED TO WIDEN THE MAJOR INTERSTATES 15 YEARS AGO ESPECIALLY INTERSTATE 85 IN NORTH GWINNETT !!! INTERCHANGE AT GRAVEL SPRINGS ROAD SHOULD HAVE BEEN BUILT 10 YEARS AGO AND NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN APPROVED THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE 4 MORE YEARS BEFORE IT IS COMPLETE ????? ALL I KNOW IS THAT WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY !! TRAFFIC SUCKS IN THIS AREA AND THE HAMILTON MILL AREA !! GET-ER-DONE ASAP !!!!!!!

Ask any 5th grader how he or she would efficiently transport huge numbers of people across an expansive area, the answer would be "MASS TRANSIT"not more roads & bridges!! Why can't educated adults understand that? The State of Georgia transportation department is clearly out of touch with this region's transportation need. How long has China had mass transit? Send a coalition to China instead of New York to see real world possibilities.

The transportation system should run from Tenn to South GA, Alabama to augusta. also to savannah. hwy needs repair, hwy to congested

If our expected growth rate is correct, we won't be able to be progressive without a transportation system tat accommodate our needs. The key words are: ACCOMODATING OUR NEEDS. Let's plan something that will work in practice, not just theory!

This can be achieved by increasing the efficiency of commuter transport (no crashes, clean air, less injury, death, stress, more family time, etc),

It is about time that we had a 'real' transportation system that took us to where we need to go. I would love to be able to get to work in a reasonable amount of time. Sitting in traffic (because the public system doesn't work for me) is a huge waste of time, gas, pollutes the air, and frustrates everyone.

I believe that my top three — transportation, workforce, neighborhoods — will attract the kind of population that will support arts and innovation hubs. So the top three create the others. Secure water supply goes without saying. I don't think it's even optional.

Transportation/General Comments

Need to also consider connecting people and communities to or with recreation. Don't simply focus on business. People may find jobs and increase access to "business," but if quality of life does not increase or is not sustained at a high level, they will find jobs elsewhere, where there is a better quality of life (less pollution, easier access to recreation, etc.). Also, even if the only reason to develop a comprehensive transportation system is to increase access to business, that wouldn't increase the likelihood of my staying in metro Atlanta. I can telework and I can order off the internet for many of my needs. Having lived here during the entire '80s and early '90s, then returning five years ago, I find that transportation has not changed in terms of traffic congestion, little changed in terms of law enforcement, access (although HOT lanes have increased in price quite a bit - don't say no one has noticed), slightly improved in terms of recreational access (by that I mean for example moving from a decidedly bike unfriendly area to a somewhat bike tolerant area), and worsened for pollution from vehicles.

This is a tough option to prioritize. I see the relationship between this selection and the more design oriented "Walkability" and "Transportation" options as a sort of chicken-and-egg situation. Does a vibrant, easily traversed city attract a Highly Developed workforce or does a Highly Developed Workforce create a vibrant city?

to decrease needs for cars to get everywhere

You must consider widening the main arteries that remain one or two lanes in each direction - Haynes Bridge between Mansell and Old Alabama, Old Alabama Connector, Old Milton

people must have other means of transportation other than cars

I have seen first hand how the lack of transportation options limit community engagement, health care and independence for persons who are poor, disabled and seniors.

I am 73 yrs old and want to keep moving, but not in my car I this traffic

This will happen naturally if transportation, water, education, communities and quality of life are developed first. They will come.

THIS - Think of all the time we'd be saving not having to sit in traffic, day in, day out!

We need to do this quick, fast and in a hurry. Most of the other changes can't come about if we don't have affordable, efficient, dependable transportation that services most of Atlanta's workforce.

We need a better transportation system for all metro counties. This would help with air pollution as well.

Our transportation is lacking behind other major cities and this will limit us getting companies moving to Atlanta.

Transportation/General Comments

You can have all the other items in your priority list but if you do not have transportation the people will go elsewhere.

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

We need to lower commuting costs. Need better transportation network and choices. Intelligent, automated, driverless lanes. Build the transportation infrastructure of the future so that we are the model city to the world and not the top most traffic jammed city in the world.

Hard decisions must be faced if the transportation needs of the Region are to realistically addressed. The Interstates can be widened with exponentially increasing costs. New roads were ruled out in the mid 80's. The State Highway Department (non-DOT) can't accept the benefits of commuter rail (due to monetary support of the road construction, rubber tire lobby, etc.). Once an acceptable level of congestion is reached, businesses/workers will move elsewhere.

Hard decisions must be faced if the transportation needs of the Region are to realistically addressed. The Interstates can be widened with exponentially increasing costs. New roads were ruled out in the mid 80's. The State Highway Department (non-DOT) can't accept the benefits of commuter rail (due to monetary support of the road construction, rubber tire lobby, etc.). Once an acceptable level of congestion is reached, businesses/workers will move elsewhere. Without substantially improved transit to the Atlanta CBD, quality business development will move to the suburbs at an increasing rate [taxing all infrastructure systems].

Yes, this too would be good for every neighborhood. Very difficult in those burbs developed to the automobile.

single use, auto dominated zoning and transportation planning continue to degrade potential quality of life and future potential. Existing ill-conceived government policies continue to stunt development potential. Enhanced street density -- more connectivity; more narrow auto lanes would help.

If we do not get the traffic under control people will not want to move to the city of Atlanta. I believe we need a better infrastructure and more robust road construction. Maybe even looking at elevated roadways to help get through downtown in a more efficient manner. I saw this is Shanghai China going through downtown and the traffic was not an issue.

This is a huge problem for Atlanta. There are panhandlers I see every morning during my daily commute and visitors have commented on this as well.

Transportation/General Comments

Even though I suggested this as a favorite, I suggest modification to it, as information alone is not sufficient to promote healthy behaviors. The environment that we live in (built environment, housing, neighborhoods, air and water quality, transportation availability, walkability) has a significant impact on health. For many people, especially those with limited incomes, these factors are out of their control, as they cannot move to a better neighborhood, or improve their homes, or even travel to a place where they can find information or access healthcare, if they can even afford health insurance, or have it provided for them through an employer. In addition, with the lack of Medicaid expansion, and lack of attention to the working poor, this is even more difficult. We need to ensure that Georgia takes advantage of the opportunity to expand healthcare coverage for all of its residents, and that prevention programs are implemented and accessible.

I think that homelessness is a problem that should be shared region wide and not placed on the shoulders of the city of Atlanta. Downtown and Midtown seem to be the center of the problem, but not the origination point of the people who are homeless. We need to set up a plan that helps them get off the streets and into housing throughout the region. Train them into the workforce and offer a transportation system to allow them to find work. We need to stop bringing them in only on cold nights and stop driving into the city from wealthy suburbs to feed them. Feels good creates a bigger problem.

Non profits with local, state and federal support can do this. Region needs to focus on transportation and water.

Food deserts exist in middle income areas of Atlanta. I live in 30331 and must travel 12-16 miles (to Midtown or Cumberland area) to access best and desirable fresh produce.

Do it with things that are already popular - have a "create a mosaic" that will be permanently at Centennial Olympic Park but have it travel to the Falcons Game, a music concert, festivals. Have each city have a sculpture garden of native plants created between their artists and master gardeners so that each city hall becomes a place that school children and citizens want to visit. Given more time I am sure we could have more ideas but they need to be built around large crowds that are already there and ideas the survey wants to champion.

Our youth really need this in our area. Stealing cars, breaking in houses it just not going to work.

not necessary. Stop trying to attract businesses with tax cuts. There are enough businesses and traffic already.

We already have that in large measure - now TELECOMMUTE!

This is a must. The added jobs will widen the local tax base to pay for initiatives in transportation, education and public safety.

Transportation/General Comments

Available and free! Too many parking lots and high fees.

This "solution" undermines support for alternative transportations and helps to increase water and air pollution.

As long as public parking means offering well lighted, secured, green friendly, creative parking garage with retail options included, I'd be okay with it. I am strongly against park for hire surface lots, and surface lots in general.

We need better transportation options.

We need to upgrade our transportation systems to truly become a world class city. The snow situation this year proved that in a horrible way.

Atlanta and the region already have a huge surplus of parking, which is far too cheap - this also creates induced demand. NO new parking should be created. The focus should instead be other modes of transportation and non-car-focused development.

Develop logical transportation, safe and secure walking paths to anywhere.

It already is. Parking in Atlanta is MUCH easier to find and cheaper than in other cities where I have lived.

Reduce traffic. People HATE Atlanta traffic. People leave Atlanta because of commutes and traffic.

parking stinks around Atlanta. The private lots are a rip off.

It already is. Please institute a tax on parking so it becomes more expensive and other options become feasible. Taxes should also be placed on surface street lots to incentivize further development.

Atlanta has some of the cheapest parking in the country.

Parking should be difficult to encourage walking and other alternative forms of transporation

If there are alt transportation modes, more parking won't be necessary. As an Intown resident, I don't want to see precious real estate eaten up by a parking deck. Let's change the way we get places instead.

With well designed walkable neighborhoods more public parking wouldn't be necessary. I often see a lot of parking lots in the core midtown underutilized so I think there is already a glut of parking

Parking lots are eyesore. Downtown Atlanta is a joke because it is littered with parking lots. If we simply filled each parking lot with businesses, housing and retail - there would be a rebirth of Atlanta.

Please - stop with the parking lots.

The trolley is silly, its not going to work, its going make traffic worse and its going to increase the amount of money people spend on parking because guess what THEY WILL STILL HAVE TO DRIVE.

Transportation/General Comments

Creating more parking is antithetical to creating a walking neighborhood. If anything, neighborhoods need more sidewalks, not more places to park.

Surface lots should be heavily fined in the city of Atlanta and turned into high to mid density development. We will never be a world class city with huge amounts of parking.

Our city is filled with unused surface parking. We need to shift to more walkable cities, and adding parking runs counter to that effort.

Parking in this city is NOT hard, but people are incompetent at parking. Maybe better signage and striping would help. Also, Park Atlanta is evil.

provide city funded parking in major tourist areas.

IT ALREADY IS! I have lived in Boston - try parking there! Ha! That is why you do not drive - you are encouraged to walk, bike, use transit by having limited parking options. We have more than enough parking and need to rid this city of ridiculous surface parking lots!

Remove the law that you have to have a certain amount of parking spaces - there are areas in town that are very walkable already. You should not be required to have parking if most of your customers will walk and/or bike already!

We have too much parking already. It needs to be reduced.

Subsidize something other than cars with this valuable space.

Decreasing our dependence on cars should be a #1 priority. What about incentives for companies who have a certain percentage of their workforce living with 1-2 miles of their office?

There is entirely too much parking in Atlanta. Downtown Atlanta is devoid of character because where there could be street-level shops on a conveniently designed grid, there is instead a parking lot on every corner. How does Centennial Olympic Park, a key tourist hotspot, have so much surface parking directly across the street? This is prime real estate for hotels, residential buildings, restaurants, and shops? In Midtown, surface parking lots dot the landscape where there could be high-rises and shops. They're a blight on our city.

Shelters for the homeless sure but as far as housing for citizens focus more on simplifying/repeal land zoning/ordnance rules that are unnecessary or out dated, so that more urban housing can be built anywhere and people can provide more types of types of housing t meet consumers needs. Maybe some people would like a traditional apartment or house and maybe others would rather live in a home that could fit in a parking space or live in a hotel room long term. Give people the freedom to develop more types of housing with out having to first go through a huge bureaucracy for permission.

Transportation/General Comments

Parking is too cheap and available - it encourages additional drivers

Reduce the need for public parking by providing better transit alternatives.

If public parking is at a premium then people are forced into public transport. Build the public transport network!!!

We have plenty of parking. Make it easier to walk and bike instead.

This is a sticky situation because you can't just eliminate parking all together. That being said, the amount of surface parking lots taken up in major areas of the city is a huge eye soar to everyone. I think atlantic station is a good representation of how parking should be. Here there is plenty of parking and the garage is not so tight that you can't maneuver around. Although they have a great parking garage the footprint it leaves on the surface is non existant. The whole parking structure is tucked underground and there is blocks and blocks of walkable entertainment that take up the surface.

public parking should be easily available, but not at the expense of walkability. Emphasize on-street parking. Locate larger decks (and parking lots) at the periphery of high-density areas. Enhance connectivity for bikes, pedestrians, and transit. Encourage drop-off/pick-up areas. Don't be afraid to charge for parking.

This is a hard one since we're so car dependent. I would say analyze the area and see if we need parking first. OR we can build off of parking garages that already exist.

Connecting the city without cars is the most essential part of the strategic plan. To be able to just go around your city without worrying about parking or about how you'll get home if you have one too many beers is a very essential part of keeping Atlanta relevant as the Millenials come into majority.

eliminate public parking.

Adding parking is in direct opposition to making a neighborhood walkable. We see this issue historically in downtown. The abundance of surface parking lots make the area unwelcoming to pedestrians. This in turn encourages driving and a lack of respect for the pedestrian. It becomes a dangerous place to walk both because of the scarcity of eyes on the street and by adding more car traffic.

transit >> parking

If I recall correctly, metro Atlanta already has nine parking spaces for every car. Parking is not an issue. In fact, there should be less and it should be more expensive.

Don't let cars in the city or make it very expensive to have a car within 5 miles of the city center. Or only allow Uber to drive in the city.

Transportation/General Comments

Have public parking decks with ground floor retail or restaurants. Include a pre-paid MARTA pass with every paid parking visit. Put lots in places where people can walk to multiple things such as parks, stores and restaurants.

We need to reduce road traffic.

Try to encourage other options than driving a car. Making parking readily available not only takes up green space but encourages people to drive rather than look for alternative methods of transportation

And Affordable! Most parking in the region is unaffordable!!

Eliminate pay to park on public roads, since my tax dollars already paid for the streets and maintenance.

We have more than enough parking lots already. I think that what we have can be maximized with smartphone apps like ParkMobile.

Parking is a private sector responsibility, and spaces should have to pay for traffic impacts to reduce auto demand.

The city of Atlanta and the surrounding region already encourage excessive automobile use through limited restriction of on-street parking and zoning regulations that require overbuilding of parking capacity for new buildings.

Parking is essential to thriving business in this region. Neighborhoods that resist it should be overruled - but it should be reasonably handled. And, in urban centers, developers should be required to provide a certain number of "affordable" spaces in their developments. For example, in Midtown Atlanta the new condos have spaces with 2-3 hour limits and you must be at a restaurant or store in that specific building. Otherwise it costs \$20+ to park. That discourages people from visiting the area as a whole and is counter to the idea of fostering an area people will visit and stay in for a while. The same is true for any residential/retail/office area in the region.

The less available, the more use of alternative ways of transportation than cars. Demand will increase but so can walkable communities if that gets invested in as well, encouraging people to depend less on cars to get around.

Parking should not be provided by the public sector, and parking is what generates vehicle demand - transportation impact fees should be paid for parking spaces built.

Atlanta is a big parking lot. We need to make it a city si I say NO to more parking.

Less parking will force people to drive. Commercial centers should not be forced to have a certain number of parking spots

It's more important to prioritize a more sustainable means of transport, but in the mean time it can work as a temporary solution to the transportation problem in atlanta.

Transportation/General Comments

There is already an overabundance of parking/ground level lots that are a blight in our city. These are valuable spaces that can be used to increase density and to beautify our space. They detract from the visitor and resident experience, as well as add to our urban, concrete jungle heat.

Just the opposite - Atlanta is drowning in free/cheap parking. If anything, I'd suggest making it more difficult to park - tax parking fees or other options to make those who park pay for the road infrastructure.

It has been proven time and again that one of the very best tools we have to discourage driving is to make drivers pay for parking. If you must drive you will pay for the privilege but it is a high incentive to find an alternative way to get somewhere.

Parking leads to sprawl which is what we're trying to avoid. Let's not only make parking limited, but put a higher price on it! This goes hand in hand with the comprehensive transportation system though - can't have one without the other!

If adding public parking, require payment to encourage alternate transportation use instead of cars

Making public parking easily available works against a neighborhood's walkability; instead of walking, people will drive.

Abundant, easy, free parking makes communities less safe for pedestrians, not more.

There are more than enough parking spaces in Atlanta already. People just don't want to pay for them.

Fortunately, one of the draws to Atlanta is the ability to go out and have a good time without having to drive around for an hour to find street parking. In everything we do, we should make sure that continues to be the case.

As much as I hate paying for parking, I know that we give away parking spaces much too easily and cheaply for our region to ever make a travel behavior change. Start charging for parking please!

I do not think we need a lot more parking in downtown/midtown/buckhead where I live but we certainly do not need to get rid of parking either. That is the main threat I see in the city.

We may need more parking but it needs to come after the comprehensive transportation system is moving toward needing less parking and the use of the single occupancy internal combustion engine vehicle.

I have heard about people trying to park legally and being taken advantage of by the parking meter companies. Laws need to be strengthened to protect the consumer.

I'd rather focus on how to not have so many cars on the road.

Transportation/General Comments

promote only vanpool and carpool parking. any thing else only encourages single occupancy vehical usage.

There seems to be ample public parking, so this is lower priority.

More parking equates to more individuals driving. The last thing Atlanta needs is more people in cars clogging up the streets.

It would be wonderful to have more free parking options

Making public parking easily available does not help in reducing the reliance on the automobile

The cost of parking here is INSANE

It keeps financial growth in the areas of the community. Especially when one does not have to travel outside of their community for mediocre positions.

Also, public cycle parking that is safe and people don't have to worry about their cycles being stolen. This may fall back on office building owners.

Realistically, we have this now. There are so many housing options throughout the metro area. The issue is more about affordable transportation from these options to the jobs.

More parking promotes more driving, usually.

Public parking at what cost . . . it is reasonable now compared to other urban areas of the country ..

Parking should be more readily available to residents in the neighborhood. They should not have to pay for parking to eat at neighborhood restaurants, shop and attend church services. A safer neighborhood environment would also help provide a walkable neighborhood.

Parking is a huge issue for the neighborhood I live in.

Need more free parking. I attended an event on Ponce de Leon and it was pouring down rain. I chose a parking meter close to the building. I didn't have enough change so I lacked 2 minutes before it would have been free. We ate at the restaurant right there. Attended the event and had drinks at the pub next door. That new Atlanta parking company gave me a ticket. They had to have been standing there waiting. It was \$35...so I called the City of Atlanta and they basically told me too bad. I told them that I spent probably \$100 that evening...excuse me \$135.00. I told them I'll never spend another dime in Atlanta. It's been over a year and I haven't been down there since.

There are commuting small cars that executives use to go from one building to the other. Have these available for other places as well, or even golf cart-like vehicles - such as Peachtree City, Georgia has. For buy or rental.

All parking downtown should be the same if parking in a lot or garage. Reasonable Fee!!!

Transportation/General Comments

In the form of parking garages, not miles of parking lots. I want green space not gray space.

Punishing drivers doesn't work it just makes them mad and against planning. you create alternatives that can out-compete the car.

Easy public parking = more driving.

I don't like the way this is worded -- I think parking is important, but I think "easily available" is too much. There's too much parking NOW, it's just poorly distributed.

Atlanta has plenty of parking as it is, especially if we can cut down on vehicle trips through added density.

Private issue. Who pays for this? Parking where?

parking should be free more often. mayor reed screwed us with his park atlanta deal.

Parking should be provided in structures to fit in with the surrounding areas and developed with ground floor retail and possibly above garage residential

Develop a network of multiple means of transportation that does not solely rely on cars.

The transportation infrastructure specifically in Atlanta is terrible. In some of Atlanta's best tourist areas, the streets are so bad, full of potholes and just a terrible representation of the city. We must improve our roads and bridges from the inside out.

Not sure if drivers in Atlanta are ready for that since most of the people in Atlanta are not from Atlanta

No brainer!! Get all those cars off the roads. Everyone complains about traffic, but they have no other options, including myself.

If we can't get our people to work in a reasonable amount of time, we will continually have workers leaving great jobs because of excess stress in commuting

Continue to repair all the bridges.

This must be accomplished ASAP to assist with traffic flow and growing number of migrants.

We need to make highways more definite and work on traffic commutes into the city.

Yes, transportation is important and should be a TOP issue.

The several buss services need to be consolidated and work together to provide transportation to the working community, schools, etc.

There are enough lanes. Make lights coordinated and provide better mass transportation.

Bridges and roads need to be upgraded to better accommodate a variety of modes (NOT more cars)

Transportation/General Comments

More lanes = more traffic; induced demand is well-documented, and we need to better educate the public and policymakers about this.

Things like water, safety and transportation are far more important functions of government compared to attracting business, culture and the arts.

only on the major roads that need widening. But we cant keep adding lanes to al roads.

Until someone responds to numerous complaints registered to all the current commuter bus services on the north end regarding drivers that are aggressive, arrogant and just plain rude when cutting off cars to then go the minimum posted speed limit also violating the double white line law at the Boggs Road HOT entrance to get ahead of the backup and to also travel the slowest possible speed when in the regular passing lane (which the "slow poke" law that was passed recently they also ignore causes road rage and traffic congestion that is not necessary if they would obey the current laws and abide by them. No response from any of the companies or county run commuter services that offered a complaint service which was what was expected.

This one could be a yes or no. If you are talking about major roads such as Interstates just take away the HOV/PeachPass lanes and let the traffic flow. These lanes do not usually have alot of traffic. During rush hour all lanes need to be open to all.

Stop creating areas that enable drivers to be less courteous. Why build a bridge with two turning lanes only to have the outside lane end before you get to the interstate? That just causes the not courteous driver to cut over in front of the rest of us!

Please seek help from other major cities such as NYC or states like New Jersey. For example, during peak hours many lanes go toward the city only. This increases the flow of traffic in the morning and evening!

This should be done to NOT interfere with the flow of traffic.

Again, without high-speed transportation options, Atlanta is severely limiting its growth potential.

The Beltline is fantastic. Bikes are dangerous in Atlanta. They take up traffic lanes an cause frustration to drivers.

This will impact not only transportation, but also the environment.

Yes, yes, yes. Reduce traffic volume around these high volume centers.

Driving should be discouraged. More lanes create more traffic as people who would otherwise bike/bus/carpool/walk would find driving more convenient.

Not a bad idea, but priority should be placed first on increasing density of transportation options intown.

Transportation/General Comments

Let's change the way we commute instead. Let's become less dependent on our cars.

this has been proven to just create more traffic, atlanta has tried this approach and needs to try a new one

Fix what we have before building more. Ensure new projects have ongoing maintenance funds. Re-connect surface streets.

Re-connecting is more critical than adding capacity. Strengthen the grid.

Roads and bridges should be repaired and maintained on the basis that complete streets are implemented at the same time. Our road infrastructure has been overbuilt to where it is too expensive to maintain all of it, so less used roads will have to be culled long term.

This has been done and it is the wrong direction. There is sufficient space for automobiles for the next fifty years. Efforts must be made to shift the emphasis towards more efficient and clean manners of transportation.

You're already wasting \$1 Billion on a single interchange. It's time to start putting transportation money to better use.

Adding and widening roads is a losing battle, because traffic will always expand where there is room.

Adding more capacity is a short-sighted solution that does not address the root of the problem: our car culture. I would rather see road dieting as opposed to adding lines. We should, however, add roads in key places to create a more grid-like system. Creating options for routes will decrease traffic in many areas. As it stands, there are many places where there is only 1 route to get there.

Bike lanes are great. I love them. But with so many Atlantans commuting long distances, I don't think they meaningfully impact our regional transportation needs. Bike Lanes should be a municipal issue.

Expand to new regions/areas and provide more service will take vehicles off the road. People respond to incentives, so there needs to be a clear reason to not drive... convenience is a big factor and until then, we'll be faced with many people opting to drive versus wait for bus/train to arrive.

Transportation/General Comments

Worst idea - adding more lanes will only increase the traffic, not decrease it... <http://bicycleuniverse.info/transpo/roadbuilding-futility.html>

With the near invention of "driverless cars" traffic congestion will hopefully be a thing of the past, but until then, we need to focus on creating alternatives to driving on existing highways, as well as maintaining the current roadways/bridges we have now. Leveraging heavy-rail/high-capacity transit in new and expanded areas/regions as well as providing additional trains/service would ease the congestion .

Big no to adding lanes unless you mean bike lanes. Adding road capacity, without a comprehensive metro-wide plan for increased walkable density, will only induce demand.

Our streets get so congested that additional bus service, while necessary, will not be enough to solve our transportation problems

That's fine, but it shouldn't be a priority. Taking cars off the roads should be.

no new capacity.

Congestion on highways won't be relieved by people biking to work. It simply isn't reasonable to expect thousands of people to use their bikes instead of cars in a city with this much sprawl.

This is what causes bad traffic. More lanes=more drivers=more cars. Have you even seen the connector? It's backed up almost all day.

This is what causes bad traffic. More lanes=more drivers=more cars. Have you even seen the connector? It's backed up almost all day. More transportation options will reduce traffic and improve quality of life. Street grids are a good addition to travel options as well. More routes to the same destination will reduce traffic because instead of drivers all taking the same road to get to different places, everyone can take a different route and ease the concentration of vehicles in one place.

More lanes should be a last resort as they quickly fill up with cars. The region needs more transportation options.

Atlanta is viewed as a commuter city yet the city does not offer services that are conducive to that lifestyle beyond a car. Think less traffic!

This is one of the biggest detriments of ATL, and how we are viewed by businesses and world travelers.

Adding more lanes will just increase the traffic. Fore example Peachtree street has three lanes and only two are every really used. The third lane tends to be either empty or has a bicyclist or bus in it.

Transportation/General Comments

This needs to happen smartly with collector, distributor lanes, maybe elevated roadways over existing for thru traffic without taking more land. I85 North to South Carolina needs to be 6 lanes not 4.

Light rail or public transport to Emory University and CDC is essential for decreasing traffic!

yes BUT road diets are necessary

It has been proven that more lanes do not reduce traffic

Widen feeder roads.

Build freeways around Atlanta

Keep them separate from car traffic. Bicyclists don't follow traffic rules and cause accidents and gridlock.

There are many roads in Downtown and Midtown Atlanta that destroy cars due to how poorly maintained they are.

Connect suburbs (such as Marietta) to Atlanta to reduce traffic!

This would be wonderful, but only if it does not come at the expense of existing auto transportation routes. Bikes are becoming more prevalent intown, which is great, but they constantly snarl traffic and the bikers themselves have no regard for the rules or "sharing" the road. They need to coexists, but also have some separate infrastructures.

Adding more lanes is a temporary solution that will create more demand over time as more people use them and communities grow. Invest instead in alternate transportation, re-configuring traffic lights to increase flow of traffic patterns, and walkable neighborhoods.

Maintaining conditions of roads is important for smooth flow of traffic, so that people don't slow down or swerve around potholes for example. A big complaint regarding road conditions is the neglect of maintaining bike lanes along streets. Think about it - bike lanes exist for riders to own a lane so that they are at a safe distance from cars. Bike lanes do not only protect riders but drivers as well so that there's no disruption in flow and there's no need to swerve into another car's lane. If these bike lanes are not kept free of debris and maintained from potholes and sewer grates, then bike riders will ride/swerve into the car lane instead to avoid dangerous conditions. This produces an unpredictable behavior of cyclists in the eyes of the driver, and unpredictable is not safe for both parties. Maintain the bike lanes and extended them as well!

Expansion from major terminals (park and ride) in suburb/exurb - at the distances I mentioned for bike commuting.

While we may need to add lanes to some of the suburb areas to reach a balance, more arterials and alternative transportation would provide greater redundancy than adding to the ones we have.

Transportation/General Comments

PLEASE finally build an interstate connecting I-85 and I-75!
From what I recall, most of the land has been purchased. This would be the most effective solution to alleviate top end 285 traffic. Don't care if it's a toll. Besides that, more lanes need to be added on northside interstates and major thoroughfares, not just one lane at a time. The GA400 corridor is awful! I can't tolerate the traffic OTP.

Too many dollars will be spent and wasted on this effort, and Southerners will still drive even if they have to sit in 90 minutes of traffic to travel six miles.

How many lanes we can add? we already have a zillion. We need to encourage alternative ways of transportation, including WALKING.

let me explain the no. This city is still too sprawled for a network of bike paths to enhance our transportation system. this should be under the quality of life header.

yes and no. We need to finally build out a dedicated outer perimeter if we want to continue being a true transportation and logistics hub. However, more lanes do not necessarily fix our traffic woes, smarter use (such as the DDI's being built now, more collector and dedicated exit/entrance lanes and especially a bypass that is not 285 will also be required in my view)

We have a real pothole problem and it adds to the wear and tear on vehicles.

NO! The traffic will just expand to fit the new lanes.
Disincentivize driving, and create other transportation options!

Fewer roads! No more cars!

90+F weather in summer. Not likely to be used as mayor form of transportation.

This shouldn't just be major job centers. Without "less major" connection points, high capacity transit can't readily be used by residents

Also, coordinate high capacity transit to also serve existing and future medium- and high-density residential development.

The roads I travel that bikes use are a big road hazard, they don't have to be on the hwy's, most have no safety mirrors or bright colors night is really bad

This is a good idea, however, given the composition of most of your current "centers", people cannot walk, drive, or commute during rush hours because of over capacity. So you will get people there and then they can sit for hours.

You can't build your way out of traffic. If you add lanes, you're going to get additional cars, which will make traffic just as bad!

More lanes equal more traffic.

Transportation/General Comments

For decades, Atlanta has framed an image of sprawl, congestion, and generally environmentally unfriendly urban planning. It's time to reverse that image, and studies show that adding more lanes to roads encourages more people to drive, therefore more people are on the roads, congesting it further.

It depends. If the bridge serves bikes, pedestrians and public transportation infrastructure, then I would support repairing and maintaining them. But roads and bridges that only serve automobiles are not ones I want to see given top priority.

Replace some existing roads with infrastructure for more sustainable, healthy, and efficient modes of transportation.

Secondary roads need to be expanded. Interstate roads dump mass amounts of traffic on neighborhood streets that cannot handle the volume.

There needs to be more focus placed on light rail and rail systems. The region is continuing to grow and there is only so much capacity you can get out of adding more lanes.

The more lanes that are added, the more people are able to rely on individual cars to get around. This just leads to the same traffic jams we already see.

It has been PROVEN that adding lanes does not relieve traffic. It increases it. Please review best transportation practices and share them with the decision-makers regarding this issue.

The state has added more lanes to the interstate and traffic has still slowed down. Also, when they are doing road bridge construction do it at night where there is less traffic. If it is done during the day have a set time to finish before the rush hour. If the contractor cannot comply FINE THEM.
WE NEED MORE PUBLIC TRASPORATION.

Totally irrelevant to transportation.
Nice recreation amenity though.

Walter Kulash said: "Widening roads to combat traffic is like listening your belt to fight obesity

My preference as both a driver and a biker is to get bikers off the roads as much as possible. In fact, many bikers within the biker communities themselves dislike swarms of bikers on the roads. I say build more bike paths and corridors such as the belt line where you have very little conflict between bikes and cars. However, where this is not an option due to space create actual bike lanes and where possible put a barrier between the car and bikers (tree scapes, parked cars so that the biker is between stationary cars and the sidewalk, a simple curb can help, or a very bold double line with ample reflectors).

Transportation/General Comments

Time and time again increasing lanes DOES NOT improve the travelers well being. Instead it increases driver speeds and increases lane switching, both promoting reckless driving and not only accidents, but higher speed impact accidents that prove way more fatal. More lanes should not even be on the list with the rest of positive solutions.

The impact of this strategy is too low to be a priority at this time. Further, given the distance that most area residents commute between home and work, it is not a viable commuting solution.

Doing this will make traffic worse AND cut down on natural resources (greenery).

In some places this is necessary. Hwy 120 in Duluth/John's Creek needs to be widened and the bridge across the Chattahoochee needs to be widened.

You cannot pave your way out of a traffic jam.

We need alternative transportation rather than more lanes for cars.

make it possible for fewer cars to be on the road by giving seniors the transportation access they need. adding lanes does not lessen the number of cars on the road.

add new managed lanes to all atlanta area interstates, like the I-75 / 575 project.

I support expanding bike paths and trails but this should not be our top priority with limited transportation dollars. This will have little impact on improved mobility for most people, and the benefit is more for recreation than traffic flow. This should be funded through local SPLOSTs

this only provides very temporary traffic congestion relief. Absent other more effective transportation alternatives, single/low occupancy vehicle traffic growth will quickly again fill any newly expanded roads.

we can't build our way out, and ARC and others need to promote a realistic discussion about traffic congestion. If I hear how we're going to "solve congestion" one more time....

That will just cause more problems. There are too many off and on ramps for any extra lanes. Does not solve the problem.

This is only needed for areas where the reduction from high number of lanes to fewer lanes is causing extreme traffic congestion and hazardous situations. I-285 West bound at intersection with I-75 is an example.

Green roads that are pervious, using materials that last longer and slow traffic

Transportation/General Comments

Adding lanes to roads is a "band-aid" solution to a symptom - increasing road traffic- of a problem - increasing growth and sprawl. It's unsustainable (will the solution be to add more lanes in another five years?). It also has other consequences: increasing volume of vehicles on the road, paving over and creating more surface for run off, releasing atmospheric pollution into the air - which harms health-, taking up valuable space that could be otherwise developed to support alternative transportation and creates moderates to be maintained

This is a "nice to have" but not an essential item to correct our Horrible Transportation system and Dreadful Traffic. Fix the Big problems first, then the Nice to Haves come next.

I think that adding more lanes to existing roads would help, but ultimately, more volume would accupy those roads creating bottlenecks onto merging roads. I don't think that simply adding lanes is the whole solution.

MOre than expanded bus service, we need an expanded subway service. Putting more busses on the street will only add to the already conjested raodways. If peopl had an option to get around town without having to rely on a roadway (i.e. bus or car) then it would cutdown on the amount of traffic that the raod in this city need to handle.

State and local highways need the higher capacity far more than the interstates

Just like other major cities. We can't keep adding cars to an already road system that is at capacity now.

Only counties that pay into regional transportation should benefit directly proportional to their contribution.

Lanes should only be added depending on areas that may see needed, i.e. new developing areas, underdeveloped areas and those where expansion seems like a common sense thing. I believe more lanes can be added where allowed also but we should focus primarily in traffic become more effective and practical. Because focusing in the betterment of traffic throughout the region, lanes, traffic controllers and signs can be added as needed.

This is fundamental for the integrity of our transportation system and of the state; it can in creating more new jobs; it fundamental for the function of daily lives and how we conduct our businesses; also it represents how much we care for our safety and the quality of service provided to us.

In the downtown, midtown, buckhead area. Not necessarily interstates

UNLESS THERE IS A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPED THAT WORKS, NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN FOR ANOTHER 40 YEARS.

Transportation/General Comments

This would only benefit a few. Nice but ut good fit health not transportation

Need to stop the misconception that adding more roads reduces congestion more roads just means more cars. Any transport policy needs to foster plans to get people out of their cars

Help lower family expenses by reducing transportation costs.

STUPID!!! That only attracts MORE cars, vehicles!!

This would be a good idea if cyclists were required to be licensed. With the existing paths they're still in the way and hold up traffic. They're a nuisance especially when you're trying to get home from a hard days work. Atlanta is the #1 city in the nation for the longest commutes to work!

As a general observation, our roads and bridges appear to be in good repair. Money needs to be channeled to other forms of transportation.

I don't think biking will ever become a serious mode of transportation in Atlanta. Its dangerous and people love their cars.

It depends. I don't think we should be widening the highways at all. People need to live close to where they work.

Add autonomous auto high speed commuter lanes to give space on the interstate

It would be more cost effective to build a self driving commuter lane for automobiles. (No employees, liability, operating costs to worry about.)

we can't build our way out of this. There are just too many cars.

Won't be used enough. must hv tremendous transportation system to get folk to ride bikes and walk. (safety issues)

This never works. The streets and roads should be for everyone and not just cars. Give to city space back to the people and let drivers have what is left over. Drivers should never be given priority in the cities.

Our roads and existing bridges, etc are in bad need of repair, it is embarrassing at times to be a tourist attraction, and then the town's roadways and bridges look like crap. I know we can afford better.

State of Georgia, does not make highways, interstates, etc very accessible - and the way our roadways are constructed, it's pitful - with the tourist that Atlanta, and Georgia alone attracts, our roads we drive on and interstates and highways should be driveable, constructed and routed - with back roads, that are driveable, so that that traffic is not so terrible as it is now. There will always be congestion, however ours here in Atlanta and the surrounding towns are pitful. Live up to our name and history, for gosh sakes!

We won't change our automobile dependent behavior if we just always add capacity.

Transportation/General Comments

NOT more "hot" lanes or pay for use, "privilege" lanes which made traffic much worse in Gwinnett.

Also connect to suburbs where the workers live to reduce incoming traffic.

This is not a solution. I-85, I-75, and I-285 have all been widened several times and it is a 'build it and they will come' situation.

We need a better long-term plan rather than adding more lanes. Alternative forms of transportation would alleviate the need for additional lanes.

The entire issue of bike lanes and sharing the road is close to a joke! Our county roads were not planned with bikes in mind. Every weekend I observe "almost" bike & car accidents these narrow and twisty roads. In addition to bikers who ride 3 & 4 abreast clogging traffic to a crawl.

The answer needs to be reducing the number of cars, not increasing it.

More roads will just fill up with more cars. We need rail so we can expand capacity quickly and affordably.

Lets not waiting for a bridge to collapse or a watershed dam to fail. Money for maintenance is money well spent.

Encouraging the use of mass transit in the Atlanta metro area should be one of the highest priorities of Plan 2040. Expanding road capacity and making individual car use easier will only contribute to future traffic problems.

I dont think that a car-centric system is a sustainable solution to Atlanta's transportation problem. What happens when that extra lane gets clogged too? Do we just keep adding more?

More lanes more traffic not a solution

It's been shown time and again that adding lanes just means adding cars. They will always fill the capacity, which gets us no where quickly.

If "google" cars come about, everyone will REALLY want their own car.

If there are cars that can drive themselves, not necessary.

Bridges are visibly in disrepair. Every route to my house has a bridge within 5 miles.

get more cars off the road--decrease traffic volume. Move workers to jobs!

The lanes need to make traffic more bearable and give the community the opportunity to thrive to bring more companies here to employ the residents of the state.

Build an outter loop to get through traffic off 285.

Transportation/General Comments

If adding more lanes aren't an option, at least ensuring that people are abiding by traffic laws would be helpful to ensure smooth flow of traffic. An example: Driving towards downtown and GSU on Capitol Ave, right as you approach MLK Jr. Dr, the left lane is a no parking zone intended to be a turn lane. However, people and cops alike park there and block the lane, as well as hold up traffic in the lane beside it to unload almost every day. People then have to turn left from a non-turn lane, and hold up traffic for everyone else. If traffic laws were upheld, traffic might flow a lot easier in the mornings.

Atlanta has already seen that just adding more lanes does not necessarily improve traffic. We need a comprehensive and affordable transportation system to improve traffic and congestion and make it easier to get around.

Add pathways that are bike specific. While the bike lane added to an existing road is helpful, many bikes are still too close to cars and trucks and therefore still slow down traffic.

We need to use our existing, and expensive to maintain capacity better, not build more. If we use it better and grow denser, we don't need more lanes.

If people can walk and bike, you have a healthier city population, less traffic, and less pollution/accidents/etc. I think this pays itself back infinitely over time

You can add more roads but then more cars will eventually come and then you have to do it all over again. Dumbest idea ever

In my opinion, more lanes do not provide more travel flow. More lanes only creates more gridlock, because it has to end or come to a point somewhere, which creates a backlog somewhere.

People in low SES are just as able to work in some other regions and just don't have adequate transportation.

When repairing and maintaining roads and bridges add bicycle and pedestrian facilities, even if it is an ADA accessible crosswalk or a signed bicycle path on the shoulder

This has been shown to *worsen* congestion. This is a "looks like it should be a solution" that just invites another "we need more lanes" in another decade or so - a make-work stopgap, not a solution.

Yes, but the amount of new roadway we can add will necessarily be limited.

Heavily fine any business/commercial entity/individual found using automatic sprinklers wantonly such as watering the roadways, etc.

Transportation/General Comments

The use of permeable pavers should be encouraged (required?) for new construction, or reconstruction, of parking lots and residential roads. It just makes sense: it would eliminate the majority of run-off, be easier and cheaper to repair, and would get us off of our addiction to the blistering hot blacktop and the pot-hole prone asphalt.

A lot of this has to do with transportation and the set-up of our roadways. Traffic is awful. At the moment I work 3 mi from my home and it can take up to 45 min to get home during rush hour. To cut that in half I drive an addt 4 mi while still sitting in traffic. This doesn't make any sense. Why would new companies want to start up business here when the future employees are having to drive and sit in traffic longer. Family and life are just as important if not MORE so and with the traffic issue family time is taken away because we have to be out of our homes anywhere between 2-3 hours before and after work just to be on time.

Such expansion would help eliminate the need for more cars on the roads - and riding together might help us get to know each other better.

Transportation to existing educational offerings might encourage seniors to participate in enriching educational opportunities.

Research has shown that adding more lanes causes induced congestion where drivers will change their routes to take advantage of the new lanes. Atlanta already has some of the widest freeways in the world, so adding more lanes has shown that it is not a solution.

parking is not necessary for walkability

Absolutely imperative. And require bicycle cooperation instruction for all drivers ticketed, in accidents or with DUIs, so that they will be respectful of burgeoning community of cyclists. Fix parking/biking lane problem along McLendon Avenue at Lake Claire park, just before Lakeshore (as traveling East). As it is, the bike lane disappears into car parking for about 500 feet. Very dangerous. Also, require "Riding along cyclists with Respect" education class for new Atlanta, or even all of Georgia, drivers.

More lanes = more traffic. Maybe the region could focus on finding which roads would truly benefit from having more lanes and which (major) roads could benefit from a road diet (such as Peachtree Rd in North Fulton/DeKalb counties).

More parking = more problems. We need to focus more on how to get people to not drive versus giving them more opportunities to go from point A to point Z via car.

We cannot focus on adding capacity to existing roadways. We need to improve and promote alternate means of transportation to vehicular.

Transportation/General Comments

Public parking is already easily available in many areas. Zoning laws should be updated so that developers can build higher density places without a burden of extensive parking.

Add garages that park the cars in multi-levels using elevators. Don't spread out--go up/down.

Eliminate healthcare deserts.

Provide transportation to medical centers or provide incentives for businesses that provide transportation for low income users of health services.

With wider lanes if the bike lane is added to existing lanes. It's difficult enough to get to destinations in traffic. While I respect and admire cyclists, it's aggravating to be stuck behind one & can't get around because of traffic beside me. Share the road, yes, but don't impede traffic.

Many studies show this does little to improve congestion. We need to increase options and provide alternatives, not add more lanes.

That would be a great idea. Just as an example, why don't you have a bus system coming from different areas with monthly passes. It would be a great success, and decongest Atlanta's traffic. I vanpool right now, but that could be done on a greater scale. Just try one bus between Emory and Monroe, it would be a great success.

Increasingly we will need these options to replace automobiles if we expect to have the city be a livable area. The current plan of building more highways and parking is simply not sustainable and is a waste of resources and land and results in a blighted landscape.

We already have better quality roads than most of the country due to not having snow, etc. Please put money towards expanding alternative transportation options.

We need to stop widening roads. This leads to higher speeds, but also more congestion. We're also wasting so much money on road projects. Please focus that money on transportation modes other than driving.

Atlanta currently has a lot of these events, and they drive the desire for better walkability as people see car traffic congestion as a problem.

People can enjoy riding in many neighborhoods in the Atlanta region, but do not feel safe riding between neighborhoods. Safe, protected bike lanes will encourage bike travel to entertainment and shopping districts minimize dependency on driving a car for short trips.

We need complete streets, not more lanes. Fewer lanes promote thinking about non-car travel and this is good.

Transportation/General Comments

Georgia's people are pretty fat compared to other developed nations. They could certainly stand to bicycle more and sit in their cars in traffic less.

Stop adding gasoline to the fire. More roads only compound the problems of individual automobile traffic.

There are lots of housing options and I'm sure the city is providing incentives for builders and developers but much of the housing is too expensive. I looked at the cost of living in the old City Hall East and I wonder who is the target resident. Obviously it is not intended for everyone and not for "all income levels". If we are not careful, the city will look like San Francisco where workers cannot afford to live where they work and they start to find work outside the city and businesses inside the city can't find affordable workers. There needs to be a balance. No one wants to travel 30, 40 or 50 miles to work at a low paying job.

This is a no brainer. If the roads are not maintained, they are not safe and that is not good. The roads have taken a beating with the weather the last few years and many of them are in severe need of repair. Repairing is always cheaper than replacing!

be a top priority! this will help cutdown on traffic esp. on I85.

Some areas have abundant public parking while others could maybe use more. Get rid of the surface lots in Midtown and Downtown - public parking should be garages. Also get rid of privately-owned free parking in these areas. Parking is too territorial in Atlanta, and it adds unnecessary vehicle miles traveled.

Not sure this is a good answer, but SOMETHING needs to be done to keep traffic flowing

Adding lanes gives diminishing returns in terms of easing traffic congestion. At this point I think we need other measures to increase traffic through put.

Other strategies to build social capital should focus on efforts to build bridges between the region's increasingly diverse communities.

In the form of turn lanes to allow through traffic to continue through intersections. I do not think existing roads should necessarily be widened.

Incorporate safety improvements into road maintenance. Modernize roads as part of road maintenance. (For example, look for opportunities for road diets and roundabouts.

Particularly in cases where rural residents need alternative/affordable transportation to job centers

Minimum requirements for parking should be reduced or eliminated. A parking tax should be considered to cover alternative transportation costs.

Transportation/General Comments

In particular, safer options to bike E-W over 75/85. More bike lanes will be needed around the ponce city market and burgeoning old fourth ward. Also, the west end. There are good sidewalks down Joseph lowery- expanding them to a multi-purpose capacity seems worthwhile. There are sharrows on that road, but it would scare me to ride down it on a bike.

Or... I mean if people are willing to spend 3 hours a day in traffic... I'm more concerned with surface streets in town staying safe for multiple modes.

Reevaluate the need for each vehicular road or bridge before committing to maintaining it and remove unneeded structures and capacity.

Here I think the better option is to improve the transportation system.

Less parking or if parking is a hassle with BETTER travel options is my choice. If we don't get better options, than we will need more parking

can not do this without transportation

can not do this without transportation

can not do this without transportation

can not do this without transportation

why fix a transportation system that doesn't work?

More lanes creates latent demand and makes congestion worse. Instead of more lanes, we should use tolls to better manage the infrastructure that we already have.

Adding more lanes will result in more traffic congestion. We need to encourage alternate modes of transportation, and try to become less of an auto-centric society.

while also considering bike & pedestrian traffic...

Ambiguous; does this mean free or paid? Free parking is a subsidy and inducement for automobile travel.

If this relieves the congestion on major through fares. I think we need to upgrade local/regional routes and not so much our interstates. For interstates, we need to evaluate the benefit versus the cost.

rather than require that every piece of property set aside space for parking on it, at whatever rate, work to allow more of a municipal parking solution where numerous properties can satisfy parking requirements at 1 or more parking facilities sized for the activity center.

Adding lanes to existing roads needs to be done in conjunction with other solutions and shouldn't be used in a vacuum to increase capacity

Yes, but don't go crazy with limiting cars in certain zones.

Make sure it's a smart design. Not these terrible open-air parking lots we have throughout Midtown and Downtown right

Transportation/General Comments

now.

Traffic expands to fill the lanes allotted. More lanes yeilds greater congesstion, not less.

Only interstates

Atlanta's parking enforcement company has limited my inclination to shop in the areas they patrol

Consider stacking lanes as they have in NYC.

I would like more bike paths but they won't make a dent in traffic issues.

In most cases adding more lanes does not help because it attracts more motor vehicle traffic. Widening intersections with turning lanes does make sense to alleviate existing traffic congestion.

add new roads, new ways to travel to the same desitination

More lanes just bring more traffic.

Where is public parking not available?

Fix and/or improve interchanges, upgrade timing of lights, reduce new traffic lights and road cuts.

No! Adding more lanes allows more traffic to come in; it does not alleviate congestion in the slightest.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/07/09/137708751/more-roads-may-pave-way-to-more-traffic>

With enough support, this can help ease traffic congestion as well as improve the health of the population.

Many roads are already at their maximum needed width. Some will need widening but after we first prioritize building alternatives to driving (i.e. mass transit) and then we can reassess the need for road widenings.

Providing parking encourages driving and we need to get away from that where feasible like major activity centers.

Follow the Dutch and Danish models and/or the Complete Streets model. Add sidewalks to every roadway (preferably on both sides). Add bike lanes even if it costs car lanes.

According to a concept, vision, plan.
Capacity planning.

Needed in specific areas but in general we cannot widen our way out of the growth/traffic problems.

It's not so much more lanes, but more capacity. For example adding a bridge for the mainline of one road at a major intersection (For example US78 and SR124). In some cases a new road (Connect limited access section of Sugarloaf Parkway to GA-400 to take traffic off of Pleasant hill/Stage Bridge Rd.)

We must maintain existing infrastructure before building new.
We must also fund maintenance when adding new.

Transportation/General Comments

adding capacity to existing roads will always be a viable solution to growing traffic demand. This should be prioritized.

Depends upon the definition of "coordinate." If "coordinate" means having the ARC make all the decisions on bus routes and schedules, the answer is definitely NO. A proper role of the ARC might be to provide a meeting environment where county officials could gather to work on inter-county coordination of transportation systems.

Add more large capacity road to enter and exit the city. Having only a few major road entering and leaving the city creates part of the problem. give people more choices on how to get into, out of and around the city.

Please Don't WASTE Tax payer dollars on this. This does NOT help the transportation issue. it is only a politically correct feel good idea that does nothing to solve the problem.

If work center development are to flourish outside the Atl CBD, this is the only alternative that can support intense travel demands.

Politically desirable but not of 'significant' benefit in the overall scheme of enhancing/improving commuter/home marketing trips

This is tricky. Obviously parking is essential for those who need to drive or have limited mobility. But I think parking for the majority of people getting around needs to be de-emphasized and incentives to use alternatives (once viable alternatives exist) should be pushed.

Absolutely. After spending a week in Maine on an island where everyone bikes or walks to get food, groceries, entertainment.. it just makes life so much more pleasant. The key is to get cars to travel slower (15 mph) and less frequently.

more lanes are not always the best solution to traffic. We need to be strategic and build alternative modes of transportation that reduce the need for driving overall. Replacing a driving lane with a bike lane may reduce traffic and allow for more people to use the infrastructure.

Adding more lanes might create more traffic while making the lanes a little wider would allow traffic to move more freely

Although some roads need widening, making the interstates bigger is not effective or desirable.

Many communities are undeserved in this area and cannot compete for high tech jobs. This contributes to the traffic congestion on our interstates as people travel outside their community to their jobs. Additionally, it limits a person's ability to telecommute.

How wide are they going to be? The connector is 8 lanes in spots and has not helped traffic.

Transportation/General Comments

This is common sense. We should repair existing roads and bridges, but NOT build more.

We must devise answers to improving transportation that eliminates more cars on the highways! Our future health demands it.

Does easily accessible parking encourage driving at the expense of other transportation options?

We need fly-over lanes on major arterials instead of more traffic lights. And those flyovers can consist of individual lanes in either direction and NOT involve major cloverleaves. It's possible to do flyovers that are simple and cheap.

Need to look where folks are traveling and provide roads that are more direct and/or bypass high density area's.

Given our penchant for cars, this is not a true transportation solution, but I consider it a quality of life issue.

Until Atlanta develops a reliable, world class transportation system, we are destined to remain a major wannabe player. All the so call accolades that Atlanta is getting, will eventually collapse and leave behind a gridlocked, polluted metropolitan area.

And remove 50% of the traffic signals. Every single residential road does not need a traffic signal so that ONE car can turn left.

As long as the bicycles do NOT clog up existing paved roads for motorized vehicles.

Sure....but do not interfere with existing or planning paved roads for vehicles.

What culture? Clogged roads nearly 24/7? That is about the largest bit of culture I see....every single day. The GA DOT should be absolutely ashamed of the traffic flow on major arteries around Atlanta.

Incentivizes using cars, which we want to get away from entirely, right?!

This is a nice warm fuzzy thought, but the reality is we don't have the money for this luxury. If we can find a dedicated funding source tied to user costs that can pay for it, then I am all for it. Currently we have way too many congested roadways that can't accommodate the much greater numbers of commuters in vehicles that should be the focus of the limited transportation dollars. We need to increase transportation funding.

We must maintain our infrastructure in good repair with preventative maintenance as delaying repairs will only cost more further down the line when they require repairs.

This needs to be done in certain areas but with a priority of providing alternative means of transportation, repairing existing infrastructure, and doing so only where absolutely necessitated by growth and lack of alternative means of transportation.

Transportation/General Comments

Widen sidewalks in commercial areas to make walking from residential neighborhoods and neighborhood retail centers safer. Consider creating tree canopies in conjunction with widening sidewalks. Consider inter parcel access to commercial businesses as an alternative to multiple curb cuts to improve pedestrian safety and convenience.

Atlanta's road transportation network is already enormous. While adding lanes may alleviate congestion in the short term, it is not sustainable and will only continue the city's reliance on cars.

majority of traffic stems from people traveling to and from work... by focusing more on working people's needs will definitely make a lot of the tax payers happy and more willing to collaborate.

Remove and replace the insurance commissioner and governor. Improve access to health care through transportation.

Remove and replace the insurance commissioner and governor. Improve access to health care through transportation. Mandate physical education in schools.

Provide more flow through intersections to keep traffic moving. Possibly more access lanes for local traffic.

Connect the silver comet trail and beltline. There is SO much traffic on the silver comet trail that it could really benefit the businesses of atlanta and vice versa + offering a very safe and commutable transportation alternative for people who live west of Atlanta or people who work west of Atlanta but live in Atlanta proper.

Georgia has one of the most disappointing educational systems for k-12. Unless you are very wealthy you simply cannot afford to live in areas that have well-rated schools. Even as a family with an income over \$150k, we cannot afford to live where schools are rated highly without traveling well outside of Atlanta proper (ie. Marietta, Alpharetta or Roswell -- 45-60 min commute for a new or updated 3-4 bedroom home priced under \$300k)

Bikes are part of a park & rec, not transportation.

Is this is the Agenda 21 stack and pack lifestyle? occupants become dependent on their controlled environment, automobiles are removed, right to travel removed, liberties? Who does this benefit? other than the select developers?

There are much cheaper means of transportation. Again, the free market, low taxes allow businesses like Uber and limos to provide competitive workable solutions for people who do not drive.

Atlanta is such a sprawl and there is no centralized work area i.e. downtown. We do not have radial transportation patterns. It is impossible to serve all the subdivisions and places where people live to the places where people work. It will not be self supporting and will have to be subsidized by the tax payers.

Transportation/General Comments

People like to drive their own cars and figure out how to get to work themselves.

That's fine for some people and is good for those with limited funds to pay for transportation but it should be the highest priority.

Stop enabling private transportation.

Yes Yes and Yes. Not only our roads but our sidewalks need routine maintenance and repairs.

Where circumstances and traffic volumes require additional capacity versus operational or other related improvements.

Public parking easily available increases traffic

Creative use of metering can provide accessible public parking.

If by public parking, one means a good, central parking deck in walkable communities, then yes. Surface parking interferes with walkability.

The only reason for this would be to add left turn lanes, so that traffic doesn't get so backed up on busy streets. Otherwise, road diets are the way to go!

Reduce overall parking, public parking can be expanded only if it removes private parking lots.

waste of money. encourage users of the road to use alternate means to travel.

Induced traffic

Tax large parking lots and garages to pay for alternative transportation options

All that does is increase vehicular traffic. That is not a solution.

this may be part of the comprehensive transportation approach, but not exclusive to other tools.

Currently, we need automobiles to navigate Atlanta. This is dumb. I don't want a car. I don't want to drive.

If anything, push for self driving cars to be allowed in Georgia and push for a self driving taxi service. Wouldn't that be innovative for Atlanta?

Forget the parking spaces. We already have too many taking up too much space that should go to restaurants, shops, residences, and open space!

Make more use of road pricing to help pay for maintenance.

More lanes cause more traffic congestion.

Please look at cities like Portland and Seattle, where riding your bike to work makes MORE sense than getting into your car. Adding more lanes just moves the traffic jam, it doesn't solve the problem.

Transportation/General Comments

this is a very bad idea. it will not reduce congestion and distracts from what really needs to be done (supporting other modes of transportation).

Buy land in transportion corridors adequate for a 2040 a plan. Adding piecemeal lanes after homes /private property are developed adjoining the roadway is costly and disruptive. Think ahead now!

I seek out public and private museums when I travel. I attend symphony concerts, opera, live theater. Is Atlanta competitive? I don't think so.

I seek out public and private museums when I travel. Is Atlanta competitive? I don't think so.

Let's not add more work and maintenance to an already exhausting framework. Focus on what we do have and improve on it.

We should not encourage people to drive; rather provide viable transportation alternatives!!!

To some surface roads, yes. NO, to interstates/highways.

Bus service times currently take much too long to travel mere miles in Atlanta. Find a model that works and implement. Bite the bullet and add more subway train modes under Atlanta and the metro area.

Treat vehicular traffic like the luxury that it is. Luxury is expensive.

Making public parking more accessible further incentives people to drive instead of using alternative transportation.

Public parking for what?

Get rid of the many sprawling school compasses along with traffic snaraling yellow school busses and have small neighborhood school houses where children may get professional help with studies.

Make public parking easy and not complicated, but not necessarily free.

More lanes are not the answer. Better intersections, flyover ramps, signal timing, roundabouts, are a good start.

There is an incredible amount of subsidies to motor vehicles, the highway systems, roads, etc. I am ok with folks driving, but they need to pay their fair share.

The transportation issue in Atlanta will be best solved by adding additional transportation alternatives. Getting more cars off the highway should be the next problem that is tackled.

Widen only those roads that are heavily traveled

Learn how to control traffic signals effectively. They're installed and forgotten.

We need more traffic management and improved intersections and interchanges. Not more lanes. A state and local function.

Transportation/General Comments

This is recreation, not transportation

I think we should consider this but it's should not be high on a priority. We have a number of things to address before this. Spread out the businesses and let people work from different areas to lessen travel. Tax incentives for smaller offices in outlying areas. Businesses can have more meeting through the internet, Skype, goto meeting ..ect

For selected roads, but limit so that we encourage non-auto transportation options.

I think a number of the feeder roads to the Interstates could use some additional lanes.

some roads do need another lane but that is not the solution to our traffic nightmare

current practice simply creates sharrows. most roadways do not have room to add official bike lane. It needs to be carefully considered, how to SAFELY add bikes.

Science has proven for years that adding roadway capacity is a does not reduce congestion and that the lanes fill up.

Meanwhile, it encourages more driving and sprawl, which hurts air quality and personal health. The cities that we aspire to be understand and embrace this. Why do we continue to consider this as a legitimate solution?

Connect neighborhoods to job centers and transportation options using light rail.

this will only encourage more people to drive. Use traffic circles more (learn from our European friends).

This would not only improve the transportation options and connect areas of the city but would also improve citizen health. A top priority!

It won't be long before most cars will drive themselves, and this may cause driving to increase or decrease, or both. Any planning for roads should seriously consider these potential changes in usage patterns.

Which roads are we talking about? Interstate? local roads? I doubt they will alleviate much of the congestion

Not necessarily to the freeway system, but, to heavily traveled artery roads that are often used when there is a tie-up on the freeways.

We need to reduce, not increase reliance on privately owned automobiles!

Research and experience show that creating more lanes just creates more traffic

Transportation/General Comments

Bike lanes are wonderful, but should be developed without sacrificing motor vehicle capacity. Expectations should also be managed; with the horrible climate of Atlanta, bike transport will always be a minority, fringe solution, even if the current safety concerns are ultimately addressed.

Do not create business districts to lure traffic into already congested areas. Further, analyze areas where communities are being used as commuter cut-throughs and prioritize transportation resources to alleviate the choke points that cause this.

Don't encourage more drivers!

Decreasing travel time is more important right now than road repair. Quality of life in Atlanta is poor when Northwest metro areas have 1-1/2 to 2 hr commute one way Monday thru Friday

A law should be passed in the area - mandating that bike lanes and pedestrian alternatives are created every time a road is resurfaced or a bridge is improved.

I believe it is already too easy for people to drive in the metro area. When I lived in San Francisco it was very difficult to find parking, so once the car was parked for the day - I rode my bike or walked everywhere. Don't program people to get lazy and jump into their massive SUVs so easily. Make parking harder to find and more expensive and they will get out to walk or decide to take a bus and actually chat with a neighbor in person while they leisurely wait for the bus.

Don't just connect major job centers, connect ALL of Metro Atlanta. As a resident I am confined to staying within a 15 mile radius of my house unless I want to face spending 3hrs a day in my car. Youth, elderly, and those who cannot drive are paralyzed by our lack of transportation options. Atlanta is horrible for transportation, and the main reason why I want to move elsewhere.

Roads won't solve everything. You need a comprehensive transportation plan that includes multiple means for commuting. Road repair and expansion just adds to the ATL traffic chaos. Give me more SAFE options.

Are you damn kidding me? Bike paths? Let's add bicycles to this already insane traffic grid?

This is too broad a question. There are highways that desperately need to be expanded, but the main commute arteries are a different issue. More lanes only works for so long, and will never be an adequate long-term solution.

FACT: This will reduce demand on existing roadways and improve citizens health and happiness. A win win.

Transportation/General Comments

Refer to Charles Marohn's article "Confessions of a Recovering Engineer." Along with his study, many others have shown expanding streets does not alleviate traffic congestion and other such issues. Re-designing streets will. And design them to accommodate all modes of travel.

Yes, this is important. But even more so is our move away from an auto-dependent lifestyle in the urban core. Develop and promote alternative modes of transportation.

reduce or eliminate public parking. Making parking extremely difficult or expensive will keep people from driving.

This is the worst idea!!!! More lanes will just facilitate and encourage more traffic....how can 10 lanes of traffic on an interstate not be enough?! NO!

YES! This is what we should be doing rather than adding more lanes to roads -- promoting other means of transportation.

I am "true" Atlantan and have lived through additional lanes, express lanes, toll lanes. These additions do nothing for vehicle traffic, but eat more green space.

Need to start by analyzing existing route usage and re-prioritize resources. Look at ways to speed travel time and increase reliability before expanding service.

Not enough consideration has been given to transportation alternatives and the possibility of the development of new materials for construction. For example, there exists a concrete in development that is self repairing. In a time where climate change is always the topic of conversation, we have to evaluate whether or not the use of "green cement" is feasible. To rebuild our transportation network we have to give more thought to what we want our network to do and how we can make the use of our existing network more efficient.

There are many roads in Atlanta that would benefit from an extra set of lanes. Many two-way roads are often horribly backed up. Challenge: given the residential nature of many problem high traffic areas widening the roads may not be possible.

Not sure if it's done by design, but it's telling to me that this survey lists this option last and the first two options focus on the roads. The region needs planners who have experience in developing desirable transport. Not planners who have it mixed in as an afterthought and only focus on cars and roads.

Free up those awful "Pay the Price" lanes on I-85 and wherever else they exist. Talk about an inequity instituted by the state!

Transportation/General Comments

It needs to be a combination of more lanes to major roads connecting to interstates and new major roads to alleviate the number of cars on the existing major roadways. There are just too many cars for the current infrastructure and adding more lanes will only add more cars. You need to find a way to shift traffic patterns and directions.

This is the best solution to the traffic problem. and remember everyone does not work down town. Just like 285 keep you from have to go downtown so should the rail. and Expend out side of just Fulton and DeKalb. I- 20 E is hurting. That's why the TSPOST did not pass on that side of town.

Atlanta residents are already too dependent upon their automobiles, making it impossible for people without cars to access all parts of the city and all the opportunities. More work needs to focus on making public transport a better option than getting in a car

Incentives seem to lead to bidding wars and awards that often do not pay for themselves. A topnotch workforce and topnotch transportation will take care of this by themselves -- a great place to live and great workforce are incentives themselves.

NO! Downs' Triple Convergence...we cannot build our way out of traffic, what a waste this sort of policy would be.

Within fiscally constrained reason -- we've overbuilt, so that must mean some of the capacity that should never have been built ought not be maintained, rather abandoned or similar.

Get rid of GRTA and MARTA. Force the counties in the metro area to accept transit as a legitimate part of the transportation network or stop road funding and/or remove state route designations.

Make it harder to have a car intown. create large parking areas/garages with easy access to major arteries so people do not have to drive intown. Close some streets to auto traffic (Peachtree St should be first).

Transportation/General Comments

Smart lights that adapt to lighter traffic conditions or time of day/week. One size-fits-all technology is stupid and counterproductive.

More roundabouts (1 lane, please, not those crazy multi-lane things St. Simon's Island has---craaaazy!!).

Clearly marked pedestrian crosswalks with the middle of the road stop signage, flashing signal lights, different roadway material (like brickwork), more warning stripes across roadways for stop signs or places where people need to slow down.

Sidewalks that will accommodate 2-3 people abreast. Fine joggers if they run in the street when sidewalks are available. I can't drive on the sidewalk--they shouldn't jog in the streets.

Instead of adding car parking, why not add small greenspaces with bicycle parking (parklets).

Encourage employers to have more people work from home at least part time. Many physical commutes are unnecessary.

There should be wider lanes and more divided roads. Clairmont, for example, is extremely dangerous because it is narrow and high speed.

There needs to be an outer perimeter for transient traffic relief.

Lower speeds of roadways

We need a state imposed user fee for transportation to pay for transportation infrastructure and keep the federal government and all it's attached strings and hoops out of it. This could be a vehicle miles traveled tax (without GPS tracking) or other combination method of capturing fees based on amount of usage. Without a good transportation system, the standard of living is diminished and also the attractiveness for growth.

Raise money from the private sector to self-fund high-capacity transportation improvements, upgrades and expansions with real estate revenues.

Make transit self-funding with private investment, real estate revenues, the aggressive sales of large and small private sponsorships and private sponsorships.

Use Value Capture taxing districts along transit lines instead of 1% sales taxes to fund transit.

Improve transportation flow by providing an alternative route through/around Atlanta to reduce bottlenecks at 75/285 and 85/285 junctions. Provide more flow through intersections to keep traffic moving at peak times.

Transportation/General Comments

Remove unelected persons from regional boards. Allow counties to solve their own transportation issues

sync traffic lights to one another. currently light "A" turns green releasing traffic to light "B" as it turns red

Who is supposed to be against "repair and maintain our existing roads and bridges? Really? Surveys shouldn't have this kind of tripe/selection bias in them.

The investment should be on alternative methods of transportation and not ones that encourage people to continue driving cars occupied by one person. This focus on improving conditions for inefficient methods of transpiration (single occupancy automobiles) is what has caused Atlanta to be known as the traffic congestion hub it is.

Increase speed limits and promote better traffic flow. Reduce stops and impediments to flow that do little for safety and aggravate congestion

Must invest in improving transportation and quality of life in order to attract businesses.

The revive285 project has many great ways to reduce congestion. Needs to be advanced under control of GDOT.

Remove those stupid stop and go lights and signs at the entrances of major highways in Atlanta and around the state. There are cross bars to prevent cars from entering along I 16. STOP MICROMANAGING!

Truck traffic and tourist traffic solutions-ATL is a choking point for 3 major highways. We need a solution to keep our roads less full-a northern perimeter is a must.

Build the outer perimeter for thru traffic - especially truckers

Analyze traffic patterns to identify areas where commuters cut through a community to avoid congested arteries (example: people cut through residential Dunwoody to avoid 400 & 285), and prioritize infrastructure improvements to relieve the traffic burden on the local community.

telework and flexible work schedules NEED to be a top solution for the transportation issues facing this region. Demand that anybody who does work for a government entity in the region require that eligible staff telework at least two days per week. (i.e., write this into the contract language). Encourage big employers (Home Depot, Coca Cola,, Cox, etc) adopt more flexible telework and work schedules.

We can't provide transportation by rail or bus to specific work centers. Why kid ourselves. Companies need to locate in areas where access is already available.

Comprehensive transportation system will address this.

Transportation/General Comments

Developments in air transportation suggest the possibility of air taxi services, solar powered aircraft and lighter than air cargo aircraft. In order to take advantage of these possibilities and developments, Atlanta needs a new, small and specialized airport out of the way of the Hartsfield flight path to take care of this specialized flying segment. The easiest way to encourage this development is to build mass transit capacity into Atlanta business hubs and centers.

Encourage, (consider incentives), to improve use of transportation infrastructure

Regarding "add more lanes", need to increase capacity of some roads; may or may not mean adding lanes

Traffic is always worse when school is in. We need to start thinking about telecommuting for the students. I feel it would be cheaper and more economically viable if we provide them with the technology to work from home. This = less cars on the road, less fuel be consumed, fewer schools needing to be constructed, reduce carbon foot print, save time for the students to be able to do their work, fewer lunches needed to be prepared at the schools, etc.

I live in Douglas County. We need an interconnected transportation system that runs through Cobb, Gwinnett, Fulton, Douglas, etc. It shouldn't be all the different counties doing their own thing. The counties can come together and support one transportation system together.

one of the things that is overlooked in the commute efforts is the use of motorcycle and smaller engine transports. many E.C. and Asian countries expand on this.

build more light rail. build high occupancy bridges over top of existing roads like in houston and miami. Put WIFI on all trains and buses - people can communicate and work - more will ride.

The number one way to fix traffic, other than HOV lanes (not HOT lanes) is to evaluate bottlenecks and fix them one at a time. Determine how throughput could be improved at interchanges and slow areas and keep unclogging them.

Those that commute into the city should also participate in its tax basis which would hopefully discourage people from choosing automobile transportation. Residents of the City of Atlanta often do not spend much time driving on its roads in comparison to those from the suburbs.

There will have to be policing BEYOND traffic violations as well. The city has suffered through a period of car and home robberies. This is hardly becoming of a city that will attract people who will pay over a thousand bucks for a 1bdm.

Transportation/General Comments

The reason why Atlanta is such an attractive place for people is that it has so much green space. Making sure that this trend continues we need to reduce the amount of parking lots in the city and convert it to green space. The success of the Beltline is a testament to how much of an economic engine such public green space can be in this city.

Omit Cobb County from any transportation related discussions.

We need to work with companies, employers and residents to provide incentives for using alternative methods of transportation. Investing in roads and driving isn't sustainable growth.

If you keep building these outdoor mall concepts you just create more traffic headaches. There should also be more planning when putting projects on busy roads. For example, the atrocities which are about to occur in Decatur for the new Walmart and the complex at Piedmont & Cheshire Bridge Roads. Both of those projects are going to have HORRIBLE impacts on traffic. Just get in 6pm traffic in the rain.

Merging onto 75 north from I-20 east or west is unexceptable during rush hour. Merging into two lanes is gridlock. Drivers are trying to get off at GRady. Too much going on in a one mile radius. Also, merging onto 285north from 20 west is hazardous.

There has been entirely too many accidents. Please fix these intersections.

Take existing lanes to create bus-only lanes which bypass traffic and encourage mass commuting

A comprehensive transportation system coordinates bus, rail, car and bike/ped across city and county lines under a single authority

Reduce lanes

Not sure why one lane of I-75 in Cobb County could not be dedicated to HOV in the morning and afternoon. Seems like a quick fix. Better than spending billions adding elevated HOT lanes and lining contractor pockets with cash.

Changes should be made to our infrastructure. When the highway systems were built, apparently little to no thought was given to expansion. When we have major events within the city of Atlanta, traffic comes to a standstill because everyone is headed in the same direction. I recommend that Atlanta confer with counterparts in other major cities to obtain ideas on how best to alleviate this problem.

Advance cross-jurisdictional coordination of traffic signal timing and infrastructure improvements so that we are not simply moving bottlenecks from one location/jurisdiction to another.

Coordination between cities along heavily traveled roads to time traffic lights effectively and reduce gridlock.

Transportation/General Comments

create an incentive for employers to have employee work from home to help with the traffic issues/happy workers

remove the HOV lanes. They don't help the traffic mess.

Provide incentives for businesses to have as many employees as feasible telecommute at least 1-2 days per week

Re-evaluate the timing of traffic lights. Many major roads in the metro area do not have timed traffic lights and this adds to congestion and gridlock

There needs to be something put into place to make drivers adhere to the "Do not block intersection" principle. In my area this causes gridlock often, because drivers don't respect this and other drivers.

Road fee based on miles driven; can expand to include higher rate for main arteries during rush hours.
Incentivize use of vehicles with Advanced Cruise Control and, ultimately, autonomous vehicles

In Dublin Ireland I saw at least one busy area closed off to motor vehicle traffic! This could be tried in some areas, particularly of downtown.

SYNCHRONIZE TRAFFIC SIGNALS!

Work on resetting the timing of traffic lights to help move people - rather than a stop and start drive. If there is no one at a cross street, the light should be able to detect that and not change. Or if there is only a car or two, it should change but be on a shorter cycle rather than the light being green for no one.

Atlanta will never be a world class city without a world class transportation system. As our population ages, more and more people will need public transit to get around.

Fund the regional plan earlier presented to the public for meeting transportation needs.

We will never be able to lay enough concrete to get everyone to and from work at the same time, one person to a car. We must have a coordinated regional transportation system that is good enough to get people out of their cars. That means it must go from where the people are to where they want to go.

Create alternate fueled vehicle only lanes on the expressways to incentivize purchase of electric cars.

Add some lanes to our 19 lane bulls hit highways. What a joke. And nobody wants to ride that train with all of the scumbags on it.

Quit ticketing commuters, and clean up this shithole city of crime and corruption. Ticket thru traffic, not locals.

Help develop and change the laws to allow self driving cars to operate in Georgia.

Make public parking affordable or free.

Transportation/General Comments

Metro Atlanta absolutely needs to develop a sustainable public transportation system. Existing rail lines can be used and light rail systems can be built that will truly connect the sprawling metro area.

As a region, Metro Atlanta really needs to consider some sort of congestion pricing mechanism. It's a cardinal rule of economics, a valuable product or service offered at zero price will be constantly in shortage.

As a region, Metro Atlanta really needs to consider some sort of congestion pricing mechanism. It's a cardinal rule of economics, a valuable product or service offered at zero price will be constantly in shortage. (By the way, I'd be happy to come work for the City on this)

Integrate MARTA, Cobb, Gwinnett systems into a seamless transportation system

Support sustainable development from urban agriculture to walkable neighborhoods to supporting alternative modes of transportation to encouraging the use of solar energy and water conservation

Please focus on transportation alternatives (to vehicles) and a walkable environment!

Please help improve transportation in Clayton county and other southern region of Atlanta & Georgia (Macon)

I would like to see more attraction to come back to Atlanta, the city doesn't have much nightlife for tourist compared to other cities that get as much traffic as us. I know it was rumored that the Brave's stadium my become a Casino, I think that would be a positive addition to the city in a controlled way. I hope we can be more innovative when its come to making our city stand out and profit from doing so.

I think more needs to be done to incentivize motor vehicle alternatives to travel. And more should be done so that motorists carry the full burden of the cost of driving. Also, I would be really interested in any ideas that would promote justice & equity through transportation infrastructure. We need to do right by ALL of atlanta's people.

can not do this without transportation. either public or personal INCLUDING bike lanes and sidewalks.

I am disappointed that the focus for planning in Atlanta seems to be moving vehicles at a high rate of speed through the areas where I live and work rather than facilitating my ability to travel and walk within my neighborhood.

Transportation/General Comments

There are so many short trips that could be made by means other than car, even when it is 100 degrees outside, but the infrastructure to support non-car travel is vastly underprovided. Whether bus, bike or shoe, there is latent demand, and as the perception of unsafe conditions is diminished via modifications to existing infrastructure, the use will rise and rise and rise out of non-car travel cost savings and convenience.

Focus on transportation!

Regional government for transportation, water, large infrastructure purposes makes sense! Let's do it.

Its all about transportation. Quality of life means ease of transportation. Transportation equals job and business growth. Business and jobs equal economic opportunity.

The public transportation system in Atlanta needs a major overhaul. We need dependable alternatives to driving cars.

If anything makes me leave Atlanta, it will be the terrible traffic. 1.5 hours to go 8 miles to my job is a problem.

I think a great idea would be to create another city. There is land off of South Fulton Parkway just sitting there collecting dust. If you create another city, you will bring in more revenue and help the state as a whole. The area also needs a hospital. You have everything squeezed in one spot; then have the audacity to complain about the traffic. If you spread it all out, it would alleviate a lot of your traffic issues.

Less cars please.

I work from home as a telecommuter. However, if my current role went away, I'd be forced into an abysmal commute that hasn't really gotten much better in the 20+ years I have lived here.

Far too much transpo money being spent on interstates. Need funding for sidewalks, trails, amenities to improve local communities, not truck routes.

DO NOT support implementation of Peach pass lanes like on I85N anywhere else in the Metro area and end this failed program on I85 ASAP and also need more accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board

There should be more accountability for the transportation plans. We elect representatives to make these decisions. They should not be made by unelected commissioners who don't have to respond to voters who are forced to pay for this stuff.

ATL needs to clean up the area before it starts new projects, most people I know and talk to don't want to go into ATL, because the crime, pan handling, traffic, parking, etc. If I was a company coming here, and wanted to bring some of my workers who wanted to come, I wouldn't bring my company here

I am totally against toll roads and hotlanes of any type or form.

Transportation/General Comments

Improving traffic flow and attracting new jobs are my main concerns.

I work all over the county as a Realtor. Traffic is, by far, the biggest concern I have. The fallout damage to the environment is horrific.

I work from home. I work at BCD Travel. Please encourage this for companies to take on. I love this job, and I stay off the roads and I work longer hours because I like my job.

Transportation is main concern.

I have more than 40 years Experience in transportation Safety. I have worked in the railroad industry, both Passenger Rail and Freight Rail for over 40 years. My experience extends from Railroad Operations and Safety into the US Department of Transportation (FRA) Railroad Regulation & Safety Planning - Inspection and Regulatory - I have a up to date CV available upon request. I have been a Cobb County Resident for more than 25 years - traversing Rt 75 from two lanes each way - through construction of what is currently the multi lane RT 75 - my daily trip was from 120 loop to the Williams Street exit for over 25 yrs - In years past I have attended many ARC as well as other rail planning sessions, including High speed monorail proposal from ATL-Airport to Chattanooga TN Airport. I'm aware of Georgia's railroad system.

I drive 28 miles 1-way each day; traffic is a hot button. Plus, I drive all over town for work so I can see neighborhoods and trends (and a ton of traffic). Lots of work to be done...

Currently unemployed but my job that ended in March was in zip 30346. Only 3.5 miles from my home. Some jobs I have applied for are in Alpharetta: no good way to get there ...

I love almost everything you are saying except adding lanes to the roads.

It would be helpful to have stores within walking distance, especially grocery stores. People on the south side of the city are often forgotten in the planning process. Where I live, it would take traveling a few miles to get to the nearest beltline access, which I'm not going to do. By the time I've walked to the beltline, it would be time to turn around and go home.

The metro region will choke on this traffic problem by 2040 if nothing is done about it. On bad days, it is quicker to take surface roads than the interstate for many commutes, and that is our CURRENT state.

We need to entice employers (via tax incentives) to allow employees flexible work time and work at home options to alleviate traffic issues. We've got to quit thinking that people work 9-5 only.

I am a realtor, selling on average \$10m+ in residential each year. the traffic problem must be resolved.

Transportation/General Comments

I think Atlanta already does well in education and jobs/innovation. We need better transportation and a more livable downtown. I lived in the city in NYC, DC, and San Francisco, but would never do so here.

Building a true public transportation system that meets the needs of all walks of life would transform Atlanta and improve the quality of life tremendously.

Transportation and neighborhood parks is what Douglas County needs!!!!

I would love to help in any way possible to help my city become a better and transportation efficient city.

I commute to work by bicycle

a suggestion should be made to increase the amount of road access for over the road transport of goods and needed supplies...(18 wheelers)...either by train or a road system that allows O.T.R drivers to travel at the rate they need, while pulling as many trailers as needed, while keeping automobile drivers on separate roadways.

Education, Housing, Transportation, Green Space, Arts and Culture- ALL make a city great. Look at the metro systems of cities this size and get going with a real plan!

We have to get a better transportation system! We need a real subway system and high speed railways

Please due something right for the County and Metro area and stop listening to right-wing talk radio entertainers and the nuts that follow them. Atlanta metro will never be a global player without much needed change, such as a real and comprehensive traffic plan and not being a police state.

Improve the interstates on the west side. It is our turn!

I don't necessarily enjoy living 75 miles one way from work, however that is where my family lives. I do my best to locate a car or van pool to save miles & gas however I am fully aware of backroads that generally parallel 285 from I-20 W to Dunwoody. The amt of traffic on 285 I believe would move more consistenly if signs were placed clearly stating traffic must remain at certain speed in the far left or far 2 left lanes. Tractor trailers, slower drivers & exiting traffic is to remain in right 3 lanes. I have lived in Atl my entire life (38 yrs) & all speeds of traffic drive in all lanes. Also signs in left lane traffic warning slow drivers of slow poke law need to be posted as the left lane(s) are to remain at 45 or higher mph.

Water, Education, & Transportation should be the top three. ARC should focus on Water and Transportation. The state should improve Education (funding, standards, \$/pupil, etc.)

Transportation/General Comments

Gay native to Atlanta I've watched this city grow so much, I've also discrimination on a weekly basis sometimes daily living out in the exurbs. Atlanta really is civil rights beacon first for blacks now for LGBT but still are some stupid rules on this city. Like land ordinance requiring a minimum number of parking spaces, WTF?

My dream is to one day have decent transportation such that I don't have to drive for work from 30339 to 30326 every day.

TRANSPORTATION, TRANSPORTATION, TRANSPORTATION. Getting around this city is fundamentally broken and needs to be radically redone.

After having travelled to many of the world's most successful cities, I am convinced that Atlanta must build a comprehensive transportation system to survive the growing population and to compete with other cities which are less sprawled out.

do not allow any more business to set up shop, without coming up with a plan for traffic and parking; places like the camp creek market place. it's obvious that the city was more concerned about making money, so much so they didn't think about how people were going to get in and out of the area. many of the new buildings downtown have also been thrown up with the same amount of carelessness. SMH DO BETTER!!

To make our city better, we need to remove the motor vehicle as a primary source of transportation. Nothing destroys the soul of a city more.

STOP WIDENING HIGHWAYS!!!

The entire northwest corridor of metro ATL has no rail and relies almost entirely on car traffic. Please make ending this insanity your #1 priority and goal!

This region is currently far too focused on the sprawling development pattern of the 90s that lacks the connectivity to drive a modern economy forward. In order to build a tech oriented future forward economy, transportation and quality of life issues **MUST** be addressed in the most progressive ways possible.

We need to get serious about rail and get folks out of their cars and lessen traffic. And adding more roads or wider roads does **NOT** lessen traffic.

Please be responsible with your future efforts. Honestly. We have **HORRIBLE** traffic and crime problems in this area. We have slums next to mega-million dollar communities. Cities want to break away from the system. Corruption, greed... do the right thing, **PLEASE**, and address the problems we have **NOW** instead of focusing so much on what we can build next...

Transportation really is the key.

Please, **NO MORE STREET CARS**. IT seems by your questions, that you have different priorities than I preferred based on my priorities. Good luck.

Transportation/General Comments

We have to do this as a region and stop being political and selfish about resources. We have to commit to these transportation - our traffic is known as a deterrent and we need to change that image to continue to grow and build our community. just look at the beltway - people love it. bring us more of that!!!!!!!

I see most of the job development and company growth north of Atlanta because of the traffic congestion.

Need a transportation coordinator where you don't have 20 major events downtown all at the same time. Road system and transportation system will not handle it

This is an area of concern for all age groups as the metro has not embraced some of the needs that the aging population faces, especially for transportation. Building roads is not the best or only option.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my feelings. Riding a motorcycle and not being allowed to lane split at extremely low speeds is ludicrous. It will cut down on traffic jams by increasing small motorcycle use if this rule was changed.

Traffic is our biggest problem in the region. We need to STOP building new apartment/condo complexes on every open space. When all these people move in it adds that many cars to an already stressed infrastructure, roads, bridges, etc. Not to mention the stress it brings to everyone driving.

Stop Sprawl. We need tighter development that is affordable as renters or homeowners. As an example, all the housing growth in Dacula just puts a drain on the transportation system which already is not so good.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT TRANSPORTATION BEFORE IT GETS WORSE!!! IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO DO THE RIGHT THING FOR ATLANTA!!!!

Please do something about the 2 lane roads, especially Salem Road and old Salem road. A lot of development was allowed along these roads without improving the roads, thus widening them to provide adequate access.

suggest to study the traffic in the mornings and evenings, congestion, why, ramps not being utilized

I really have a bad impression of Atlanta because of the traffic. I have a really bad commute from Suwanee to the Perimeter Mall area. I see more commercial building in that area... I believe it's going to become intolerable for many. And I love where I'm raising my family so I'll look for a job somewhere else before moving to that area.

Emphasis MUST be on a better use of what we have, not on BUILDING MORE roadways, jobs, etc.

Transportation/General Comments

Travel into the city can take 1.5 hours for a 35 minute trip. I did that for many years. The problem is that a great many of the suburban people work in the city and vice versa. Work on resolving that commuter issue. Building more lanes does not work.

Please work on fixing transportation in Atlanta. I have lived here for 15 years and all plans have come to nought.

Thanks so much for sending me the survey. I hope that this will be a project of a planned completion, and not just another statistics of just collecting numbers. Lets make it happen for the stake of Atlanta. We a bursting at the seams. The traffic in Atlanta is RIDICULOUS!!!!!!!

What we need in Forsyth County is the widening of the existing highway 20, not the return of the Northern Arc, we need something that will work not destroy stakeholders do not want a new highway they want the existing highway to be widened, no Northern Arc or anything similar to it, too much destruction!

I work at cnn center. The Atlanta roads to get to the event venues has become progressively worse. The plans for a walking district at the highway entrance ramp at Williams street is incongruent with the needs of the special event venues. But the city has changed the roads for the future needs of the real estate developers. Without even breaking ground on the buildings or building alternate transportation to these venues. I find the planning incongruent short sided and pandering to developers like post.

It is apparent certain parts of the city does not have a voice in how it looks when you just work in the city and live in the suburbs. It should be condusive for all to include commuters that work downtown Atlanta. Thank you.

I only work in Atlanta. I don't come to Atlanta for anything else because of the crime. I don't feel safe walking down the streets, even if I could find a parking spot. Instead of making excuses for why people rob other people, do something about the problem. Make Atlanta a safe, clean, modern city. The crown jewel of the south.

High quality traffic regulation - TIMED lights, left turn arrows that actually give you more than 2 seconds (unlike at Ponce and Briarcliff) - this would add to the transportation system and quality of life

The way to attract this workforce is by having good transportation, vibrant, walkable n'hoods, etc.

This is critical for Atlanta. It will tie suburbs together, bring folks into the city more easily and will aide in preventing more pollution and help subside traffic.

When people are working, they have transportation and then they can promote quality living.

Transportation/General Comments

Please Atlanta is so congested with it's one passenger cars. A much better public transportation system would help tremendously. It should go further than it's present route.

If we are to have a world class city, we need to act like one and create an effective and innovative transportation system system most importantly public transportation which will allow anybody anywhere in the greater Atlanta area to reach a bus or public transportation all in walkable distance. This kind of system should not be profitable but be sustained via tax support and reasonable fares. Of course we need to continue to expand an effective highway system probably by building a second Hwy 285 bypass to remove more trucks traffic from the city.

Improving our transportation is essential. It is currently a huge economic and quality of life drain.

Having a train system that would move us throughout metro Atlanta and the state would only help to allow us to grow - people want to live where they can move freely and not sit in traffic...not to mention pollution.

MY COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE ANY TRANSPORTATION

I think Georgia is far behind when it comes to transportation. Lack of a good transportation system ultimately impact our health. Sitting for hours in traffic increases road rage leads to stress, then eventually causes one to arrive to work tired, and then causes a person to scream at the employees, they in turn become unproductive and finally end up with health issues. A good transportation system enables one to connect with businesses, organizations, churches and various groups of people. I was appalled when I moved here and found out that I had to take a taxi or rent a car to get from one area to the next. I just assume it was similar to New York. Going to dialysis was a night mare. When I finally move close to a bus line, I found out that the buses travelled only one route and I still had to walk a good distance. There would be less cars on the road if reliable transportation was available. Citizens would be happier and healthier.

We need to face the racial issues why a city the size of Atlanta has a transportation system that causes a negative quality of life issue for its citizens.

Please, work out descent transportation and take the frustration and headache out of going back and fort to work.

Beltline is just the beginning, transportation is the lifeblood of any Major city.

Build a state wide long distance transportation system that will connect citizens to every sector of the state.

We need more sidewalk and less cars.

Transportation/General Comments

Having an excellent public transportation system will definitely decrease the traffic. Visitors will have an easier time getting around. Remember when Atlanta had the "snow deadlock," the national news kept saying that the Atlanta Metro Area didn't have a good public transportation. There needs to be better public transportation connecting the suburbs with Metro Atlanta.

In order for the city of Atlanta to compete with the best cities around the world; it is very important to consider 24 hrs round the clock rail system. There are too many cars on the road. If we have a reliable rail system that can go around the cities and suburbs surrounding Atlanta, it'll be wonderful. There will be less traffic and less cars on the road.

The transportation system is terrible. I currently commute daily in Marietta. The bus system does not run on Sundays and it takes 2 hours to get to Atlanta. I would like to attend church also I believe day passes should be available. I am not from here and this took me by surprise

Make this transportation affordable and safe with convenience being a close second priority.

Fayette does not want or need public transportation. High density development follows that. We are the cream of the region and don't want to become skim milk.

Only if this is truly COMPREHENSIVE and connects cities outside of the perimeter to Atlanta - i.e. Conyers, Douglasville, etc. Madrid, Spain has a comprehensive transportation system that would serve as an AWESOME model.

This comprehensive plan needs to preserve neighborhoods and allow for morning traffic flexibility. The plan for 7AM to 9AM may be different than the rest of the day.

Thousands of workers commute to downtown and metro Atlanta daily. We need a better transportation system. The train is a start, but it needs to be expanded to more areas. The local bus and Xpress bus is not adequate for the number of people needing service. This is a must, especially with the city's anticipated growth.

Without a comprehensive Transportation System to bring more people into the city you are totally screwed!!!!

Yes, something needs to be done this traffic is a "Hot Mess"

The biggest impediment to traveling the roads is poor driving skills. Until this is resolved no amount of lanes or toll roads will remedy the issue. Traffic rules need to be enforced.

Don't put toll lanes & roads in....they are waste of time and money and no one in the Atlanta area trust the Transportation people with toll anything because of what happened with Ga. 400 toll road.

Public Parking for low emissions vehicles and handicap spaces have nice safe parking available

Transportation/General Comments

Although new/more efficient parking methods are important as the city grows, it is more important to emphasize and increase the ability to travel around the city without using a car. These methods will reduce the necessity for more parking as well as help decrease the amount of traffic in the city.

I'd like to see other options for getting around town other than automobile.

Do not use the contracted parking company Atlanta currently uses. They are in the news way to often for spurious behavior issuing tickets to generate revenue. Who's getting paid off to allow those scamsters to do business.

In areas where there is plentiful parking not fully utilized. ie GA Dome

This would also drastically improve transportation issues and would enhance a "comprehensive transportation system"

there are already a ton of events and entertainment options around Atlanta but a lot of people don't end up going to them because of the lack of transportation and ease of getting in and out.

Make public parking cost effective for those who work in the ATL

Unless the parking is going to be more affordable, I do not see the purpose of this solution. We plenty right now and some of the prices are unimaginable.

We should be less dependent on single driver cars.

Yes! It is unsafe and impractical not to mention the affect on traffic to have bikers occupy the same lanes as motorized vehicles. And the issue is compounded for large groups of bikers.

1a top priority. Look at transportation in every top city on the planet

If people have to work, transportation should NOT be an issue.

More lanes to existing roads just increases traffic, instead we need an alternative to driving, ex. expand train system within Metro Atlanta.

I feel this one is very important as I take Express bus from Hiram to Atlanta daily and love the freedom of not having to deal with the traffic and put miles on my car or have added risk of wrecking or other issues. Subsidizing and making the cost savings much greater than driving would entice more people to try and would help greatly reduce traffic during rush hours. Also this would be potentially a cheaper solution to adding more lanes to interstates and roads.

Cars will never leave-you have to maintain but provide other transportation options.

Transportation/General Comments

No one wants a transit line in their neighborhood so use our existing interstate space for more lanes and instead use this for transit such as trains. When people see that the trains move faster than the traffic this may motivate them to use mass transit.

The roads are crumbling apart all over the city. Westminster Dr in Ansley Park is a good example of that.

eliminate some of the roads if you can..to many roads and vehicles...too much pollution

too many vehicles already

575 needs more lanes

Some roads I would want lanes added to, but they are flanked by houses and the construction would take forever and be a nightmare. Keep up the roads we have and offer alternative solutions. Less accidents would lead to less traffic, so I would just say safer driving would fix a lot of problems.

This should not be contemplated in the plan. Adding more lanes will just add to traffic.

The issue is not to expand the roads but to lessen the traffic on the roads through public transportation

The region needs more ways to get around than single occupancy vehicles.

However, this should include allowing municipalities to institute "road diets" to facilitate walkable, healthy communities.

It has been shown over and over that adding lanes to existing roads does NOT help the traffic overload. Those lanes immediately get overloaded as well because the tactic is simply encouraging more people to drive solo in their car vs. seeing how they can use an alternative transportation method.

Yes. Something HAS to be done to get the one person cars off the Metro area roads.

Atlanta's road are in terrible shape and it takes away from the over look of the city,not to mention the damage done to your vehical. Traffic is terrible! The streets and side walks are too narrow, giving the city a feeling of being overcrowded and logistical small

More lanes only encourage cars and discourage public transportation

More lanes would help with traffic flow rather than those green and red merging lights.

People need to be able to get to work without sitting in traffic for hours.

Unless we think that bike lanes and ped traffic will significantly help with utility trips, then ok.

Transportation/General Comments

What about determining how to manage and/or redesign recurring (bottleneck/peak hour/pupil transportation) and non-recurring (crashes/incidents, work zones, planned special events, weather events, and traffic signal timing improvements before ever considering adding lanes.

We have interstates in place. what is the possibility of double-decking them and also have lanes for trucks as I've seen up North

staggering the business day so employees neither start nor end at the same time will free up more commuter travel space.

I would like less lanes.

If this includes decreasing car/truck lanes, then forget it.

Drivers need to learn to drive better. Take a ride on any interstate or local road and you will see many cases of bad behavior from motorists. Some are very dangerous and I am surprised there are not more fatalities. I travel 80 miles per day and some days it is absolutely scary.

The buses get caught in traffic and can't maintain schedules

This is obviously very important. We have to keep existing roads/bridges safe. Atlanta is a commuter town- whether you acknowledge that or not

While I'm not sure this is the answer, N. Fulton could use more lanes. Enhancements were made prior and it remains insufficient. Development and building continues which clogs up road enhancements making more lanes necessary. It is a vicious circle.

Adding more lanes will NOT solve our current traffic problems. and add roads to relieve traffic on major thoroughfares.

not toll roads but lanes for everyone

More lanes contribute to more traffic. Major cities have alternate methods of travel. Use monies to upkeep the roads without adding to traffic congestion.

Retention ponds and drainage should be easily and readily accessible to the EPA and Conservationist organizations. Regular inspections and investigations should be posted in highly trafficked and viewed areas like restaurant scores.

Please see my comments in the 'Comprehensive Transportation System' section and the 'Innovation Hub' section.

Develop grid of through streets to provide alternative routes. Collector roads add to traffic nightmares.

Restrict the use of police officers to circumvent traffic control infrastructure - i.e., let the traffic lights do their job - don't allow cops to be hired by companies to let cars in/out of their driveways/parking decks, etc., on a daily basis - only for occasional, large events (like concerts/sports events), not fast food restaurants & office bldgs

Transportation/General Comments

encourage development and implementation of autonomous shared vehicles in high density areas

Public parking should not be too costly for all citizens. The parking should also be safe and protected from intruders

Transportation in and out of this city is a problem that will be the death nail to Atlanta. If you can't get in and out of the city without waiting for hours stuck in traffic then the city will die!

I am a full-time telecommuter because of the financial and physical stress of commuting into Buckhead each day.

I have to drive up and down 75 every day. The traffic is ridiculous and there needs to be a way for trucks to bypass this road. there is not enough room right now on these roads.

Commute problems are huge and growing in the metro area. If that is not given top priority in this plan, the area will suffer because most of the work force lives outside of the city.

Please consider school traffic in all transportation analysis

jobs with livable wages will support families which will lead to a better quality of life. Water conservation begins with recognizing that it is a finite resource. Roadways in Atlanta are adequate traffic patterns are deplorable.

Transportation; Education; Arts

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Without a comprehensive Transportation System to bring more people into the city you are totally screwed!!!!

Yes, something needs to be done this traffic is a "Hot Mess"

The biggest impediment to traveling the roads is poor driving skills. Until this is resolved no amount of lanes or toll roads will remedy the issue. Traffic rules need to be enforced.

You must fix what is broken under the streets and the bridges over the streets. You must fix the dams. A penny tax could solve some the problems as long as general assembly could not get their hands on it and switch the use of the money to some of their pet projects.

have nice safe parking avialable

There are about 85000 parking spaces in downtown. Many south downtown blocks are nothing but parking lots, use after work hours as homeless encampments, drug distribution centers and unsafe, unclean, unmonitored empty spaces that bring down the whole city

Although new/more efficient parking methods are important as the city grows, it is more important to emphasize and increase the ability to travel around the city without using a car. These methods will reduce the necessity for more parking as well as help decrease the amount of traffic in the city.

I'd like to see other options for getting around town other than automobile.

In areas where there is plentiful parking not fully utilized. ie GA Dome

This would also drastically improve transportation issues and would enhance a "comprehensive transportation system"

Transportation/General Comments

there are already a ton of events and entertainment options around Atlanta but a lot of people don't end up going to them because of the lack of transportation and ease of getting in and out.

Instead of offering options/choice, consider making travel reliable and efficient.

Make public parking cost effective for those who work in the ATL

Unless the parking is going to be more affordable, I do not see the purpose of this solution. We plenty right now and some of the prices are unimaginable.

We should be less dependent on single driver cars.

1a top priority. Look at transportation in every top city on the planet

The network of the interstate system in the Atlanta is rated as a poorly designed system. The State of Georgia had an opportunity 30 years ago to have a northbound exit ramp off I-85 heading north on SR 400. What happened? Heads were buried in the sand saying it would never be needed. I pray that we have learned our lessons from this method of poor planning.

The State does inspection of all bridges in the State. They should also help fund the repairs or bridges and increase the funding for LMIG.

If people have to work, transportation should NOT be an issue.

More lanes to existing roads just increases traffic, instead we need an alternative to driving, ex. expand train system within Metro Atlanta.

to some roads - but not the interstates...

Cars will never leave-you have to maintain but provide other transportation options.

The roads are crumbling apart all over the city. Westminster Dr in Ansley Park is a good example of that.

eliminate some of the roads if you can..to many roads and vehicles...too much pollution

too many vehicles already

575 needs more lanes

Some roads I would want lanes added to, but they are flanked by houses and the construction would take forever and be a nightmare. Keep up the roads we have and offer alternative solutions. Less accidents would lead to less traffic, so I would just say safer driving would fix a lot of problems.

This should not be contemplated in the plan. Adding more lanes will just add to traffic.

This is great, but only after we have succeeded in repairing and maintaining existing roads and bridges.

Detoration of roads and bridges simply adds to the cost of repair and the longer it takes the more expensive it gets.

Transportation/General Comments

The region needs more ways to get around than single occupancy vehicles.

It has been shown over and over that adding lanes to existing roads does NOT help the traffic overload. Those lanes immediately get overloaded as well because the tactic is simply encouraging more people to drive solo in their car vs. seeing how they can use an alternative transportation method.

Yes. Something HAS to be done to get the one person cars off the Metro area roads.

We have many bike paths and they need to stay off the roads when traveling as a recreational activity

More lanes would help with traffic flow rather than those green and red merging lights.

People need to be able to get to work without sitting in traffic for hours.

What about determining how to manage and/or redesign recurring (bottleneck/peak hour/pupil transportation) and non-recurring (crashes/incidents, work zones, planned special events, weather events, and traffic signal timing improvements before ever considering adding lanes.

We have interstates in place. what is the possibility of double-decking them and also have lanes for trucks as I've seen up North

I would like less lanes.

If this includes decreasing car/truck lanes, then forget it.

Drivers need to learn to drive better. Take a ride on any interstate or local road and you will see many cases of bad behavior from motorists. Some are very dangerous and I am surprised there are not more fatalities. I travel 80 miles per day and some days it is absolutely scary.

This is obviously very important. We have to keep existing roads/bridges safe. Atlanta is a commuter town- whether you acknowledge that or not

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and add roads to relieve traffic on major thoroughfares.

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Please see my comments in the 'Comprehensive Transportation System' section and the 'Innovation Hub' section.

Develop grid of through streets to provide alternative routes. Collector roads add to traffic nightmares.

Transportation/General Comments

Restrict the use of police officers to circumvent traffic control infrastructure - i.e., let the traffic lights do their job - don't allow cops to be hired by companies to let cars in/out of their driveways/parking decks, etc., on a daily basis - only for occasional, large events (like concerts/sports events), not fast food restaurants & office bldgs

Expand capacity of existing non-freeways

Public parking should not be too costly for all citizens. The parking should also be safe and protected from intruders

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I am a full-time telecommuter because of the financial and physical stress of commuting into Buckhead each day.

Commute problems are huge and growing in the metro area. If that is not given top priority in this plan, the area will suffer because most of the work force lives outside of the city.

Please consider school traffic in all transportation analysis

The planted questions do not reflect the views of the people in the ARC region. The selections selected were too narrowminded. Bike/ped is fine, but we still need to figure out how do we manage our existing transportation system.

jobs with livable wages will support families which will lead to a better quality of life. Water conservation begins with recognizing that it is a finite resource. Roadways in Atlanta are adequate traffic patterns are deplorable.

CARPE NOCTEM: Use existing infrastructure to support business, educational, recreational, and social activities around the clock. Some families would occupy the PM routine, others the AM routine. Give up this nonsense where the whole city gets on the road at the same time, goes to school at the same time, etc. Humans are more adaptable than that!

Provide Emergency Evacuation Routes in case of any sort of event that requires quick evacuation of the residents and workers in Atlanta.

No more roads.

Create less need for auto transport. More virtual educational and business pursuits from home. More social and recreational activities available around the clock in neighborhood settings.

I need transportation now, and not only to the doctor, but anywhere in Gwinnett that is a public place. I'm 79 and don't have time left to wait. please do it now.

Transportation/General Comments

Having built the foregoing, such a comprehensive transportation system goes without saying. Day and Night.

Very important as the region grows and traffic becomes ever worse. People need places to live/work/play that are convenient, accessible and safe.

We simply must have more investment in transportation infrastructure of all modes or growth will come to a halt.

The only way fewer people will drive is if it is too expensive and uncomfortable. Cheaper parking is not a good idea.

Yes to paths, bicycles, golf carts, autonomous vehicles, innovative transportation systems.

We have plenty of lanes. We just need to share the road across a 24 hr clock rather than an 8 hr clock.

As the region grows, so must the roads, but volume always seems to expand to capacity.

NOT AUTO TRANSIT

Build outer perimeter and airport on northside

Build more roads like outer perimeter. Also an airport on north side.

Decrease dependence on autos by providing multiple transportation options. Encourage folks to walk a couple of blocks.

What is needed is a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system geared to major shift from auto and focused on getting folks from point A-to-B. That will grow and develop the region. We are a joke around the country right now.

attention to transportation is vital. traffic is choking this city.

we have large quantities of empty paved areas where strip centers have failed in surrounding inner city areas (i.e. Moreland Ave south of I-20) It seems there could be something done to draw people to these haunted areas

.We are paving everything!

I am an Atlanta native.

Transportation/General Comments

One of the things I think is very important concerning the traffic flow in Atlanta, is that I believe that the "Toll Lanes" are completely unnecessary. Why get rid of a good system that works just fine in the Commuter Lanes, and put something in place that causes people to use the single lane, single commuter in car, even more? You MUST listen to reason, this idea does not work and if you put it on I-75 it will not work. It keeps the working class commuters from being able to use a lane that should be open to all the "TAX PAYING PUBLIC!" We are already paying for the highways with the gas tax, why should we pay further taxes to use the "Toll Lane?" This is a BAD idea and should be scrapped before it goes any further! Please listen to the people who use the highways, PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A TOLL LANE ON I-75, (NORTH OR SOUTH)? The current commuter lanes work just fine. If you wanted to do something that would help traffic in the Atlanta area, build some overhead, "VERY LIMITED ACCESS" lanes. Lanes which would only have exits every so often (to be determined by traffic counts on the highways that cross the VLAL - Very Limited Access Lanes)! Please don't just dismiss this idea outright. I am a Civil Engineer and I have thought this idea through and I believe that it could be used to eliminate much of the traffic congestion in the Atlanta area.

Freight

Freight Comments

Why does Atlanta allows interstate traffic to travel through the city. This is a short cut to Florida. Trucks need to travel around the city not through it. Move big business to the suburbs and government office i.e. dept of Law to Athens, Agriculture to Tifton etc and have dept head come to Atlanta only for big meetings. That is why we have Skype and conference calls calls.... t

Freight Comments

The city elected to void all limited access projects in the 80's and the State dropped the outer perimeter, both with no vision of the long term regional needs. The upgrading of local streets cannot support the desired development of the region. The remaining option is transit with the high levels of development concentrated around the transit service areas. Still being ignored are the benefits of commuter rail (both to the commuter and rail freight movement) [alien to the highway/trucker/rubber tire lobbyists].

We need routes/interstate system STRICTLY for the tractor trailer trucks. An underground tunnel system with sufficient ventilation, and a way move goods from the trucks to the stores. Also, the drivers training needs to be instituted. In my travels in and around Cobb County, almost ALL of the drivers don't know the rules of the road, or don't heed them. Driver's training needs to be MORE comprehensive and have higher standards for passing the timing AND the driving tests, both written and driving. For this state to advocate that driving is a "privilege", and NOT a "right", the vast majority do not seem to know how to execute that "privilege".

Traffic is horrid. Our drivers are poor and our roads are overcrowded. Tourist traffic and trucks choke our roads. We need a connection between 85 and 75 further out from 285 (dare I say 'northern arc'?). MUST have this-No politics, please!

Road development. Not comprehensive transportation. Build the outer loop. Get the trucks out of the metro area. A northern arc is the relief to rush hour traffic.

What has someone been smoking ?? Atlanta and Delta don't want any competition coming in, re. a new, smaller airport. See what happened to SW Airlines 10 or so years ago when they wanted in. The railroads don't want any passenger trains on their tracks (the pride railroads used to take in their passenger service , such as The Broad way Limited, the California Zephyr, etc. is forgotten history nowadays). We're told by "leaders" that any increase in gasoline taxes (to pay for road repairs and to fix bridges) is bad (all taxes are bad, apparently , as are tolls - no more Rte. 400 tolls), etc.

Everyone wants to drive, but no one wants to pay. A "comprehensive transport system" as a concept might hold some appeal in another country, or maybe some other state. Here, just look at how many people in North Fulton County even ride the bus !!

We need to ensure mobility for all ages and abilities as well as freight. A stronger focus should be on transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities

Freight Comments

Add a beltline (Rail) along I-285. Branch out rail (heavy) to Alpharetta (planning already) Athens, Buford, Acworth, Douglasville, Coweta Co, Lithonia etc Atlanta is way behind on rail. No more roads. Now a alternative bypass (tolls) built to get the tractor trailers off I-285 would be great. Commuters can use if they want.

Add a beltline (Rail) along I-285. Branch out rail (heavy) to Alpharetta (planning already) Athens, Buford, Acworth, Douglasville, Coweta Co, Lithonia etc Atlanta is way behind on rail. Now a alternative bypass (tolls) built to get the tractor trailers off I-285 would be great. Commuters can use if they want to pay. Tolls could pay for the bypass.

Look at all the existing rail infrastructure. If the State were interested, we could have usable commuter rail in a very short time period with minimal impact to the freight system.

I think the emphasis should be on alternatives to automobiles. More lanes for cars & trucks should NOT be a priority. Bike lanes, however, should be a high priority.

I've lived in Atlanta since 1987. I don't think there has ever been a time when I've traveled the city when I did not see a roadwork or construction sign. Traffic is still terrible, and now-- at least on one major interstate-- we have to pay for the pleasure of sitting in it. I think its time to come up with other solutions to the traffic nightmare. How about making the public transportation system more accessible, particularly in the outlying counties? Increase incentives for carpools, direct buses and trucks to certain lanes on the interstate, etc. Anything other than more construction.

Stop and Enforce Commercial truck access through residential streets from large stores and supermarkets when truck routes are available, GPS devices program routes through neighborhoods - This results in Large commercial supply trucks of all sizes to egress through neighborhoods creating unsafe conditions for citizens - children - schools - school Buses dropping off /picking up children. Please address this promptly with POLICE ENFORCEMENT & DOT Truck Inspections . To curtail excess SPEED and Unsafe Trucks.

There needs to be an outer perimeter for transient traffic relief.

Trucks take up too much room and slow down predicted traffic flow volume during rush hour. They need a different path, to pay more for these peaks periods (as deterance) or otherwise need some restrictions during rush hours throughout the city on major corridors.

Build an additional circumferential highway (if for no other reason than for freight transport).

Build the outer ring interstate to help keep trucks further away from Atlanta.

Freight Comments

Utilize and expand (multi-track) the Georgia Owned CSXT to accommodate both Commuter Rail and Freight Operations from Cartersville GA to the long proposed Multi - Modal transportation operation in Atlanta's Five points location. This could also service the east side of Atlanta through Gwennett County.....

Get the tractor trailers onto an exclusive highway system of their own, and train/retrain drivers to high standards, skills, and accountability. Require retesting on both written and driving tests: every 10 years up to age 60; every 5 years age 60 to 70; every 2 years age 70 and up.

Developments in air transportation suggest the possibility of air taxi services, solar powered aircraft and lighter than air cargo aircraft. In order to take advantage of these possibilities and developments, Atlanta needs a new, small and specialized airport out of the way of the Hartsfield flight path to take care of this specialized flying segment. The easiest way to encourage this development is to build mass transit capacity into Atlanta business hubs and centers.

Establish commercial traffic corridors to put pass through semi trucks out of the normal traffic flow.

Far too much transpo money being spent on interstates. Need funding for sidewalks, trails, amenities to improve local communities, not truck routes.

I have more than 40 years Expierence in transportation Safety. I have worked in the railroad industry, both Passenger Rail and Freight Rail for over 40 years. My experience extends from Railroad Railroad Operations and Safety into the US Department of Transportation (FRA) Railroad Regulation & Safety Planning - Inspection and Regulatory - I have a up to date CV available upon request. I have been a Cobb County Resident for more than 25 years - traversing Rt 75 from two lanes each way - through construction of what is currently the multi lane RT 75 - my daily trip was from 120 loop to the Williams Street exit for over 25 yrs - In years past I have attended many ARC as well as other rail planning sessions, including High speed monorail proposal from ATL-Airport to Chattanooga TN Airport. I'm aware of Georgia's railroad system.

a suggestion should be made to increase the amount of road access for over the road transport of goods and needed supplies...(18 wheelers)...either by train or a road system that allows O.T.R drivers to travel at the rate they need, while pulling as many trailers as needed, while keeping automobile drivers on separate roadways.

Why not look at improvements in cross region freight movements?

We have interstates in place. what is the possibility of double-decking them and also have lanes for trucks as I've seen up North

Freight Comments

If we are to have a world class city, we need to act like one and create an effective and innovative transportation system system most importantly public transportation which will allow anybody anywhere in the greater Atlanta area to reach a bus or public transportation all in walkable distance. This kind of system should not be profitable but be sustained via tax support and reasonable fares. Of course we need to continue to expand an effective highway system probably by building a second Hwy 285 bypass to remove more trucks traffic from the city.

Why not look at improvements in cross region freight movements?

We have interstates in place. what is the possibility of double-decking them and also have lanes for trucks as I've seen up North

I have to drive up and down 75 every day. The traffic is ridiculous and there needs to be a way for trucks to bypass this road. there is not enough room right now on these roads.

Parks

Parks' Comments

Having local Recreation for All ages reduces stress from work, keeps kids busy so there not getting into trouble. Increases quality of life for everyone. Keep governments small no big master plans people are freaking out over this 2030-2040 government PLAN.

Use parks that already exist. Like little mulberry park in Dacula. HUGE, NOTHING THERE BUT A LAKE, NO FISH. DEVELOP IT FOR FESTIVALS, SWAP-MEETS, CAMPING...

Key to a vibrant community is the culture and health of its residents. Atlanta could use more public park facilities to encourage healthy behaviors and help with our epidemic of obesity.

Regional transportation lays and other infrastructure along with Arts Recreation QOL attract attract and keep a well educated workforce who in turn create the Atlanta region as a Hub of Innovation

A healthy quality of life should be ranked separately as it is of higher importance than Arts & Recreation which should be ranked much lower on the chart at the bottom

ample greenspace in neighborhoods

Campaign against obesity. Campaign to change eating habits of local population.

More free "quality" entertainment venues....concerts in the parks.

Campaign against obesity. Campaign to change eating habits of local population.

More free "quality" entertainment venues....concerts in the parks.

Increase police patrols in neighborhoods1. Police visibility is mayor crime deterrent.

Parks' Comments

Increase storage. Quality of ALL commodities, including water, depends on quantity. Also increased storage will provide recreation & boost economy of Georgia.p

With Arts and Recreation for a high quality of life for all members of the community in place the rest of the list will come together.

Greenspace connected and integrated into our communities like the Beltline seems to promote dynamic development.

More piedmont parks, free neighborhood tennis courts & basketball courts. Give people a reason to play outside more. More people spending time outside = more money spent by consumers = better economy?

I think ensuring walkable and vibrant neighborhoods is a prerequisite to having a highly developed workforce; arts, recreation, and quality of life; and an innovation hub. If ARC creates the neighborhoods, the other things will come.

A highly developed & well educated work force will consider a vibrant neighborhood to include the Arts, Recreation, & a Healthy quality of life. The vibrant neighborhoods should be developed with the arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life in mind.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to become an innovation hub, but the highest priority they can have in this endeavor is to become a city that innovative people love to live and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Innovation Hub should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. Innovation will follow.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to have a highly developed & well educated workforce, but the highest priority we can have in this endeavor is to become a city that highly developed and well educated people love to live in and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Highly Developed & well educated workforce should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. A highly developed & well educated workforce will flock here and choose to make their homes here.

The BeltLine is alright, but Atlanta needs more parks (especially in Buckhead). We also could use a man made lake. Water is soothing to the mind and a great recreational activity. Going to the Chattahoochee is not worth it.

I don't prioritize Arts or Recreation nearly as much as I prioritize Healthy Quality of Life. Why are they lumped together?

Parks' Comments

I find this topic to be of equal value to the topic of "Walkable, Vibrant Neighborhoods."

"Arts & Recreation and Healthy Quality of Life" will also create the strong sense of community and will strongly influence the vibrancy of a neighborhood through the actions and involvement of the very people living in these neighborhoods.

Providing more greenways, walkways, bikeways, and parks are key to improving the quality of life, improving our air quality, physical and emotional well being, and relieving automobile congestion. This coupled with a greatly improved transportation system will make Atlanta a model for other cities to follow.

Every new neighborhood should be required to have side walks and single family neighborhoods should have plenty of green space between houses with lots at least 1/2 acre

Provide more low income assistance for recreational activities and camps, etc in the suburbs

Long range plan to develop parks (greenspace), libraries and theaters throughout the region so there is equal access and easy access (transportation)

The importance of the arts and recreation cannot be overlooked.

This should include bike lanes in addition to the Silver Comet Trail; green space for play, recreation, and community gardens; and support of the arts with local theater, music performances and art.

The arts are important!! Stop defunding them in the schools. It is a proven fact that children who participate in the arts do better in schools. Why would new parents be buying Baby Mozart if it didn't work? The arts, recreation, etc. bring soul to a community.

When you revitalize a community, like downtown Woodstock, exciting things start to happen. People want to be outside and they don't want to have to drive all over the metro to find places or recreation or the newest hipster restaurants. Walkable neighborhoods mean healthier neighborhoods.

A comprehensive transportation system is critical for enabling people to work and play with less stress. It allows for bicycling, either for utility or recreation; walking to stores, schools, work, recreational centers, and entertainment (or transportation hubs) SAFELY. It gives people more choices about where to live, work, and shop. A system of gridlock drives businesses and residents AWAY. The opposite - having a modern, innovative, comprehensive transportation system, attracts businesses and people.

I believe we already have many opportunities for recreation, and enjoying art, but our environmental and transportation problems impede the development of a healthy quality of life.

Parks' Comments

It's critical that YOUNG PEOPLE are the beneficiaries of improvements in art, recreation and quality of life.

Build more nice shops, shopping areas and movies so that people can have these things closer to their home to visit as opposed to having to travel on another side of town. Include more small\large dog parks in the community and walk\bike trails like the beltway and silver comet.

Conserve and create more Greenspace, become a bike friendly city

Environment, Parks & Trees

Greenspace, woodlands, safe neighborhoods for children to play

Preserve green space

Safe walking areas and recreation

Large Greenspace without organized sport fields.

Maintain greenspace and preserve tree canopy.

Interconnected Parks and Green Corridors

Conserving greenspace

"Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life" goes hand in hand with "walkable, vibrant neighborhoods" and, to me, these are the same goal.

Im not sure it makes sense to put arts, recreation and health quality of life together...those are different outcomes with often inter-connected but very different metrics.

Parks and Green Space

Ensure good air quality

Protect natural resources and open/natural spaces

Focus on preservation of cultural and historic resources

Preserve the sense of place created by existing mixed use downtowns and nearby older suburbs

A health-promoting environment is conducive for every age group. Health and recreation planning enhances a more productive workforce, healthy active children and seniors who can live independently in their own homes, saving medical and care costs. The arts are so important in so many ways that enhance ones wellbeing. Programs such as nutrition for health and classes for fit ess and well being like tai chi and yoga would be beneficial.

The Arts , recreation promote a healthy and knowledgable society. Health Quality of life in the south is a must... Obesity is high in GA

To my way of thinking, our region needs infrastructure improvements beyond roads and bridges (mass transportation, high speed rail, secure water supply, good education, arts, recreation & healthy quality of life, etc.) before we can become a true innovation hub so we'd best get to innovating as to how to accomplish laying the groundwork today.

Parks' Comments

Atlanta needs more recreation, arts and things to do in the city in order to be like a world class cosmopolitan city like NY, Madrid, London, South American capitals, it needs more life!, energy , to be more fun , more cultural options, more nightlife and activities to do not only in summer but also in winter when the city really gets boring because of the lack of places to see and activities to do around town. Also the towns and cities of Atlanta should offer more free activities to their residents like exercising in parks, organizing walks, free open air yoga, tai chi classes , bicycle rides, etc

Atlanta needs more recreation, arts and things to do in the city in order to be like a world class cosmopolitan city like NY, Madrid, South American capitals, it needs more life!, energy , to be more fun , more cultural options, more nightlife and activities to do not only in summer but also in winter when the city really gets boring because of the lack of places to see and activities to do around town.

I would like to see more parks and open spaces downtown/midtown. for the working population. It would be nice to see people during break/lunch times, or read a book at the park or even take an walk during these times, instead of sitting in your car for an hour or so; sometimes you just need to get away from the desk to refocus. Being outdoors is refreshing changes the mindset of people and overall is makes for a better work environment.

I touched on this in the walkable vibrant neighbourhoods section. In order to attract more residents. Follow the actions of the lot near the capitol: less parking lots, more parks.

While I would love to see better recreation and healthy quality of life institutions, including grocery and other retail shops I have to acknowledge that for my community, transportation needs (getting to work every day) outweigh arts and recreation.

While I would love to see better recreation and healthy quality of life institutions, including grocery and other retail shops I have to acknowledge that for my community, transportation needs (getting to work every day) outweigh arts and recreation.

It's also past time for the state to step in support mass transit

improve the quality of life (including economics, arts and recreational opportunities) for diverse residents (age, race, ethnicity, gender, educational level, employment status)

Arts, recreation and entertainment are key in sustaining a good healthy quality of life. Contrary to belief good quality Arts, recreation and etc., does adds to the economy of a area. The area needs good jazz venues to keep our local talent here as well as venues and support for all Arts, performing and visual arts.

Parks' Comments

Apparently, recreation - at least for youngsters - isn't considered significant - or even needed at all, by most communities. Look how recreation/physical education is ignored or emasculated in many schools. Youngsters become overweight and get to be totally out of condition. Diabetes and other ailments occurrences are on the RISE !

For example, former Atlanta School District Superintendent Ben Canada once remarked he thought Elementary School-age had no need of recess and recreation during school hours.

We need to develop the arts more, including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and other forms of music, including smooth jazz. Out air quality has become a disaster in the 45 years that I have lived here. Used to have clean air. Now, it's terrible. We also need more SAFE parks and walking trails.

Now that we're planning for better connections through a robust, multi-modal transportation system (re: my first priority), let's make those places somewhere we want to be or want to go. Each "downtown" should offer recreational as well as service uses so neighborhoods can become decentralized activity centers that people have social capital interests in maintaining and improving for quality of life.

Water management should link to outdoor recreation. Including neighborhood detention areas designed for outdoor play. Greenways that protect flood plains while providing places for picnics, play grounds, informal play fields, and multi-use trails; edging these with pedestrian friendly streets will make them visible, accessible, and increase the value of adjacent properties.

Parks & Recreation activities for all ages and demographic ~ with publicity of the events/activities high

More sidewalk should developed around all major counties including Cobb, especially around schools. More sidewalks means more happy and active people, more added security and safety for the people as well. Many neighborhoods can use the advantage of small parks and playgrounds inside their subdivision or around them. This would be highly beneficial for I wish I could have one in my own neighborhood, since the neighborhood across the street of mine has one small park, pond, tennis court, walking trail and kids playground. These add-ons can really change our communities, our happiness and bring more interaction.

Most parks are sad and not safe. lots of room for improvement.

Parks' Comments

Need to also consider connecting people and communities to or with recreation. Don't simply focus on business. People may find jobs and increase access to "business," but if quality of life does not increase or is not sustained at a high level, they will find jobs elsewhere, where there is a better quality of life (less pollution, easier access to recreation, etc.). Also, even if the only reason to develop a comprehensive transportation system is to increase access to business, that wouldn't increase the likelihood of my staying in metro Atlanta. I can telework and I can order off the internet for many of my needs. Having lived here during the entire '80s and early '90s, then returning five years ago, I find that transportation has not changed in terms of traffic congestion, little changed in terms of law enforcement, access (although HOT lanes have increased in price quite a bit—don't say no one has noticed), slightly improved in terms of recreational access (by that I mean for example moving from a decidedly bike unfriendly area to a somewhat bike tolerant area), and worsened for pollution from vehicles.

The choice to group arts with recreation & health seems a little odd. For what it's worth...

These are things that make a community nice, particularly good parks.

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods are the link between the "Arts, Recreation..." category and the "Comprehensive Transportation" category -- you can't have one of these without the other two. If you have all three, you will attract innovation and a well-educated workforce, leading to the production of future home-grown generations of such a workforce. Splitting up these priorities into a list, in which one would have to choose among them, encourages the illusion that they are possible without one another.

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

Atlanta should look to Minneapolis to see all they are doing with walkable neighborhoods, arts, and parks/recreation. They truly have a first class system!

Parks' Comments

Gwinnett County needs to have more buses and trains running throughout the region that allows for "ample" travel times. This MUST include weekend services. As of now, it takes a minimum of three hours to travel from Lawrenceville into Atlanta via public transportation with the first two hours being just traveling through Gwinnett County alone. This is absolutely ridiculous!!! Not to mention, not having the option of weekend services (except very limited service from Sugarloaf Mall) to travel into metro Atlanta. This does not allow the non-driving citizens (or those who do drive and prefer to use public transportation as an option) the ability to attend such events as the GA Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola, sporting events, etc...on the weekends. For those who do have the access to #10 on Saturdays, would still have to leave events early in order to make it back before the last bus stops running. This is preventing a lot of residents the abilities to do more recreational things with their families on the weekends including something as simple as attending a movie. There are a lot of events and options for the residents of Gwinnett County to also within the county, but not having the option to attend because of limited transportation is a very frustrating thing. Please reconsider this option very strongly. Thanks.

Homeless are severely degrading the quality of life in ATL's public places. There is no rehabilitation, that is mostly a myth. All these programs do is subsidize addictions. Homeless shelters need to be moved outside the perimeter and laws need to be drafted and enforced that discourage public intoxication, loitering, etc. Also the parks are a mess. Freedom Park is completely overrun by homeless people, especially where it intersects with Ponce de Leon. The city must address this, left alone it serves as an open wound that drags property value, public safety, and peace of mind. I would love to use this park as it is right by my house, but it is virtually a refugee camp. Further, the homeless shelter on Ponce near Highland avenue needs to be evicted. It serves as base point for the degradation of the entire area.

I mean, I won't say no to this, but I don't think information is the main issue. Not have sidewalks, not having safe neighborhoods, these are the things that keep people from exercising. Add bike lanes, build sidewalks, light streets properly, develop parks... people will use that infrastructure.

Parks' Comments

Homelessness is no longer exclusive to the mentally ill or drug addicts. Why can't they be put to work cleaning the city-- streets, graffiti, shelters, parks, city vehicles, etc. At the very least, they should be able to earn the money they need to eat and live in the shelters rather than on the street. Many of them have skills that can be put to use in the workforce as well. Why not give corporate incentives for companies to put them to work like they do the disabled?

my grandkids love the park. We go to the ones far out because we don't have good ones, and its not safe in our area, we have to worry about all the sex offenders that live in the area.

While we should preserve what's great about many of our neighborhoods, we should not be afraid to change - particularly by moving toward greater density and mixed uses.

Get the people in the 10 blocks surrounding the park on all sides to help maintain the park; pick up litter, repair swings, plant flowers, trim bushes, etc. Give them a stake in the park.

Parks are good. Events and entertainment are failed proposals. Look at places like Underground and Centennial Park and then look at Fairlie Poplar which doesn't need any gimmicks. Give us trees, historic preservation, and human scale.

Have public parking decks with ground floor retail or restaurants. Include a pre-paid MARTA pass with every paid parking visit. Put lots in places where people can walk to multiple things such as parks, stores and restaurants.

I have been to several parks around the city and feel they are important to the health and welfare of the city. Quality parks are something I am proud of. You are doing a great job here.

Especially more greenspace; new QUALITY-DESIGNED parks are needed

We absolutely need more green space for parks and community events

I like the parks idea, but the events is too short term. Once the money is gone, so are the events.

Parks and Entertainment are not similiar

More parks and playgrounds, more dog parks, fewer festivals-- they just block traffic.

especially parks and green space!

Parks and Greenspace should be in plan, events and entertainment should not.

parks are more important than events and entertainment

We all want to live in communities with strong recreation options.

EVEN "POCKET PARKS" WILL HELP

Parks' Comments

Atlanta biggest asset is its river. Open up access to Chattahoochee river for water related recreation. create something similar to riverwalk way in Columbus, Georgia and Augusta. Expand of river rafting and tubing infrastructure. See the impact for yourself, the aesthetic, health and entertainment benefit would be bigger than CNN, Coke and the Aquarium.....

Parks, recreation, and entertainment are important, but the best think the city can do in many of these areas is just to get out of the way and let creative citizens be creative more easily.

While big public parks are important, so are small neighborhood parks make sure there are plenty of them near where people love and work, also use parks and playgrounds as joint facilities for schools and the community

I like the idea of adding parks not necessarily for events & entertainment

We need a rail system that connects shopping, education centers & recreation. It needs to be pervasive, not just to job centers.

Bike lanes are preferable to paths -- you can actually use them for commuting and errands, not just recreation (they're also safer in congested areas).

It's unethical to build toll lanes on right-of-way purchased with public funds. The wealthier among us should not be able to buy their way to the front of the line. That goes for Six Flags and other big theme parks.

These do nothing to help the problem, just provides more recreation for people involved in those hobbies.

Love biking and want lots of recreational biking alternatives but for now this is a very expensive solution that affects too few users

Bike lanes don't work. A network of paths would be great

Totally irrelevant to transportation.
Nice recreation amenity though.

I support expanding bike paths and trails but this should not be our top priority with limited transportation dollars. This will have little impact on improved mobility for most people, and the benefit is more for recreation than traffic flow. This should be funded through local SPLOSTs

I think MARTA should coordinate WITHIN county lines. It seems like MARTA ignores heavy traffic patterns and the routes and schedules are assigned randomly. I live in 30033 zip code and I believe that many, many residents would use public transport to get to Emory, CDC, and the hospitals if the buses were convenient. Maybe we need to create parking nodes along transport routes so we can get folks to and from the "last mile" comfortably- a compromise. Or monitored, sheltered, secure bike parks.

Parks' Comments

Don't necessarily need to create new bike lanes everywhere. Just build off of preexisting cycling routes for both workers and recreational cyclists.

Recreational Bike traffic is impeding car traffic at increasing pace, creating tension.

This can be done in a park or a residential area where it may be safer for bikers to ride. creating more lanes for bikers on busy roads is a set-up for future mishaps.

More lakes, more jobs to build lakes, more beautiful spaces, and more water for the people. All good!

Lets keep alot of green space. Not every inch needs development

Open up the Westside Reservoir Park in WestSide Atlanta. Expand the greenspaces created by the Atlanta BeltLine.

The use of permeable pavers should be encouraged (required?) for new construction, or reconstruction, of parking lots and residential roads. It just makes sense: it would eliminate the majority of run-off, be easier and cheaper to repair, and would get us off of our addiction to the blistering hot blacktop and the pot-hole prone asphalt.

Water quality and supply are linked to land use and development. With a growing population land becomes a premium. But ecogically smart land development, e. g. Greenspace in floodplains that will absorb water and filter it, will *support the ssustainability of the city.

greenspace and clean water number one always

Why do we have so many one story office parks? Let's go vertical more often.

I mean, the city is growing the supply will probably have to increase. But conservation should come before adding reservoirs. I know that work has been done on the mains and sewers over the last couple of years, but Atlanta really falls flat in terms identifying and fixing leaks, etc. I'm sure the city could probably audit its water usage and maximize efficiency, in terms of city buildings, parks, etc. I mean, I love greenspace and I hope we get more, but that will also require more water. Hopefully Atlanta will take advantage of technological solutions to monitor and reduce water consumption.

Need pocket parks, and other ways for people to enjoy the "Forest" that is Atlanta.

BUT only do this in neighborhoods that practice to protect the region's water quality and have many active greenspaces - spend your resources where people are already on board.

Parks' Comments

It has not been proven that reservoirs increase the availability of water. Reservoirs tend to increase evaporation while negatively impacting (water quality, ecosystem sustainability) the downstream sections of the waterway. Healthy systems include healthy ecosystems. Currently the Chattahoochee River gets extremely low during the summer months, limiting recreational activities such as rowing. Additional reservoirs holding back water from the river could actually severely impact the city of Atlanta's primary drinking water source.

Children need to walk to school. Not bus. Not drive. Close schools located in office parks where homes are not closeby. Build neighborhood schools.

Atlanta ranks low on access to greenspace. Every development should be required to set aside a percentage of land for greenspace and public access.

Free parking and parking minimums takes valuable land away from development and creates hazards for pedestrians and cyclist. Multi-level parking structures will free up land for tax-paying developments or greenspace.

All for this but I feel the citizenry almost needs a training course of park traffic etiquette.

There are enough parks, there just not developed enough. Like mulberry park in dacula. Huge area nothing there. Let people have open markets, sales, festivals, camping. Put our tax dollars to a really good use. People working have no stress relief.

Develop parks that already exist. Camping, festivals, swap meets, fishing. Little mulberry in dacula is huge nothing there but an empty lake..no fish, no handicapped access to fishing

Develop the parks that already exist, period. Dont increase learn to use whats already there.

Ga doesnt have enough lakes for recreation and drinking water. But AC of engineers has no business over seeing small streams. If there is a problem there are ALREADY LAWS FOR THAT. JUST ENFORCE THE COMMERCIAL DUMPING AND MAKE CALIFORNIA AND MOSANTO CLEAN UP THERE CHEMICALS - THERES AREADY LAWS FOR THAT. GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG ALREADY

Especially paths that allow people to ride safely to work and school, not just for recreation.

More things like movies on the green in our local parks that draw families, couples, groups of friends, diverse drawing and gets people together!

Parks' Comments

No. Just no. No more events in Piedmont Park. Did you know that Midtown is a neighborhood? We don't want everyone and their screaming brats in Piedmont Park (that's our backyard). You can have events in parks in the suburbs. Keep all the suburbanites out there. Have your sense of community in your own neighborhood. We don't want you in Midtown.

we need a regional mass transit system - buses included. this piecemeal crap that Gwinnett and Cobb are doing is not beneficial to our region. we need one regional authority that connects people to jobs, not office parks to one another.

While I like the idea of connected bike paths, the city is very sprawling and the vast majority of commuters drive cars. I think we should focus on fixing the traffic problems before focusing on more recreational improvements.

Not a responsibility of ARC. Does ARC create and maintain parks. I didn't think so, leave it to people that do and get out of the way.

Parks & community events make Atlanta great!

It seems that Atlantans already take full advantage of their parks.

In a city sprawled out like ours with the needs of residents to commute cross town for work, biking is primarily recreational or limited to specific geographic unique circumstances.

One of the things that is going to attract people to want to live work and play ITP will be safe, diverse entertainment and leisurely activities. This is a draw to OTP for the middle age crowd who wants to stroll babies around in parks or climb a mountain with the wife and kids on a nice Saturday afternoon. Atlanta used to have a very public and free music scene with The Atl Municipal Auditorium, Piedmont Park Stage, Center Stage, Variety Playhouse and many, many venues that always had things going on. There should definitely be emphasis on things to do that are safe and culturally rich if we want to attract and keep families in the city.

This will be an issue for retail and work - at minimum. Parks and entertainment venues as well. But then it is contrary to bikes and trails and transit.

I will say that parking is ALWAYS an issue in the city. Not so much OTP.

If this creates an alternative to get to work and there are users who would utilize, then I would say yes. If this is purely for recreational use, I would not prioritize for the region.

This is a Parks & Rec issue - not a transportation issue

Totally irrelevant to transportation.

Good idea for recreation, but that is a separate topic

Parks' Comments

This is a nice parks and recreation project to do with discretionary funds. It is not transportation.

Parks are needed. The rest should come from the private sector

This should be done more within the context of parks and recreation vs. transportation.

Why? Biking is for all intents and purposes a recreational activity. In GA in the Summer (temperatures above 90 degrees), the weather is not conducive to riding a bike to an office job. Would you like to share a cubicle with a person who just rode their bike for 12 miles to work?

parks great, but let neighborhood associations plan local events

I don't have a solution, but greenspace better helps protect water quality than more cars.

Let people bike in parks. Traffic congestion is too bad already and parents shouldn't have to spend less time with their kids because they spend an extra 10 mins in the car because of slowdowns caused by narrow bike lanes and/or bikers who never follow traffic laws.

I would like to thank our City Of Lilburn, Former Mayors and council From Jack Bolton, Diana Preston, and other for their insight. We have some of the finest parks and a beautiful come back to our Old Town Atmosphere Lilburn, Ga. Super Job guys

With so many families being poor, it is hard to pay for recreational activities for their children. Perhaps, if we gave them something to do after school and in the summer, they would not have time to rob and steal.

Allow recreational access to existing and future reservoirs. We need to be more realistic and sophisticated when it comes to protecting our reservoirs. A chain link fence and cameras are not going to keep out terrorists or those with evil motives. With the technology of today, fences really are false security. More should be done to screen for pollutants and poisons in the water source so we can open these areas up to the public for recreational use and public surveillance.

We need a more extensive multi-use trail network that connects parks, senior centers, recreational centers, shopping, dining and residents to the beltline.

Park are important but events and entertainment are not so much.

A regional approach for greenspace preservation and the provision of parkspace is very worthwhile. I don't believe, however, that the ARC should focus on events and entertainment. Those are local issues that should be handled locally.

Parks' Comments

We live in a large and sprawling region. We need to be able to provide residents with connectivity options to both the major job centers and recreational activities. Bus service from Monday thru Friday is good, but what about the days when one may want to take in a ballgame or a museum on the weekends but doesn't want to drive?

This has the potential to reduce traffic congestion if bike trails connect industrial parks and business districts.

Cars and bikes don't mix. Put bike paths in parks and encourage car pools.

Just a way for politicians to get others to pay for neighborhood parks that neighborhoods should pay for

The public needs to be more informed on greenspace and sustainability in general

Would love to have more parks available, parks that I don't have to drive 10-15 miles to get to.

Parks are great places, but events should be privately funded.

Something I love about Atlanta is that there is a park in almost every neighborhood. These parks provide a place for neighborhoods to build and develop their communities.

not just for recreation! connect with job centers and population centers too!

Free parking - NO

Paid parking (garage or on street) - YES

Allow private business and local art groups and many more private citizens - not government bureaucrats and 'non-profits' - to provide more direction for the arts and recreation efforts in our local communities. 'Art' has become a 'divider' of people when it should unite people and represent all views and lifestyles - especially traditional lifestyles - which seem to have been forced out of the 'art' community altogether.

This sounds like 'one world order' nonsense. The government should not be in the 'development' business. Let private investment and private development provide the leadership in this area. Provide real tax incentives to all private development to promote greenspace and to assist in promoting water quality. Get the politicians off the boards and remove all elected officials from any group that makes these decisions. Stop the corruption associated with elected officials in this area.

This may become a source of recreation but probably won't help business and commuters.

I live in Kennesaw, near Swift-Cantrell Park. The usage has been phenomenal since it opened. Parks are essential.

This is recreation, not transportation

With every level of government in financial stress, it is very foolish to spend the millions being spent on parks

Parks' Comments

I always thought acquiring all the Core of Engineer parks on our main watersheds and connecting them with bike paths would make this one of the most unique communities in the world.

Parks should get the basics right first, including easy pedestrian/bike access so they will be used; and I'd like to see more things like a lake with rowing boats and children's playgrounds - not necessarily concerts and festivals. Parks should be used daily not as special entertainment venues.

Greenspace and sensitive areas can overlap and provide a double benefit

Protecting our parks provides public green space that encourages active, more healthful lifestyles for everyone in the vicinity.

Although I like this idea for recreation, I don't see it as viable for getting large numbers of people back and forth to work.

Setting aside land for parks is a government function, the others are not and should be left to the community itself to foster

Only if the events are NOT held in Piedmont Park! Suburbanites go home!!!

Parks especially, here -- having the parks, greenspace and public spaces of a world-class city is very important, and we need to improve in this category.

Its time we see the bicycle as a transportation vehicle and not a piece of recreational equipment. If you build it they will come. All the studies, surveys and data the ARC has shows that a large percentage of people choose not to ride bicycles for transportation because of safety (lack of facilities).

Please connect them to homes, businesses, and transit; and not only for recreation. Currently most paths are in rec islands. You should not have to use your car in order to use your bike.

Reservoirs tied into greenspace projects like the proposed Westside park in Atlanta are ideal and fulfill two different and important needs.

Ensure no erosion. Require builders to build WITHOUT clear cutting. Builders have done it before. I'm thinking of neighborhoods in ROSWELL that were NOT clear cut when built! ALSO here in Mountain Park the woods are required to be preserved while houses are built! IT IS POSSIBLE!

allow parks to have a non-profit support group to help with events, support the staff and offer community solutions to the problems in the park system for the neighborhood

I support this wholeheartedly but believe that it is has already been accomplished. The Atlanta region has more parks & festivals than any major city I've been to!

Increase the number of parks and the parks acreage and ensure good access to them for all residents.

Parks' Comments

Increase access to walking and biking trails in neighborhoods, parks and other public areas throughout the region.

Instead of adding car parking, why not add small greenspaces with bicycle parking (parklets).

Instead of adding car parking, why not add small greenspaces with bicycle parking (parklets).

Even having a simple directory of where bicycle parking is available would make it easier for me to plan to visit my doctor or other appointments via bicycle.

Initiate a small tax dedicated to the arts, greenspace and parks.

Support sidewalk installation and repair near activity centers, schools, parks, and bus stops regionwide.

Incentives for living a healthy lifestyle. More parks and outdoor equipment like those at piedmont. Random training classes put on for free by local health businesses. It's a way for them to give something back but also to market.

Maintain and improve the parks.
Finish the Belt Line

I selected this because of "recreation". Not one option here about that. Instead, item on other slide of "expand greenspace" also included BS about sustainable development, as if they are the same thing.

Large Greenspace in Atlanta. Turn Turner Field into a large greenspace, grow trees, add a fishing pond, and nature trails.

Large Greenspace in Atlanta. Turn Turner Field into a large greenspace, grow trees, add a fishing pond, and nature trails. I drive 30 minutes to 40 minutes to Mountain bike. It would be great to have some trails closer to Atlanta too.

We need parks and bike paths that connect through the city and suburbs.

Create more public parks - including dog parks for residents to use in every section of the county.

Build a extensive and comprehensive greenway system to access ALL areas of the Atlanta. Metro area and beyond large enough to accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic to improve quality of life, recreation and SAFETY especially for bicycle traffic which needs to get off of the roads!

The title says Arts, RECREATION, and Healthy Quality of Life, but there is no mention of recreation. If you want to increase quality of life, and have walkable vibrant neighborhoods, then you need to have parks and recreation facilities available. Give people some decent green space and they will folk to it and form communities around it.

More funding for parks and trails

Parks' Comments

quality of life means quality of the environment - abandoned lots ought to be consolidated under the new land bank and converting (temporarily or permanently) into quality spaces like CSAs, pocket parks or gardens

design communities to be bicycle friendly. make it a priority for zoning to limit building and to support recreational areas. ie. it becomes more difficult to rezone for high density, and more profitable, development of high density housing. Develop certain areas to be "aging areas" that take all aspects of the needs of aging people and builds these into a community. Safety, etc..

Focus on green space and parks.

Stop trying to fill every green space with a building or a house. It's crazy. More parks and/or just green space please.

Greenspace, particularly in the vicinity of streams and rivers is an important part of this. We must also induce everyone to conserve. Watering restrictions in the summer is the first obvious regulatory step. We also should provide inducements to people and businesses to conserve, such as rebates for water conservation equipment such as low flow toilets and shower heads and rainbarrels.

Encourage community exercise programs in local parks and educate about the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle. Do this also through the addition of bike paths and walking trails. Maybe do a program that helps low-income people (who maybe can't afford cars) obtain bicycles.

Atlanta has a pretty great parks/recreation system already, but I believe some parks are unequally supported (Piedmont vs. Washington, for example). Continue to invest in the Belt Line Parks projects and distribute the support to more underserved areas.

Investing in public parks, recreation areas and greenways to connect communities to nature and outdoor recreation

Parks' Comments

Government is already too big. The plan is a bad one army corps cant handle what they already have. EPA doesn't enforce current laws. MARTA DOESNT WORK TOO CRIME RIDDEN. TOO MANY FREE WELFARE PROGRAMS, NO INCENTIVES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. IF YALL REALLY WANT TO DO SOMETHING GREAT, JUST MAINTAIN WHATS ALREADY THERE, STOP ADDING WHAT YOU CANT EVEN AFFORD NOW!! THE MIDDLE CLASS IS DYING IN AMERICA. SOMEONE NEEDS TO AACTUALLY LISTEN TO AMERICANS WE DONT WANT THIS WHOLE 2030-2040 PLAN IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FROM. MOST DONT HAVE A CLUE WHAT ALL OF THIS IS ACTUALLY ABOUT. WHAT IF I LIVE IN A AREA YOU HAVE DESIGNATED NOT FIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION OR I DONT WANT MY NEIGHBORHOOD TURNED INTO A GREENSPACE. THIS WHOLE NATO 21 THING IS UNREAL, YOU WORK THERE I REALLY HOPE YOU REALIZE WHAT YOUR A PART OF. I would love to sit down with this group and see if any of you have a clue as to what you are part of and if you even realize what your creating.

I live in Mableton, GA. We moved here so that we could have access to midtown within 20-30 min drive but also a nice home. Unfortunately our beautiful subdivision does not reflect the surrounding area that includes endless title loan and used car and used tire dealers + only fair rated schools, no walkability, hardly any public transportation or parks. Connecting this area of Cobb to Atlanta through public transit, expanded bike trail systems, etc would do so much good and really offer such an amazingly expandable and affordable area for families who cannot purchase a \$500k home in areas deemed safe in Atlanta and Decatur.

The main thing in this survey that I didn't agree with was adding more lanes and capacity to roads. Improving traffic lights, intersections, and road quality are important. More important is increasing funding to alternative transit such as heavy rail, light rail, and to a lesser extent busses. The beltline is vastly important and it's continued development will only further drive nearby development in residential, retail, transportation and parks/recreational development.

If you build an excellent infrastructure (planned development, water/utilities, transportation, education, recreation, etc.), they will come.

We need viable public transportation, more greenspace, less multi family developments and better code enforcement.

I would love to see Atlanta fix traffic congestion, become more environmentally friendly, allow more recreational opportunities for adults and gain a sense of community within neighborhoods.

Parks' Comments

Let's preserve what's great about Atlanta - the natural beauty and year round good weather as we grow. Atlanta has for too long modeled itself on LA and now has traffic jams to rival that city. Yet the climate here is perfect for walking and biking. We can make this a much more livable city through a sound plan.

Bring back a new tax to pay for transit (rail) and parks/beltline.

Transportation and neighborhood parks is what Douglas County needs!!!!

I have only been living in metro Atlanta for a year and can already see the real estate and recreational growth. My only concern is that the job market follows suit. As a veteran I know of a lot of fellow veterans moving to this city only to find a struggling job market.

children need to walk to school. Close schools in office parks where there are no closeby homes and everyone busses.

Clean air, clean water, greenspace

Peachtree street should become the Fifth Ave. of Atlanta. Make it a one way street from Buckhead to downtown with broader sidewalks and plenty of shops and maybe a streetcar type of service possibly consider no cars at all only emergency vehicles.

continue to build out the Beltway in the most beautiful way we can and integrate it with the city center.

Consider covering up the whole Connector and create green spaces and connectivity for the whole city instead of being separated as we are now.

Southlake Mall would be great to have an outdoor, walkable, friendly space and, the Olde Towne Morrow space would be a great place to start. Right now, it is incomplete and could be put to better use for my community.

Offer city sponsored contests or activities between community parks and charge a small entrance fee and give some back to the communities/parks involved--it would be a win win situation. Look me up, I've got ideas for the kind of events and contests.

Restore the park facilities in the older forgotten areas of the city. We need more senior centers and outdoor activities for ages 55 and older

Green space - small pocket parks in neighborhoods when houses need to be destroyed. enforcement of codes with trash and litter. Encourage exercise in widespread areas.

Arts and recreation draw visitors as well as residents. Being a destination city is good for the local economy.

Gwinnett County has too many parks. The county can't pay the maintenance costs on upkeep.

Parks' Comments

Have people in Neighborhood ones that are on HOA Boards become involved in events and parks and entertainment. Like NPU Units in the City of Atlanta but add other duties. Get college students involved and make events accessible to all people the disabled and the older generation.

The entire region needs more easily accessible public parks. The Abernathy greenway is an example of a highly accessible park that has been well used since opening.

Parks especially- green space should be preserved. This is more important than entertainment

Atlanta is too spread out to consider this a viable transportation solution. I would continue along the lines of bike paths along parks and the Beltline.

We need to promote greenspace by limiting development.

Protect for future generations-Atlanta is known as a paradise parking lot with limited space-look at a thriving City like Chicago and the pocket parks and enviromentally sensitive areas that are well protected and utilized for recreation purposes.

Promote greater land use plans that encourages development near areas with access to mass transit, sidewalks, and/or trails and parks.

Limit chemicals on lawns and greenspace.

Commuter rail! Greenspace!

I SPEND A LOT OF WORK AND RECREATIONAL TIME INSIDE THE PERIMETER AND I COMMUTE 60 MILES A DAY

Clean air, clean water, greenspace

Living in a walkable vibrant neighborhood will bring the quality of life that is needed in our city. One where Southern Hospitality can be shared amongst us and our visitors. Not only will we be happy, but we will be exercising and looking for the arts and recreation you speak of. Business will be booming.

Metro Atlanta needs a comprehensive conservation plan

Offer city sponsored contests or activities between community parks and charge a small entrance fee and give some back to the communities/parks involved--it would be a win win situation. Look me up, I've got ideas for the kind of events and contests.

this category compared to the arts and recreation category is a bit misleading- thinking as if we would not support arts in education and jobs or on a professional level as well.

Restore the park facilities in the older forgotten areas of the city. We need more senior centers and outdoor activities for ages 55 and older

The categories of "Arts" and Recreation and Healthy Quality of Life" should be separate items.

We need water, but the description suggest we can get there by conservation. I think we get there by more reservoirs

Parks' Comments

Without the Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life we are nothing more than robotons. Our existence would be basically meaningless, empty and void of all spiritual and creative humaness..

Green space - small pocket parks in neighborhoods when houses need to be destroyed. enforcement of codes with trash and litter. Encourage exercise in widespread areas.

Arts and recreation draw visitors as well as residents. Being a destination city is good for the local economy.

Implementing community gardens and teaching the community how to use them to grow healthy, local food should be a priority. It will increase the availability of affordable healthy food, educate about healthy eating habits, minimize the amount of transportation necessary to bring food into the city, create greenspaces, and create a better food culture.

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Implementing community gardens and teaching the community how to use them to grow healthy, local food should be a priority. It will increase the availability of affordable healthy food, educate about healthy eating habits, naturally improve the health of residents, minimize the amount of transportation necessary to bring food into the city, create greenspaces, create a better food culture, and create the opportunity for people to become involved in their community.

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Atlanta is too spread out to consider this a viable transportation solution. I would continue along the lines of bike paths along parks and the Beltline.

Parks' Comments

We have many bike paths and they need to stay off the roads when traveling as a recreational activity

Bike lanes are important, and I think they would be used for recreation and some light shopping. However, given our intense heat and humidity, I don't believe bike lanes would increase or better LOS on Atlanta roads.

biking is better for recreation than for transportation - I favor recreational paths

We have too many houses on very little land and it needs to stop!

Although our water supply needs protecting, we have to also protect and promote greenspace!!!

"Environmentally sensitive" gets way over used to prevent reasonable development. Just look at what counts as a "wet land". This region has lost many jobs due to environmental regulations that have made the businesses move to other countries. We need a reasonable balance and governmental assistance to go with mandates.

We need to promote greenspace by limiting development.

Consider conservation programs and incentives not only for homeowners, but also for rental property owners and multifamily condos. Make it easier to reuse stormwater (too many regulations against), etc.

Protect for future generations-Atlanta is known as a paradise parking lot with limited space-look at a thriving City like Chicago and the pocket parks and environmentally sensitive areas that are well protected and utilized for recreation purposes.

Promote greater land use plans that encourages development near areas with access to mass transit, sidewalks, and/or trails and parks.

Limit chemicals on lawns and greenspace.

Commuter rail! Greenspace!

I SPEND A LOT OF WORK AND RECREATIONAL TIME INSIDE THE PERIMETER AND I COMMUTE 60 MILES A DAY

Wooded greenspace

Art and recreational activities should happen around the clock, along with business pursuits.

Create less need for auto transport. More virtual educational and business pursuits from home. More social and recreational activities available around the clock in neighborhood settings.

Parks' Comments

Small surprisingly surpasses BIG. Small vibrant communities foster sparks of genius in unknown, unexpected niches. Huge massive crowded living structures tend to suffocate and paralyze. Also, small vibrant communities foster happiness and creativity, key ingredients for health, spontaneity and growth, without which there is no true success.

If you stop trying to cram everyone in the Atlanta Region into one big urban metropolitan area under one big regional unelected government thinking only of one area or region of the state of Georgia and start thinking of improving the lot and life of the entire state of Georgia, you will not obtain you Arts, Recreation & Healthy Quality of Life you seek. Only more of the same envy and distrust and disallusionment will prevail.

We do not need anymore big transportation road projects in the Atlanta area. We need Interstate projects which run Northeast from Macon to intersect with I-20 to go to Augusta and beyond I-20 to Gainesville and North to I-40 in N.C. We also need Interstates which go Northwest from Macon up to I-20 and North beyond to Chattannooga. U.S. Highway 80 should become an Interstate from East Georgia through Macon to Columbus and west into Alabama. High speed rail from Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson to Macon airport, Columbus airport, Augusta airport and the Port of Savannah would be a passenger's heaven to save time and money going to an airport and waiting for flights or going through all the security. Spread the wealth of the economy of the WHOLE STATE OF GEORGIA will give all of us in Atlanta Region a better quality of life, a respite on a bad water supply, traffic congestion in the Metro area and give the rest of Georgia a place to come to enjoy the Arts, Recreation, etc. Think about it, there is only so much room and so much timberland to be had to enhance are current quality of life without continuing to destroy our whole region.

We should strive for an environment where entertainment and recreational activities are available at all corners of the clock. Day and night.

rather than limiting development impacts, promote restoration credit trading programs to offset impacts in areas that are strategically located and create additional greenspace

Funding

Funding Comments

no taxpayer dollars. up to private sector.

Sure as long as it doesn't cost tax payers anything. should be up to the private sector.

up to private sector, not government through domain. If people want it, private corps will buy it.

Don't spend any money on this. There are plenty of "vibrant" neighborhoods, and "vibrancy" is not going to fix Vine City or English Avenue. People just need to be able to cross major roads, interstates, and train tracks without risking their lives so they can get from one to another, and do something about the sidewalks! I've never seen a city with such awfully maintained sidewalks before. Is there a way to enforce property owners to maintain them? I know the trees make it tough, but something can be done.

Atlanta has made great strides in this area in recent years, thanks to the BeltLine and the private sector, but City government is woefully lacking in its programs for all communities.

Increase funding for bike and ped programs

Quit trying to compress all of the services and business into Metro Atlanta. Metro Atlanta cannot afford it, the transportation systems cannot support it, nor can the aging infrastructure support it. There is simply no good reason why Cartersville, Griffin, Augusta, Carrollton or any other city should not share in the growth. Quit trying to jam the tooth paste back in the tube! You cannot maintain the transportation systems already in place. You cannot run MARTA without significant Federal Assistance. Why should we undertake increases in taxes, added T-Splosts and other funding when we cannot support what we have?

I don't know of anyone who is actively looking for government to provide these types of opportunities. Let the market decide the priorities here.

We already have this just get rid of all the junk and have everything within budget so many can attend and not just a few ans STOP tearing down and building better i.e. sports stadium this pads the pockets of a few and not all benefit Establish a healthy government and get rid of the swindlers

I feel that the voters spoke in the defeat of the SPLOST on the unrealistic transportation issue. To now come up with a plan to move ahead of it UNFUNDED leaving the taxpayers in the lurch to pay for it, is absolutely unacceptable.

This is great in concept but very expensive. Affordable housing needs to be considered when developing for the next 25 years.

Funding Comments

Of prime importance is an extended MARTA to Cobb County and to Clayton County among others. As long as we have the clogged roads we are unable to have a modern and innovative city. New business will not come here unless we do this. It is shameful that we are the only large metropolitan area in the USA that have no money to its rapid transit. This needs to change.

Only the transportation systems that we can afford. Mass transportation via "trains to nowhere" that are straining the tax budgets: NO!

The government shouldn't create.... that is the private sector's job. Stop regulating us to death so we can.

There is nothing in where "we the people" have given powers to the government to provide trained or educated workers. This is an individual responsibility along with the private sector.

Less government

Government should stay out of areas where private alternatives are possible.

More piedmont parks, free neighborhood tennis courts & basketball courts. Give people a reason to play outside more. More people spending time outside = more money spent by consumers = better economy?

More government interference? They are already too involved. Stay out!

This what private business is for. Region - stay out!

The government can not through economic development create jobs out of thin air; like the FED does with FIAT currency! What will create jobs is the Free Market, if the insane regulations that are stifling companies from creating good paying jobs, are lifted off of their proverbial backs! And huge tax incentives, basically giving away the farm to get them to come here, is not the answer! The answer is what has drawn businesses here for years: Nice Quiet Neighborhoods (suburban lifestyle), Low Taxes (instead of trying to tax us into oblivion), Good Schools (that are not dumming down and teaching our students to be workers for the collective), and a Low cost-of-Living (in other words a person does not have to spend all of what they make to survive, they have some disposable income left to spend on whatever they choose); which seems counter intuitive to the government on all levels!!!

Funding Comments

The government can not through economic development create jobs out of thin air; like the FED does with FIAT currency! What will create jobs is the Free Market, if the insane regulations that are stifling companies from creating good paying jobs, are lifted off of their proverbial backs! And huge tax incentives, basically giving away the farm to get them to come here, is not the answer! The answer is what has drawn businesses here for years: Nice Quiet Neighborhoods (suburban lifestyle), Low Taxes (instead of trying to tax us into oblivion), Good Schools (that are not teaching our stu

Let's not waste money on ineffective and costly mass transit projects. let use the gas tax proceeds on roads.

Where's the money? NOT from my taxes!

No- Government should STAY out of this arena. Let the FREE market dictate transportation initiatives & stop wasting my taxes on expensive schemes that only cost more & more.

More communtunies like Decatur & Midtown with affordable family housing.

Atlanta needs better funding for the arts and culture. Without that resource the highly developed and well educated workforce won't be very happy!!

This is not a huge issue in the suburbs, I can't speak to in town neighborhoods. They are throwing tax dollars away on sidewalks and foot bridges to nowhere in Johns Creek & Alpharetta. A greenway & cute little town square is plenty.

NO more taxpayer funded transportation schemes. The taxpayers are sick and tired of this nonsense. Stop the socialism.

This effot should be initiated and funded by private business Keep local, state and Federal bureaucrats out of this area. Stop the ridiculous intrusion into private business by government 'nannies' intent on creating more and more unworkable government programs and regulations.

This picture reeks of Communism and the 'Collective' elites mandating the masses to follow government nonsense and idiotic regulations that result in nothing but a waste of money. Leave people to make their own decisons about the quality of their lives - This is NOT a government function.

Should be up to local government.

This should mean quality housing options, not apartment buildings containing transient populations.

I've been driving the I-75 corridor for the past 32 years, and the DOT has not kept up with the needs at all. The tax base is there, so spend it on improving the infrastructure instead of bonuses and pensions! I say no to peach-pass, because we've already paid for additional lanes!

Funding Comments

The arts are important!! Stop defunding them in the schools. It is a proven fact that children who participate in the arts do better in schools. Why would new parents be buying Baby Mozart if it didn't work? The arts, recreation, etc. bring soul to a community.

Education must have sustainable funding, and not be dependent solely on a highly-elastic source like the lottery. Additionally, education assistance must be targeted across the whole range of students; not only the Hope/Zell scholars (though this must continue to keep our brightest), but also remedial, special education, and "regular" students. To develop the workforce, technical schools should also be supported. Finally, for-profit universities should be regulated as to quality of education, outcome monitoring, and cost control as they currently siphon off a huge amount of state and federal education dollars for subpar returns.

Promoting the health and well being of residents is good for the residents physically and psychologically and ultimately saves money for the region. Greater health and well being equates to lower healthcare expense and increased income from travelers, seeking this type of vibrant environment.

A comprehensive system does not necessarily mean the development of MARTA. More money needs to be spent on educating people how to drive properly and courteously. Work centers need to be planned to be convenient to the work force.

Affordable housing

Affordable housing

Take federal and state government back down we dont want big governments. No freedom left in America unless your Not American. The middle class is being killed off.

Dense, affordable housing supply

Responsible, non-corrupt, and fiscally conservative local governments.

Streamlined governmental system instead of a patchwork of different governments

Responsible governments

Accountability in local government agencies. There currently appears to be none. You can't even reach the local police station on their non-emergency line, and there is no way to give feedback to anyone in charge at Fulton County or City of Atlanta agencies, if anyone is even in charge. They don't appear to be. Accountability.

A conservative approach, using only local SPLOST funds, not TSPLOST sorts of funds.

Tax Reform

Funding Comments

Tax Reform

Tax all retail sales by abolishing ALL 'Special Interest' exemptions. Immediately execute any politician suggesting / proposing any exemption.

1. Up grade and coordinate our traffic control systems so we don't waste billions of hours and dollars waiting for traffic lights to change when there is no traffic competing for the same space.
2. Prohibit Marta buses and school buses from stopping in main thoroughfares for transit passengers. Current practices are ridiculously expensive in terms of wasted human capital.
3. More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board

Reduced government obstacles to business creation and growth.

Build the outer loop. Finance employment areas along the outer loop. Stop sending so much of the region's resources downtown.

Home rule; local government, not regional

Property Tax Reform

Real affordable housing for persons with income from \$721.00 to \$1200.00

If we have to have one, an ELECTED Regional Government.

To be free from taxes at least those that make me pay for the mistakes of others

Restrain the government involvement in spending

Increased State Sovereignty and less reliance on Federal Government

Low Taxes

Eliminate government corruption in DeKalb, Clayton, and Fulton Counties

I want un subsidized growth. If growth and living requires subsidies it is not sustainable with todays tax and debt levles

Well Protected, funded and maintained historical areas

Focus on low cost loans to entrepreneurs, and incentives to existing businesses to hire more workers. More people with income will create cash fluidity and a better tax base.

Lean, efficient government

Dissolve the Region.

It is not a form of government or regulatory body supported by the Constitution.

It makes an appointed body rather than an elected body ruling the people.

Funding Comments

Eliminate the government monopoly over area schools. Economic resources and assets should be employed by free actors in a market-based system. Keep taxes low. No development decisions by elites who don't have their own money at risk.

Low Tax Rates

Honest Government

Less government in all areas of our lives

Return to community government. Ban all forms of regionalism.

None of these other choices are constitutional functions of government

Low local taxes.

The State of Georgia must be the leader in ethics and transparency laws versus being number 50. This would help establish confidence back into Government and Commissions.

Affordable property taxes and eliminate wasteful spending.

Less Government

Lower taxes

Lower taxes and stop finding ways to spend out money.

Take Government interference out of my life. Stop the Marxist/Collective social engineering. Government needs to be reduced to only essential

Services - all government is TOO big, TOO intrusive & TOO expensive for what the taxpayers get back.

Investment in Quality Primary Education

Low taxes: Keep government overhead to a bare minimum.

Important that the tax payers KNOW and agree to pay for what's important for them; not gov't.

All the above planning items are best achieved at the local level, with local government and the people working together.

ARC must be more accountable to the residents and taxpayers of the areas served.

Lower every tax at the local and state level. Stop mandating more and more expensive and stupid regulations on business. Allow people to earn a living and KEEP 90% of every dollar they make - even the most wealthy!

Keep corporate and individual tax rates low

Low Taxes

Conservative government with limited restrictions on business.

Build tourism through better use of resources (e.g. better transportation to various sites; cities and counties working together to enhance tourism; clean up and use our amazing Chattahoochee River resource - restaurants and activities along the river could bring money into MUCH of metro atanta)

No New Taxes

Funding Comments

Increased transparency in county and city governments; corruption serious problem; not sure if you can influence this!

I think that maintenance of our roads and bridges is most important. I would like to see our tax dollars go to their original intended purposes and not all of these gimmicky new projects.

Reduce government funded housing

1. Embracing Democratic ideas instead of closed-minded Republican ideologies.
2. Reduce police, especially in Gwinnett County.
3. Legalize marijuana and take away the strain on public funds due to "policing" victimless crimes. It is a travesty to waste money and impact people's lives for the benefit of the prison complex. Legalize it and tax it!!!!

Consistently funded and supported metro Atlanta public school systems

Affordable Housing

Address homelessness in a comprehensive way via a housing first model -- for all, not only veterans.

Tax Incentives for Financial Services Firms, Industrial Companies and Tech Companies headquartered in Atlanta.

Housing affordability for working families

When building new housing mandate much needed green space

Greater investment in public school system.

Funding regional fixed rail transit through a taxation mechanism

Responsible government with Regional Planning

Transportation spending should be allocated to the most cost-effective projects that will do the most to improve mobility throughout the region per dollar spent. Economic development that comes as a byproduct of improved mobility is great, but we should not allocate dollars to ultra-expensive projects whose primary purpose is economic development, and will make little contribution to improved mobility. Go back to GRTA's RTAP and stop moving toward additional rail or BRT.

absolutely zero government debt

spend within the budget

Lower Taxes

Stable trustworthy governmental bodies.

Affordable Housing Intown

Police. Metro Atlanta has a higher than average amount of certain crimes. More money needs to be put into adding to regional police forces and for building more prisons.

Affordable housing

A secure/higher budget for the public library

Ethics in government/public service

Maintain reasonable tax rates, get rid of SPLOSTs

Lower Taxes

Funding Comments

Affordable Housing

Micro/Studio apartments/housing to make it affordable for singles

A secure neighborhood. We must bring down the crime rate. By dropping the government assistance and bringing jobs to our area will help in solving some of these issues.

Better Government

Systematic Policy Improvements In Local, State, & Federal Government

Lower taxes and reduce regulation to promote economic growth and higher employment with more local control within each county.

I hope this is already happening. We pay enough money for it to. However, government workers are slack and irresponsible based on my experience. Privatize the water services and things will improve.

There are neighborhoods that are willing to work to be more walkable. Perhaps have a "grant submission" to help prioritize where the best investment for sidewalks, traffic improvement, etc. can be made based how willing and eager the people are in the neighborhood are to change. Open it to all neighborhoods in Atlanta, and have them list specific needs and why they should be met first. It would be a good community -builder as well.

Generally, a County issue. We have a wonderful (tongue in cheek) called the EPA to solve these problems, not Regional Government

Improvements should be developed in each individual County. Any connectivity should be negotiated between Counties wishing to do so. We don't need dictated growth via an unelected Regional Government

Yeah! Agreed! Now, get rid of Common Core and allow local governments and parents to do this. Reject the carrot from the Feds; i.e \$\$\$\$

Give tax breaks to businesses who allow their employees access to colleges and universities. To promote the Starbucks model of scholarship to all businesses.

In order to educate our kids the amount of money needs to be at least doubled and class sizes cut in half. The current public school education in Georgis is failing and without putting more money into the system there is no way you can correct the current issues. Testing is not the solution when there are stressed out and overworked teachers with 36 kids in a classroom.

Improving health and overhauling the Medicaid system may help to save a lot of money in healthcare expenses. Sick people are a huge financial drain.

Funding Comments

You can't have a sense of community if people stay locked in their homes because they are afraid to go out or all the housing is either high end or low end so no room for middle class residents.

As a grandchild of immigrants, I was early taught the value of education. My mother had a Masters Degree and my 7 siblings and I are all college-educated (with 3 Master's and one Ph.D.). We all attended GA schools and universities. We must restore the system that produced a well-educated population. High standards and good funding are imperative.

Continued and consistent funding of public art programs and low-cost art programs available via community art centers

each museum, botanical gardens, world of coke, aquarium, should offer at least 1 day a year for Georgians to tour for free - showing their GA identification. Offer them a tax incentive to do so.

Georgia needs to catch up to other states on arts funding. Arts add greatly to the quality of life a city can offer.

Atlanta is already one of the most highly educated cities in the United States, and I would love to see this trend continue through investments in our local colleges and attracting white collar companies to the city.

The Beltline laid out an incredible groundwork for connecting in-town neighborhoods, and it needs to be a top priority in finishing this project. Furthermore, I would love to see MARTA become a more full-bodied system, as its current state is quite skeletal. I am extremely disappointed in the exorbitant amount of money spent on highway initiatives that do little to offer long-term solutions, but rather offer up short-term fixes. The key to alleviating traffic isn't more capacity (this, in fact, leads to increased usage), it's increasing density and creating less demand for the roads.

Consider working with the state government to establish an URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Atlanta has consistently put transportation on the back burner. We are a huge, developing city with some of the worst traffic in the nation. Yet our public transportation system consists of buses (clogging traffic more) and an extremely minimal MARTA system. When are we going to start putting money into expanding the MARTA around Atlanta? We took out the one lane that encouraged carpooling and replaced it with the "peach pass" lane. Why does the money from the "peach pass" not go to creating a more sustainable public transportation system?

Bicycling should be considered a real, viable transportation choice, worthy of competitive funding and investment.

This is going to take more money than Atlanta has.

Funding Comments

More investment in public education. Seems the state when time gets tough cuts education when that is the best investment for our future. I am totally against a voucher program for private schools and I am not sold on charter schools.

Highly developed education starts young! Americans as a whole need to invest way more money into educating our youth because the effects are exponential.

This is mere posturing. The goal is desirable, but neither the Legislature, nor the governor, nor perhaps even the electorate want to spend any more money than (currently) legally required. And, with so many arguments over "Common Core" (probably most folk haven't read the law or concept in detail), any "core of knowledge" is just a pipedream - at best smoke and mirrors, so to speak.

What has someone been smoking ?? Atlanta and Delta don't want any competition coming in, re. a new, smaller airport. See what happened to SW Airlines 10 or so years ago when they wanted in. The railroads don't want any passenger trains on their tracks (the pride railroads used to take in their passenger service , such as The Broad way Limited, the California Zephyr, etc. is forgotten history nowadays). We're told by "leaders" that any increase in gasoline taxes (to pay for road repairs and to fix bridges) is bad (all taxes are bad, apparently , as are tolls - no more Rte. 400 tolls), etc.

Everyone wants to drive, but no one wants to pay. A "comprehensive transport system" as a concept might hold some appeal in another country, or maybe some other state. Here, just look at how many people in North Fulton County even ride the bus !!

similar to comment on Walkable N'hoods, emphasis seems to be on "building" new, versus supporting and strengthening what's here. as a region, we seem to always focus on the next shiny new project versus leveraging the most value out of existing investments

Atlanta is going to HAVE to start looking more seriously at mass transit instead of putting such a large percentage into roads. Roads are nice, but people need a quick reliable way to get to work thru mass transit. The present MARTA system needs money from the state to grow an expand the system in the way it needs to be expanded. It also needs to get and keep good, knowledgeable and honest management in place in order to do this. DO NOT let the same problems come to pass that have in prior decades with such gross waste and mismanagement.

Funding Comments

Good luck here. The ancient infrastructure we have is falling apart. We need to get moving on replacing those systems with new ones. Talking about it does not good; moving on it does. Our leaders need to determine how to get federal and state money allocated to this massive problem.

Time to raise the gas tax to fund what need to be done as well as build more roads --toll if necessary

Money has been appropriated for infrastructure and it doesn't get done.

All government elected officials throughout the region need to experience how tough the roads are for commute in and out. Horrible. Too few choices.

Tell congress to cut the red tape, the red tape is a waste of taxpayer money

More than just IT, we need to make this area the "go-to" location for manufacturing. Those jobs raise the tax base and quality of life far better than service industry employment.

private & charitable organizations should take care of this, not government

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Bring back the arts into ALL our schools. Support the arts publicly with money and visibility. In the 1970s and 1980s when Maynard Jackson was Mayor, the City of Atlanta had an abundance of public support for the arts. That support created the vibrant arts scene that we have now. However the lack of such support now, means we are not growing younger artists, and established artists are also having a hard time making a living.

quit wasting my money on half baked studies to pay high salaries to do another STUDY !

Access to jobs and resources will help everyone and save money in the long run.
Gridlock is expensive.

Remember people pay taxes, this is the responsibility of the State of Georgia to ensure their people have the clean water supply they are paying into the State for. Not a choice, but a responsibility.

Funding Comments

This should include all towns within a 25 mile radius of Down Town Atlanta. The focus always seems to be Atlanta, Georgia - Atlanta downtown has more tourists than citizens of Georgia. Don't forget the people who pay their taxes to Georgia and give back some of your planning to the communities that surround Atlanta and support it by the fact that we come into the town to work, shop, medical, etc. So give a little to the surrounding towns when you make plans.

This type of workforce will increase the tax base, improve our schools, increase diversity and cultural sensitivities, and allow metro Atlanta to move forward in history in a progressive manner.

With the amount of people moving into our communities and the builders putting up structures and not caring about the environment. We need stronger laws against them. They tack on the HOA Management to help them steal money but not keep the water supply valid

Walkable, Vibrant and Safe throughout Atlanta; Focus on catalytic projects that encourage the private sector to come to intown neighborhoods that have seen disinvestment over the years

We need better public transportation, monorail system instead of underground, need 18 wheelers to have their own roadway, need better maintained roads. This should be funded by toll roads as many other states are doing this and able to create and maintain good quality systems.

Allow the HighRoad rapid transit system to be built. Its financing plan is reasonable, low cost, and sustainable without taxes. Its performance exceeds that of MARTA. Call 404-683-1331

Commuting into the city from Smyrna is ok for now, but with the Braves moving to Cobb I am very concerned. Traffic in the city is horrible all around, and I was sad to see so much money being used on a seemingly useless downtown "trolley" that only tourists will use, versus providing traffic improvements for Atlanta residents. The trolley will only add to the downtown congestion, as now two lane roads have been converted to one lane. GSU and Capitol traffic downtown in combination with constant movie filming and construction traffic adds about 15-20 minutes to my commute for about 1 mile of travel. Something really needs to be improved here!

Decide on transit funding and build first class system

Funding Comments

Right now our library system has been severely cut back. This needs to be rectified and fully funded ASAP. How can we plan to have a highly educated work force or foster a love of learning in our children without a library that is open and accessible every day, is well stocked with up to date media, increase in programs that promote literacy and learning, community engagement and enjoyment for all of our citizens. Please restore library funding NOW!!!

The should be a high priority effort for every community everywhere. Good schools are the foundation of every community. {They could be significantly better is the Federal Government wasn't so involved, necessitating that a significant proportion of the budget be devoted to unwarranted administrative functions.}

People need to get out there and be a part of THEIR community and stop complaining!! People need to be involved if they want change and better. However, the government should not have to pay for that.

Integrate public & low cost housing in small units throughout the area instead of creating economic pockets that concentrate problems within one or two areas.

I consider this as important as educating citizens so they can participate in government. The world is complicated. Our public schools are not equipping kids with skills to navigate pitfalls that snare many young adults (complex contracts, anticipating home ownership obligations). This slack results in problems that cost society money. I am fore teaching people how to live well.

Markets (not government) ought to decide what art deserves to be experienced.

Too much abuse and accountability with the current government assistant programs now.

We waste so much money on giving to other states and countries when we need to take care of our own. There are homeless people who do not want help. Let it be. I am not sure how the resources would be handled, however would like to see something done.

Just makes sense. A healty person costs the city less money.

If we have enough money left over from education, feeding and putting a roof over their head. But first thing first.

Incent the private sector to provide this service ... not government.

Overhaul how resources are handled, not strongarming more money from taxes. Private resources should of course be encouraged to do more.

Address the lack of funding for mental health issues in the State of Georgia.

Should be handled by non-governmental non-profits.

Funding Comments

Keep a tight leash on Section 8 housing and homeless shelters in order to prevent crime and disease among our homeless population.

I don't see this as a government objective, although it is a noble cause.

Healthy living is pretty straightforward. If someone can't figure it out themselves throwing money to inform this is stupid.

Waste of money, changing eating habits of cultures is extremely difficult

Not a role that government should be taking on. Let private foundations/donors/philanthropists provide the art/culture

Throw as much money as you want at homelessness. Money is NOT the answer. It's a much more systemic problem than money can solve. I'd encourage private non-profits to take on homelessness.

A comprehensive regional site for information across all city and county jurisdictions. Atlanta's different governments all overlapping is a huge weakness when compared to other cities.

An investment in education (including adult education) should help the homelessness problem. Programs that directly address homelessness would not be effective as programs to help educate the homeless.

This is an excellent opportunity for private investment. Company sponsored art would allow for an increased cultural value while not demanding too many public funds. Just ensure that the art is company sponsored and not a blatant advertisement.

Did the federal government ask you to put this loaded and undefined question into this survey?

Incentivizing private funding of fighting homelessness would be ideal.

Money doesn't need to be spent on this. If people are interested, they should google some things. Stop making excuses for people's lack of involvement and stop spending tax money on programs that don't work.

There aren't enough of these already? How many local, state and federal dollars are squandered on ineffectual programs that already exist.

Funding Comments

Also (this is for the federal or local level) provide subsidies to businesses that grow, produce, or sell healthier foods so that we can bring prices down and make eating healthy the cheaper option in stead of the dollar menu. People eat what they can get the most of with the little money they have. If you make healthy food cheaper people will eat healthier. Subsidies could probably be offset by the lowered healthcare costs that come from healthier eating. Also give incentives to healthy food businesses to set up shop in underserved areas as well as more well off areas.

OUR REGION IS ONE OF THE LOWERT FUNDED PLACES IN THE U.S. - SHAME ON US

"Public" usually means government and we do NOT need more govt involved in anything.

The ways are in place. What is not in place is effective communication by the governments and private organizations to adequately publicize the opportunities to potential participants.

Participatory budgeting is a must.

Increase? How much increase? How much are we already spending? Are our current programs ineffective? Maybe we need better programs rather than more money.

Not the right allocation of scare financial resources

Addressing homelessness means more affordable housing, not social cleansing or sweeping homeless off streets. They need to have some place to go

information is good. But it is not the business of any Government to take care of people. They need to do that for themselves.

Our system of Gov't already provides complete civic involvement and there is nothing a politician can do to make it easier that doesn't involve stealing money from taxpayers and corruptly playing favorites to stay in office. The biggest problem in politics today is politicians.

Taking care of the poor is better suited to the private sector - but I fully understand the desire of elected officials to readily spend other peoples money with half baked ideas that are poorly executed.

The homeless have increased exponentially in the region and the availability of services for them has declined. Look to programs such as those in Los Angeles that have converted abandoned buildings into housing for the homeless.

Using something like NEXTDOOR as a model, tie communities together by providing a platform that encourages good citizenship, feeds police and other government information citizens, and solicits feedback on local issues.

private & charitable organizations should take care of this, not government

Funding Comments

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Good goal, but not one government should pay for by taking other families' earnings

The best social program is a job; also compete with other states/regions through streamlined government processes for licensing, permitting, inspections, and other regulated approvals

how? money?

Focus on use of private funds

programs to help people make wise choices by budgeting their money so they can be self sufficient

Not if it means using taxpayer money.

Homelessness should not be encouraged by funding shelters and providing food to able bodied adults.

The use of government money should not be used for arts and culture. If the private sector supports arts and culture, it will thrive regardless of government intervention.

Homelessness is a huge barrier to economic development. If homeless people were diverted from Downtown Atlanta's streets into a transitional, healthy environment that focused on training and education, I think increased property taxes and corporate taxes would more than offset the investment made by the City/Region. This is a REGIONAL issue, and the City of Atlanta shouldn't have to carry the cost burden.

Defining "art" is always difficult. I think government should stay out of this.

This should be a private sector movement. The government should stay out!

train a work force and stop government waste to minimize poor population

Get Georgia on board with Obamacare, esp Medicare expansion!

Most lower-income people live in food deserts. There has to be a way of enticing a major chain to bring a store to the poor areas of the community. Maybe low or no business taxes for 5 years. This will allow management to buy more security cameras, and other devices to decrease shrinkage.

Funding Comments

People are the answer to these problems. Government getting out of the way and allowing ingenious, innovative people to step up. If the Government HAS a program, it encourages other people to sit on their hands. If action (even if it's poor) is being taken, then why would Others act? Government can open doors, but need not whistle people thru them, and certainly not either push or pull them. America.

Really, address affordable housing and housing for those with mental, physical and addiction issues. It's not about beds vs streets - it's way more.

"You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink."
Poor eating habits exist in the wealthiest suburbs. I would be against Spending tax payer dollars here .

Admittedly a major issue. Some type of city/county job and housing program is needed to pull people out of homelessness and into being self supporting.

They exist already - it's a choice, again no more public money here when it's needed elsewhere.

Arts should be driven by consumer demand.
Government has a role in providing infrastructure for the arts, but public demand should drive the content.

Keep this in the private sector. Government typically doesn't do this well.

Nothing in this entire section needs tax payer dollars spent on it. If people really want it or need it, they can find it...IF they will stop being lazy and irresponsible.

Federal funding for affordable healthcare solutions are being blocked by state government officials. Federal funding for non healthcare initiatives should be contingent upon compliance with health care mandates.

I'm a huge fan and supporter of the fine arts, but I don't see why this should be a government priority, when there are real issues (homelessness) that are so poorly addressed already.

This is crucial to, first of all, basic social justice and the role of government, and, second, making areas like Downtown Atlanta palatable to populations with disposable income.

No public resources. If an artist cannot make it on their own - no use wasting tax payers dollars.

Homelessness is no longer exclusive to the mentally ill or drug addicts. Why can't they be put to work cleaning the city-- streets, graffiti, shelters, parks, city vehicles, etc. At the very least, they should be able to earn the money they need to eat and live in the shelters rather than on the street. Many of them have skills that can be put to use in the workforce as well. Why not give corporate incentives for companies to put them to work like they do the disabled?

Funding Comments

The Arts have revitalized areas of Atlanta with little help from regional government. That is wrong for a city with this much going for it... Flux Projects, Beltline Arts, Living Walls, Wonderroot, The Creatives Project and a host of small start ups are trying to make up for the lowest government spending per capita in Arts of any large region. Even APS finally has a well known Fine Arts coordinator who is providing top notch arts education to our public school students and turning around a struggling program. New APS Superintendent Dr. Carstaphen talks about the importance of the arts in schools on attendance, graduation rates and teaching the whole child. We have a great art programs in spite of the poor funding from the region in the Arts. Give them some money and support it and see how it transforms the city.

This can also fall under ways to get people more involved with the community. There are so many healthcare providers and hospitals in the metro atlanta area; clinics, private practices and state backed and privately funded hospitals supply a huge employee and customer/client base that can coordinate and distribute

This can also fall under ways to get people more involved with the community. There are so many healthcare providers and hospitals in the metro atlanta area; clinics, private practices and state backed and privately funded hospitals supply a huge employee and customer/client base that can coordinate and distribute information and access on healthy behaviors through free seminars informationals rallies, health awareness and education fairs in surrounding counties (similar to county fairs but geared towards wellness; with medical and herbal specialists, yoga instructors, personal trainers etc)

Working with public and public resources is good; and consideration should be giving to allow shelters that help the homeless tax breaks, and at least discounts on utilities. If it is giving to big businesses, it should be giving and even more to shelters!

Giving 1st graders a government paid I-pad should go far. More socialism!

Local Government, businesses and individuals is more than enough. Initiative by individuals will accomplish this.

Progressive local governments are already doing this

Broadband is a ubiquitous resource used to accomplish so many things. As such, government ought to be more involved in providing and regulating it as is done with other vital utilities.

Funding Comments

I am not interested in this if richer areas are given earlier or better access. I recommend starting in poorer areas in hopes it might attract home owners/renters that will revitalize the area. I do not typically support investing government money to raise property value. I think this is a rare case where government can use something it ought to be doing (broadband) to encourage something it wants but it should not be a big player in (property value).

Please do not use my tax money to benefit or fund companies. Those companies inevitably take advantage of citizens like myself.

Investment in a public utility internet backbone connection via WI-FI would be great.

Companies should provide their own incentives to insure that this would not be a handout program when they fail and take the money and run deal.

Keep government out of this!

This could be used in underdeveloped areas to catapult investment.

Not a bad idea, but time & money would be better invested elsewhere.

P-P-Ps are back-door government control.

Georgia Tech must be given priority over all other universities in the state. Innovations come from technologies and sciences. In my opinion, the wisest money would be spent on GT.

This is a must. The added jobs will widen the local tax base to pay for initiatives in transportation, education and public safety.

This is important, but I don't believe it should be as high of a priority for city government. Partnerships will come naturally as a result of a more well- developed and well-connected city.

I think that this industry is self sustaining. It does not need government dollars.

Work to create a more competitive environment among ISPs. Use South Korea's government policy as a model.

as long as the government keeps there fingers out thing might just work out

Yes, but only as they bring jobs. Otherwise these are funded privately.

Private sector should control this, not government.

I hate to say it, but once the private sector gets involved, projects seem to become cash cows for the private side and short sighted. I like the idea between governments and universities, however.

incentives should not be tax based but rather should be focused on quality of life

this is great, but not something we should invest money into with all of the other areas that need funding

Funding Comments

this is great, but not something we should invest money into with all of the other areas that need funding

Partnerships with government only mean restrictions.

If, by incubator, you mean tax cuts, then yes.

too many companies have received incentives & govt \$ that have gone bust. huge tax dollars wasted on these programs that would have been better spent elsewhere.

Solicit companies like Microsoft, Google, ComCast, AT&T, Sprint, etc. to invest vice using tax payer dollars. Let the companies include a means to advertise their support of that investment.

Either partner with Google or build our own fiber network and include the cost of maintenance in our taxes.

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Another DUMB question . . . the average citizen doesn't realize there are already partnerships between government, universities, and private sector . . . DUH

Encourage Google Fiber to expand into the Atlanta market using government right of way and offer incentives.

Encourage Google Fiber to expand into the Atlanta market using government right of way and offer incentives.

That's an issue for government to tackle not government

Where are the funds coming from?

Look for every opportunity to keep taxes low, while providing incentives for job creators

Incentives= tax breaks. I think a desirable locale and work force bring long term invested growth.

Not at a taxpayers cost. If private industry wants to take this on with some sort of carrot - fine as long as it's not like cable tv that froze out competition.

I think these people have a space, and I would rather see a space for other types of companies. At the same time I recognize the investment opportunities available from these types of companies.

I think these people have a space, and I would rather see a space for other types of companies. At the same time I recognize the investment opportunities available from these types of companies. It is not a priority, but I don't think that it would hurt.

Funding Comments

government needs to stay out of it

I feel corporations get enough tax breaks .. it's time for their to carrying their fair share of investment costs.

As long as this doesn't become a funnel of money for the cronies in government, which is what I've seen happen with most of these programs. Small business incubators. I'd love to see an accurate accounting of those dollars. I'll bet it was 100 percent waste.

The universities are already falling all over themselves to do this without the meddling of local governments -- governments that lack any expertise, experience, or skills in this area. Leave it to the pros.

Lower the taxes. Nothing provided for bringing in more Illegal Aliens!

Take government out - Government controls too much.

unless all start up companies receive the same incentive and it's not something that comes out of every taxpayers pocket, fine. Again, local legislature passes bill on this.

I'm unsure of costs and what's involved here. I'm for access to high speed internet but I don't know how the key areas would be defined or if public money is the best way to fund this solution. Let's try the other solutions first.

Caveat: Publicly funded research should be in the public domain, not locked up in private journals.

I know everyone wants to help the up and coming compaines but we need a solid base first. Too much money spent on up and coming companies can be a waste as a large percentage of those companies go out of business in the first year.

People know where they are moving. They do not need extra tax payer money to make that neighborhood a better place. If they want one, then they should attend a HOA meeting and rally together.

my community has nothing to offer in regular run of the mill apartments, we would like the option of the new innovative apartments with flowers and scenery. We work and pay taxes we don't see any thing for our tax dollars.

Cars are choking our communities. Transit needs to be our #1 priority and that means LESS CARS. Support MARTA at the state level, and explore funding new transit options that are for residents, not just tourist attractions like the street car

Limit the number of houses an investor can buy in a 1 yr & 5 yr period. Prohibit foreign companies & individuals from buying homes for investment with a 3 yr. occupancy clause. Stop selling neighborhood properties to big businesses. ex. Friendship Baptist Church

Private business and residents will take care of this. We don't need Regional Governments interffering

Funding Comments

I'd rather the government not focus on superfluous purposes like entertainment until the government better addresses their primary purposes.

Just a money driven project.

The sense of community should still be thru church based events...the government need not be involved.

not the responsibility of government

Ease up on the restrictive laws that are expensive and cumbersome to small business owners. Make it possible for a small business owner to hire more people. Keep the taxes very low.

It already is. Please institute a tax on parking so it becomes more expensive and other options become feasible. Taxes should also be placed on surface street lots to incentivize further development.

Not the governments job!

The trolly is silly, its not going to work, its going make traffic worse and its going to increase the amount of money people spend on parking because guess what THEY WILL STILL HAVE TO DRIVE.

provide city funded parking in major tourist areas.

The Beltline laid out recommendations for including affordable housing, and this has yet to be implemented. Economic diversity is key to creating a vibrant neighborhood, and the city should create incentives for developers to incorporate. Pushing the lower classes into far-flung suburbs is not a solution.

Should be tried before fully scaled and not government subsidized

We should be making it less available and/or taxing it to encourage other modes of transport.

If we can do this right, all other priorities will follow. Walkable communities are healthy communities. They are desired by young highly educated innovators. This is what the next generation wants. To compete on a global scale this is by far the best investment we can make.

It feels like although there is plenty of new housing being built, it's all being geared toward the wealthy, while neglecting middle and lower class families.

Eliminate pay to park on public roads, since my tax dollars already paid for the streets and maintenance.

As we have seen in the newly founded Marietta-Luckie district, (in conjunction with Olympic Park and the fountains) attractions and events BRING THE PEOPLE, and those people bring the money. Thus making the immediate area safer, more walkable, and a place locals and tourists alike WANT to be.

Funding Comments

Existing neighborhood infrastructure should be preserved, but developers and the government should work with property owners to maximize density where appropriate. For example - partnering to build new housing or office space above existing historic structures to incorporate them together.

Here's an incentive: The farther you live away from work based on miles, the higher you pay in taxes. By implementing this, it will encourage those to move closer to where they work to ease traffic flow and spread out the concentration of housing and work to smaller or spread out communities. If it's so sprawl-y in Atlanta, take advantage by improving neglected neighborhoods that are still in the vicinity of metro Atlanta, like directly west of the City of Atlanta.

"protecting existing neighbors" usually code for constricting housing supply which forces people to move to suburbs

The market should provide housing options. Atlanta is still very affordable. If you want to keep long-timers who may have limited resources, limit real estate taxes to levels established at time of purchase. - THAT will allow existing residents to be able to afford to stay in their homes. And That is all that government should be doing to/for housing.

Economic development zones that encourage developers to build affordable housing is the best way to do this.

Especially critical to this solution is that alternative methods of transportation are RELIABLE. Traditional bus service is still subject to the same traffic congestion as POVs and is almost always running later than scheduled. Investment in increased rail transit service, or BRT at the very least, will be much more effective toward this goal.

waste of tax money's

Income inequality is one of the worst problems facing today's cities. Atlanta could get ahead by developing and maintaining a vast expanse of housing.

Multi-housing for all income levels. Will the less fortunate dwellers have to use the back door and not mingle with the upper income group? Yes this needs to be done.

As much as I get upset when enough parking space has not been provided, this is a short term solution. Rather than spending 100's of thousands for parking, I would think the money would be better spent in public transportation modes

I like the parks idea, but the events is too short term. Once the money is gone, so are the events.

Funding Comments

This is a sensitive subject...I only put a thumbs down because I believe funding needs to be heavily increased to other areas. I do believe there is a fine line and balance between preserving history and moving forward with innovation. When there is a major discrepancy, I do tend to side with preserving what is 'working.' One of the strongest correlations between residents and how well they take care of their surroundings is both since of pride and ownership. Therefore it is very important to not disrupt what they cherish or have had shown pride in for decades.

Diversity in housing types is important. Some lifestyles are opulent and wasteful. These should not be supported.

Let the private sector develop housing options.

Again, this is offensive lip service. ARC has talked about this for years, but ARC keeps encouraging developers to tear down affordable housing and replace it with expensive housing. If the ARC had a real program for actually promoting construction and preservation of affordable housing, and for providing enhancements that would encourage demand and improvements in existing affordable communities, I would support it.

This only supports the uncontrolled growth of the suburbs. There should be a use tax on parking within Atlanta.

private & charitable organizations should take care of this, not government

Low priority. How can you expect people to enjoy a park if they can't get to work or don't have suitable housing???

But make working for it a condition. (NO investment, no pride or respect for ownership)

Yes, but again with limited money. People tend to not change unless they have to.

Yes, but with limited money spent. I would encourage developers to use some of the beautiful old buildings but I don't want to see a lot of tax money go here.

Funding Comments

Not free housing, even if unemployed. If a person does not have money, then they need to volunteer to work at some community service, until equal to the payment of the house. Teach our generation and the future generations, to give back, not to always hold out your hand and expect to receive something for nothing. This is lazy and does not promote pride in our individual selves, nor in our State or Country - America. Appreciation is better observed when we have to contribute in some way for things received. We have forgotten to teach our children and each others the meaning of this, and to keep up the reminder. Have pride in yourself, community and learn to contribute, also teach others, and our children that nothing is owed to them, and not to expect something for nothing. Our country was not built that way. No country is built that way, and cannot remain established with this train of thought.

Property tax levels for longer term residents should stay low, as values rise.

Not a government responsibility; provide tax incentives to private developers

I think that we need less transient housing and more permanent housing as we are trying to develop a sense of community, not a landing place for year.

Although I think this is a worthy goal, I am not sure this is the work that government can do well--I think it is up to residents.

While this important, I appears to me that it is already being done by those communities that care. WE,ve seen many past failures of city and county govt waisting money in this area.

Section 8 housing is keeping my neighborhood from prospering. It's the hub of crime in the area.

Private sector. Keep government out.

Again, this one is tricky. The last thing you want are more projects that breeds killers. Of course everyone needs housing, but there needs to be incentives for good behavior. Most of the lower income people want a nice, safe place like everyone does. Eve though I'd never live in a gated community, maybe they should try it and have incentives in place for tidy yards, no load musc, etc. again, tape the marketing minds. Creative minds are amazing.

I signed up and did the Clean Air Campaing car pooling with my roommates to work for 6 months....felt more like a nuisance of data collecting for the government than receiving any true incentive or communication for our participation. Was a let down.

Allow housing developers easy access to approval processes.

This includes varied types of housing...apartments, brownstones/townhomes, etc.

Funding Comments

We have housing options for all income levels. You live where you can afford to live. Again, crime and an 'entitlement' class will go away when they are required to provide for themselves. NO one wants to live in unsafe areas. Not even the people who live there. You can not expect someone who has their rent paid for them will take care of the property. They have no skin in the game. In our culture of corruption, reality is that govt entanglement in the private sector negatively impacts private property rights and destroys communities by paying people for bad decisions. The welfare state of America is a government caused cancer and the cause of many of our ills and perhaps the cause of this survey.

yes, this is a decision by the county and city officials (who can be voted out when necessary) to abide by what the people want for their neighborhoods through public safety paid by local tax dollars.

provide incentives to entrepreneurial individuals who will do this for you rather than trying to control with government

support community organizations who want to organize events. we do not need government trying to force events.

This is a tough call: I respect bikers and their right to be on the roads. But honestly, as a non-biker, I'm not sure I want money going toward this.

To me the key word in this statement is RAPID. The way the current bus schedules are set up, I end up spending much more time on my commute when I ride a bus than I do when I drive. That's why I've gone back to driving. My time is more important to me than the money I save riding the bus. If there were a way to reduce the amount of time it takes to commute via a bus, I would go back to riding the bus.

Yes, but do we really need to repave our roads as often as we do? I think it's a waste and we do it to provide government jobs. Not because we need it done!

I know people that bike to work with what infrastructure we already have. I support this if it is comparable transportation investment compared to other modes of transit.

More lanes encourage more traffic. People will only use public transit when the cost (time+money) of using their cars becomes prohibitive. This can be seen by comparing ATL to other major cities. It has been confirmed in studies. The history of ATL supports this idea as well.

I am a native Atlanta resident since the early 50's and have watched the decline of the streets for about 20 years ago. I have watched the original road funding get diverted to political pet projects rather than use the funds for what they were allocated for. This must stop.

Funding Comments

This is a nice perk but watching the current bikers and courier bikers constantly disobey all traffic laws and cause traffic accidents due to their arrogant attitudes, I would not vote for any funding for this project.

Poorly controlled traffic signals are our biggest time-waster. Spend more money on signal and intersection upgrades and engineers.

HUGE waste of money with little return.

One state transit system would be the way to go. State funding to MARTA, it is a huge economic engine for the state!

You're already wasting \$1 Billion on a single interchange. It's time to start putting transportation money to better use.

Stop using taxpayer money to build roads for non-Atlantans and build mass transit!

Stop using taxpayer money to build roads for non-Atlantans and build mass transit!

Highways should clear the breakdown lane and encourage drivers to use them if exiting at the next exit

We actually have decent connection to major job centers - we just have poor connection from those centers to major housing areas. We lack connection to both job centers and housing centers outside the Atlanta city limits. For example, Cobb Galleria area, Perimeter Mall area, and other nodes along 285.

Too many dollars will be spent and wasted on this effort, and Southerners will still drive even if they have to sit in 90 minutes of traffic to travel six miles.

This seems to me to be the smartest way to spend tax dollars in a way that will have the biggest long-term impact. Every forward-thinking urban center in the world has an advanced, easily accessible, comprehensive public transit rail transportation system. Atlanta must do the same to remain economically competitive. In short, car traffic in Atlanta is a nightmare that threatens the long-term prosperity of the City.

Avoid spending money on wasteful, unsustainable, rail systems.

Maintaining existing infrastructure is a necessity for both safety and return on past investments.

I commute from the suburbs. Bike paths would not be beneficial. I do not see many bikers commuting to work. I think money would be better spent elsewhere.

Great idea, where your going to get the money? Heaven forbid that the gas tax is raised to repair our infrastructure. That goes against the idiots that are our current elected officials. You use you pay.

INCREASE THE GAS TAX

As long as the new counties contribute to the costs at the same level as existing funding counties.

Funding Comments

Atlanta has low population density and many widely dispersed employment centers. Ultra-expensive fixed guideway transit cannot meet the needs of a region with low population density and widely dispersed employment centers, and is not a cost-effective use of our limited transportation dollars in this region. - Managed lanes, express buses, revisit GRTA's RTAP

I support expanding bike paths and trails but this should not be our top priority with limited transportation dollars. This will have little impact on improved mobility for most people, and the benefit is more for recreation than traffic flow. This should be funded through local SPLOSTs

Aside from a regional rail line that can reach Chattanooga/Nashville, Athens/Agusta/Savannah/Jacksonville, Macon/Columbs and Birmingham/points west - it needs to be local as well, stopping at towns in between. Go to the Northeast and see this work and stop wasting money on week long seminars by inexperienced 'professionals' in the Bahamas. This needs to be RAIL - not another damn bus

You collect millions of dollars to 'study' transportation - then you never invest in light rail, and you buy giant buses that cost \$1000s a day to carry 3 people. But smaller buses that run more often at peak times, and put in the light rail to locations needed and stop duplicating the existing subway lines. Light rail is not a tourist element, it's for the people who live and work here.

Money for transit is extremely limited versus the high cost of rail. Given low density in many areas of the region, bus is the best option. ITP may have areas suitable for light rail if combined with density.

private & charitable organizations should take care of this, not government

This will require additional revenue sources; recommend a penny sales tax throughout the region to fund these infrastructure repairs which create jobs.

This is a regional decision. Government should not intrude.

MARTA needs to be expanded across county lines and funded by all counties for a system that allows travel from one section to another in less than 2 hours.

Not just major job centers, because workers come from all sections of the metro area. The transportation system must include residential areas also with rapid buses and rail service. That means service that is funded adequately and runs on time to all areas of the metro Atlanta.

As a general observation, our roads and bridges appear to be in good repair. Money needs to be channeled to other forms of transportation.

Funding Comments

After 22 years in Atlanta I am still shocked when perfectly good roads are resurfaced. It seems like roads could be resurfaced half as often and the money put to use promoting transit and bike lanes.

Lets not waiting for a bridge to collapse or a watershed dam to fail. Money for maintenance is money well spent.

Great source of money to help economy grow and much needed. Our roads are falling apart.

Yes for safety, but not for as a the main use of money.

A statewide tax for transit funding comparable to one of the 49 states that do fund transit.

If the gov't would you the designated taxes for what they were intended instead of moving them to other pet items.

Use the taxes that are supposed to be used for infrastructure - do not move these dollars to government pet projects.

I would like to see a light-rail system, such as the beltline in MY LIFETIME. This is a good use of my tax dollars.

Just an absolute waste of time and money. No matter how many lanes we add, it isn't sustainable. We need to provide more meaningful public transportation options that connect vibrant and distinct city centers.

Not important at the moment. Atlanta itself has control of the Southeast in terms of talent and is the only legit city here so expand on that by building a city that promotes businesses and people to come here. Where would you build a high speed rail to? Miami? NY? Waste of money. Get on a plane for now and the next 20 years. If we grow, the trains could come. If we were close to another actual city, that might make sense

by use of tolls and gasoline tax. The people who use it pay for it.

Follow the Current Cycle Atlanta Plan, Support funding for completing the Atlanta Beltline, Path 400, and Connect the Comet

We have a whole ocean that Georgia can use for drinking water if desalinization plants are built (as they were supposed to be about 10 years ago). If the state builds plants like this, then the metro area will not have to fight with other states for drinking water, wasting time, energy, and ridiculous amounts of money which can be put to much better uses.

County government responsibility.

Good luck with this. Let's take the new stadium in Cobb County for instance. Only money talks!

Sure! Via local and County governments

Force the current violators to pay for all the clean up they caused instead of raising taxes. No political favors to be exempt from all costs.

Funding Comments

This seems like a less effective use of money. Those who are concerned with water conservation usually are already taking action on their own.

Won't happen developers have to much money to give to elected officials.

Focus on the rest first. The money, land, and other resources needed to create this would be much better used in other areas of the regional plan.

Using the existing granite (?) mine just west of downtown as a reservoir is a smart idea. I just hope you all don't blow the budget on another Bahama's 'meeting' to discuss things and get nothing done.

private & charitable organizations should take care of this, not government

Where are funds coming from?

Whose money is paying for this?

Provide incentives for private developers to accomplish this; not the taxpayers.

Partner with non-profits instead of spending tax money

This is important, however I would hope this could achieve with funds from those who polluted and the Federal govt, not city and state funding.

You are going to have development and you need it but reward development that adds to community. Have money put in a "community" trust and if the development adds to the community in five key components in 20 years the money can be split by the developer and the city.

We need to learn to conserve and protect water and not spend tons of money on reservoirs.

Reduce taxes on new locally owned businesses to encourage growth

This is not (yet) a social government environment. Parents and individual students need to prepare.

Businesses ought not expect colleges or government to provide training for the jobs they offer. This is a bad practice that continues to grow in my field (Software Engineering)

Search for the report of "job creation" Planet Money made for NPR. I do not believe most claims regarding "new jobs". Creating jobs ought not be a primary function of government.

These are not primary functions of government.

Sounds like another way to raise taxes for pork projects instead of what is intended.

My child is consistently left out of most programs because we don't qualify for free lunch, she is not a 'minority' and she studies hard and gets good grades. So, please put an emphasis on ALL youth. I'm tired of seeing my tax dollars go only to a

Funding Comments

selected few.

Get rid of all the administrators and put the power back at the principal level. Spend education money more wisely. Sickening how much is spend on administrative positions.

I think some of the education money/resources spent on youth should be shared with people of all ages

Don't use tax dollars

not governments place or responsibility

If "incentives" is just another word for tax breaks, no.

Create incentives for employers to contribute to this training, perhaps through some public-private partnerships that provide funding or other resources (trainers, training sites, technology for training, etc.).

This does not mean throw more money at the problem.

I say "no" to a lot of these things, not because I don't think they're important, but because they're not government (or P-P-P's) business. Get out of the way and watch the private sector go!

My taxes are crushing, going primarily to education, which I do not benefit from.

"incentives" to corporations are too generous and smack of corporate welfare for businesses that are already making substantial profits. Setting a business friendly low regulation environment and making it easier to open a business (cutting red tape at city hall) are better, fairer strategies than spending public money to attract business

I think what Georgia has done with the film industry is absolutely amazing. It's making our city thrive and if they are smart they will keep it up with the tax incentive.

How about - get some control over the various Boards of Education in the region so that they start spending funds to improve education rather than just throwing money at the problem without reason or plan.

Require companies to finance these programs if public facilities are used.

Make all school tuition tax deductible.

The schools that perform poorly have stupid kids and irresponsible parents. Don't waste more money trying to fix something unfixable.

Do so without compromising neighborhood quality with Section 8 housing.

I think the tax incentives that have attracted the movie industry are very helpful.

Funding Comments

Bring back HOPE in its original form. That basically serviced this perfectly. Don't allow funding to go to for profit schools and predatory schools that advertise on late night tv.

There are many ways to finance higher education. The problem is finding a well paying job so that students can pay their debts.

HOPE Scholarships are amazing, yes, but maybe there's a way to flow the money stream to students of minority backgrounds-- not just by GPA

Agreed, but incentives need to be structured in a way that is sustainable and will encourage intrinsic motivation. For example, DeKalb Workforce Development has an incentive policy for youth where money can be shelled out to youth for various reasons, but this doesn't incentivize education, it incentivizes money.

Not if this just means tax breaks.

Incentives can be a broad topic. Some I could be for. Others I would consider a waste of taxpayer money.

While this is very important, I believe this should come after funding has been secured for other higher priority areas.

Partnerships and incentives are already in place. We need to focus more energy and investment on developing the workforce necessary to attract and fuel 21st century jobs.

The market will do this on its own without government involvement

The market will make this happen on its own without government involvement. As long as the talent is in place, there is an incentive for business to locate here.

Government needs to get out of private industry's way, less regulation, less taxes, and let them drive the economy.

Minimize special tax breaks. They are unfair to other businesses and may not accomplish anything.

Incentive usually mean tax breaks, the region needs revenue

Private employers should train their employees. Not a great use of taxpayer funds. Business demands can change very quickly. Hard for region to respond in any case

Absolutely, but you do this by lowering taxes across the board - business, property and sales. You do not make this happen by stealing money from hard working people to go to the Bahama's and discuss the issue over a long week of drinks and beaches.

This is not the role of any Government. If you can do this by bringing in private companies who can educate a workforce that will enhance their business, everyone will win. Another 'meeting' in the Bahamas to discuss options is not going to do anything but waste money and time.

This needs to be done by lowering the tax base across the board - for business, property and sales.

Funding Comments

This needs to be reviewed thoroughly, we don't to burden the individual taxpayer to benefit a corporation.

Incentives should not be further reduction in taxes for corporations. We are tax poor due to legislative efforts over the past 10-20 years.

APS should not get any more money without dramatically restructuring. Are school administrators so rare and sought after that they should be making \$300K/yr?

Existing tax payer dollars used in the area of schools and education programs should focus on this area.

Finance, local stock market, help with business services even if it is a cooperative arrangement

part of this is being aware and involved with local organizations that are already on the ground doing this. there are many organizations that struggle for monetary support to provide much needed assistance to develop and further our talent pools. in my own time, I focus on activities that focus on and promote STEM initiatives such as MathCounts, FutureCities, and any other organization that takes part in providing the mentors and volunteers for these type of organizations, such as SWE, WTS, NSBE, SHPE, Scholarship Academy, etc.... but they all have funding challenges...and girls and children of color are not aware of key activities that will give them a leg up on the competitive job marketplace... we need to support (incentivize) mentors/coaches that will work with disadvantaged youth in programs like MathCounts and FutureCities, to give our children exposure to a different and sometimes a brighter future.

I agree that we should do that but again, the money gets lost in the political process.

That is available but again, the politicians don't spend the appropriated money wisely especially in Atlanta.

Pay our teachers more, assist them with professional development opportunities, keep student-teacher ratios down around 20:1, plan for the future with demographic analyses, and bring back recess on safe school playgrounds that inspire creative, unstructured play and interpersonal interaction. I will applaud a reallocation or increase in my taxes if you can show me you're doing this well.

private & charitable organizations should take care of this, not government

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Funding Comments

private & charitable organizations should take care of this, not government

I am sick of buying companies to come to Georgia while the taxpayer pays to subsidize their profits. It has become a great give away party with the mayor and governor bragging about what they have done.

Too many tax payer incentives burden existing taxpayers. New companies should pay taxes for the public services they need and use.

Fulton pays \$13k per student for poorly rated Atlanta Public Schools; someone like Fayette pays \$9k with all highly rated schools. It isn't a matter of throwing money at the problem...

Private sector does this. No more wasted tax dollars on programs like head Start. Get real.

Make starting and running a business, managing money, and investment procedures components of public schooling.

Do not give tax incentives...

Where is the money coming from to provide?

Students who excel should be educated to their highest capacity as investment in the future.

Stop using public ed tax money for the Beltline. Support public schools instead of charters.

These kinds of initiatives sound good but they could mean giving public money to private industry.

but NOT via government, which is too big to be managed

Except when those partnerships and incentives allow the company to shirk tax or regulatory burden.

This is fully the responsibility of the business community, perhaps in partnership with government, but will little to no investment from the government.

These are loaded questions. GA continually ranks last in education, battling for the position with Mississippi. Boo. OBVIOUSLY The Answer is NOT more money. Try something else! I believe the decreased level of involvement of parents and children has deteriorated the Family; without cohesive, supportive Families America gets stupid on SO many levels. Someone needs to stay Home with the kids. We do NOT need 2-income "Families." The school system is raising this bunch of kids and they are SUCKING at it.

I have grave reservations about the effectiveness or propriety of government picking winners and losers.

fight the federal government which is forcing our jobs overseas..

with a hook, keep them iemployed withing the state for a given length of time so we can reap the benefits of the moneys we spent on this "higher education"

Funding Comments

opposed to tax break incentives as businesses should be willing to invest in the community where they are located. If not, they can go elsewhere.

No tax breaks or bonds

No tax breaks or bonds, pls.

Again, a conditional yes. So many new businesses fail that throwing money at them is often the equivalent of throwing money away. It is also rife for cronyism. Any type of agency that did this would have to be very rigorous and held accountable for every dollar it spent.

I also give this one a conditional yes. We have too many for-profit schools that make empty promises to students while padding their pockets with financial aid money. I would only support this if the for-profit schools were held to very high standards - like high job placement and low drop out rates.

This only works if the opportunities are real. We've had too many of these agencies in the past that were corrupt or incompetent. Staff these agencies through a rigorous search and hiring process, not because someone knows someone. Back scratching has got to stop. It's a stain on local government and the only way to clean it up is to stop political appointees. It's rife for abuse.

I'm afraid our politicians give too much away in negotiating incentives and public-private partnerships. They don't protect the taxpayer.

Yes, but this can become a slippery slope. It can be accomplished with local/state government getting out of the way, and making the licensing and approval process streamlined.

Redirect funding for athletics to classroom instruction

I said "No" here because it is too vaguely worded. There are ways to encourage without engaging in corporate welfare, and I support those. But tax giveaways, etc., are not OK.

Public-private partnerships are all the rage, I suppose, but they will come back to bite us in the end. Let capital be capital, and let it be separate from the state government.

Cut taxes

Not for Illegal Aliens.

Cut taxes

Ensure implies 'force'. Education is available for all youth now. The only thing that does not ensure it is quality are restrictions placed on teachers and administrators and the requirement of disruptive members of the community to attend against their will. You can lead a horse to water.....Until the 'state' stops funding the perpetual cycle of dependency 'it' has created, 'it' will continue to breed ill behavior and an entitlement attitude costly to society both economically and in lack of safety.

Funding Comments

No partnerships with the government. Incentives only through a friendlier business climate by reducing taxes and regulations.

I'm all for advanced education but am unsure of how such incentives and assistance would be funded - or more importantly, what would have to be "unfunded" to afford this solution.

Providing incentives is fine depending on what they are; but giving all these tax breaks to companies for jobs, only puts a burden on the residents which is not a good idea at all!

There are enough parks, there just not developed enough. Like mulberry park in dacula. Huge area nothing there. Let people have open markets, sales, festivals, camping. Put our tax dollars to a really good use. People working have no stress relief.

Disabled, old and vets yes no one else. Tired of paying government funded everything bailouts.

People move out of the city to get away from mass transit bus systems. High capacity transit just makes higher crime. Too much big government, let us keep some of our tax dollars and we would be fine. Do a 10% tax across the board on all earned income no other taxes.

This is not a government issue!

Too much government involvement involvement

Funding should be distributed in a way such that schools are more equal - the poorest areas shouldn't be expected to independently fund their own schools, as this leads to detrimental quality compared to rich areas.

As always, tax incentives must be rigorously monitored. Often these tax credits are cash sinkholes that enhance a city/region's brand (ie. NYC's film tax credits). In many cases these tax credits continue even as education budgets suffer (ie. any tax credit in Georgia). So, I'd stress keen oversight over any tax credits. Of course, some investments take time to pay off. So, in this case, I'd just urge caution. But not caution at the expense of investment.

Generally, these are just wastes of money. But, if other regions (ACELA corridor, Austin TX, Silicon Valley, Those Jerks In Russia) are providing competitive incentives, and it's clear we're losing out - then, yes, please throw money at the problem. Be sure to take it from anywhere but education and preferably not transportation.

I don't that this necessarily has to involve giving massive tax breaks for the supposed benefits that "trickle" down into the community - i.e. the new Falcons stadium

Costs must be reasonable for consumers. Currently costs are too high.

Costs must be reasonable for consumers. Currently costs are too high.

Funding Comments

Include practical skills for life--how to manage money, communicate appropriately with a partner, balance competing demands, protect & nurture children, etc.

can use volunteers w/o creating a new tax or expense.

Get the private sector to donate funds

Not at taxpayer expense. taxes are too high no. If business is good or a good idea, a bank will loan money.

sure as long as it doesn't cost anything to create.

If involvement means giving more money, then no.

Make sure healthcare is affordable to everybody. Our politicians just fight each other out of ambition, not thinking that our health should not be a business opportunity. Healthcare should be for everybody the same, even if it would mean more taxes. It is not right that some people have to suffer because our idiotic healthcare system. Obamacare is the first step toward something better, and is fought by Congress.

Housing options come from the private sector, this should not be part of the public plan. If there is a need for housing, there will become a vendor to supply it.

We already have better quality roads than most of the country due to not having snow, etc. Please put money towards expanding alternative transportation options.

We need to stop widening roads. This leads to higher speeds, but also more congestion. We're also wasting so much money on road projects. Please focus that money on transportation modes other than driving.

I'm seeing some phenomenal growth related to the Beltline, but the proliferation of new housing is priced high and isn't in line with the existing/former income levels of the areas. I'm worried about affluent white professionals taking over intown Atlanta - even more than I've seen to this point.

Get rid of the current school board system in favor of a single system or a "charter school zone" - where all the schools in the 13 county metro area are charters instead of run from a separate governmental entity in lines of attendance determined by geography. Funding can be raised by the state using current taxing systems and distributed as a per student basis to each charter school.

Would like to see mixed income communities with affordable housing.

Well duh. It doesn't cost anything to go to public school. Just improve the K-12 public education system. I'd pay a few more bucks in property taxes for that even though I don't have any kids in school.

Funding Comments

NO Tax money for this. Businesses are getting tax breaks, let them donate a deserted area/building and allow the homeless to farm and use area

STOP being a nanny state. Just allow people to have chickens and grow their own food without all the govt restrictions and they will have access to low cost food

All public transit needs to be expanded, re-funded, rationalized; people simply assume that Atlanta is an autopolis, & must stay that way. Public policies certainly do. That must change, because of its irrationality & its unfairness to the working class (the majority of people) many of whom don't own cars.

Government involvement usually means they dictate what localities build and develop. Gov't only distorts and complicates an issue, especially the Federal level.

We should get maximum mileage from roads already paid for by taxpayers.

If this original investment is like a pilot, I support this but I would like the resources to be available to all, not just some.

ARC should not be involved in this. Let the universities and business community handle. Regional governments should not be involved in this item.

Stop wasting taxpayer money with boondoggles. Haven't you learned anything from the failures of the ARC T-SPLOST proposal that was soundly rejected by voters?

This is not a responsibility of ARC. Leave this to local governments.

This is not a responsibility of ARC. Leave this to local governments.

As long as "affordable" does not mean higher middle-class taxes

As long as "affordable" does not mean higher middle-class taxes...Foster community gardens, wherein volunteer "gardeners" reap what they sow

As long as "assistance and incentives" do not mean higher middle-class taxes

subsidized housing should be through leasing public land to developers who in turn collect lower rent on 20% of the housing stock, not through higher middle-class taxes

Yes as long as "affordable" does not mean higher middle-class taxes

Yes as long as "assistance and incentives" do not mean higher middle-class taxes

Yes as long as businesses are willing to pay, and it does not mean higher middle-class taxes

I have voted this "No" not because I think that it isn't an important problem, but because I'm not sure how, or even if, government should be involved in this issue.

Funding Comments

This option is somewhat vague. If it is a question of revitalization vs demolition then I agree. If it is about providing affordable housing to counteract gentrification, I also agree. If it is about preserving an old structure because it is old, I disagree.

This is not a proven strategy in terms of cost effectiveness.

I like this idea but MARTA needs to be better funded and expanded first.

Not sure what this implies. If it means taxes, then no more incentives needed. If it means enhancing and adding advanced learning campuses and expanding the HOPE types of scholarship grant programs, then I would support this line of thinking.

Sounds good but a bit idealistic. Preservation of historic areas will be more important. Reuse of old kudzu patches is a wonderful long range plan (i.e. The Beltline) but generally money is needed in areas like transportation and water more than walkable communities...but maybe I'm old school.

It seems that by the time a government program allows this to occur, other solutions will have been developed.

We need more affordable housing in Metro Atlanta. Not everyone can afford to pay \$800 for a 1 bedroom apt. or \$200K for a new home. There needs to be housing for people that work but don't make a great deal of money or have only 1 income due to illness.

Funding for a park in the Rowland Road vicinity.

Almost all of these options scream "money." This is an industry that has a lot of money and makes a lot of money, so I would urge balancing out where we invest money versus time or attention.

I'm for attracting good jobs but am opposed to use public funds as an incentive for a business to locate here

affordable housing in major hubs throughout the city!

Yes, but only by local governments.

I live very near the Pine Street shelter, and the only word I can think to describe it is tragedy. There aren't even trash cans in that area. And there are people everywhere all the time. It's just terrible, and obviously the local government doesn't care.

on a location by location basis - prioritize transit investments

use historic tax credits and facade improvement programs to spur adaptive reuse.

In general, providing minimal shelter and food to the homeless is less expensive than the cost to apprehend, prosecute, and incarcerate them when they turn to crime. It also keeps them off the street which diminishes the urban experience for others.

Most (if not all) additional investment in high-capacity transit should be in solutions which are adjustable and scalable

Funding Comments

Without increasing taxes, as GA already spends more per child than many other states, however, still ranks very low on quality of education.

Not your responsibility. Keep the Government out of private business.

At what cost? Do developers benefit on my tax dollar?

Not a bad idea if you have the money. What does this do for traffic congestion?

Using that funding for more pressing issues might be more appropriate.

What kind of projects and at what cost?

Who's going to pay for this? It's big money pit.

Spending money on infrastructure is necessary and critical.

use tax incentives and have leadership that is vocal about the damage done in this area due to over regulation by the present administration.

Minimize tax giveaways so the public doesn't end up subsidizing the private business to pay for more roads and public safety and other government services the business will require. Provide infrastructure support that also benefits the citizens.

when shopping/doing errands on foot- please find a way to put lockers in shopping areas/malls for those on foot that don't have cars (no trunks to put their shopping bags in) rentals to make money with too

Bargain investment in quality of life.

It is an investment in those who need it.

This is a tough nut to crack. Throwing money will be no cure. Something else is needed.

This is a tough nut to crack. Throwing money will be no cure. Something else is needed.

I'm not a fan of government providing housing so much as providing opportunities for individuals and families to be able to finance housing. The government is not a good source of housing but could create legislation to where people would have financing options.

I've lived in Atlanta my entire life and I can't imagine more resources going to helping the homeless resulting in change. I don't think such an expenditure will get a significant return on investment.

Of course, but the rising cost of tuition, the predatory for-profit institutions encouraging rampant accrual of student loan debt make this inherently difficult. In-state tuition, or stipends offered to off-set tuition for government or public service work would be helpful.

Funding Comments

The incentives should be in the form of what Atlanta can offer the employers soon-to-be employees. Offering too much in the way of tax breaks doesn't help the infrastructure of the city. We can't be the city we want to be by giving away the farm. We've got to build ourselves up to attract the kind of employers we want.

I don't want the government in anything else in our lives. They are in it too much, also the universities are too liberal.

What do they get now? Dogfood? Why don't they get healthy foods? Too much money for crack or heroin?

WE need to inform people of what's involved in being a community of involved citizens. What are the responsibilities of the parent, children and maturing adults. One must inform citizens that there is a responsibility to living in a free enterprise, democratic, representative form of government/community

Arts should be paid for by private, not public dollars.

Providing housing is not the role of government.

Spend the money to prevent homelessness. For example, fix our pathetic public education system that condemns so many people to minimum wage jobs because they never even graduated high school.

This is will happen without government incentive. In fact we already have it in my neighborhood.

Usually this is not cost effective. Stabilize the area and let nature fix the problem.

Should this read "Encourage" instead of develop? Again, market based vs. government dictate?

Who will pay for this? The taxpayers?

Who would pay for this? The taxpayers? If so, I believe they spoke loud and clear during the last SPLOST vote, and the answer was NO, and with very good reasons.

Everything of any value comes at a cost, be it sweat or cash equity. We continue to throw money at education, yet it continues to fail because the students are not investing in themselves. It's an attitude problem, not a money problem.

Private sector and universities would do well to avoid the incompetence of government.

Depends upon the definition of "environmentally damaged." A corrosive acid dump done by a company should be cleaned up. In the past, the cleanup of polluted areas has been nothing more than a sink hole for taxpayer's money. Such a program needs to have extensive and careful management to avoid corruption.

If GA has a population of well-educated students (see above comments), a right-to-work environment, and an absence of government regulations and requirements that serve only to limit competition by new companies, business will flourish. Throwing money at the issue will not result in a successful outcome.

Funding Comments

More than one GA university already has a business incubator program. Let the business community support these kinds of activities. Too much taxpayer money is thrown into "programs" that do nothing by spread the wealth around without showing benefit to student or business.

Nonsense! There are already too many Federal and State EPA rules. Citizens are having their property rights stolen by government in the name of "protecting environmentally sensitive areas."

Not a function of government.

Not a function of government.

Not a function of government.

Not a responsibility of government. MARTA provides a textbook example of how a government-run transportation system fails. MARTA riders are subsidized at around 470% by taxpayers through local sales tax and tax dollars from the Federal government. Get government out of the transportation business. This country had scores of profitable private bus transportation companies prior to 1955, when the Federal government entered the field and destroyed those private businesses. Entrepreneurs would identify profitable routes and service schedules and make a profit by doing so. In the transportation environment, the government wastes money and serves as just one more wealth distribution mechanism.

This approach is badly abused. There are too many university grants to study topics which have no bearing on improving man's situation on earth. The very term "partnership" has become a code word for wealth redistribution, taking from the taxpayers and giving to the non-working consumers.

This is not a responsibility of government.

This is not a responsibility of government.

This is not a responsibility of government.

This is not a responsibility of government.

This is not a responsibility of government.

Yes, if the involvement is voluntary, i.e, no government force or pressure to be "involved." There are currently too many rules and regulations that prevent individuals from getting involved with their community, such as laws against restaurants donating left-over food to feed the homeless.

I am not in favor of spending money's on the arts. Spend it instead on the helping the homeless, health needs of the community.

Please Don't WASTE Tax payer dollars on this. This does NOT help the transportation issue. it is only a politically correct feel good idea that does nothing to solve the problem.

Funding Comments

This is table stakes. Has to be done. Funding should never be questioned, nor should funding for these types of upkeep infringe on viable alternatives

Again a taxpayer dollar spent on something that few people use.

Need to figure out how to get these folks to become productive. Spending money does nothing to make them change their ways.

Rail or bus cost money that ends up costing taxpayers. Not a fan of either.

Tax incentives are a great way to entice business. The state has done a great job at making Georgia business friendly. Lower taxes always when out for business.

The amount of government regulation and the ability to borrow money for developments has drastically curbed the development industry. There needs to be a relaxing of regulations at all levels to encourage smart growth.

This is a personal choice, government does not need to be trying to tell folks what to eat.

This needs to remain county by county issue and not be forced into area's that do not want it. This needs to be a private business deal and it succeeds or fails based on its own merit not taxpayers dollars.

What a waste of taxpayers money.

To continue enabling people is not the answer. We give far too much to the people that claims disability. When they are able to work as well as the next tax paying individual.

Emphasis on private resources. It is not government's role in American society to seize earnings from one family when officials believe it will better serve another.

The per-student dollar allocations are already sufficient; this is not an issue tht needs "more thrown at it". Enact a vigorous teacher & administrator evaluation system to clear out those who are ineffective and to attract top performers.

This is not a government responsibility, but an important moral imperative for citizens.

Who's providing it... it's certainly not a government responsibility to seize what they consider a "fair" amount of household earnings from one family to give to another who they deem "deserve it more."

I am suspicious of "sustainable development" practices. I disagree with using taxes for such purposes!!

Local taxes yes - not regional taxes should do this.

Statistics show Manta is a huge loss of money. We are too large geographically to do this efficiently!

Absolutely NOT! Unless the LOCAL government so elects to do so with the approval of their citizens. This is NOT a Regional task!

Funding Comments

Again- private business will fill any gaps!

Again, AT&T and others are doing a pretty good job. Why? Because it enhances THEIR services. Government - stay OUT!

Good idea - for business and industry, not for governments of any sort.

Maybe! This looks like another task for our LOCAL governments - Not the Region.

Not a REGIONAL Government task. If any, perhaps, local government, coupled with businesses and local citizens can take care of this.

Of course. Through LOCAL governments.

SURE! Through locally ELECTED governments, cooperating with neighbors to reach COMMON goals.

Sure, any private business that feels they can make a profit, let's do it.

This is a business situation. NO OBAMACARE!

Those who work will migrate to the housing they can afford and enjoy. This is an individual problem to be solved by the individual. "No ticky, no laundry!"

Yes! As the Government's oversight and rules diminish, people will become more involved with their own lives. That's a hint!

ABSOLUTELY NOT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT TO PARTNER WITH BUSINESS. This becomes CRONY capitalism. Too much of this now.

But NO to REGIONAL governance making these decisions for taxpayers funding them in their own community.

In our history, the local community and the Church took care of their own. Government regulations CAUSE homelessness in the first place. **WE MUST GET GOVERNMENT OUT OF OUR BUSINESS.**

Incentives for growing businesses come from getting the GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY!

Leave this to the local community... not a role of government.

Not the function of government. The founders gave us individual sovereignty to educate our children.

NOT THE JOB OF GOVERNMENT.

NOT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT to infringe on private property rights

NOT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT.

NOT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT.

NOT the role of government.

NOT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT.

NOT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT.

The local community and private sector have always done this. Our family farms are being shut down due to government regulations. **LEAVE US ALONE!**

Funding Comments

**WHAT? GOVERNMENT should control our social lives as well?
NO! NO! NO!**

Look at other successful states. Lower taxes, less government.

Not a government responsibility!!!

Not a government responsibility. Don't spend my money on things that should be privately funded.

Not the job of the government.

That's why we have capitalism. This is not the government's job.

This is a demonstrated failure in places where it is tried. Just a way of increasing the scope of government control.

This is just a recipe for government overreach!!

I think start up opportunities need to be given to everyone, not just foreigners. There are no businesses in black communities and you can see them suffering because of it. No malls, no hospitals, no department stores, no nice grocery stores. The last time I checked black people shop, get sick and need medical help and spend money too. If big businesses don't want to go to black communities, options should at least be given for them to help themselves.

This includes middle class. Currently there is a lack of options for people who don't want to be in a luxury apartment, but who also don't qualify for low-income housing

But at NO cost to the taxpayer

But at what and who's cost? I, one of the few taxpayers remaining, do not want to pay for this...as I did not cause it.

I do not feel the government should be paying for "greeeeen space"....the local community needs to find a way to privately pay for this.

Sure, but at no or minimal cost to the taxpayer.

Who shall provide housing for "all incomes"?? Let the free market rule.

It doesn't do any good to bring in employers if the workers can't read and write. If the incentive is money to train locals for the workforce, that's great.

Charter schools work - support funding them only if we also work to improve regular public schools simultaneously.

Money is needed elsewhere. Bring Atlantans into the Digital Age before the Information.

I don't want my tax dollars paying for homeless people who can still find money to buy cigarettes and booze. Private resources to address it is a great idea, so those who CHOOSE to donate to organizations in place to take care of the homeless, may do so. However it is not the responsibility of the public to take care of those who have not been responsible enough to take care of themselves.

I don't want my tax money paying for Wi-Fi in areas I don't visit.

Funding Comments

It is not the government's job to provide housing for those who can't provide it for themselves. Job creation and promotion of people getting OUT OF the welfare system is much more beneficial to the economy.

That's great to do, but it's certainly not something that should be funded by tax dollars. People interested in the arts can fund their interest themselves. That's how economics works.

A government entity should provide access only. Charity should handle the rest.

This is a nice warm fuzzy thought, but the reality is we don't have the money for this luxury. If we can find a dedicated funding source tied to user costs that can pay for it, then I am all for it. Currently we have way too many congested roadways that can't accommodate the much greater numbers of commuters in vehicles that should be the focus of the limited transportation dollars. We need to increase transportation funding.

This should be done by private entities, not government.

This should be handled by charities, not by government.

This should be handled by private not government entities.

This should be handled by private not government entities.

This should be handled by private, not government entities.

Yes, but not on the taxpayers dime. This should be encouraged of the property owners. If the damage is leaching or passing onto other property, the owner should be forced to correct at their cost.

Yes. These are the backbone to sustaining and growing the local economy. Incentives should include tax breaks. We tax too much to pay for things that government should not be responsible for.

Not if incentives = more corporate tax credits; unsure of the extent of local economic / employment gains from these subsidies

Educate & encourage community gardens in empty lots, roof tops, public housing quads/squares, promote farmers markets

And just how are you going to ensure that? Quality affordable education is available to all youth and always has been. Parents, culture, unions, and political correctness are the primary things that stand between our youth and a quality education. Throwing money at it hasn't worked and never will.

Not one dime of taxpayer money should go to the arts.

Provide tax incentives for legitimate profitable businesses to relocate or expand here. Do not waste these resources on the unemployable who want to open a nail salon.

And how would you ensure that? This is a job for business, not government.

Business can handle this way better than government or any body of ARC.

Funding Comments

No money for arts and culture until every child is fed and educated.

this is not the job of government

This is one of the most important solutions available, and it is the least cost- and planning-intensive.

It's ok to provide infrastructure, but don't just hand money to companies - that's just corruption.

Increased mental health services will help. Give people free apartments like they have done in other cities. It is cheaper than paying for the healthcare. Increase the minimum wage so people can actually save some money so they don't end up homeless when they have a temporary crisis.

Neighborhood associations and opportunities for coming together should be supported with public funding across ALL neighborhoods.

This is done will low tax burden and simple, common-sense regulation.

A "partnership" is an association of two or more people to carry on a business as co-owners for profit. What you have in mind is not a partnership. Keep the government and egg-headed professors and deans out of the picture. The only role for the government is to establish fair and predictable rules for investors.

By incentive I assume you mean special incentives. This is nothing more than crony capitalism. Quality jobs will flow to places that offer low taxes, excellent roads, and a high degree if individual freedom.

Who's doing the "investing" here? Government (i.e., taxpayers)? Again, no investing except by people who have their own money at stake.

Do not allow control by Federal Government via budgeted dollars, maintain local control!

Incentives should be competitive with other regions but have a pay back feature where beneficiaries of the incentives pay back over time as they become profitable. Taxes paid by new employees and generated by new monies into the system should be used to justify incentives and paback.

Make public schools compete with private and charter schools for funding via accountability systems they can't cheat!

Make the private sector share in the costs

Should be paid for by users - employers, employees (calculate the savings of not driving & charge a fee) and local support businesses who benefit from all the additional business (tax a % of sales). Should not be financed by tax payers who will seldom or never use the system.

Funding Comments

SPLOST monies are good for this but must only be used if the county's normal transportation budget cannot accommodate the costs. SPLOST \$ should not be used to simply raise taxes to create a slush fund to be used by unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats, ripe for corruption and favoritism.

They already have this available and choose to eat as they do. If local farmers want to set up a farmers market great, make it a free enterprise op not a government jobs program, if you do it at all.

Unless it is a blighted hood, then private & public funding is appropriate, use incentives with strings

We've paid taxes to add lanes only to have the state convert them to money makers that don't serve everyone. GREED!

As long as you don't have ANY taxpayer money involved.

Get the government out of private business and universities.

Government decreases jobs when they get involved. Fix the tax structure and this will take care of itself.

Housing is a personal responsibility not government. If there is a market for it, it will be built.

Let private enterprise do it. Get government out of the way. No taxpayer should be involved.

No government or tax payer involvement

Not a government function. Private enterprise should do this.

Private charities should do this not government.

Private enterprise should do this. If ppl want it they should pay for it, not the taxpayer.

Tax policies should be for all of us. Go to a flat tax or something like it. Get special interest and politics out of taxes.

Again! let the local governments and populace decide - Stay out!

Again, local governments

Again, private business will provide if profitable. Stay out!

And just how do you plan on accomplishing this. Move people off their land and into urban situations so the Government can control food supplies and land? No!

And, again! Local government control

Oh, boy! Let's add Regional Government to OBAMACARE. Great!

Private business and LOCAL governments are sufficient. Stay out!

Sure! Send \$\$\$ to the Region so they can take their cut (to maintain their overhead) and disburse the balance as they see fit, not as the local government and populace requires

That would be good! That's why we have local governments. Stay out!

This is what parents (plural) are for. And LOCAL governments if the LOCAL populace so desires.

Funding Comments

Via Local Governments

YES, This needs to continue; but, not by Regional Government.

Increase public awareness about the causes of homelessness, educate the people. The people are capable of making their own decisions once armed with facts. Increase public funds for those in need, the hidden CAFR accounts are a good place to look for excess funds. Advertise to solicit private resources from private donors.

provide housing options? The people will decide where and how they wish to live. Appointed, unelected individuals with personal agendas not acceptable!

Yes, repair existing infrastructure, roads with existing funds. Seek funds from monies in CAFR accts, no more taxes necessary.

this sounds like a good idea, but I do not trust government to do it

Such systems generally operate at a loss and require support from taxes

Market system will drive that. Any government involvement will only stifle it, not to mention, cost taxpayers.

Venture capital companies will do that a lot better than any government initiative will.

Create regional funding for the arts. I live in Cobb and the county does almost nothing to support the arts.

Investing in new business is great, but we have to carefully weigh the impact. Too many profitable businesses are receiving obscene tax breaks and incentives and not giving us the return on investment. I really don't think the film commission is being held accountable for the give aways to their industry.

Most items in this section are not the responsibility of government

Let the private sector, churches,charities,arts organizations do them

Not of this just means throwing money at the problem. Should not be using taxpayer dollars to educate illegals. They need to be deported.

Costs too much to not come close to breaking even. Far less cost-effective than road lane miles.

Lower the tax and regulatory burden of small business. Nothing incents like actual profit.

The private sector is an efficient deliverer of services when government is not distorting markets and expectations.

Use the taxes from the new businesses that we are attracting.

This would include providing tax credits for school choice

Funding Comments

Again, old fashioned transit that requires expensive maintenance and taxpayer subsidies DOES NOT WORK! Let good roads, low taxes create some free market, competitive solutions. Get out of the way!

Citizens should decide what works for their communities, not heavy handed government regulations.

It is not the government's job to provide these things. Vibrant communities are those where people choose to buy their own entertainment and lifestyles. Government should be limited. A government big enough to give everyone what they "want" is big enough to take everything away. Smaller government, free markets, low taxes...

Low taxes and good schools will do more to attract good businesses than any government interference.

There are much cheaper means of transportation. Again, the free market, low taxes allow businesses like Uber and limos to provide competitive workable solutions for people who do not drive.

When we have a robust private sector, low taxes then businesses on their own will want to explore partnerships that work, if applicable.

No "incentives". Stop waste and provide low taxes and that will be incentive enough.

"Helping" the homeless does not mean "giving them food and money for nothing" it means "teaching them to assist themselves"

Government should not subsidize private companies; that's Fascism.

No public assistance funds

No public funding!

Not government's job

Not with tax dollars!

Not with tax money! People volunteer when they can and if they want to.

Once again all your options involve the government, more regulation, more tax dollars

Parks are great places, but events should be privately funded.

Private funding, not public

Reduce regulation and taxes to encourage more profits which will result in more hiring

This is already happening without government intervention, so why do you want to mess up a good thing?

this should be done by the private sector and volunteer groups, not government

With whose money?

Works best when done with private, not public, funding

Funding Comments

No - we already do too much as far as food stamps, ebt cards and all the other government handouts.

The government is the only entity that would purchase some of the art displayed on public property. No individual would ever make such a purchase.

This will not happen if there is manipulation and subsidies of housing options for all income levels.

Why would the government get involved in housing? Last time they did it caused the whole financial crisis in 2007. People who could not afford to live in those houses lost nothing because they did not put anything into those houses.

Housing options need to be market driven - not centrally planned by government.

Same comment as given to housing options

Who develops these partnerships? Is this government picking winners and losers? Let's stick with free enterprise.

An employer needs to define the need. Government needs to fund the education system to deliver the need. The student reward is a well-paid job that pays taxes & spends money to raise a family. As business recognizes the trained talent base Atlanta has, more specialized businesses will be drawn to the state. The circle is complete.

Rail is an enormous waste of money and provides little benefit.

Depending on how serious the damage is and the cost.

Leave that to the private sector not government or universities.

another tax-payer funded boondoggle in the making. Sounds good, but there's plenty of private sector resources and attention available for this one.

definitely private sector role..don't need government (wasting \$) in the middle of this one.

Govt should not be in the housing business

public private partnerships are always bad for taxpayers

The government is not supposed to be involved in arts. This entire plan is about federal over reach. The Constitution clearly defines the role of govt and this govt is clearly out of control.

I think the organizations and communities can do a better job of this than a government entity.

I am concerned about too much government involvement here.

Not with my tax dollars!

Why should my tax dollars be used to enhance other neighborhoods. If it benefits only a defined area/people, let them pay for it. Private not public funds should pay.

Funding Comments

This needs to happen faster. The only way to reduce traffic is to incentivize bike traffic by adding bike lanes that actually go somewhere. A half mile here and a half mile there of bike lane doesn't do anything to make bike commuting and bike transportation more attractive. I still have to ride long sections of peachtree, ponce and piedmont with no bike lanes. I constantly get yelled at, honked at, and nearly hit every single day while leaders drag their feet at putting in bike lanes because no one wants to invest the required money. Anyone who knows some basic economics knows that dollars invested today buy a lot more than dollars in the future.

We are a global city, and we should continue pulling talent INTO the city from abroad. While local education is definitely important, other investments may be more effective.

waste of money. encourage users of the road to use alternate means to travel.

Tax large parking lots and garages to pay for alternative transportation options

Screw that, take their taxes!

Nope. I'm for educating all the children of parents who are in Georgia legally. I have no children, own a home and pay taxes. It takes FOUR busses to transport just the elementary kids to the nearest apartment complexes. The same complex the Manager of our local Taco Bell says he can't get workers because it's more beneficial to collect welfare. So that's busses, drivers, gas & teachers for a heck of a lot if kids just at my school who don't pay nor will pay property taxes.

I am not completely sure what this means but it is the only item related to the arts here. I'm not sure how you get people to do things that they'd really enjoy if they just did it, and how to get them to donate to support things they would care about if they were paying attention. Some strategic investments might help, like support for small organizations to get 501c3 status, incubator facilities, social media help, etc. Big high-cost organizations like the ASO need a very broad base of support as well as big donors. I think they are doing a good job but I don't know that it's enough. But the arts matter to the region and make it a place where people want to live.

I'm for this if it's feasible - I'm not sure it is. If this kind of investment is being made it needs to be along a route a lot of people really want to take.

This is critical, whether the neighborhood is a well-off neighborhood or not. The people who are already there deserve a chance to benefit from whatever improvements are made, not get run off because of rising property taxes.

Funding Comments

Maybe ask for private funds, but public funds should go towards providing jobs and low-income housing for homeless.

Supply/demand. Let private sector handle this. Public funds should focus on job creation.

Our government's inability to manage the public school system is an atrocity. We need to get back to what made this country great and invest in our youth instead of cutting education funding.

Our government's inability to manage the public school system/budget is an atrocity. We need to get back to what made this country great and invest in our youth instead of cutting education funding.

We keep adding lanes, but no alternative options. Wasted money and traffic keeps getting worse.

There are hundreds of unused/vacant buildings in Atlanta. Update these buildings and let start-ups use them cheaply. Most of these buildings need hundreds of thousands of dollars to improve and new businesses (entrepreneurs) don't have the resources. I wanted to open a "day-care", but can't find a decent building (near Grant Park) that meets Bright from the Start's requirements!

There is plenty of opportunity already, but since there are so many government funded and grant monies available, people aren't as involved as they should be. I'm very involved in my community, but very disappointed overall in participation. People are lazy.

However, mortgages can't be left up to taxpayers. People must be able to pay.

Not by raising taxes. Must use current funds.

It is already TOO easy for people to not only get access to but to abuse and misuse and waste the taxpayers money all in the name of socialist health care programs. Stop the Marxist assault on my privacy and control of my life, body and health care decisions. The government should get out of the health care business entirely. 'Obama NO Care' is the biggest 'con' job in America right now and the most wasteful and destructive advance of government corruption and lies in our nation's history.

NOT without careful review and input from local taxpayers & citizens who must pay for these new roads.

Funding Comments

People cannot even get their elected officials to answer a question or show up a town hall that is not scripted and dominated by political special interests. People need less bureaucratic red tape and more responsible and responsive elected officials. WE need election 'recall' and term limits to stop the political elites from advancing bigger and more intrusive government. The MSM lies and spreads propaganda to the point that people cannot and do not trust the media, their politicians or any bureaucrat to act in their best interest. The only solutions that will work must come from those who work, pay the taxes and own local businesses.

The existing bus service is wasteful. NOT one more dime should be spent on a bus system until the existing system is carefully evaluated by private outside sources and local taxpayers are included in any and all studies that would advance some type of multi-county bus system.

The bus system needs to be privatized and taken out of the control of elected officials. There is too much corruption and mismanagement of the existing bus system now.

The first and most important role of the state is to create & fund a quality education system for ALL. Elected and appointed leaders, parents, and business should aggressively protect its school system from incompetence and corruption. This should be the region's first priority. Lower property taxes and stop wasting money on programs and personnel that are redundant and incompetent.

There is already too much waste in providing 'student loans' and taxpayer mandated 'assistance' to too many individuals who cannot and will not pay back what they owe. The taxpayers cannot send their own children to school because they are paying such high taxes to see that others get it for FREE. This is not fair and needs to stop.

This area is already saturated with Federal and state programs. Eliminate all programs that are duplicates and save the taxpayers some money.

This effort must be left to private business through tax incentives and regional partnerships that DO NOT rely on taxpayer funded programs. Stop the 'something for nothing' give away for votes. This is wrong.

This is NOT the role of government. Stop the 'handouts' and create incentives for people to earn these services and pay for it. The taxpayers are tired of being fleeced by corrupt politicians who want to 'give away' services for votes.

Funding Comments

This sounds like 'one world order' nonsense. The government should not be in the 'development' business. Let private investment and private development provide the leadership in this area. Provide real tax incentives to all private development to promote greenspace and to assist in promoting water quality. Get the politicians off the boards and remove all elected officials from any group that makes these decisions. Stop the corruption associated with elected officials in this area.

We already have dozens of programs that are funded to help the so-called homeless. These people need mental health care- not homeless care.

Every housing type doesn't need the same integrity level. Some products have to be leveled because they aren't adequate.

Who is investing and where is this money coming from?

Technology is on the verge of changing again. Bad investment.

Not the government's job. Get out of the way and let parents choose.

This is not a function of government.

This absolutely should be addressed -- but without increasing my taxes.

This should be handled in the private sector -- not by government.

Education on ways to have all the benefits of water use, without using as much water will engage citizens, create a mindset for conservation and save families money.

Identify all the programs currently in place, their cost and assess their performance. Consolidate programs taking the best and most successful features of all.

Keep government out of business. Use tax incentives to encourage start ups, relocations and expansions. Let the business step out on its own, take its own risks and feel the urgency that comes from not having a government program behind them.

Keep the taxes low, the workforce in a constant learning mode and the environment healthy and beautiful and entrepreneurs and companies will stay and expand here

Only if there is a serious economic benefit to the taxpayer if the company is successful

Top notch & educated workforce, a livable environment and low taxes will draw new business.

Also provide adequate oversight to these options so we do not get into the costly welfare/free housing trap again.

If you really want a high population / tax density you need more than four lane high ways and 4000 sq foot homes

This tends to be sink holes of money. Let private businesses help sponsor technical education.

Warning; Black hole of money

Funding Comments

As long as it is being done through the private sector and has no government involvement

As long as it is being done through the private sector and has no government involvement.

If it involves one dollar of tax money, I would say NO and let the private industry shoulder the cost of such things.

Do not need more tax payer money spent for the gain of private business. Pharmaceuticals is a good example of where government foots the bill for research and all profits end up with corporates.

Not the governments business. That's a private sector responsibility.

A function of local communities, churches, charities, government.

Should be managed by state and local governments. Keep the region out of it.

This is always a waste of money

Create places where young families want to raise their children here. There is enough housing at the lower income level, bringing down the average household income and reducing taxes that go to schools.

People have to want to be better, you can't spend money to change this. If a sector of society doesn't want to get better, that's ok, but lets not pay for them to do nothing. I know this is a slippery slope. Again you have to go back to behaviors, learning, environments and expectations. I say we do a better job at managing the expectations of the people we provide assistance to.

to me.. we are a changing culture and that the appreciation of art is dying, it's a shame. The new generations are not that in tune to history and culture, not sure if you can change that with throwing money at it.

Build infrastructure and give tax incentives - but not direct incentives. Not govt role.

Tax breaks yes - but let private sector invest in private sector - not govt job.

Every child should be taught the same basic quality instruction across the board. If a parent wants their child to receive more detailed instruction send them to a private school at their own cost

It is what it is. Money will provide you a better neighborhood. If you can't afford that area, you don't need to live there

Keep new developments at a minimum and spend more money on revitalizing older areas

Partnerships are fine, but tax incentives tend to be taxpayer-funded welfare for corporations, costing in the end far more than the value of any jobs created.

I am not in favor of excessive tax breaks to attract business.

Funding Comments

this tends to lead to corruption and wasted money on pork projects

Provide housing for those at or below poverty level. Require those folks to learn a job skill or get a degree while in this housing. Have these folks repay money invested in them by working at govt. jobs that need doing: picking up trash on roadsides, painting government buildings, anything that can help the community which is helping them.

Education needs to become more locally involved because the present system does not work so do not throw any more money at a bad system.

Get government out of the business arena and let capitalism work and the situation will get better. Enough buyouts!

It is not government's job to provide entertainment but to provide a save environment for entrepreneurs to bring in events

Stop throwing good money at a bad system but make the system better.

There should be some return on money spent before any project is done. Enough foolish projects exists now!

Again that is up to the local communities not state or federal government. If the local community has the tax base to support extra activities that is their choice.

At who`s expense?? Our corrupt government is broke in case you have not heard.

At who`s expense?? Our corrupt government is broke in case you have not heard. House is not a right.

Funding for the arts should come from private sources not the government or taxpayer dollars.

Get rid of meters! Stop looking for ways to stick it to the workingman/woman. Cut back local government budgets by closing copy cat services. You might be amazed at the increase in revenue!

Good idea as long as it does not cost the taxpayer. Remove regulations that impede business development.

If water conservation entails the draconian laws that are in place in California, Oregon and Washington then "NO" I do not support it. Taxes on rain water, puddles,ditches are absurd.

NO NEW TAXES.

Funding Comments

Stop funding Communist Core. Repeal CC. Allow local school systems to revise and develop objectives that are best suited to their population. One size does not fit all! Private schools and home schoolers should not be punished by having to support failing public schools. Let the money follow the student. Communist Core is straight out Marxist propaganda. It does not teach math. It does not teach classical English literature. It devalues the family, morals and religious values. The way to ensure a quality, affordable educational opportunity for Georgia youth is to get the damn federal government out of our educational system. Stop taking federal grants!!!

Stop subsidizing illegal aliens. Stop allowing them to get fraudulent returns from the IRS. Start using the confiscated taxpayer monies for assistance to our homeless U.S. veterans. It is criminal and treasonous that the state and federal governments are treating our soldiers in such a contemptible manner.

That is up to the residents not government.

The only jobs that I see expanding have to do with the penal system. We have lots of prisoners! Perhaps the General Assembly could do something to revise the so called war on drugs, so that the Georgia taxpayers do have such a large burden housing non violent offenders. Also, maybe a revised law would curtail these mindless morons dressed in swat getup from invading defenseless families in the middle of the night killing or maiming babies, killing grandmothers along with family dogs (pets) would STOP!!! All in the name of the "War on Drugs" :(

There already exist many avenues to extend learning for adults. The question is can one afford the cost of on-line courses.

Again, don't just toss money at this. Must have a plan with measurable results.

Create incentives for work, not incentives to collect a check from government.

dare we mention Park Atlanta? Let's not focus on making money-let's get people near where they need to go.

Don't just throw money at schools-be accountable (not just testing, real results, please)

As long as those youth want to be there. If they are there for free money, kick them out immediately.

They are already paid for with the tax base, so get busy now!

Fix the current problems with the water system and not spend more money to increase the problems for the ageing system.

Money talks and the state should be running Marta overlaid over the ARC service area grid

Funding Comments

This is an area that needs real progress. After 2008 I lost my job making 100K and my home 2 years after that. I found myself without housing and could not afford anything on a salary of 28K and with a foreclosure no one would even consider an application. Things have improved for me now, but I have not forgotten and found that we need resources that fits all people moving forward.

I'm not opposed to this but don't think it should be a priority for tax dollars.

Provide tax breaks for high tech companies

I would say yes, but again, what exactly do you do with the waste? I think this is just another eye wash to drain us of our hard earned money.

Invest?! Who is investing and with whose money? Why don't the internet providers do their own investing like they have in the past? Do you mean another kind of bail out for companies with my tax dollars that all of these lofty ideas are surely going to increase like ten-fold?

NO to partnerships that line the pockets of government officials, universities and developers. Again, what is the purpose for spending all these tax dollars?

Not enough information. How do you propose to do this? How much will it cost and will it REALLY work?

People can make these choices themselves without the help of regional governance and the waste of our tax dollars.

Simply another warm and fuzzy sounding program to funnel our tax dollars into yet another black hole.

We already have plenty of this in Atlanta and the surrounding area. Again, let's spend those tax dollars on the things that they were originally intended to pay for. All these haughty plans and ideas are designed to grow government and make the people poorer all the while not accomplishing any of the things you profess to be accomplishing.

What are you going to enhance and how? Again, you can throw all the money you want to at it but if people choose not to better themselves you are just being despicable stewards of our money.

What are you going to enhance and how? Again, you can throw all the money you want to at it but if people choose not to better themselves you are just being despicable stewards of our money.

And again, NO to regional governance!

While government can and should create an atmosphere to nurture arts- it isn't up to the government to develop these experiences, so much as allow them to happen.

Funding Comments

high tech seems to translate into high money for municipalities. What about being creative in another way of focusing on sector creation. There is already a lot of competition between cities vying for high tech businesses

this usually means tax breaks for corporations while keeping residents' tax responsibility high

Actually yes and no. This is something that should be the responsibility of individuals, nonprofits, and churches -- not government.

As long as we're not talking about expanded government-funded access to health care.

"Encourage," yes, but not with tax cuts that only mean transfer of tax burden from business to private citizens.

Regionalize education funding to reduce disparities between not only schools in a district, but between districts/counties.

Require that investment (taxes, fees, infrastructure contributions) commensurate with added burden be included in the cost of any new development.

Don't get government involved. Let companies do this on their own.

Let the demand of the market determine housing not the government.

Too much government involved. Costs too much.

Should be provided only to those have shown success in basic education; otherwise, it's a total waste of tax dollars.

Although I think arts and culture are important, is it really government's role?

I think tax incentives are overused and that the companies would come without them if all the other factors favored the Atlanta area.

Once again, this is not government's role.

I think that behaviors need to be changed. Creating artificial water sources can be considered, but that will increase taxes, and water rates. The most economical approach is to change the way people see water use.

Before expanding, money would be better spent enhancing existing service. This includes shelters at all stops, real time information, dedicated lanes and queue jumps, and increased frequency.

Funding Comments

I am amazed at how much food costs in Atlanta considering the nearby access to farms and the beneficial growing seasons. More non-profit farmers markets should be set up to bring farmers in direct contact with consumers. We all know that the big box stores are not benefiting our communities - instead they truck in the big food producers' goods and the money leaves our community while providing us with an inferior quality product. Start taxing every parking spot at the major big box stores and start subsidizing the locally grown high quality sources of vitamins and nutrients (vegetables and fruit)!

If you look at the metro area as a whole, you will see that we do have housing options for all income levels and lifestyles. What you need to do is require that all jurisdictions have all these housing options. For example, why don't any of the suburbs have homeless shelters? You ought to not allow them any grant money because they don't do their fair share to help out on this matter.

Such partnerships have to be a two way street. The private sector will see the profits and/or savings that come from government funded research and should pay a fair price to use the technology.

Yes as long as the low income residents participate and take ownership. We should not use public funding for it if it doesn't do any good.

It's utterly ridiculous to offer companies millions of dollars to relocate that seem to be horrible corporate citizens and not good neighbors to their communities and are just out for greed pure and simple.

It's "among," not "between". Yes, without taxpayer dollars.

Not sure what government's role is for this task....

Affordable or publicly funded healthcare

Affordable or publicly funded healthcare. There will not be a more important issue in our lifetime.

Incentives, not tax loopholes

Though limit future development to use existing roads. It is already taxing enough as it is to fund repairs (pun intended).

Intergovernmental Cooperation. It's essential. Period. Key point: Communication!

Recognizing the built environment is deliberate, we must maintain the existing infrastructure. As much as I hate traffic, roads move goods throughout our region. Increasing the gas tax or creating a VMT tax will help offset the loss in federal dollars coming into the region.

Don't we already do this. It is called tax incentive.

Across the board cut taxes. The business will come and employee people. Businesses here are staying outside of the Atlanta city limits.

Funding Comments

Businesses will be the driver of this area. I don't understand funding. Lower taxes and the business will spend for improvements

If you lower property and the sales tax they would come here. You wouldn't need to give out special incentives. My business goes to the lowest tax region.

Lower property taxes and use of landscaping to garden could help with this. Have non-profits drive the plan.

Lower taxes and regulations. Starting a business is onerous with the amount of paperwork for regulations.

People that want a better life will work for even thru a struggle. The maid in Mississippi saved a millions dollars and donated it by being thrifty and hard work.

The private sector should be the driver of this with government support by regulation. More departments and more staff take away money that could be used to improve infrastructure.

I do not wish to pay higher taxes to provide assistance.

This requires a well funded active community forum for candid discussions with local businesses, and must include trade and college focused education.

This should be a private sector effort, not a government funded operation. Far too many incubators are money pits.

This should be a private sector investment, not government run.

The access to broadband exists throughout Atlanta. The limiting factor is cost. This is generally a result of the free market. If there is something that can be done to promote more competition in this area that would be greatly appreciated. Prices for broadband are high.

This should require minimal public sector financial investment. Support private sector engagement in this area. Google is planning to install fiber infrastructures in several cities in the US--Atlanta is on the list.

I am in favor of this but not as a "Give Away" program or something that will become an entitlement. Lets help people "EARN" their way toward better housing. Something that is just "GIVEN" is not valued properly by the recipient and thus not cared for and eventually becomes a slum.

This is Atlanta. There's no reason the tech industry in our region can't do better on diversity than silicon valley. If not, any investment in a tech hub is a failure.

ALL areas should have investment in increased high speed internet access. This suggestion sounds like only the affluent parts will be the ones with high speed internet access.

As long as this is accomplished through current educational funding and not additional tax payer dollars.

Funding Comments

Only if does not require taxpayer dollars to do so.

Public/private investment.

However, I still prefer government funding of research. It's too easy for private, corporate-funded research money injected into universities to skew the results - let's have real, factual, neutral science!

However, those incentives should NOT include tax-giveaways/corporate welfare for companies who come in to clear-cut land & then pollute.

Bus and rail MUST be regional and/or statewide for funding! Visit Switzerland to see a well run (reliable and timely) RAIL system!

Nobody should be homeless and subsidized housing is feasible.

Of course! Affordable??? You mean, I am sure, quality PUBLIC education - free to everyone - and funded as usual by property taxes and any other means available! "Affordable" education is PRIVATE school, which is hardly affordable to the majority!

PRESSURE THE GOVERNOR TO EXPAND MEDICAID!!! FULLY FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL GOV'T! He's obviously ignorant of that fact and yes, I am shouting, because here in Georgia, NO one seems to care! Healthy residents mean we ALL are healthy!! Think of ALL the people who serve YOU your meals in EVERY restaurant in Georgia! NONE of them can afford HEALTHCARE and they are handling YOUR food! Think about it!

Biology, history, chemistry are irrelevant to me now. Business management, tech skills (how to use email, excel, do basic html), financial knowledge (credit scores, how credit cards work, how to create a budget, use a IRA, etc.), Health care knowledge (how to find a good health plan through Obamacare, etc.) are much more important. If my only assignment in school had been to start my own business or intern for at least 3 business it would have been a much better use of my time.

I don't know what this means. Companies should not be given tax breaks unless they pay living wages.

Get rid of GRTA and MARTA. Force the counties in the metro area to accept transit as a legitimate part of the transportation network or stop road funding and/or remove state route designations.

Unfortunately, the government will target businesses and industries. Why shouldn't Joe's Plumbing have the same rules and regulations as Shiny Tech, LLC? Why is the tech company better and why spend so much time and money keeping tech companies at the expense of the residents and citizens of the area?

Do not want government choosing the winners and losers here. Unless I am a winner.

Not sure what role government should have here.

Funding Comments

Consider encouraging "money angles" to fund in area. There is room for innovation here, perhaps in limited guarantees or insurance.

Does not sound cost effective, nor actually possible.

Simple encouragement, open arms. Not throwing money

I'm on the fence about this one. Allocating more funding doesn't necessarily solve the homelessness problem, especially if mental health services are still lacking.

Consider bioswales, localized water treatment, water re-use (greywater, blackwater) and policies, funding and code measures that encourage them.

Don't waste money on half-baked Bus Rapid Transit. Build the dedicated lane. It will be worth it. Furthermore, any designs for "streetcars" outside of tourist areas should include dedicated lanes or full-grade separation.

Develop a regionally connected taxicab network.

Cobb is letting builders step all over environmentally sensitive areas in order to allow builders to "make their money" on a subdivision. This is a real issue for me.

I am for some rapid transit train system but not the BRT bus. It is a waste of taxpayer money.

Eliminate and minimize all these service to minimize our taxes, fees, and other monetary expenses.

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Eliminate and minimize all these service to minimize our taxes, fees, and other monetary expenses.

Eliminate and minimize all these services to keep our fees, taxes, and other monetary forms of expenses to an absolute minimum.

Teach self accountability and the government is not going to solve all your problems.

Keep education local, without regional & state-wide dictates. Allow vouchers so government money follows students, not their ZIP code.

These items are not the role of government.

Lower taxes, less regulation, and free markets are the recipe for success. Government regulation and crony capitalism will lead to failure and deterioration of a society. (ex. Detroit)

Funding Comments

Raise money from the private sector to self-fund high-capacity transportation improvements, upgrades and expansions with real estate revenues.

Make transit self-funding with private investment, real estate revenues, the aggressive sales of large and small private sponsorships and private sponsorships.

Use Value Capture taxing districts along transit lines instead of 1% sales taxes to fund transit.

The Atlanta Public Government School System is Rewarded for failure! It's a Jobs' Program. "The worse job we do, the more jobs we get---smaller class size means more teachers and support personnel, more remedial programs means more teachers,etc... And, we get to build more jails to house the poorly educated graduates which means more jobs in security and construction. And, AND, We Get to Blame Whitey for This! Hah! Hah! Hah! Hah!"---so say a NAACP Black in DC in 2003. I've heard similar statements by White Chamber of Commerce leaders during past 20 years. Solution? Taxpayer funded Education Vouchers! Save \$\$\$, Empower Parents, Educated Kids and Save America!

Attract businesses to the area with lower taxes or tax credits similar to the successful film credits

When employers pay wages and have such short hours that their employees are using social services, the employers should be taxed to offset the additional cost to the public.

Allow county and local governments to impose funding mechanisms if needed.

Funding Comments

Resolve to keep government expenditures, and hence cost of living, as low as possible.

Ask companies to pay to educate/train their current or future employees...like they used to do instead of shifting the expenses to the taxpayers.

I have to tell you all, that I hate the word region, as opposed to Atlanta Metro Area! Oh, I don't know, but it probably has to do with that I am against Regionalism in all its forms and iterations, because it takes the rights of the people (We The People) away; through having appointed people to boards, commissions, agencies, committees, and authorities that have no accountability to the public or to the tax-payers that you are trying to hit up for another tax increase incessantly! Just sayin'...

To have open and transparent government at all levels; and oh yes do not forget that your organization is a government entity!!!

Let free market, supply/demand, competition, local government and those that elected them sort it out.

Let local citizens work it out with their local elected representatives. That's what local government is all about.

The less Government involvement, regulations, etc. the better. Let free enterprise do its job.

Provide for school choice for all income levels through tax credits

Stop using a "rack 'em and stack 'em" multi-use development approach. That is very unhealthy. Atlantic Station and other such areas are failures. People will learn to choose healthy lifestyles on their own. It should not be "legislated" and down with taxpayer dollars. That has never worked. Look at Cuba and the old Soviet Union.

Government typically wastes time and money on trying to run the arts themselves. They should let the private sector run and make work what will pay. Art in schools-YES!

Stop government regulations that hurt business so they can grow without govt support

Encourage public transportation to diminish so many cars on the road.. London makes parking so expensive and actually charges to bring cars into the city so as to diminish pollution. This will not happen over night but we need a plan to shift peoples' dependence on their cars and encourage public transportation as a viable and money saving option.

Funding Comments

The investment should be on alternative methods of transportation and not ones that encourage people to continue driving cars occupied by one person. This focus on improving conditions for inefficient methods of transportation (single occupancy automobiles) is what has caused Atlanta to be known as the traffic congestion hub it is.

Require higher driver standards.
People just don't know how to drive!!

And don't take lanes away from taxpayers who've already paid for them.
The Peach Pass lanes don't help the overall problem. They only allow those with money to move faster and make it more difficult for the rest.

The private investment community should play a prominent role in conjunction with the universities.

Government has NO part in Arts, etc

I think empty sidewalks...of which there are many...a waste of money.

Repeal the state income tax and allow private enterprise to flourish without overbearing state and federal regulations. Get state, federal and the U.N. out of private business. Communist Core is nothing more than propaganda. Leave our children out of your insidious plans.

STOP GMO FOOD. Label GMO food sold in the stores. Repeal any and all regulations that impede private and religious organizations from involving themselves with the poor and homeless. STOP food stamps along with ALL other food subsidy programs both state and federally funded. Use neighborhood churches and food bank programs to give an incentive to recipients. One must work if they are to eat.
2 Thessalonians 3:10

Set road use tax so fuel efficient vehicles pay fair share of road use taxes.

I live in Chamblee and love using MARTA for the airport and special events. Budget cuts have made it an unfavorable choice for commuting for job purposes and is limiting my job search. If I miss the bus from MARTA at the train/rail station, it can be an hour until one comes along.

Funding Comments

Much of these problems come down to one main problem which is income levels and trying to keep up with being taxed to death. Many of the "solutions" on all these tabs will require some type of money coming in, and most will likely be from tax increases. We are tired of being taxed on everything done and taxed to death!! All costs keep increasing, but our paychecks are not, and as is the case of mine, have gone backwards due to other rising costs in the insurance industry.

Promote funding opportunities for workforce development and technical education in the region.

Pay local teachers well. Do NOT support vouchers as that would take money away from public schools.

Provide great tax incentives to lure Fortune 500 company headquarters here.

The mayor rejected my suggestion that we send teams into low performing schools-teams who had the power and money to fix EVERY problem in a chosen school.

Tax incentives for employers that support alternative work hours and schedules to diminish rush hour commutes particularly during the school year.

Prioritize funding for public improvement based on meeting top priorities here.

Connect I75 to I20 and I85 on the West and East on the City. Make these limited access the object of which would be to funnel traffic around Atlanta. Place these far out. Finance with a Gasoline Tax.

Government should not be involved in these at all. These should be promoted through private funding and organizations

Quality of life infrastructure costs money, and the anti-tax attitudes need to be changed for progress to be made.

Get state funding, use fed, to move most people where they need to go fastest. Act on need. Abolish Solutionism and throwing \$\$ where friends have gigs and consultant contracts. The people will keep opposing because its the only way to say they see corruption

RFPs and Prequalifying docs for projects with public funding (all forms) can ask for info re how many citizens will be employed how many hours at what rates. Public works originates and is morally justified thru to ages to employ idle hands. There is always corruption, enriching the connected in the name of the needy. Regimes are destroyed when the greed/need ratio topples

Since regional approaches have failed to bear fruit and the state is little help, let's find money to put into the existing MARTA system to expand the reach and frequency of transit within the current system. Add trains where we can; add buses where we have to; and if other counties want to join later, great. But don't wait for them to come along --they've proven they're too shortsighted.

Funding Comments

Incentives for businesses who employ workers who live within 1-2 miles of the office. Dis-incentivize surface parking lots or buildings whose sole use is parking. Decrease parking requirements on new construction. More funding for the Beltline.

Road dieting wherever possible. Work on restoring the grid and increasing travel route options for those who must drive. Increased funding for MARTA to become less car-dependent. More tolls to fund transportation projects. I was actually disappointed to see GA 400 toll taken down - it was quick to get through and cheap. I thought it was good for Atlanta as a whole. Bike lanes in highly dense neighborhoods.

Rather than build new roads that will become toll roads, convert existing interstate lanes into tolls and expand rail/bus transit system through out region. If you expand commuter transit along existing interstates and highways could save money and tolls would incentivize more people to use transit who wouldn't normally while simultaneously reducing traffic.

Stop making pay lanes that only serve a few. We all pay road taxes and we should be able to drive on them all.

More funding for parks and trails

Offer tax incentives for Tech companies. We did this for film and in less than 5 years have generated over a BILLION dollars in revenue from the film industry in 2014 alone.

Add plant biomass to the property tax calculus, granting credits for greener properties, and capping the tree loss in the region.

We need SkywebExpress

<http://www.taxi2000.com>

Priority funding for distressed neighborhoods in the south and west quadrants.

To strengthen our communities, we should allow the creation of more cities and municipalities which can provide better and more responsive government (as compared to our current county focused government)

I think most of these are at the county level or city level, no need to spend government money on many of these (from a regional perspective)

There are not enough paved roads for cyclists, in the metro area. What is available is limited. More thought, money, and planning should go into making commuting by bicycle as a viable option for residents.

Funding is the key: Get Congress to provide sustainable \$\$ for Highway Trust Fund; raise gas tax while exploring more sustainable funding sources & mechanisms.

Spend money on the failing sewer system

Funding Comments

Frankly, this survey is getting on my nerves. Much of what is listed here is way, way above and beyond what I believe the scope of government should be.

Scrap the combined sewer/storm drainage system --this would improve water quality and be a major infrastructure investment that would bring jobs

Legislature pass laws that enhance the opportunities for non profits to serve the disadvantages. The disjointed program that excludes sales tax for some non profits but others that are equally justified is stupid. Why shouldn't a non profit health care which exist almost totally on donations of time and money pay sales taxes while other non profits don't?

Encourage non traditional training and schooling. Much of public education is generic and a waste of time and money.

ARC needs to stop being everything to everyone. You are starting to resemble a liberal advocacy group rather than a planning agency for the entire Atlanta Region. Get out of the way of local governments that are trying to address concerns of their community and stop pushing your agenda, which is not always the region's agenda.

The questions on the survey all ask for desirable changes, but all cost in tax revenues that are limited (particularly in GA), so some trade-offs are going to be necessary.

ARC is a failure of an organization that has accomplished nothing. Why don't you concentrate on what you are good at (transportation and aging) and stop trying to expand your powers by supplementing local governments.

More an indication of wishes than a serious analysis of trade-offs and costs

I am tired of working hard and educating myself and paying for lazy people who don't want to better their own life. I grew up jumping from foster house to foster house. I got a job and paid for my own college. I made my own life. If I could stop any of my taxes being allocated it would be to the lazy people who leech of of the government, destroy communities and add absolutely nothing to society. That is why I moved my family as far as I could and still commute into Atlanta. In my opinion, Atlanta is a disgusting city filled with democratic corrupt idiots who only want to work and hire anybody who is not white. How is that not descremenation. Atlanta will be taken over by Charlotte soon. They are innovative and use their tax dollars to the fullest.

NO MORE MONEY ON BIKE IMPROVEMENTS, PLENTY OF EXISTING LOCATIONS AND BIKE USERS DO NOT UTILIZE THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE

Funding Comments

I am not a grumpy white man, but there are things the ARC can not and should not take on. For example homelessness. While an issue, a multi-tiered approach with government, charity and faith based organization need to tackle. Not the ARC. Bike lanes while nice are not the solution to Atlanta region's transportation problems. More Lanes are nice but not a priority. Education is another seeming intractable problem that no combination of partners can solve without addressing single parent families. And for entrepreneurs, good ideas will find money, space and a way to be successful. But real entrepreneurs are a very small minority among us.

Regional government for transportation, water, large infrastructure purposes makes sense! Let's do it.

Why should I believe this new "plan" will work any better than all the previous ones. Where will the money come from???

The priorities are hard to argue with; must find a way to increase transportation and transit (rail) funding

Regional Governments are generally unelected positions and should exist only minimally.

there has just got to be more funding for cities to build sidewalk and bike lanes. we can talk about it all day long but it costs money and until we start recognizing the we must address how people move we will never be ahead of the curve. I am glad to be part of the survey. Thank you for taking opinions and getting a well rounded plan.

Please focus on local government accountability. Atlantans do not trust their government agencies because of the blatant disrespect those agencies show constituents. Intown could learn from the outlying counties on this subject.

Eliminate and minimize all these service to minimize our taxes, fees, and other monetary expenses.

A regional government would be a much more efficient way to govern... It would eliminate waste and could allow for more localized solutions.

Who would actually be "watching" the expenses on any of these proposed ideas? I have no faith in the governments at any level,

I do not wish to increase my taxes in any way and expansion funded by government does that.

We don't need another level of unelected government officials (ARC) telling us what to do.

The city's and county's officials (elected and appointed) are substandard quality right now, with inefficiency being the status quo. By 2040, I hope that the city government will work more with county officials, and vice versa, to address what are clearly issues that overlap their jurisdictions.

Funding Comments

Need to make sure that these plans are developed you recognize the local county and cities in that county as to what the MAJORITY of the TAXPAYING citizens want. Don't try to force it down their throats.

Reduce government authority and activity to better allow individual ideas, talents, and energy to solve our complex issues (ala Southwire in Carroll County).
Codify means to ensure more accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.

ARC's number 1 priority should be reducing and streamlining government through efficiencies and coordination.

Keep the government out of my business! I already pay too much in taxes.

Government should not be involved in things like arts. That is a private sector issue

The taxpayers should get a taz break for having to pay for the new football stadium for the Atlanta Falcons. More police officers should be encouraged to hired and should be recruited to keep our communities safe. Suspicious activities such as theft and corrupt practices among the local government should be investigated at all levels.

I believe public transit is essential for equitable access to education and jobs and necessary for sustainable growth. I will relocate from Metro Atlanta to a competing metro area if transit is not improved significantly in the next 5 to 10 years. The seemingly never ending debate and pumping money into planning studies that are never implemented is simply ridiculous in my opinion. I want quality public transit and to live, work and play in a truly progressive community or region. I will relocate if transit is not improved and expanded in the next 5 to 10 years. It is a quality of life issue for me.

Far too much transpo money being spent on interstates. Need funding for sidewalks, trails, amenities to improve local communities, not truck routes.

Everything in this survey veils the effort of an unelected commission with a mindset of " It takes a Village". Nothing I see that an unelected commission could do that a program that already exists, an agency (DOT) that has charge of roads, or the force of individual choice or market forces that would drive development. This commission is also "plausible deniability" for elected politicians as attempts to raise taxes or install fees (like Gwinnett's "rainwater run off tax") that will be met with rigorous legal offense to stop such an unconstitutional step.

The ARC is a political and basically useless organization. It supports business, developers, and mostly the highway construction companies. Counties/taxpayers contribute money to the ARC, it's sad they get little ROI.

Funding Comments

We already have too much government control and don't need more. Your members need to be elected by the taxpayers, not be a private club.

The main thing in this survey that I didn't agree with was adding more lanes and capacity to roads. Improving traffic lights, intersections, and road quality are important. More important is increasing funding to alternative transit such as heavy rail, light rail, and to a lesser extent busses. The beltline is vastly important and it's continued development will only further drive nearby development in residential, retail, transportation and parks/recreational development.

Big government is not the answer.

Let's LIMIT the intervention and tax dollars spent by government. Many of the previous questions could be answered by partnerships with business.

Most of what you advocate is good, but should be handled at the local level. Local gov'ts have elected officials. ARC is not elected and has no accountability to the taxpayers. This is a good survey. I hope you get a good response and deal with the response equitably.

This is sooooo broad in nature and makes it quite difficult to determine what some of the proposals really mean. E.g., we all want safe drinking water, but the survey tends to indicate that what we have is not good enough or that it misses the mark. That's not true. Another example: many of the questions indicate that the government should partner w/ business and provide incentives to attract businesses to the area. Tax incentives are one thing, but partnering becomes a sticky wicket, prone to cronyism and shady deals where neither the government nor the business is accountable for deals gone bad. The government's business is not business and it should satay that way. I fear the survey will garner skewed results that determine the direction the government wants things to go and ignores the real wishes of the citizens who will pay for it in taxes and more regulation.

Move away from government assistance and more responsibility, fee based services.

Less government, lower taxes, and accountability on all government levels

government

Disappointed to see the various "options" which are mostly more nanny-state, socialistic options. It's not the government's job to provide the options discussed such as health choice food, etc. Get over yourselves.

Funding Comments

clayton county needs major repair from roads highways,pot holes in road,lighting among highways and residential areas,grafiti on walls building,jonesboro ga,what are they doing ,look at duluth areas the people pay taxes as well as all the areas in the metro of atlanta whats wrong with the system,help me to understand,they do not even have transit system in area why why is the goverment if they know is allowing it they say taxes help out road ways look at the exit 75 south riverdale exit pot holes every where some one has to see it or is it they just ignoring it,

Get government out of the lives op people!

1/More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.
2/Spend tax dollars wisely,frugally, keep projects within budget.
3/Improve accounting practices to ensure all monies are not lost or misspent.

I am a former planner. It amazes me how much government gets in the way of the area - start treating everyone and every business consistently and provide common sense regulatory and taxation schemes to promote all businesses and more people will come to the area.

Henry County is having to pay tolls on all additional lanes when Cobb, Clayton, Douglas, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Rockdale and Cherokee got all their improvements with Southside tax dollars. This new policy guarantees that the counties south of ATL are permanently disadvantaged and is a form of institutionalized public spending discrimination.

Demand transparency in ALL governmental activities.

Illegal immigration can be addressed by simply enforcing existing immigration laws, denying them welfare and government support, and sending them back to their countries of origin.

Tern limits for all elected and appointed positions in government; biennial contracts for govt. employees

The more people can walk/bike/use public transportation, i.e. the less they are reliant upon cars, the better Atlanta will be. Saves the individual money, helps air quality, and begins the reversal of Atlanta's national image of sprawl & gridlock.

Water, Education, & Transportation should be the top three. ARC should focus on Water and Transportation. The state should improve Education (funding, standards, \$/pupil, etc.)

Funding Comments

I support this effort and I like the inclusion of citizens in the process and the effort at providing a timeline. The time for study for growth policies in the Atlanta region is over, though, and it is time to move forward with beneficial policies for transportation, education and training and crime prevention among so many others. Economic opportunity is crucial and a free market, unfettered by lack of attention and investment in people and infrastructure, will follow unabashed and ensure the growth we anticipate. Policies enacted at a regional level will unify disparate people across a vast, unbounded geographical area. I'm eager to contribute as one of millions across Atlanta who are tired of waiting, tired of study, tired of talk. Let's move forward now and live our potential rather than dream of it as we have for too long.

For the love of all that is good...please learn from other metro area on how to implement good public transportation solutions. Atlanta should be ashamed of its poor transportation options. We are 25 years behind already. It is going to take MASSIVE investment to get this done. Good luck convincing Georgians to plan ahead. T-SPLOST taught us they don't care...even with a great plan.

PLEASE - bring rail service to Cobb County. Also, the GA 400 interchange is possibly the dumbest thing i've ever heard. A billion dollars goes a long way in creating a sustainable mass transit system. Do I think a few extra fly-overs and 4 years of construction will ease traffic? LOL

Keep the film incentives! It brings sooooo much money to the economy

do not allow any more business to set up shop, without coming up with a plan for traffic and parking; places like the camp creek market place. it's obvious that the city was more concerned about making money, so much so they didn't think about how people were going to get in and out of the area. many of the new buildings downtown have also been thrown up with the same amount of carelessness. SMH DO BETTER!!

government control is not the answer

Atlanta native, former Buckhead resident, comparable services south of I-20 are sorely lacking, SW area negatively affected by economic downturn, and proliferation so many Sec 8 /housing choice residents in formerly stable communities.

Don't spend tax money to do what the free market place should handle

This seems like a pointless exercise. The key question is not what are the solutions. Most of the items proposed make sense, the devil is in the detail of who should do what. Tax dollars can not and will not do everything. The private sector will act in its own interest. This survey in now way helps to address what can/should/will the private sector do, and what can/should/will government do.

Funding Comments

I don't expect a whole lot from the ARC except more million dollar weekends in the Bahamas to 'study' an issue and do nothing. Pat yourselves on the head for pretending you all are doing something with this online survey. Then you can waste all the money you like and feel good about how worthless you are at doing anything at all.

At the state level address the gasoline tax. Now is the time to raise it because in a few years with the increase in electric motors the \$s raised will subside.

Appreciate the option to comment on every response- well done!

Didn't see any inclusion/consideration of the cost side of these options; needs to be in order to make more reasoned responses

It is interesting that this entire survey never mentions government fiscal responsibility. Stop taxing and spending!

Lower corporate taxes and taxes in general AND cut gov't spending by overhauling welfare & entitlement programs and cutting staff

Retired engineer volunteering in charity medical clinic and county government.

Lower taxes, Less regulation

There should be state funding for Grady Hospital and statewide public transportation

I think that our region needs to begin to invest in a comprehensive plan. We have gone as far as we can with a low cost/limited government approach. It is now time to invest in the region, so that we can remain competitive for the years to come.

All government should provide the basics and let the private sector do the rest.

Encourage investment and implement the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition's Connect Atlanta Plan and the entire Atlanta Beltline plan to include transit/streetcar/MARTA integration.

Reduce regulations, taxes and let the free market process work.

Affordable housing for seniors in the form of rent controlled properties for adults 50+.

Protecting the rights of individuals and shrinking government influence.

Replace state income/property taxes with a consumption tax, so that everyone pays a share of the costs, and that the burden is not unfairly borne by citizens and property owners.

Shared views and unified voice as a Region.

- Fractionated governments and in-fighting does not bode well for our region.

Have a Zoning Board that works for the people and not just for the TAX revenue. We in East Cobb have been over built...So I guess the Topic should be "Not over building the area"

Funding Comments

Clean up the rampant corruption by the Governor and all local government elected officials.

Over Population
Rising Crime Rate
Fair Housing and Employment

school choice, vouchers where money follows the child.

Definitely needed, but not a good thing for government to get involved in.

The art world in Atlanta is not first class or remotely world class we continue to look pretty poor. Major investments need to be made in a truly remarkable symphony orchestra and most importantly a concert hall, like that in New York City, an opera building worth its name and a new and expanded art museum. the whole art scene needs to be enhanced by major improvements all around. Tax payers, and arts supporters can be found to achieve that goal.

If we are to create a truly walkable environment we need to look at more fountains in the city, broader sidewalks, more statues. Our planning has to take that into account if we are to become more special than we already are.

We are a great city with infinite possibilities for the future. so let's have high speed train service from Atlanta, to Chattanooga, to Macon and Savannah and Orlando, those investments are for the public good and will be used by the public if the price is right, the trains fast clean and comfortable with a coffee bar and good food. Trains are not profitable but are an absolute necessity in the modern community. Let's build a beautiful train station downtown from where we radiate public transportation with broad avenues and beautiful surroundings.

That will enhance the quality of life.

tax breaks for industry

We need to face the racial issues why a city the size of Atlanta has a transportation system that causes a negative quality of life issue for its citizens.

Create a system that will reach and connect those residents that are 30 to 50 miles outside of the current perimeter. Build-in more stops going in/out of the city. Make the cost attractive to all.

Fix the broken infrastructure in Metro Atlanta. This project is massive and costly.

Get rid of rail. Rail's cost per passenger mile is a loser. Make buses free. Toll expressways to provide funding.

More wasted money. Stop wasting our taxes to enhance crooked developers!

Funding Comments

with the great tax incentives we are providing the film industry we need to develop the arts (theatre) as a talent feeder pool

Attracting high tech business will bring the educated work force. Lower business tax rates. Business' do not really pay taxes any way. The cost of tax is added to the cost of their product and the customer (us) pay.

You must fix what is broken under the streets and the bridges over the streets. You must fix the dams. A penny tax could solve some the problems as long as general assembly could not get their hands on it and switch the use of the money to some of their pet projects.

lower taxes and the natural expansion of job opportunities will address homelessness. Additionally church address homelessness better than any government program.

Nobody, in the USA should be homeless. If we can spend millions building other countries why not spend some of that money building whatever is needed for the homeless population in the USA. Children shouldn't know the meaning of homeless in the USA nor should our vets and older population. Something need to be done about those situations in a hurry.

USICH.gov has best practices for regions to address homelessness...let's review successful programs and pilot them here...don't just throw money at the problem...

do this by restricting the use of welfare programs to pay for only nutritious foods; no cash payments to beneficiaries at all; payments for food, housing, medical should all be electronic, and paid directly to the vendor

let Obamacare take care of that

public funds should mainly be used for programs where beneficiaries work for their benefits, and illegal immigrants should not be allowed to participate

I say yes but the government, local, county, state, or federal, cannot do everything. This has to be a matter of personal pride and community sense of pride. Only so much can be done by government and organizations, individual interest and participation is a starting and ending point.

How? A new government mandate?

Only if supported by the people who participate. This is not a taxpayer function.

Private resources do a better job of providing services related to homelessness prevention and intervention than does the government..

I do think homelessness is a personal choice. Vagrants prefer to roam around and beg. It should be made illegal. Place them in public housing.

Funding Comments

community service and ones decision to do it is not an area that should be enforced by government. Those that want to will and those that don't want to shouldn't be forced or they will not provide the level of service that should be provided. If you have broken laws then - yes, make community service an enforceable punishment rather than fines and prison punishment. Make the crime and punishment match.

Not governments place to do this. The market will dictate what works in that arena and what will not!

meals on wheels was not available to my aged neighbors because they couldn't pay for it... They could have gone to the grocery store if they had money

You thrown money at this problem for years and it hasn't help./ school choice and vouchers will naturally provide this without government intervention.

Government can't provide incubators and incentives. Only investors and entrepreneurs can do that.

Government doesn't "invest". It spends.

We already have it. Not a place for government.

Let the private sector and university experts develop and move forward with the research they are the experts in the field-take heed of the findings for the government but government funding can be better spent with solutions once the research is completed.

but limit taxpayer funding

but only with very limited taxpayer funding - let the free market take care of this

Not using tax dollars in lieu of tuitions

Again, I'm not sure what you mean. Who will the "investors" be? Government spending is not investment.

Why does it cost so much? Lower prices are needed

If a particular local government wants to provide this service, that's great - the region's leaders, however, should not pick the winners and losers by deciding which neighborhoods get the resources from a top down approach. I support this from a bottom-up manner, though.

I am not comfortable with the extensive use of the term "incentives" or the tax breaks or other payments that it represents. Work to provide opportunities and reduce some of the hurdles - but good ideas will usually win out.

Lower taxes fee and licensing.

This is being done in smaller communities in the region, College Park has a good example of the partnership between private enterprise and city government.

Do you mean tax breaks?

Funding Comments

The majority of houthr housing in Doraville whether owner occupied or rental are in need of dire repair. City soosored low interest loans and forgivable loans to owners of home owners will help the community make major needed repairs and make homes livable.

let the free market build parking spaces

no local government should mandate housing options or lifestyles

Provide affordable housing and encourage people to keep communties clean and safe.

Housing **MUST** be available for everyone. Size is not the issue, but the comfort of a home is a **MUST**.

let the free market take care of funding this

let the free market take care of funding this - govt should only be involved in removing zoning and other governmental barriers

the government should not be involved in arranging/funding entertainment events - let the free market take care of that

While I appreciate the purpose of low income housing, I have never seen it contribute to a community in a positive way.

The Zoning Board needs to fully understand what this means...I have been here 30 years and have come to the conclusion that if there is tax dollars to be made the word "integrity" has no meaning to them.

Assist neighbor groups without making it a government program. Perhaps you make How To information available thru the libraries, host a community organization conference to aid groups needing information on organizing events, best practices or even options on types of community groups they could form. The important thing is it is the community that does it.

Compared nationally, Atlanta's housing costs are low for a large city. Public funds should not be expended on this.

This is often a buzz word for no change. We overplan and underzone our neighborhoods. We also put so mant restrictions on redevelopment that the goals of affordability are impossible without massive public funding.

I think the community associations can do this on their own, the government should just provide oversight in the creation of bylaws etc.

make partnerships with builders to assess the various demographics and provide housing developement SFD and MFD for those proportionate to future trends as well. work with lender to assist and NOT prey on demographics that will need their funds and or provide housing partnerships which promote financial independence from loans etc.

This should come from the free-market not from any mandated mix of housing options by leaders who think they know best.

Funding Comments

if this relates to using taxpayer's money then no, I switch my answer. If this relates to making neighborhoods unique for different lifestyles and income levels by using different types of project plans or architects (or architectural styles) then I'm definitely excited about that.

There's a good mix of housing availability in Atlanta area. This type of question usually means bringing in low income HUD properties which lowers property values & brings in undesirable elements like crime & drugs.

This is difficult to make a decision about. considering the cost of upkeep and other maintenance and sustainability .

best use of tax money unless private toll roads are built.

Only if the counties are willing to participate in the tax increase. It is not fair for the current counties to have the burden of funding bus service.

Not if you must pay to use additional lanes. Penalizes middle class who don't have resources to pay twice - taxes & then when need to use it. Make them HOV lanes - 2 or more ADULTS (drivers) in the car.

The State does inspection of all bridges in the State. They should also help fund the repairs or bridges and increase the funding for LMIG.

Detoration of roads and bridges simply adds to the cost of repair and the longer it takes the more expensive it gets.

It cost, but not keep what we have in repair, really???

Only if it does not need tax payer assistance to operate.

These projects NEVER recover the funding that was necessary to build them. Tolls don't even cover one third of the operating expense and they require large subsidies to maintain.

This is extremely critical...the more we save, the more we have and at lower cost... A real no-brainer here!

"Environmentally sensitive" gets way over used to prevent reasonable development. Just look at what counts as a "wet land". This region has lost many jobs due to environmental regulations that have made the businesses move to other countries. We need a reasonable balance and governmental assistance to go with mandates.

no government tax based incentives

lowering property, income and sales tax rates encourage business development

no public-private partnership. no government tax based incentives

only as long as the incentives are not procured from government taxes or government grants

Companies get tax break for tuition reimbursement

Funding Comments

Tax credits for companies coming to the region....more business more tax revenue

Attracting business into our area keeps our personal taxes down and provides good jobs.

I would love to pursue another degree, already possess one graduate degree, but there are no funding options for those of us who are self-employed.

Don't the public schools do this already. If not, why do I pay property taxes?

While I want to encourage businesses in the areas, I'm concerned about the level of incentives/tax breaks we give large corporations to locate here.

don't let the city-county state -federal tax lords rape the workign people of the rewards of labor.

It takes money to even feel like you can try to make your start-up happen. The opportunities needed to encourage start-ups are financial in this region; information alone as a resource will not be enough to get a diversity of people engaged in start-ups.

lower taxes for all is the best way to attract new business to georgia.

This can be done by allocating more funding by the state to the technical college system of georgia.

Stop giving tax incentives without enough follow up. Tie the quality of jobs to the tax incentive. No incentives for low wage part time jobs.

This is a can of worms....I have seen what Seattle has done in all these areas and it is a huge drain on the taxpayers wallet to implement such "vague" ideas. Most of the time "reason" is lost and the hardcore "greenies" try and take over.

Provide a permanent funding source for the arts in our region.

Provide free or reduced/low-cost immunizations for all walks of life - form childhood to adult - chicken pox, shingles influenza.

Limit sprawl and concentrate housing near job centers

This should be private sector not government

I would like to government to promote efforts that outline individual responsibility and private ventures rather than relying on taxpayers to cover expenses.

Proposed solutions should include funding mechanisms. This survey is severely compromised by asking about feelings and failing to articulate the funding realities.

Funding Comments

There isn't a lot of incentive for the public to engage in these kinds of issues if there is already a desired outcome built into the questions. Same goes for local Comp Plans, particularly when the local commission doesn't require concurrency when zoning applications are filed. Or when inaccurate poverty rate data is plugged into an Enterprise Zone justification report, in order to help the desired area/landowners become eligible for a tax abatement.

Re read Sherry Arnstein's Ladder of Participation and consider where the planning practices in many metro Atlanta fit in. Or those of the ARC. Are you really about promoting sustainable and resilient communities or is it about promoting opportunities for capital?

Cobb County's lack of service on Sundays is greatly affecting ATL accessibility. We want to get there, spend our MONEY there and return home. Tell Cobb County to get with the program

Reduce regulations, taxes and let the free market process work.

Stop building bike paths, expanding transit, lower taxes

Protecting the rights of individuals and shrinking government influence.

Replace state income/property taxes with a consumption tax, so that everyone pays a share of the costs, and that the burden is not unfairly borne by citizens and property owners.

Shared views and unified voice as a Region.

- Fractionated governments and in-fighting does not bode well for our region.

Clean up the rampant corruption by the Governor and all local government elected officials.

- Lower water costs.

- Lower taxes.

- Have Magistrate's courts impose "loser pays"

- Accelerate evictions to discourage deadbeats

- Impose tolls on expressway exits & use fund to make buses free.

- Convert rail lines to bus lines. Make free.

-

Getting people out of their cars is not a matter of sidewalks and bike lanes. If it is too far (>2 miles) to get to things the sidewalks and bike lanes are a waste of money.

school choice, vouchers where money follows the child.

Definitely needed, but not a good thing for government to get involved in.

tax breaks for industry

Funding Comments

Create a system that will reach and connect those residents that are 30 to 50 miles outside of the current perimeter. Build-in more stops going in/out of the city. Make the cost attractive to all.

Fix the broken infrastructure in Metro Atlanta. This project is massive and costly.

Get rid of rail. Rail's cost per passenger mile is a loser. Make buses free. Toll expressways to provide funding.

More wasted money. Stop wasting our taxes to enhance crooked developers!

Attracting high tech business will bring the educated work force. Lower business tax rates. Business' do not really pay taxes any way. The cost of tax is added to the cost of their product and the customer (us) pay.

Don't put toll lanes & roads in....they are waste of time and money and no one in the Atlanta area trust the Transportation people with toll anything because of what happened with Ga. 400 toll road.

You must fix what is broken under the streets and the bridges over the streets. You must fix the dams. A penny tax could solve some the problems as long as general assembly could not get their hands on it and switch the use of the money to some of their pet projects.

lower taxes and the natural expansion of job opportunities will address homelessness. Additionally church address homelessness better than any government program.

Have more people and Companies become involved in the homeless issues. Have companies help train people and have a dorminority style living for sinngle people while they are in a training class. Assist in mental help and physical health issues. Teach healthy living with exercise, cooking, shopping, finance classes.

Nobody, in the USA should be homeless. If we can spend millions building other countries why not spend some of that money building whatever is needed for the homeless population in the USA. Children shouldn't know the meaning of homeless in the USA nor should our vets and older population. Something need to be done about those situations in a hurry.

USICH.gov has best practices for regions to address homelessness...let's review successful programs and pilot them here...don't just throw money at the problem...

let Obamacare take care of that

public funds should mainly be used for programs where beneficiaries work for their benefits, and illegal immigrants should not be allowed to participate

This is critically important but I am not sure we know what to fund.

Funding Comments

I think we have a strong presence of art and culture in the region. I just don't think that we promote and market them enough. The Fernbank, High Museum of Art, and Atlanta Botanical Gardens can be WORLD CLASS. They need better promotion and marketing. I would also include the Zoo in this. The Atlanta Zoo get overlooked a lot from funding and renovations and improvements.

How? A new government mandate?

Only if supported by the people who participate. This is not a taxpayer function.

Private resources do a better job of providing services related to homelessness prevention and intervention than does the government..

I do think homelessness is a personal choice. Vagrants prefer to roam around and beg. It should be made illegal. Place them in public housing.

Everyone should be provided necessary shelter which should be funded on some level.

Not governments place to do this. The market will dictate what works in that arena and what will not!

meals on wheels was not available to my aged neighbors because they couldn't pay for it... They could have gone the the grocery store if they had money

You thrown money at this problem for years and it hasn't help./

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We already have it. Not a place for government.

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but limit taxpayer funding

but only with very limited taxpayer funding - let the free market take care of this

Not using tax dollars in lieu of tuitions

Again, I'm not sure what you mean. Who will the "investors" be? Government spending is not investment.

Why does it cost so much? Lower prices are needed

I am not comfortable with the extensive use of the term "incentives" or the tax breaks or other payments that it represents. Work to provide opportunities and reduce some of the hurdles - but good ideas will usually win out.

Lower taxes fee and licensing.

Funding Comments

This is being done in smaller communities in the region, College Park has a good example of the partnership between private enterprise and city government.

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Housing **MUST** be available for everyone. Size is not the issue, but the comfort of a home is a **MUST**.

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let the free market take care of funding this - govt should only be involved in removing zoning and other governmental barriers

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The Zoning Board needs to fully understand what this means...I have been here 30 years and have come to the conclusion that if there is tax dollars to be made the word "integrity" has no meaning to them.

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Only if the counties are willing to participate in the tax increase. It is not fair for the current counties to have the burden of funding bus service.

Funding Comments

Not if you must pay to use additional lanes. Penalizes middle class who don't have resources to pay twice - taxes & then when need to use it. Make them HOV lanes - 2 or more ADULTS (drivers) in the car.

The State does inspection of all bridges in the State. They should also help fund the repairs or bridges and increase the funding for LMIG.

only to the extent that such projects can be funded/maintained through fares charged on those trains/buses

It cost, but not keep what we have in repair, really???

Only if it does not need tax payer assistance to operate.

These projects NEVER recover the funding that was necessary to build them. Tolls don't even cover one third of the operating expense and they require large subsidies to maintain.

I think if we implement more water saving, green practices, we won't need to increase the water supply. I also don't really want my tax dollars going to a reservoir when children need education and teachers need raises.

This is extremely critical...the more we save, the more we have and at lower cost... A real no-brainer here!

Water quality needs to be a series of regional solutions such as retention lakes, restoration of vegetation along streams, etc. instead of the minimally useful flowells required today on individuals which don't function well at inception and less so as time goes by. Take the money spent on flowells and retention pits and do something useful with it.

Of course everyone would want this but Atlantans have been burned by sinking a lot of dollars into a system, APS, that shows no results or even worse results in scandals. This is too broad of a statement to be helpful in any meaningful way.

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no public-private partnership. no government tax based incentives

only as long as the incentives are not procured from government taxes or government grants

Companies get tax break for tuition reimbursement

Attracting business into our area keeps our personal taxes down and provides good jobs.

I would love to pursue another degree, already possess one graduate degree, but there are no funding options for those of us who are self-employed.

Don't the public schools do this already. If not, why do I pay property taxes?

Everybody talks good about quality education; however, when it is time for budget cuts education is one of the first items on the chopping block.

Funding Comments

don't let the city-county state -federal tax lords rape the workign people of the rewards of labor.

It takes money to even feel like you can try to make your start-up happen. The opportunities needed to encourage start-ups are financial in this region; information alone as a resource will not be enough to get a diversity of people engaged in start-ups.

lower taxes for all is the best way to attract new business to georgia.

This can be done by allocating more funding by the state to the technical college system of georgia.

The HOPE scholarship has grown to the point where it is not education for all but education for the B and above student- Spend HOPE money on the D/C student to get them assistance and move them for opportunities to better educate themselves

This is a can of worms....I have seen what Seattle has done in all these areas and it is a huge drain on the taxpayers wallet to implement such "vague" ideas. Most of the time "reason" is lost and the hardcore "greenies" try and take over.

Provide a permanent funding source for the arts in our region.

Limit sprawl and concentrate housing near job centers

This should be private sector not government

I would like to government to promote efforts that outline individual responsibility and private ventures rather than relying on taxpayers to cover expenses.

Proposed solutions should include funding mechanisms. This survey is severely compromised by asking about feelings and failing to articulate the funding realities.

Cobb County's lack of service on Sundays is greatly affecting ATL accessibility. We want to get there, spend our MONEY there and return home. Tell Cobb County to get with the program

Local Control

Funding, funding, funding.

There is info everywhere and easy access as well. people make choices and live with those consequences. Spend money on higher priority items. When there is a surplus you can go back to this.

What the crap is "equitable access" broadband is NOT a right. It is costly to provide and can only go where the cost/benefit justify the expense.

I don't like the phrasing. Building attractive and cost effecive housing does make some sense to me.

I perfer "promoting" good practices rather than "limiting." I am always suspect of the potential power grab of any governmental agency wanting to "limit" people's rights to exploit their land.

Funding Comments

In general, a regional plan should help with traffic and water and get out of the way of business - we don't need more taxes and regulations.

One of the most important things is to hire capable, proficient, and a higher caliber of employees (City, County and State levels of government) to ensure a more productive governing.

The regional entity should be more representative and less appointed. It needs to be careful not to become another layer of taxation and regulation - we have enough of that and we don't want taxation without representation.

One of the things I think is very important concerning the traffic flow in Atlanta, is that I believe that the "Toll Lanes" are completely unnecessary. Why get rid of a good system that works just fine in the Commuter Lanes, and put something in place that causes people to use the single lane, single commuter in car, even more? You MUST listen to reason, this idea does not work and if you put it on I-75 it will not work. It keeps the working class commuters from being able to use a lane that should be open to all the "TAX PAYING PUBLIC!" We are already paying for the highways with the gas tax, why should we pay further taxes to use the "Toll Lane?" This is a BAD idea and should be scrapped before it goes any further! Please listen to the people who use the highways, PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A TOLL LANE ON I-75, (NORTH OR SOUTH)? The current commuter lanes work just fine. If you wanted to do something that would help traffic in the Atlanta area, build some overhead, "VERY LIMITED ACCESS" lanes. Lanes which would only have exits every so often (to be determined by traffic counts on the highways that cross the VLAL - Very Limited Access Lanes)! Please don't just dismiss this idea outright. I am a Civil Engineer and I have thought this idea through and I believe that it could be used to eliminate much of the traffic congestion in the Atlanta area.

Innovation

Innovation Comments

If this is about infrastructure, then yes, bury the communication lines, free high speed everywhere. That would be a giant competitive advantage. We can probably cool it with Tech startups though. The resources at Tech Square are doing a good job with this. We need more venture capital, and we are ironically a logistics hub with terrible mobility. The transportation must be part of the innovation effort. We've also got space for manufacturing. Georgia Tech, Southern Poly, etc. and even regional high schools are training people that can make things and get paid well for it.

Innovation workers will only settle in Atlanta if walkable communities and transportation alternatives are provided.

I believe if you have the first three - transportation, vibrant neighborhoods, and arts and culture - being an innovation hub and having skilled workers will follow especially as we have great universities here already.

People more and more want to live in areas that are walkable and have a mix of uses - innovation, quality of life, and educated workforces depend on this.

It is important for our government to find more innovative ways to support the arts and creative industries. There should be greater efforts to create synergies between the entertainment industry and the regions arts and cultural community that would help sustain cultural businesses and fund innovation

Regional transportation lays and other infrastructure along with Arts Recreation QOL attract attract and keep a well educated workforce who in turn create the Atlanta region as a Hub of Innovation

Atlanta should be a national leader in business start ups, application of education/business partnerships. Business innovation.

Let capitalism drive the innovation process, keep the government out of it. We don't need the government deciding who the winners and losers will be. Let the market make that decision.

Definitely make Atlanta a center for innovation in the South and the world.

Innovation Comments

Walkable vibrant neighborhoods lead to innovation, better quality of life and a more educated workforce

I'd love to see fiber optic internet available throughout metro Atlanta.

I went back and forth between secure water supply and innovation hub, but I think water is such a critical issue for everyone - people and businesses that it comes first.

There is probably a little of chicken & egg thought here. We should build a more solid base of technology supportive education in our local colleges and technical schools but success out the innovation hubs will produce a demand for higher skilled workers as well as create a training base for talent themselves. If there are not a large availability of skilled jobs, the trained workforce will migrate elsewhere. Improving K -12 is also key to making the college and technical school programs successful. While this is a national conundrum, our region still has to attempt to find some practical solutions to improve educational results.

You cannot plan to innovate. You can, however, COMMIT to innovation -- which means refusing wall-off and protect status quo institutions from destructive change while refraining from over-promising the benefits of spending on R&D.

I want this higher, but all of these things are so important. I do think Atlanta has to focus on being an innovation hub to compete with other cities.

I think ensuring walkable and vibrant neighborhoods is a prerequisite to having a highly developed workforce; arts, recreation, and quality of life; and an innovation hub. If ARC creates the neighborhoods, the other things will come.

It is SUPER important for Atlanta to become an innovation hub, but the highest priority they can have in this endeavor is to become a city that innovative people love to live and get a reputation for being that kind of place. Innovation Hub should not be the high priority, walkable vibrant neighborhoods, full of arts, recreation, and a healthy quality of life should. Innovation will follow.

We need more choices in terms of internet/cable service providers.

It all runs down hill. This type of workforce will then create the demand for the "Quality of Life", the "Innovation Hub" & the great neighborhoods, we want for Cobb.

Top priority and maybe use rapid transportation to connect high tech and medical hubs with each other and the airport - and maybe time for two regional air hubs just much smaller than Hartsfield say Dalton and Gainesville

Innovation Comments

There must be more freedom and innovation here!! Whether it be charter schools, homeschooling or innovative public schools, we must not be slaves to the current systems and ways of doing things. Common Core makes no sense in terms of how children learn and develop. Trust the teachers to teach and stop leaning so much on test scores.

Don't try to compete with Silicon Valley in software and telecom innovation... Focus on composite materials like NCC nanocellulose crystals, then merge those benefits for next generation batteries and the energy sector which already have strong roots here. Choose industries that are already here which can leverage existing knowledge bases and benefit from metro R&D centers.

Bring more IT entry level jobs to Atlanta so folks won't have to accept jobs out of state. Sponsor job fairs for certain groups of people so that there will be fairness in competing with one another (i.e. Veterans, Handicap, Students, folks that may not have degree but they have years of experience).

Atlanta Public Schools is a prime example where failing schools are holding the economy back. Schools throughout the metro area need to be improved focusing on graduation rates, high SAT/ACT scores as well as students using technology whenever possible.

A secure water supply should be in all plans as well as education and innovation.

Light Regulation: avoid top down solutions that stifle local innovation and freedom to use property as the owners see fit.

While probably associated with 'Innovation Hub' a robust broadband that allows much greater telework and local school engagement for parents.

A combination of others above: Fluidity of movement between hubs of growth and innovation

Bikable city/region which will promote carbon free transportation, higher quality of life, healthier workforce, and decreased congestion of roads. Bikability has a funny way of attracting an educated workforce which also brings innovation.

Better Technology Economy

innovation around the senior population.

To attract people here specializing in technology excellent transportation systems need to be in place

If the things I put first are in place, the innovation hub will follow.

Innovation Comments

To my way of thinking, our region needs infrastructure improvements beyond roads and bridges (mass transportation, high speed rail, secure water supply, good education, arts, recreation & healthy quality of life, etc.) before we can become a true innovation hub so we'd best get to innovating as to how to accomplish laying the groundwork today.

Support the existing innovation hubs originating in the state universities and give tax breaks to more hi-tech companies willing to locate in the metro Atlanta area

make wifi available for our city hub

Atlanta is quickly becoming an innovation hub and place where high tech companies and startups are blossoming. Lets keep that going and support Atlanta's technology oriented reputation for Atlanta to support future growth, jobs, etc.

A high quality of life is where education starts as it creates a more successful home-life. But, Atlanta does need to be drastically modified in terms of its official education system. It might be worth considering a switch to a more Charter-School based system allowing for the equality of opportunity in education to be applied to institutions that have the freedom to be run like a private school, thus encouraging the educational innovation that is needed by Atlanta's diverse student population.

Atlanta universities are one of its largest assets. Ensuring that their vision is focused on building the future is paramount. I could eventually see a day when Georgia Tech is indisputably a top five university in the United States.

All of these are extremely important and it was hard to order them. Making Atlanta an innovation hub should be the overall goal, but encouraging that requires an educated populous and attracting more businesses and people requires better neighbourhoods and a quality of life.

Atlanta should continue to improve its policy to encourage innovative companies to move/be created. The recent extension of the Film Industry Tax Incentives to the video game industry is a good step, but there needs more incentives to bring companies in. Additionally supporting organizations like the Technology Association of Georgia will help grow new innovators here.

Neighborhoods, quality of life and educated workforce will undergird innovation hub and I would suggest that these three things are inter-related and key to our success & growth.

Technology is secondary to basic infrastructure such as storm water and sewer relief. It's hard to enjoy technology when water, sewer, and gas lines are crumbling around you.

Innovation Comments

Lets first breed these innovators ourselves by investing in the school systems. Then, create a vibrant city that promotes creativity, easily accessible, and a pleasure to be in and these well educated individuals will stay and create jobs to bring in more innovated, like-minded individuals. A city worth living in will prosper innovation by nature.

Use the advanced auto technology to solve the commuter problem and design the city to take advantage of new building technology and building & zoning codes to shape the growth.

I think we are making progress. Lots of growth and innovation in small theatre groups, etc.

Maslow's hierarchy trumps quality of life. If we have all that, we will be an innovation hub and attract and sustain a HD and WE workforce

I believe that my top three — transportation, workforce, neighborhoods — will attract the kind of population that will support arts and innovation hubs. So the top three create the others. Secure water supply goes without saying. I don't think it's even optional.

Need to also consider connecting people and communities to or with recreation. Don't simply focus on business. People may find jobs and increase access to "business," but if quality of life does not increase or is not sustained at a high level, they will find jobs elsewhere, where there is a better quality of life (less pollution, easier access to recreation, etc.). Also, even if the only reason to develop a comprehensive transportation system is ton increase access to business, that wouldn't increase the likelihood of my staying in metro Atlanta. I can telework and I can order off the internet for many of my needs. Having lived here during the entire '80s and early '90s, then returning five years ago, I find that transportation has not changed in terms of traffic congestion, little changed in terms of law enforcement, access (although HOT lanes have increased in price quite a bit—don't say no one has noticed), slightly improved in terms of recreational access (by that I mean for example moving from a decidedly bike unfriendly area to a somewhat bike tolerant area), and worsened for pollution from vehicles.

If we develop this the city will attract the educated workforce that will make it an innovation hub

Innovation Comments

Walkable, vibrant neighborhoods are the link between the "Arts, Recreation..." category and the "Comprehensive Transportation" category -- you can't have one of these without the other two. If you have all three, you will attract innovation and a well-educated workforce, leading to the production of future home-grown generations of such a workforce. Splitting up these priorities into a list, in which one would have to choose among them, encourages the illusion that they are possible without one another.

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

I believe that a well educated community is the pivot to innovation, which translates to contributing to the over all well being of the community. Then, all can together enjoy available infrastructure. Thank you!

That information is available to everyone, any time. Internet, advertising, doctors, health education in school.

Yes! Everyone has access to technology; i.e. iphones, ipads, etc. Use 'em for something besides texting and playing games.

This is can be accomplished via the internet.

Technology helps - people are crazy about that NextDoor app

Start by keeping schools open during the summer evenings and provide computer training for low income parents. School buildings should NOT be closed during the summer, they can also be used for daycare for working mothers.

Yes and No. We are becoming too dependent. This is a dangerous path. Having access is good and technology is good, but we still need the skills to do things the old fashion way; especially if something happens and we lose that access. Children now have not idea how to survive.

Yes and No. We are becoming too dependent. This is a dangerous path. Having access is good and technology is good, but we still need the skills to do things the old fashion way; especially if something happens and we lose that access. Children now have not idea how to survive. We will be completely dependent on the government if this continues.

Local monopolies for internet service providers MUST be eliminated. The lack of competition for Comcast, AT&T, etc. have driven up prices while limiting speeds and citizen satisfaction. Municipal internet should be investigated.

I love technology and teaching. Nearly all technical education programs I have encountered are crap. My wife is an assistant principal in Gwinett County. The people implementing these programs and measuring their success don't know what is useful.

Innovation Comments

Investment in a public utility internet backbone connection via WI-FI would be great.

Education relies on internet access now. It is a must have for all neighborhoods.

This is a very selfish of me. I have the slowest internet in the world.

Education and training for technology should also have a focus on the older generations, 40+. It is amazing how frustrated these older generations get with what the younger generations view as the simplest of tasks. We can't forget about these older generations, and I really doubt how much more knowledge the youth need. What current youth needs is a way to reign in the information overload and understand the inner workings of the tech they take for granted.

Lack of reliable high-speed internet has been surprisingly frustrating in my life at various locations around metro.

only if the public schools have access to computers - allow students to borrow laptops/ipads from the school library

Technology should be used as a tool and critical thinking skills should still be achieved in the education of all students.

It is easier and more affordable to have high speed internet located at central locations, such as the public library, rather than having it in everyone's home. Even if the internet is subsidized, are we then going have to buy low income individuals computers and phones to access it? Have the internet in one central location so it can be maintained and operational 24/7.

In this day and age, broadband should be as ubiquitous as electricity or water service. And building that infrastructure could be a good way to provide jobs.

No, the whole city needs coverage. Techies work from home or local coffee shops just as much if not more than the office. Plus, if you want innovative people to actually live here, there must be options for residences to have access to the same high-speed connectivity.

Georgia Tech must be given priority over all other universities in the state. Innovations come from technologies and sciences. In my opinion, the wisest money would be spent on GT.

Most important way to stay prominent and relevant in the technological world is future easy access to high speed unlimited internet.

Expand high speed internet to every area.

Internet access and speed should not depend on zip code. Make internet available for everyone.

Equitable sounds like subsidies or taxing internet of some so poor kids can stream online video games. No thanks.

Innovation Comments

End partnerships with Comcast. Access to the internet should be a utility not a commodity.

Bend over backwards to get Google fiber. It will be a 100% mandatory part of fighting for the next generation of high-tech hubs.

Fiber is the main selling point here. Absolutely do everything in your power to woo Google Fiber. With that, AT&T Gigapower may make an entrance. This will force Comcast (most likely worst company we've all ever had to deal with) to make changes.

Innovation follows the internet. Secure bandwidth, and you will secure many hi-tech companies and startups.

I think that most people are learning this by virtue of being in a technologically advanced society. I fear that we are actually creating a generation that is overly dependent on technology in order to be functional.

Its just a necessary part of life and business to have ready access to internet.

I only say no, because I fear that one day all of our learning (I'm especially seeing this movement more in the university systems) come via internet because it's cost effective - but we're forgetting the important learning that comes through classroom community, human contact, and classroom experiences.

Implement Computer Programming classes in school. Not only will it bolster current classes such as mathematics and logic, but it will provide youth with applicable skills for this century.

With the local universities, abundance of talent and robust airport facilities, Atlanta should be a Top 3 hub for innovation, start ups and technology. This will have the largest impact on our city by far.

I think we have enough tech in schools. It is important, don't get me wrong, but I think we sort of went tech-crazy as if technology is the answer to all our issues, and it's not.

Lets get more arts bad in the schools, Technology can be alienating. We need healthy kids and people, not just efficient ones. We are not machines.

I live near Braselton and high-speed internet is only available through Windstream which means we are depending on their services and cannot switch if they don't provide at expected level

This is essential. I hear we may be one of the first cities to roll out Googles new super fast internet. It must also become as ubiquitous and reliable as the old POTS telephones.

We have a few shuttered malls, these are perfect for innovation centers

Make this technology education available to adults as well.

Innovation Comments

Allow private industry to lead. Government should let private industry take the lead and not have the tax payer foot the bill for technology that will only improve private industries bottom line.

Youth need to think clearly and write well. They learn technology as they need to.

If you mean by forcing Comcast and ATT to give up their regional monopolies, then absolutely. It is a Federal Crime the way they have ruined competition in the area of internet providers.

Access to broadband is essential. And it's embarrassing how far behind the USA is in providing universal internet access compared to other countries.

Curbing the current monopoly held by AT&T and Comcast for access to broadband is even more critical--if there is a sincere intent to reach this goal.

Future policies need to encourage an open playing field--encourage competition. Since when could AT&T and Comcast, effectively the sole choices for residential Internet access, start setting monthly limits for Internet use? And how can they justify charging for use that exceeds the providers predetermined limits? They provide access, not content.

I think the residents of the Atlanta region would like to know how this was allowed to happen, how Atlanta became one of the "test markets" for Comcast and AT&T. Does it then follow that when a customer pays for cable TV, it's okay for the cable provider to set a monthly limit on how much TV the customer can watch? And then charge extra if the customer exceeds the limit? Please!

The price of internet use in the USA is multiple times more expensive than in the UK. Fact!!

Don't stop at universities. Go all the way down to grade school and excite kids about science and technology. Tie corporate welfare to real community engagement in programs such as robotics competitions, ecology studies, etc.

This goes back to the proposal for two levels of internet service. If you can't afford the fast service, tough! Don't like this. The internet should be a great equalizer!

Our citizens CHOOSE their neighborhoods and locations . . . it is a choice to move into an area without broadband; everyone does not need to pay for those choices . . . when you make that choice to move off-the-grid you make the choice to pay for satellite technology if you want Internet access at home . . . OR MOVE.

This can help develop vast amounts of ideas, advices, plans, products, technology, improvements, etc. Highly recommended.

No free computers for gaming, etc..

Innovation Comments

Again, utilize the schools during the summer month to conduct "innovative & creative" training by people in the private sector sponsored by major corporations!!

"Ensuring equitable" sounds like taxpayers paying for or subsidizing other peoples' internet access.

Though I like all of the ideas for the innovation hub I believe that access to information is key for all residents of our region.

We've seen the tech boom/bust in the 1990's. Now tech companies are yet again over-valuated. Focus on diversifying technical skills/offerings and partnerships between industries in order to ensure sustainable growth in innovation.

I think the emphasis on technology as a savior is a dead end. I think people need to resume talking to each other in communities and sharing in person.

Not in key areas ... EVERYWHERE! Look at other countries ... Some cities offer FREE internet access to all (tourists and locals) ... even a small city like Split in Croatia does that!!

Not in key areas ... EVERYWHERE! Look at other countries ... Some cities offer FREE internet access to all (tourists and locals) ... even cities in Ukraine!!

Since everything is on through the internet, why must we have to pay for it since we have NO CHOICE?

Since everything is through the internet, why must we have to pay for it since we have NO OTHER CHOICE? ALL choices will be obsolete.

Advances in wireless technology may allow people to bypass the wire

This already exists. Innovation tends to migrate toward progressive areas. To the extent that GA is very conservative, it does not invite innovators.

While I would love to have faster internet access, I think that this has the potential to leave out low income residents in areas considered undesirable by Internet Service Providers. Please consider how this would benefit those who are less well off.

Creating "fiberhoods" and a strong workforce should attract the companies.

yes but also business incubators for the creative arts community(music, graphic design, fashion, etc.) as well.

All of the metro should have access to high speed internet

I'm unsure of costs and what's involved here. I'm for access to high speed internet but I don't know how the key areas would be defined or if public money is the best way to fund this solution. Let's try the other solutions first.

Google fiber internet

Since when is this an issue? Internet access...

Innovation Comments

Depends on the context of what is to be saved, generally if it is nimbyism I think it poisons and stifles innovation and improvements

This is a sensitive subject...I only put a thumbs down because I believe funding needs to be heavily increased to other areas. I do believe there is a fine line and balance between preserving history and moving forward with innovation. When there is a major discrepancy, I do tend to side with preserving what is 'working.' One of the strongest correlations between residents and how well they take care of their surroundings is both since of pride and ownership. Therefore it is very important to not disrupt what they cherish or have had shown pride in for decades.

Busses are too big and often empty except high traffic times. Get more busses that are more pleasant and smaller so they don't run bikers over when they take up too much road space. Big busses are dumb. Use technology to coordinate when people need rides or just hire Uber for the city.

This must be done, but must be done very judiciously. I'd rather see more emphasis on smart traffic technology.

I don't know enough about water - but this is where your innovation center can come into play. Get people to innovate big problems to help government use technology and innovative ideas to solve complicated problems.

Create incentives for employers to contribute to this training, perhaps through some public-private partnerships that provide funding or other resources (trainers, training sites, technology for training, etc.).

If it's in trades or computer programming, yes. Otherwise, no.

Charter Schools combine the freedom of educational innovation of a private school with the equality of opportunity of a public school. Working to implement a better charter school system in Atlanta would provide both affordable and quality education.

This needs to include more than the conventional, non-technological training. Technology will be important in ATL moving forward. Helping pay for lower income individuals to get programming training is important.

Create innovation hubs for start ups to share ideas. The new Switchyards development is a perfect example of clustering innovation start ups together.

This is a PRIVATE INDUSTRY KEEP GOVERNMENT OUT OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY. GOV SHOULD NOT HAVE GAVE UP CONTROL OF INTERNET TO WHOLE WORLD WE HAD HACKING PROBLEMS BEFORE ID THEFT PROBLEM WILL JUST GET WORSE NOW. NO MORE BIG GOVERNMENT!!!!

Innovation Comments

Investing in select neighborhoods for very high speed internet does not make as much sense to me as investing in all neighborhoods for equitable internet access. If a company really wants super high speed internet, they should be able to invest in it on their own.

This best way for this to be done is by extension of the existing MARTA rail service using the same technology - riders will come when the ride is same-seat, quick, and overall the most convenient option.

Longer turning lanes, better coordinating leading arrows, Smart lights that adapt to traffic or time of day. We are too advanced to be using 1950's technology.

This is extremely important. More restrictive monopolies of telecommunication giants and the loss of net neutrality threaten our global competitiveness. We need affordable fiberoptic internet for all citizens--this needs to be one of our top priorities. Tech companies and highly skilled individuals will seek out Atlanta if we have this.

I advocate for making high-speed internet access available to all Atlantans free of charge.

Technology is the future and we need to educate our youth. There needs to be programs to introduce minority youth to these types of careers.

I like to have internet options and not be forced to use one company because they are the only ones in my area. We need to make internet more accessible with more providers.

This is important but not a major Plan element...Perhaps something like build a technology infrastructure that serves innovation...a more broad statement and not necessarily what is presently "best practices" and not necessarily what is better and next.

The current trend of rental rates is unsustainable and is hurting people and communities. Why is this "market" allowing such ridiculous rents? Pushing for \$2 sf was laughable but now they are pushing for \$3 - this is not NYC, our jobs do not pay NYC wages, we do not have an NYC transportation system - so why are we being charged NYC prices for rental units? Millennials cannot afford \$2 square foot - how do we have an innovation economy when Millennials cannot afford to live in the city center?

Today's youth is already more technology savvy than those of even a decade ago. In fact, the average cell phone has more computing power than computers from the early 90's. That said, there should be opportunities in public schools to learn about computer programming and operation (on a more sophisticated level than just typing or word processing!).

Innovation Comments

But not at the expense of other programs. Technology isn't everything. The arts can be just as vital to technology (thinking outside the box, creative problem solving, team work, etc.) as focusing solely on technology programs.

fiber around the Atlanta BeltLine as a central hub

I live in Grant Park but work in Technology Park in Norcross. To take public transportation I would need to take a bus to Marta, Marta to Doraville, a local bus and I'd still be short 1.5-2 miles from work. Terrible.

Innovation creates many jobs with long lasting careers.

Not cost effective with current technology. Bus rapid transit will be obsolete when driverless vehicles arrive.

We already have clean water. What is lacking is a source of additional water supply to serve a growing population. "Sustainable development" is a code word for excessive government intervention in the lives of the citizens which serves to limit freedom and innovation.

There needs to be internet access that is reliable but more importantly there needs to be competition. Counties and Cities sign up with one provider for an area and then there constant increase in fees and service is poor with nothing that can be done at the consumer level.

Private business will provide the incentives to attract labor.
Note: As the number of man-hours required to produce a product due to technology diminishes, as the population ages and demand wanes and as the mean-time between failure is expanded due to better products, the need for labor will continue to deteriorate

Private sector should do all these things....It is the private sector innovations that made America great. NOT GOVERNMENT!

Allow recreational access to existing and future reservoirs. We need to be more realistic and sophisticated when it comes to protecting our reservoirs. A chain link fence and cameras are not going to keep out terrorists or those with evil motives. With the technology of today, fences really are false security. More should be done to screen for pollutants and poisons in the water source so we can open these areas up to the public for recreational use and public surveillance.

Youth can not develop/improve all the oral communication skills or real life problem solving skills that involve control of body language or emotion via technology based learning.

Do what Chattanooga did. Make Internet a public utility and make it fast 2gbps download speed

This is really important - the survey won't allow a "heart" but this is mine. We follow the rest of the world in this technology and cultural development

Innovation Comments

Can we invest in water recycling, such as gre-water systems, and filtering sewage with membrane technology (toilet to tap)?

Internet should be FREE! Especially in lower income neighborhoods!

Again, status quo educators will try to preserve the current system. The future means smart kids emptying out of traditional HS at 16, using online learning and co-ops to secure a full-time job by 20 and never set foot on a four-year campus, let alone pay tremendous tuition bills. Are we really ready for this sort of innovation? Communities that are will reap tremendous benefits.

Absolutely not. Technology is no panacea. The problem with the education system is that it teaches relativistic garbage. Fix that. Government will never do that. That's why government needs to subsidize the consumer of educational services. It should no longer subsidize the producer, or be the producer, of educational services.

Free markets and little government intervention and regulation are the means by which to establish internet access (assuming that technology doesn't swallow up the internet).

Do this only if it is self sustaining and not a drag on tax payers. Expansion should be user supported or as in Silicon Valley, paid for by businesses if they are the ones who want to provide transportation for workers.

This is the best way to get an innovation hub started. Get them involved in the recommending the education & training piece and as they succeed they agree to support the E&T in the future.

This is the best way to get an innovation hub started. Get them involved in the recommending the education & training piece and as they succeed they agree to support the E&T in the future. Look at UF in Gainesville, FL and their Biotech incubator.

Ensure quality education; no strings attached - No COMMON CORE agenda. The People from local communities are to make all decisions on the educational needs of their area; from the text books, classroom instruction methods, teachers, latest technology, music, arts, sports, etc. Refuse vaccinations! Truth and transparency is to be the motto!

Innovation Comments

I'd like to see municipalities across the region develop their own fiber optic networks and maintain them as a public utility. The old copper wire phone system has been falling apart ever since Ma Bell was split. The Old Bell South and the New AT&T have sorely neglected the existing system while taking giant subsidies and tax breaks and doling out huge executive salaries. I had to switch to a cell phone and ditch my land line because I lost service in Smyrna every time it rained. The corporate phone companies and the cable monopolies in each community are only interested in sucking out as much profit as possible. Quality connections and customer service are hard to find. We are being left behind by the rest of the world when it comes to internet speed, availability, choices and cost.

If we concentrate on the other priorities, this will happen anyway. For Atlanta to shine in a global marketplace, our economic development efforts should focus on "product development" (i.e., skilled workforce, a culture of support for entrepreneurs and innovation, and outstanding quality of life).

If the city becomes too polished or too yuppy, it will lose the creativity and grittiness that makes it attractive to innovators. Diversity of race, culture, and socio-economic statuses helps to promote creativity and innovation and attract worldly, urban-minded, city-loving individuals.

It must include economically fragile communities in urban areas as well. Access to technology is critical.

I don't think this will necessarily help us achieve the goal of being an innovation hub...

No, because this is constantly changing. First, establish "who we are", as a city. New York is financial, Silicon Valley is technology, etc.

Paid for by users of the internet; not taxpayers.

More 'allowed' competition in cable/TV/internet is needed. The local county responses to cable monopolies is a great example of how NOT to handle technology.

Technology is on the verge of changing again. Bad investment.

This should be a business decision made by internet service providers.

Technology fields have historically had the least unemployment rate, even through the recent recession.

This is very important. US is already lagging behind other developed countries in this respect. One of our neighboring cities in Tennessee has taken a major leap in providing high speed internet.

High speed internet needs to be a universal service, built in compliance with regional plan.

Innovation Comments

I think we should consider this but it's should not be high on a priority. We have a number of things to address before this. Spread out the businesses and let people work from different areas to lessen travel. Tax incentives for smaller offices in outlying areas. Businesses can have more meeting through the internet, Skype, goto meeting ..ect

FUND THE SCHOOLS !!!! All schools in serious pain. having to dole out copy paper. have copy codes per teacher to limit worksheets. Giving only online text books - but not means for all students to have equal access to them. If a student rides bus they do not have advantage to use school library for access - so can not do work if no internet access available at home. AGAINST Internet only textbooks unless school provides all students with laptops and internet access in home.

In this age everyone needs to have ability to have dependable internet - places in rural GA where this is ABSOLUTELY not the case.

Cost of internet needs to be GREATLY reduced!

This already exists. This should be about obtaining faster internet should as Google fiber.

We already have more parking capacity than what we need. Also, disruptive technology such as UBER and LYFT are going to have a drastic impact on the need for public parking. These services are cheap and reliable and eliminate the need to pay the park when you are going out for dinner and a show for instance. A trip to the FOX theatre for instance is cheaper if you use UBER X and you don't have to be concerned with drinking and driving either.

Quality jobs will be attracted here if we have a highly educated population, who can also create its own jobs and innovation through entrepreneurship.

Quality jobs will be attracted here if we have a highly educated population, who can also create its own jobs and innovation through entrepreneurship.

Low-income areas need serious innovation and often serve as a hub for crime. Smaller market centers can be helpful. We need to connect low income with the entire region to provide better access. All communities should be connected regardless of income. We as a community will need a serious Paradigm shift.

This should be provided in every square mile in all counties that touch Fulton and beyond at all income levels. I am surprised that broadband is not available in parts of Cobb County. That is poor planning.

Innovation Comments

Granted, I live in the city and never hear anyone complain about not having access. But the lack of info and further explanation repulses me. Just because it sounds all warm and fuzzy is not enough reason to give my approval. Besides, is this not the job of internet providers? Besides permits and such, what does this have to do with your drive for non-elected government officials that the people cannot vote out when they defy the people's wishes?

Invest?! Who is investing and with whose money? Why don't the internet providers do their own investing like they have in the past? Do you mean another kind of bail out for companies with my tax dollars that all of these lofty ideas are surely going to increase like ten-fold?

high tech seems to translate into high money for municipalities. What about being creative in another way of focusing on sector creation. There is already a lot of competition between cities vying for high tech businesses

Key areas are generally seen as middle to high income areas. People in these areas can afford internet connection. To equalize access to information and job development skills, internet access must focus on low income neighborhoods

How will technology-based education reach poor youth who may not have access to a computer at home, or who may not be computer literate?

The region has to decide what it wants to "be" before deciding how much to invest in innovation. What does that really mean?

Take Georgia Tech's IPST International Paper Science Technology curriculum and leverage that with Georgia Pacific's and Kimberly-Clark's local presence. Then get a collaboration between these and others who are developing new technologies like Nanocellulosic Crystals which are the next generation replacements for costly carbon fiber.

The internet must be net-neutral... No single company or consortium should have any prioritized web traffic.

Such partnerships have to be a two way street. The private sector will see the profits and/or savings that come from government funded research and should pay a fair price to use the technology.

Everyone deserves to have access to the internet. It is REQUIRED to improve your standard of living. Better yet, teach kids more technology skills.

Technology is essential to anyone's career. We need to better prepare our youth for a skill they will not be able to live without.

Expand local coverage as needed and interconnect the hubs with rail. Stop trying to add more buses to these choked highways.

Innovation Comments

A national internet system would be equal to a national highway system:

<http://www.citylab.com/politics/2014/07/what-congress-should-be-talking-about-when-it-talks-about-a-national-transportation-plan/375288/>

It's time we become the Silicon Valley of the south. Provide incubators so start-ups will come to the City.

This is up the parents and there are already computer in public spaces. Children need to be playing and studying the basics. Look to private sector. They are already supplying support.

This is Atlanta. There's no reason the tech industry in our region can't do better on diversity than silicon valley. If not, any investment in a tech hub is a failure.

ALL areas should have investment in increased high speed internet access. This suggestion sounds like only the affluent parts will be the ones with high speed internet access.

I do believe in free access, but the government can't regulate access. Provide areas and situations where the companies can provide free access points to bring the homeless in a supportive environment and able to basic services and communication; allow the schools to help lower-income households access technology and internet services; provide free and public access at libraries in the region.

Improve in all areas, not just technology. Technology jobs can be exported; plumbers and electricians can't be exported off-shore (try replacing a toilet while you are 2,000 miles away :)

Consider water reuse technology (i.e. Clayton Co.)

Consider encouraging "money angles" to fund in area. There is room for innovation here, perhaps in limited guarantees or insurance.

Again , lots of opportunities on the internet

All of this is available on the internet, no need for City Govt to get involved

Provide incubators and incentives for non-tech start-ups and small businesses. Recognize that technology is critical but there are other non-technology focused areas that will drive area revenue

Smart lights that adapt to lighter traffic conditions or time of day/week. One size-fits-all technology is stupid and counterproductive.

More roundabouts (1 lane, please, not those crazy multi-lane things St. Simon's Island has---craaaazy!!).

Innovation Comments

Smart lights that adapt to lighter traffic conditions or time of day/week. One size-fits-all technology is stupid and counterproductive.

More roundabouts (1 lane, please, not those crazy multi-lane things St. Simon's Island has---craaaazy!!).

Clearly marked pedestrian crosswalks with the middle of the road stop signage, flashing signal lights, different roadway material (like brickwork), more warning stripes across roadways for stop signs or places where people need to slow down.

Sidewalks that will accommodate 2-3 people abreast. Fine joggers if they run in the street when sidewalks are available. I can't drive on the sidewalk--they shouldn't jog in the streets.

No favorite from me on communication. As a society we are missing something with everyone stuck in their computers or phones. Technology is great but when kids can't spell or add without a machine in front of them, we will lose our ranking in the world in many areas.

I do like the high-speed internet access and utilizing technology to promote telecommuting to ease traffic congestions.

Increase use of technology to improve traffic (e.g. signal coordination)

Innovation has always been created by the private sector, by entrepreneurs and economic and intellectual risk-takers. The role of government in fostering innovation is to get out of the way! Reduce regulation and restriction on small business!

Less stifling regulation & lower taxation will drive the innovation you seek.

Innovation is not limited to technology. We could look at developing communication and leadership skills.

Fund startups that choose to bring their company to Atlanta and employ our tech and creative people. Also, increasing the availability of shared workspace initiatives that new businesses can take advantage of in unused spaces downtown.

More programs for kids in neighborhoods that need after school care or latchkey programs that bring kids in from the streets to develop skills- computer, arts, gardening, sports

Pioneer educational policy that promotes resiliency, innovation, and a love for learning for our youth.

The private sector, charities, churches.
Use the TV, billboards, and the internet to address healthy and unhealthy lifestyles.

Innovation Comments

Keep an eye on and plan for adoption of technology that recycles waste water directly into drinking water. It's the last best conservation measure before inter-basin transfer, if such a thing could ever come to pass.

Traffic is always worse when school is in. We need to start thinking about telecommuting for the students. I feel it would be cheaper and more economically viable if we provide them with the technology to work from home. This = less cars on the road, less fuel be consumed, fewer schools needing to be constructed, reduce carbon foot print, save time for the students to be able to do their work, fewer lunches needed to be prepared at the schools, etc.

Internet as a utility. Create municipal broadband, similar to what Chattanooga has done. They now have the highest speed, lowest cost internet in the country. Further, it is actually profitable and yet has not put other internet companies out of business.

Attract manufacturing jobs and train a skilled workforce for those jobs. Internet and "high-tech" jobs do not provide a large enough number of jobs to warrant a majority of the focus when trying to attract living wage jobs.

Employing a highly developed workforce will come with all of the aforementioned areas have reached a certain threshold. Individuals that are highly skilled will move to a place that has a comprehensive transit system, great walkable neighborhoods, a high quality of life and an established innovation hub. It makes an attractive place to be and a place where people want to live. Thus, this category should be a given when the other areas have made improvement.

Continue to pursue technology training for older workers and students that have had limited access. Encourage the school curriculum to address this need also.

Encourage non college track high school curriculum. Teach trade skills. Plumbing electrical computer tech.

Google Fiber!!! Wherever this technology can be implemented.

Engineer, Computer Software Developer, born in Atlanta, lived here my whole life, and two years part-time in Portland, Oregon
quality jobs need to be developed for more than just technology based jobs.

I run a community digital learning center in Downtown East Point. I would love to support further discussion on bringing technology access, creation, and jobs to South Fulton County.

There is a lack of input from Southwest Atlanta because of the digital divide. Not all people have access to the internet, but until I saw this on a community listserv, I did not know about this survey and to that I ask, "Why?"

Innovation Comments

I think Atlanta already does well in education and jobs/innovation. We need better transportation and a more livable downtown. I lived in the city in NYC, DC, and San Francisco, but would never do so here.

As a working adult in the public school system, I see the need to provide equitable access to technology; we must close the technological divide that plagues our low income citizens in their homes.

Tech innovation is the most important focus for the future, fast internet should be a basic right, self-driving cars are the future of transportation, get ahead of coming changes

Atlanta should be a beacon for walkability, arts/culture, and innovation in the US.

Enable physical and virtual collaboration with future needs in mind... Highest speed internet and public transit are needed to keep Atlanta relevant. Walkable, safe neighborhoods are also key.

You'll get more innovation and ideas from smaller companies. My experience with your organization is that you had some bad hires probably favors -- and they talked a good game, but had little substance. You also had a bunch of cast-offs from the corporate ranks. Frequently they ship those people out to places like yours because they're trying to get rid of them and can't at the moment.

If the city works and people like living here then innovation will come.

This option will not only boost the desirability of an area or neighborhood but access to greater internet speed, especially to the young aged population, increases productivity and allows for innovation

All of the suggestions on this page of Innovation Hub are critical ideas for us to achieve!!!

Tax incentives work well. It is very expensive for small business' to operate in my county. Many Mom and Pop places can't afford the license and other fees and wind up going under leaving only deep pocketed national chains. It stifles innovation and variety.

enhancing technology is creating an enviroment for change starting with the youth as change is slow and you have to start with a younger age to move forward and make them competitive in the market.

Food innovation hubs - providing place-based jobs at all skill levels

Innovation Comments

Again, this is not my top 3 priority, but it should be highly valued. We need to really focus on the senior citizens and their quality of life, especially with the growing number of senior citizens, retirees, and the dependence upon social security and single income. Technology, globalization, inflation, and higher cost of living is really widening the gap for poverty and the well-being of our beloved senior citizens.

With many technology companies putting regional hubs here and relocating here, this is a no brainer. We may no compete with Silicon Valley, but we can definitely continue to attract regional and district offices. Google, Yahoo, Twitter already have regional offices here. Continue in the technology trend with attracting support companies and data centers, as these and startups has been an Atlanta strong suit in recent years. Build on it and the growth and appeal will impact more companies.

water, nice neighborhoods, convenient transportation, good jobs, and high quality of life the innovation will follow

If the city works and people like living here then innovation will come.

Without a sound and sustainable infrastructure Atlanta will not maintain any prominence in leadership/technology

The internet has more than enough information. It's available to most.

I'm not sure about this one. I know my friend in Alabama does not have internet access. Is that an issue in the Atlanta area? Also, there could be health concerns with just broadcasting internet gratuitously. I think people need to work at work and when they are at home, be attentive to family and friends, not glued in front of another screen.

This option will not only boost the desirability of an area or neighborhood but access to greater internet speed, especially to the young aged population, increases productivity and allows for innovation

All of the suggestions on this page of Innovation Hub are critical ideas for us to achieve!!!

I am not saying home economics and other curricular are not important, but technology is the way of the future. American youth needs to be prepared to compete in technology on a global scale.

Innovation Comments

The internet is going nowhere and is only going to grow. Imagine the vastness of space, well, here you have the similar vastness of cyberspace.

I am aware of Atlanta selected as one of the cities for Google optics to increase the internet speeds here. We are on the verge. Do not wait for opportunity to come knocking, open the door and not only invite opportunity in, but HOST the opportunity. Nurture the opportunity and potential to grow it beyond initial thoughts.

This option could turn out to be a political nightmare! All areas should have highspeed internet access!!

Internet providers should be regulated similar to the way phone company's once were. Provide the "pipe" in a neutral way.

Education should be as broad based as well as technology based

close the digital divide. Internet access should not be for those with \$\$\$

Add Charter School, support homeschooling, use technology for learning.

We live on the west side of Atlanta and my children should have the same educational opportunities and exposure to state of the art technology that is in Alpharetta or Roswell...it's not fair!

Tax incentives work well. It is very expensive for small business' to operate in my county. Many Mom and Pop places can't afford the license and other fees and wind up going under leaving only deep pocketed national chains. It stifles innovation and variety.

enhancing technology is creating an enviroment for change starting with the youth as change is slow and you have to start with a younger age to move forward and make them competitive in the market.

Provide incentive for capture of rainwater and grey water for landscape use.

Food innovation hubs - providing place-based jobs at all skill levels

Create more training and technical schools

Atlanta should show the world how to organize and operate a 24 hr social and business construct. Commercial interests will drive innovation.

Goes without saying, we must develop and educate. But not only the tech and sciences. We must more than touch, we must immerse, our souls and spirits and creativity in song and dance and wine (or your favorite beverage).

Innovation Comments

In order of priority, possibility, and potential, humans make this world happen. A high-quality human is foremost the most important asset aside from the Earth's future environmental wellbeing. Art is far more important than perceived and must take a high prominence next to technology and finance and other developments of our civilization.

GA's capacities are about taking new technologies and making them into working applications across a variety of industries - biotech, financial, agriculture, etc. This is what makes Atlanta vitally important.

Tech education will follow the market anyway. We need to invest more in the arts which are the true measure and identity of our culture.

More vocational education in high schools and support tech colleges.

Water

Water Comments

rain water recycling???

in stead of making parks, need purchase more land and make more lakes/reservoirs to secure more water supply.

Sam Olens is right that we need a political solution to allow a big straw into the Tennessee river

Planting gardens that do not require so much watering should be a priority. Atlantans use too much water to care for their lawns and should be planting draught resistant gardens instead. More information needs to get to the general population on conserving water.

If the water supply becomes a limiting issue a lot else won't matter.

Since a water supply is a necessity, Transportation is really the #1 optional item on this list.

This has to be #1 only because we cant survive without water.

Adequate water supply is paramount to all other considerations. Crops, trees, and animals, including will perish without a clean water supply.

Begin to build more reservoirs and not leave drought solution to just prayers ala Sonny Perdue

Water supply is a finite commodity in the Metro area. We cannot afford to recruit the 3 Million you commit to unless there is a defined source of water that will satisfy this growth. Inter Basin Transfer is not the answer either. This only shifts the impact to another basin. If the ACF cannot support the 3 Million then you as the Planning organization must put a hold on growth, politics or not!

Water Comments

One decade long drought like they are having out west and we are toast. This is the biggest issue.

Clean, readily available water is a must. Seems I've heard our current infrastructure needs MUCH work, due to gross mismanagement at many levels.

we all know Georgia has a water problem so this should be our first priority

We need reservoirs

Do whatever necessary to secure water supply in the region. Make greater efforts to reduce cost of irrigation for gardeners! Gardens enhance neighborhoods!

Ensure that Georgians have a clean, dependable water supply!

3/4 of the state population LIVE IN THE METRO AREA SO every effort needs to be made to keep our water safe and available.

We need to protect our water supply especially when 3/4 of the state population lives in the metro area

Increase storage. Quality of ALL commodities, including water, depends on quantity. Also increased storage will provide recreation & boost economy of Georgia.

Our elected GA officials should be ashamed of their inaction on the water issue. I know, the horizon for doing something about water for Atlanta extends beyond the next election, so the issue draws no interest for the incumbent politicians. Shame, shame, shame on them!

Doesn't really deserve to be ranked with these others since this is "table stakes." Having a Secure Water Supply is more in the category of "law and order." Not having secure water would be like not having public schools or not having a police force.

Clean water is so basic to EVERYTHING.

Water security will be easier to achieve if the ARC does NOT actively recruit more businesses and people to the area. Adding 3 million people to the area is NOT sustainable.

We need to build more reservoirs to supply water to the area. Repair the existing system in Atlanta as it is major problem with old pipes. Without water you cannot move forward with any other development.

What do you mean by promote? We all want clean water in abundance for PEOPLE to survive, EPA regulations protecting a Delta Smelt, or such as that instead? NO!

Without a clean and secure water supply we cannot have anything else on the list.

The public needs to be advised on how to conserve and protect their sources of water and work with other states concerning assess.

Water Comments

Why is secure water supply even an option? A secure water supply is obviously one of the most important necessities for future growth, but that being an option on a planning priorities survey seems a bit elementary. Secure water supply is an obvious priority that needs to be addressed, but we are really doing little in Atlanta when it comes to tapping into potential sources available, such as rainwater harvesting, etc.

Without a secure water supply, nothing ARC or other organizations/individuals accomplish will matter.

I went back and forth between secure water supply and innovation hub, but I think water is such a critical issue for everyone - people and businesses that it comes first.

Promote means to educate or encourage reasonable water conservation practices

To conserve water

New reservoir built within last 6 years.

Of course we want clean water. This why we have County and local governments to provide this. Stay out!

While I want clean water, I do not want the EPA and related agencies overstepping their bounds and sacrificing businesses and economic freedom.

I don't believe anyone wants to waste our water supply, and that most people are environmentally engaged; however, that does not mean we need to adopt the insane environmental edicts proposed by the U.N. Agenda 21 proposal presented at the Rio Environmental Conference in 1992! And please don't insult the intelligence of the informed public by saying that you do not know what we are talking about here!!!

To support the current community AND to grow it, a consistent water supply is needed. Lake Lanier is a "no man's land" where FL, GA and AL adjudicate a decades long dispute. Atlanta needs an reliable, state controlled water reservoir to secure Atlanta's viability in 2040.

While education, water, and quality of life are all important, it is our lack of comprehensive transportation strategy and implementation that will prohibit any sustainable progress of the region.

Don't focus only on environmental water issues but pursue obtaining more water supplies such as the Tennessee/Georgia border issue which can give GA access to the Tennessee River.

Pursue new sources of water such as the Tennessee/Georgia border dispute which would give Georgia access to the Tennessee River.

Our water supply will become a much bigger problem in the future. We have to look outside of the Atlanta regional area for greater supply as well as conserve what we have.

Water Comments

The "environment friendly" part concerns me. As long as we keep letting those that put ridiculous laws and restraints on our resources, we'll continue to evolve into a government controlled society. Secure the water supply but do it reasonably.

This seems obvious and practical. No matter how cool the neighborhoods are, they won't be cool with out a sustainable source of water. I put this 4th though because if we develop these neighborhoods we'll fill the city with educated people who are forward thinkers who see the value of securing sustainable sources of water.

We don't need a fence around Atlanta Waterworks for it to be a 'secure water supply'.

The BeltLine is alright, but Atlanta needs more parks (especially in Buckhead). We also could use a man made lake. Water is soothing to the mind and a great recreational activity. Going to the Chattahoochee is not worth it.

Water is vital. But we need to focus on conservation, not supply.

Can we build a reservoir akin to Lake Lanier somewhere in Georgia for Georgians? Is that too crazy a plan? And you don't have to give permission & permits to every apartment & townhouse developer that asks. In Texas they actually say no to over development if the infrastructure doesn't support it.

I hope this means to build buildings with water conservation methods or modify existing public buildings to support water conservation. Also, to consider "aquatic-plant" manufacture sites, as other forward-thinking cities do

Lake Lanier's drainage basin is not sufficient to handle the growth.. what is in place for the future growth?

Need for additional reservoirs.

This is a great option, but it is difficult to attract others when issues such as water/utility infrastructure, transportation, education and quality of life are not high in comparison to other cities.

My priorities will require an educated workforce and a clean water supply.

Stop putting so much fluoride in the water

I thought the Cobb Water Dept had a great program when they did the \$50 credit for replacing older toilets a few years ago. Let's see more programs like that. Example, have all gov & business convert to waterless men's urnials.

Conservation, including changing the laws for grey water usage. Implementation of recycling water as Emory is doing.

Without a water plan, we're done. Period. Need to increase conservation even w/o drought

IBT both Interstate and use of credits to share resources to improve delivery or water

Water Comments

Hire competent people to oversee the Water Department.

Of the 6 priorities listed, 3 are public goods but not inherently regional in nature. Only Water, Walkability, and Transportation are inherently regional challenges that simply cannot succeed without regional authority or regional cooperation. There is nothing wrong with the other priorities, but they can just as easily be accomplished at the state or local level. Regional involvement for these is not as critical.

Not only supply but the whole water infrastructure. The piratical sewer surcharges on DeKalb water bills (while doing nothing to upgrade the sewer system) are unacceptable.

Water is vital for a good quality of life. It must be clean, safe and available. Developers should be required to include a comprehensive water use plan before building.

An absolute must! Who wants to emulate Los Angeles?!? Plan for & develop the top 3 - water, neighborhoods, & transportation - and the other items will develop as a result!

Without enough CLEAN water achieved through REQUIRING communities to REQUIRE developers to provide Green Infrastructure with every new & retrofitted development, Atlanta will become a concrete wasteland and have a sagging economy. (I still have the full page ad in the Atlanta Journal where the top business interests foresaw the area's future water problems and promoted the idea of the MNGWPD - very enlightened folks!.)

Without a secure water supply all the rest will not happen.

Safety & security of our water supply are of the utmost importance and should not be taken lightly. Increase in population means increase in the demand for water. We need to make certain our infrastructure is up to date and secure and that we are practicing conservation methods before a shortage happens. In other words we need to be pro-active not re-active.

Conservation and rainwater harvesting

Not quite sure why we have to share our water with the neighboring state (I believe it's for AL). Find a way to separate this to avoid the water dispute that was mentioned on the news last year. Do everything to supply safe and clean drinking water for the residents.

Restructure Underground Atlanta to build another type of "Atlantic Station" so that people will have more shops, nice restaurants, movies, clubs, etc. to visit. Add man made water for a nice feature such as a lake to add to the scenery. I believe this will give people more reason to want to come and visit and hang out. Add out door patio feature for dog friendly restaurants and a small\large dog park.

Water Comments

Restructure Underground Atlanta to build another type of "Atlantic Station" so that people will have more shops, nice restaurants, movies, clubs, etc. to visit. Add man made water for a nice feature such as a lake to add to the scenery. I believe this will give people more reason to want to come and visit and hang out. Add out door patio feature for dog friendly restaurants and a small\large dog park.

Also, build more access roads or lower bridges under the expressways to help reduce traffic congestion. Please do not build any high bridges since there are some active senior citizens who are very independent and like to travel but may not want to go over any high bridges. Also, if it's possible, please build a dedicated bike\moped access separated by a concrete wall to avoid danger to people who would be willing to commute this way to go throughout downtown and beyond.

This is like the orange in the apple bushel. Look at Maslov's pyramid. Survival (food and water) is not in same band as the remaining priorities on this list.

A secure water supply should be in all plans as well as education and innovation.

Comprehensive conservation strategies and laws for water and energy.

Bikeable city - make it safe to bicycle from the Airport to Alpharetta, and Stone Mountain Park to Sweetwater Creek State Park! We should push for a Metro Area law stating that any road that is resurfaced in the region must incorporate safe bike lanes and safe walking access. Put people before vehicles!

Clean air & Healthy environmental standards

infrastructure - sewers, water improvements

Encourage green infrastructure for stormwater management at the site, neighborhood and regional scales.

Secure and abundant water supply

Having a sustainable water source is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We all need water to live.

SHould be a HIGH PRIORITY. Without water we die.

I hope this is already happening. We pay enough money for it to. However, government workers are slack and irresponsible based on my experience. Privatize the water services and things will improve.

Have a solution and prepare in case of a drought.

Aging infrastructure such as water pipes are wearing down and badly need to be replaced. This will protect the health of our residents from toxins and prevent leaks which pop up more and more frequency as the pipe linings become weakened. Top priority!!!

Water Comments

Proper supervision of water management departments to eliminate wasteful spending ensures public trust

If we are successful in providing water, transportation, and general quality of life, educated and innovative and creative people and activities will be here.

I agree with all of this however, water safety and transp system is most important to me.

Water/sewer is a vital public service and should never be entrusted to private for-profit companies by corrupt mayors seeking kick-backs.

While most will not give this a high priority without water the rest doesn't matter

Reduce the cost of water.

You have to have a secure water supply no matter where you are. No water, no people.

Amen to that. We must have a safe water supply. Unload all those over paid incompetent bureaucrats at the Atlanta Water department.

SECURE WATER SUPPLY IS THE BEGINING OF A BETTER FUTURE.

To my way of thinking, our region needs infrastructure improvements beyond roads and bridges (mass transportation, high speed rail, secure water supply, good education, arts, recreation & healthy quality of life, etc.) before we can become a true innovation hub so we'd best get to innovating as to how to accomplish laying the groundwork today.

Consistent, guaranteed purified water supply that does not smell like chlorine when it comes out of the faucet.

adher to all government regulations / have a compliance offer if we do not have one already - because we did not do ths in the past, resident water bills are the highest in the nation

In order to promote health and well-being, we need to address multiple issues - education, poverty, transportation, housing, food and water, safety and violence prevention. To some extent, this priority encompasses almost all of the others.

Slow down development! Our infrastructure and our water supply is not adequate to support endless development.

I was on the bus beltline tour and saw the water quarry which I think should be completed as priority one.

Transportation and a secure water supply are tied for 1st in my mind. Both essential to Atlanta's future

Water infrastructure is probably the biggest concern in this area

A must have, but first we need to create an environment where people WANT to live. Secure the water and way of life first

Water Comments

More reservoirs please! Closely monitor the Army Corps' release of water from Lanier to make certain they are not releasing too much like in the build up to 2009, need more oversight of this

Without enough water and a means to get around without being stuck in a car alone in traffic, none of the other choices will matter.

conservation of our water resources is definitely important, I'd like to see Atlanta adopt conservative water policies akin to drought-prone areas NOW so that we are not stricken and whiney when drought does hit again or other regions need to share our water supply.

I don't really feel the effects of a poor water supply. I know that dependence on the Chattahoochee is problematic, but I haven't heard many feasible solutions.

I find it astounding that a state that gets 60 inches of rain per year has water problem. Build more reservoirs!!

This list of 6 groups do not belong together to select among in priority. Of course people need a secure water supply in front of walkable neighborhoods as defined. Be that as it may, your definition of secure water supply is an inaccurate definition with an environmentalist political agenda.

Technology is secondary to basic infrastructure such as storm water and sewer relief. It's hard to enjoy technology when water, sewer, and gas lines are crumbling around you.

Without a secure safe water supply, no one will live here

Limited supply, we must conserve. Pay the price now, increased costs to all OR pay the price later...limited water which affects quality of life and economic development.

I believe water, air, transportation, and Q of L, are going to be huge factors in the next 20 years

WATER SHORTFALL - LITTLE GROWTH.DO BETTER WITH LAWN IRRIGATION PROBLEMS

All of these items are very important to me. I believe we have a secure water supply now but it needs to always be top because it is so necessary. The other items need more work on them to meet the standard we should have. And just because arts, etc is on the bottom doesn't mean its not just as important as the others because it is.

The Atlanta watershed is shallow and is not sufficient for the population. We need a pricing plan that communicates the value of water

Water is a finite resource thus, securing quality water supply will help with growth.

There is not adequate places to dump septic tank septage for the ATL Metro area, and the mixed storm and sewer system is overburdened. Consider more direct reuse strategies and expanded treatment capacity.

Water Comments

This should also include water infrastructure maintenance.

Peoples common lack of resource conservation as a whole severely bothers me. As population increases, water demand will only go up. We must be both innovated in our solutions to meet such demands and use best management practices for not only our current city, but to set an example to humanity as a whole.

more traffic circles/fewer lights, fewer road expansions, more bike paths that connect things that matter, take bikes away from roadways - not safe to have these together, expand path, silver comet, beltline, and need more paths like these along our many creeks and waterways

Our water supply can be met through better management and conservation measures and policy. Large reservoirs are not the answer to this priority.

Clean water is vital to quality life. It should be a top priority.

With Florida fighting Georgia that in turn seems to want to fight Tennessee, and ongoing disputes as to whether to build reservoirs, to say nothing of the use of the Chattahoochee, "Secure Water Source" as a useful term is virtually meaningless.

The litigation that has ensued over this issue needs to stop, and we need to ensure a livable situation with this issue that will not come back to haunt the city within a few years. In Dekalb Co., where I live, as well as other parts of Atlanta, we are dealing with a sewer system that is crumbling beneath us. No leaders have come up with a solution to get this problem fixed. I know it will take time, but we need to get a plan in place and begin to actually REPLACING the system instead of all the patchwork. People are being flooded out every time it rains. This is appalling for such a large metro area.

Begin to develop alternate methods of securing water supply other than through conservation.

Water is critical and NOW is the time to make sure we will be OK for the next hundred years. No matter how much we build better transportation, wit limits on water we can not grow!

Water management should link to outdoor recreation. Including neighborhood detention areas designed for outdoor play. Greenways that protect flood plains while providing places for picnics, play grounds, informal play fields, and multi-use trails; edging these with pedestrian friendly streets will make them visible, accessible, and increase the value of adjacent properties.

We need to stop allowing septic tanks and require sewer to save our water

Are we persuing access to the Tennessee River in at least a limited way?

I would have placed Transportation first but the water supply was scary.

Very Important to have plenty of water.

Water Comments

Let's not waste our rain water and find more ways to collect as much as possible. Rain water can be essential for our growth. Also develop a more organized state water infrastructure, along with connected supply reserves and our oceanic coast to prevent future droughts. More products can be developed, supported with incentives that are more efficient in term of water use and supply.

Have a realistic drought preparedness plan that does not wait till the last minute to react. Invest in conservation plans along with resource development.

Provide a metro-wide plan that promotes clean, healthy water, without stealing water from municipalities far away. Educate the public on composting toilets, low flow showers, etc. Encourage sustainable gardening all over the city, and DIS-courage watering of lawns and non-sustainable surfaces. Ban the use of pesticides and herbicides which end up in our water supply!

I'm concerned the deep sewer tunnels will contaminate our ground water. We need to establish more sustainable methods to handle sewage.

Try alkaline water...as a ,means of helping to maintain citizens health.

Clean up Chattahoochee river. Stop dumping untreated sewage in it.

Securing our water supply allow us to maintain our independence and our health.

Any future growth has to have a secure water supply, because if there is not sufficient clean drinking water then there is no way there can be vibrant neighborhoods.

Building code needs updating and collection designs implemented to secure enough water for the future growth.

W/O adequate water supplies no advancement of quality of life is possible

We cannot survive without clean water. Regional Cooperation is a necessity.We must emphasize importance of cooperation and conservation of water.

If we don't have a secure water supply as one of the necessities of life, nothing else will matter!

Remember people pay taxes, this is the responsibility of the State of Georgia to ensure their people have the clean water supply they are paying into the State for. Not a choice, but a responsibility.

Our water supply needs to be dealt with. As soon as there is another drought, the states will be arguing again.

It is incomprehensible that we have done nothing to build new reservoirs since the last drought. The demands for water continue to increase. If we lose the AL water battle, we will be in trouble overnight.

Water Comments

Penalize water use for lawns and wasteful housing design with too many bathrooms. Tax rebates for water efficiency in appliances and fixtures. Promote capture of rain water and gray water for gardening.

not as important as a stable water supply and infrastructure.

None of the other listed subjects mean a hill of beans w/o adequate water.

Give Tn. [Chattanooga] what they want but tap onto the Tn. River

I believe that my top three — transportation, workforce, neighborhoods — will attract the kind of population that will support arts and innovation hubs. So the top three create the others. Secure water supply goes without saying. I don't think it's even optional.

Water is the source for sustaining life, so ensuring a safe and affordable water supply that is accessible to all, is the most important part of an area's sustainability. Just look at some of the large cities or municipalities that have trouble with water, especially during times of drought, which we know will only increase with the way our climate is changing. Most people water their lawns too much, anyway.

Clean water should be a GIVEN, not an option.

Shirley tackled sewers. We must tackle water distribution where we lose too much water now and conservation as a larger component.

With the amount of people moving into our communities and the builders putting up structures and not caring about the environment. We need stronger laws against them. They tack on the HOA Management to help them steal money but not keep the water supply valid

EPD needs to protect the waters of the State instead of supporting polluters

We are choking on traffic and need to get water from Tennessee River Basin to sustain growth.

New reservoirs are a huge waste. Raising the level of lake Lanier (and Altoona) may be a worthwhile endeavor, but the real answer is conservation. We must develop innovative sticks and carrots to induce everyone to conserve this essential and scarce resource.

People that work in the city, but live outside the city are not carrying their fair share of burden when it comes to providing a secure water supply.

Water Comments

If you do not have water, you will not survive. Bottom line. Lake Lanier and Lake Alatoona are the primary water sheds for the northern half of the state. South Georgia needs a major water shed to supply it. The water needs to be cleaned and treated properly for reuse. Sewer systems need to be updated and created where necessary to be paid for by businesses and residences in the usage area.

This will happen naturally if transportation, water, education, communities and quality of life are developed first. They will come.

Water or lack of could kill the prospects for the region.

This is a necessity of life, I don't think it should be on this list. Ample fire & police protection and a secure water supply should be a done deal before any other goals are considered.

More importantly people need to conserve and protect their water supplies. Then it would be cheaper to clean water at water intake facilities. Conservation needs to be a priority and people should not be allowed to water there lawns every day.

For me, this means building more dams and reservoirs.

A secure water supply is important for our area. We need more water in case of an emergency. There are too many homes in the metro because of poor planning and greed. A major drought will crush Atlanta. Lets plan ahead.

Provide stream buffer regulation and runoff retention requirements to maintain our limited resources

Healthy quality of life includes arts, recreation, comprehensive transportation and walkable neighborhoods with quality education, secure water supply and centers for innovation. Hard to prioritize these.

A secure water supply must be Priority One! Growth is not manageable if water sources (river, groundwater) can not sustain it. Additionally, conservation of our water resources must be a priority for everyone if we want to continue economic growth in this region. The availability of clean water is the ace in the hole for economic growth. All other priorities are dependent on this one factor whether it be a direct or indirect relationship.

The current water supply system for the Region is inadequate to sustain continued population growth. A broad spectrum of initiatives must be undertaken assure adequate supplies can be maintained.

Water Comments

Even though I suggested this as a favorite, I suggest modification to it, as information alone is not sufficient to promote healthy behaviors. The environment that we live in (built environment, housing, neighborhoods, air and water quality, transportation availability, walkability) has a significant impact on health. For many people, especially those with limited incomes, these factors are out of their control, as they cannot move to a better neighborhood, or improve their homes, or even travel to a place where they can find information or access healthcare, if they can even afford health insurance, or have it provided for them through an employer. In addition, with the lack of Medicaid expansion, and lack of attention to the working poor, this is even more difficult. We need to ensure that Georgia takes advantage of the opportunity to expand healthcare coverage for all of its residents, and that prevention programs are implemented and accessible.

Non profits with local, state and federal support can do this. Region needs to focus on transportation and water.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

This is ridiculous - haven't you heard that you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink?

"You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." Poor eating habits exist in the wealthiest suburbs. I would be against Spending tax payer dollars here .

In this day and age, broadband should be as ubiquitous as electricity or water service. And building that infrastructure could be a good way to provide jobs.

This "solution" undermines support for alternative transportations and helps to increase water and air pollution.

Atlanta biggest asset is its river. Open up access to Chattahoochee river for water related recreation. create something similar to riverwalk way in Columbus, Georgia and Augusta. Expand of river rafting and tubing infrastructure. See the impact for yourself, the aesthetic, health and entertainment benefit would be bigger than CNN, Coke and the Aquarium.....

This "solution" will wreak havoc on neighborhoods and create additional water quality in streams from stormwater runoff. This should be removed from the list of "solutions".

Things like water, safety and transportation are far more important functions of government compared to attracting business, culture and the arts.

Water Comments

It's more than just expanding bus services... the future plans must include the roadmap/master plan for connecting other cities, states and regions to the S.E. hub (metro region of GA) comprehensively so that we can move our region forward and catch up to those in the Northeast and West that have adequate systems including hi-speed rail as well. We must also be environmentally friendly when creating these plans to make them more holistic and include the impact to our watersheds and urban landscapes as well.

Lets not waiting for a bridge to collapse or a watershed dam to fail. Money for maintenance is money well spent.

We cannot have a good quality of life without good quality air and water. To foster public transportation that would reduce auto emissions should be top priority in planning for the future and sustaining an increased populace.

We are fighting with Alabama and Florida and instead we need to think about other rivers we can use for reservoirs.

New reservoirs will not increase the water supply. They will only store existing supplies rather than allowing natural flow.

We have a whole ocean that Georgia can use for drinking water if desalinization plants are built (as they were supposed to be about 10 years ago). If the state builds plants like this, then the metro area will not have to fight with other states for drinking water, wasting time, energy, and ridiculous amounts of money which can be put to much better uses.

I am sick of Atlanta with the highest rates of water and I still smell chlorine when I turn on my faucet. Its sad when I have to pick water bill or food. We pay the highest water rate in Georgia.

More lakes, more jobs to build lakes, more beautiful spaces, and more water for the people. All good!

Water is unlimited. Clean water is not.

Need to make the battle between the states over our water supply a priority -- stop putting it off til tomorrow and hope everything will be ok

too many of our streams & lakes, including the Chattahoochee are polluted and unsafe; essentially open sewers. This and extensive subway/rail lines are the most important objectives on Atlantas' horizon.

More dams please. They create park space and provide protection for floods and droughts.

Given our significant drop in water usage, I believe our existing programs are working.

Use area quarries for water supply reservoirs.

Any one receiving assistance with water bills should be taught the proper way to utilize it as well as what not to flush down the sink or toilet and should be able to pass a test.

Water Comments

If we are limiting the impact of new developments to protect sensitive areas, then it makes sense to clean up messes we have already made to continue to protect both the land and water.

after this is done, we can eliminate water restrictions during dry periods

Advertise the harm that can be done to our water supply if clean water practices are not implemented in every home in every neighborhood. Educate the masses.

Promote water independence with our OWN reservoirs. Tell other states and the Fed to go pound sand.

restaurants automatically give large glass of water; work with them - smaller size. little pr now re conserve.

Needs to be a free market for water like most other consumables. Higher prices would encourage people to limit their use. No more environment-damaging reservoirs.

Bellwood Quarry would be a great place to build an additional reservoir.

Particular attention has to be paid to natural water run-offs.

This is a must. If Atlanta is to support a larger population, it must be prepared for the inevitable droughts. Additional reservoirs are a must.

Open up the Westside Reservoir Park in WestSide Atlanta. Expand the greenspaces created by the Atlanta BeltLine.

I think that when any developments are planned...sustainability should be a factor before any structure is built. All new residential project should all have faucets/ shower heads that are for saving water. Maybe stores should only Carry these products in order to conserve more water.

Stores in the region and throughout the country should only sell shower heads that conserve water. Also new public developments should have economical faucets and toilets in restrooms.

I don't know enough about water - but this is where your innovation center can come into play. Get people to innovate big problems to help government use technology and innovative ideas to solve complicated problems.

Create "waterfront" areas (think San Antonio Riverwalk-esque) around town along creeks and connect them to nearby rail stations for access without a car.

With the Water Wars against Alabama, and Florida we don't have a choice. Of course using Lake Lanier with its small watershed was a debacle in hindsight.

Seek to increase permanent pool elevation of existing reservoirs.

Expand existing water supplies by raising reservoirs, lessee environmentally damaging.

Water Comments

This is critical as water wars with other states will continue.

Look to expand existing reservoirs - raising Lanier, Allatoona by a marginal amount has less environmental impact than new reservoirs.

Encourage better use of water instead. Stop watering useless lawns, start growing food.

we should first do all we can through water conservation -- Atlantans, people, developers, waste an astronomical amount of water.

we should first do all we can through water conservation -- Atlantans, people, developers, waste an astronomical amount of water. We should not take this resource for granted!

Implement incentives paired with code enforcement on all water fixtures at the point of purchase for a building.

New reservoirs must only be developed after analysis of watershed & long term impacts...

Instead of increasing the water supply, fix the underground water works so that they don't leak and waste what water we already have.

Heavily fine any business/commercial entity/individual found using automatic sprinklers wantonly such as watering the roadways, etc.

This seems like a less effective use of money. Those who are concerned with water conservation usually are already taking action on their own.

This may be the only alternative, but lakes and ponds are poor methods to store water (runoff pollution concentration, problems associated with evaporation, other changes to environment, are not natural in this region, etc.). Limiting impervious development is the only long term solution

get serious with water conservation. how do we not have a mandatory toilet replacement at time of sale program for the region? we must change the relationship between local water utilities needing revenue and being tasked with promoting water conservation.

we should prioritize efficiency, conservation, greywater reuse, and rainwater harvesting

However, the main part of the plan should focus on increasing the clean water supply. The Atlanta region cannot achieve its potential with the current supply sources.

Water Comments

This one is slightly vague...however this is very important. Everyone (with the exception of the developer) benefits from this in the long run. No building in flood planes means less residents have their houses destroyed by floods. Not building too closely to crucial tributaries means the creeks stay cleaner and moms don't have to worry about letting their children play in the dirty creek water (just a relatable example of the MANY reasons I could have put here).

Atlanta needs to have a lake within City limits to reserve water and be a place where people can enjoy activities around the lake. Such places like Oakland, CA Lake Merritt a man made lake.

just because drought is not on us today, doesn't mean it won't be next year. We need to change usage habits to be more conservative. I think the drought did wonders - as a start.

This needs to be more than lip service. ARC has repeatedly approved intense development in environmentally sensitive areas, especially in favor of politically influential developers. DRI#1239 was unconscionable in its deliberate decision to harm Lake Allatoona, and please note the letter included in the DRI#1239 file on pages 36-37 of the DRI. ARC needs to really work to protect our water supply, and stop favoring developers over real water and other environmental issues.

We may want to accept the notion that only a certain amount of people can live in one place. Creating more reservoirs may not be able to occur and still reach the above solutions in this category

Using the existing granite (?) mine just west of downtown as a reservoir is a smart idea. I just hope you all don't blow the budget on another Bahama's 'meeting' to discuss things and get nothing done.

Educate officials and general public to change perceptions and codes to allow more use of rainwater and grey water. Start educating in the schools so conservation is a way of life with young people just like use of seat belts is now automatic for most youth.

The new stormwater ordinance is a step in the right direction. So is requiring new development to install new infrastructure even if there isn't adjacent new infrastructure yet to connect to, that's a good way to develop it over time so costs are less prohibitive.

Encourage new developments to recycle their grey waste water. I'm also a fan of composting human waste on an industrial scale

Give grants for everyone's personal home to establish an underground rain-storage tank for use in gardening and grey water uses.

A critical need. There already too many demands on the Chattahoochie. Build more reservoirs!!!!

Water Comments

You can conserve only so far but if you don't have a source of water you are lost

As with many other resources, demand and use trends are increasing. Conserving water means there is more to go around, is logical, and stands to provide gains in the long run.

Water quality and supply are linked to land use and development. With a growing population land becomes a premium. But ecologically smart land development, e. g. Greenspace in floodplains that will absorb water and filter it, will support the sustainability of the city.

Look into alternative ways of collecting rain and doing greywater treatment at the home level. Try these articles:
<http://bit.ly/1t5gLX7>

<http://www.aquaback.com/solutions/residential/septic-system>
I think most counties do a great job of handling their water conservation issues. But as we add more people, the need grows. We have to have more water supplies.

We can't keep letting developers come in and clear cut every tree that is on their property before building. Our air and water quality suffers every time this happens.

It is absolutely essential that metro Atlanta develop both underground and above ground water supplies before the next drought cycle begins.

I'm not informed enough to comment on whether our problem is insufficient source water, or ability to store what we do have

greenspace and clean water number one always

low density building a must so that resources are not strained such as being able to have clean water available to all.

Increase the depth of present lakes.

Politics has been keeping this from happening. Go to the Feds to step in and create more reservoirs in the metro area.

We can always do better but we have come a long way...stop our prideful love affair with watering landscapes.

I am not clear on the water supply situation because I am fairly new to the region.

Ensure that ATL takes proper and immediate action with broken pipes, water meters etc ... Make people realize the importance of water.

This would be as important as the one marked as my favorite (protecting water quality). I would, however, urge us to focus targeted efforts on environmental damage mitigation, as that can often have detrimental effects on affected communities for a generation.

Water Comments

This would be as important as the one marked as my favorite (water conservation programs). I would, however, urge us to focus targeted efforts on environmental damage mitigation, as that can often have detrimental effects on affected communities for a generation.

I'm thinking our water system needs restoration and must be in a plan.

I've lived in drought states in the past, and they all adopted measures against washing cars, watering lawns -- all things Georgia allows without question. We need better policy and better enforcement

Apparently the city has among the highest water rates in the nation - I would not want conservation to take the form of ever higher rates.

The issue should be assure a future water supply for the metro area

I mean, the city is growing the supply will probably have to increase. But conservation should come before adding reservoirs. I know that work has been done on the mains and sewers over the last couple of years, but Atlanta really falls flat in terms identifying and fixing leaks, etc. I'm sure the city could probably audit its water usage and maximize efficiency, in terms of city buildings, parks, etc. I mean, I love greenspace and I hope we get more, but that will also require more water. Hopefully Atlanta will take advantage of technological solutions to monitor and reduce water consumption.

Agriculture consumes huge amount of water.
So does fossil fuel and nuclear electrical power generation
So does paper mills.

reservoirs don't create water. they are expensive boondoggles. that require expensive maintenance. Raise Lanier a couple of feet and conserve water and limit turf areas.

The people will respond if they feel the need to conserve is sincere. However Electric power production and farming is SW GA individually use more water than all the citizens of Metro Atlanta.

I'll be honest that I dont know that much about water conservation, so my preferences arent strong in this area.

Water is the second most important factor to keeping Atlanta growing and a vibrant city.

Water is the second most important factor to keeping Atlanta growing and a vibrant city.

Build rubber lined reservoirs with storage tanks and adjacent pumping facilities which are connected to raw water supply lines to major treatment facilities.

BUT only do this in neighborhoods that practice to protect the region's water quality and have many active greenspaces - spend your resources where people are already on board.

Water Comments

less-emphasis on stormwater runoff volume control and more on runoff quality control

repair and extend the current water reservoirs to accommodate the water supply. Or put a new reservoirs that is not located near a residential neighborhood.

Lower priority, only for those areas that actually affect water quality in a significant way.

Offline reservoirs that do not impact natural streams and habitats. Like Atlanta-Fulton's.

We need to learn to conserve and protect water and not spend tons of money on reservoirs.

It's frankly hard to believe we (as a region) are not already doing this. We've known for years that we have a water issue. We need regional leadership on this issue (creating new reservoirs).

Programs are less likely to be effective than simply changing development patterns in ways that require less water

It has not been proven that reservoirs increase the availability of water. Reservoirs tend to increase evaporation while negatively impacting (water quality, ecosystem sustainability) the downstream sections of the waterway. Healthy systems include healthy ecosystems. Currently the Chattahoochee River gets extremely low during the summer months, limiting recreational activities such as rowing. Additional reservoirs holding back water from the river could actually severely impact the city of Atlanta's primary drinking water source.

The State should continue working with Alabama, Florida and the Feds to gain greater use of the Chattahoochee River basin waters.

Improve water quality throughout the region by allowing natural filtration and conserving naturally sensitive areas

Look at wetland area which have been destroyed to restore their functionality and improve water quality

Controlling leaks in the existing water system would likely conserve an unbelievable amount of water. The number of times I've seen a small river running down the shoulder for hours and hours before Atlanta Water responds boggles the mind.

Promote more use of reuse/gray water for irrigation, industrial, and other nonsanitary needs

Ensure implies 'force'. Education is available for all youth now. The only thing that does not ensure it is quality are restrictions placed on teachers and administrators and the requirement of disruptive members of the community to attend against their will. You can lead a horse to water.....Until the 'state' stops funding the perpetual cycle of dependency 'it' has created, 'it' will continue to breed ill behavior and an entitlement attitude costly to society both economically and in lack of safety.

Water Comments

Tax incentives for developments that implement LEED standards for water conservation.

Tax incentives for developments that implement LEED standards/strategies for water conservation.

Ga doesnt have enough lakes for recreation and drinking water. But AC of engineers has no business over seeing small streams. If there is a problem there are ALREADY LAWS FOR THAT. JUST ENFORCE THE COMMERCIAL DUMPING AND MAKE CALIFORNIA AND MOSANTO CLEAN UP THERE CHEMICALS - THERES AREADY LAWS FOR THAT. GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG ALREADY

New reservoirs are costly, difficult to build (especially if people's property will be flooded), and will take years to come on line. We should instead seek to bury our differences with our greater regional partners in the Southeast to more efficiently use the water supply we have.

Water conservation measures are already quite good in our region, furthering the existing programs is a good idea, while becoming more limited will only hurt business and lead to people not following the rules.

Also reuse of existing water reservoirs where feasible.

Unless it can be done in such a way that areas along the water way are not negatively impacted. Don't take away someone else's water to satiate our desire for green lawns.

Georgia has fallen so far behind in terms of protecting water quality and ensuring water supply, we'll need to get positively draconian to catch up to the challenges.

More aggressive watershed protections are a necessity in Georgia. Our rivers and streams are our lifeblood. Without better conservation we are screwing ourselves environmentally, economically, and physically. Climate change is real and Georgia needs to put on his big boy shorts and take exacerbated periods of drought seriously for people and agriculture.

Originally, there were dozens of reservoirs planned for the Atlanta region. We need to convert large suburban greyfields into reservoirs.

This should include curtailing water/sewer access for new development. Developers don't have a right to these services for low-density, sprawl property development.

Creating new Reservoirs may not necessarily be the answer for projected water shortages...so I wouldn't limit this area to one solution which could prove to be impractical or wrong

Florida needs water too.

Water Comments

We should focus on smart water use, conservation, and reducing the amount of water we consume. Demand will always increase with a growing population, but increasing supply through new reservoirs is only a stop gap measure. I would not like to see our rivers go the way of the Colorado River.

Accomplish this through education and efficiency of water use, not rationing.

This will increase our buffer during drought and rationing from our litigation with other states over water sharing.

I commute by bike to work. Most of my commute is through Lullwater park. If I had to ride on streets, it would be too dangerous. I don't think it is possible to develop a viable network of bike paths given the current layout of Atlanta.

At the same time as being conservative in use, we must be considering a long term plan that will provide the adequate ongoing supply to accomodate growth. One thing is for sure. We will all need water.

Promoting yes, but not penalizing users or limiting consumption on a one size fits all. This would be dictatorial. But providing advantages and incentives to create conscious efforts to limit water use and to promote reuse for sure.

Sounds good but a bit idealistic. Presevation of historic areas will be more important. Reuse of old kudzu patches is a wonderful long range plan (i.e. The Beltline) but generally money is needed in areas like transportation and water more than walkable communities...but maybe I'm old school.

Doesn't our drinking water come from areas outside of ARC? How does developent near some creek in Atlanta have anything to do with a secure water supply. This solution seems to be in the wrong place.

Most of the environmentally damaged areas in the ARC boundaries seem to have little to do with a clean drinking water supply.

Repair aging water/sewer pipes to decrease the number of water main breaks!

Provided that the development of reservoirs is done in conjunction with upgrading our aging (and leaking) infrastructure and water-conservation methods. Reservoirs should only be sited in appropriate, non-sensitive areas (e.g. Bellwood Quarry).

Everyone should read "Thirst" to see how creative/critical thinking that can help mitigate wasteful water usage

The Westside Reservoir will help with this once it's built and functioning.

Water Comments

Conservation is great but reservoirs are needed for new supply, buy water in south GA pipe it north, a win win for all. We don't have a water supply problem but a water storage problem.

Just banning fescue grass in favor of zoshia would dramatically lessen the need for lawn watering

only after programs that support improved management of the existing water supply

Address long term flat parking lot owners by implementing a blight tax like in DC. Since impervious surface lots use more water/sewer runoff than development, use the tax as an incentive to spur redevelopment and denisyt on those parking lots. Also need to better fund the code enforcement offices of our local governments.

use brownfields and clean water act and other federal programs and incentives

Continuous education and in judicious use of water. Government facilities should be models of practical water conservation- encouraging free enterprise to provide cost effective solutions.

limit development only as it affects the water supply availability that meets the purity and quantity standards of the state

Need to have sufficient reserves for anticipated population given that droughts will occur. Limit population based on availability of water supply.

promote Greenspan only as it affects the water supply

promote Greenspan only as it affects the water supply

repair only as it affects the water supply

Creat more reservoirs to go along with conservation, in my 23 years greater Atlanta has grown from 1M to over 5M people - no reservoirs added that I recall

Yes, but build more reservoirs.

I don't understand what this has to do with securing a water supply.

What a joke! You and your consultants are all foolish with this idea. New reservoirs especially above Buford and Allatoona do not increase water supply. They only shift the storage yield away from Buford or Allatoona. I do not now when you are going to come to grips with this fundamental concept. Back to the days of the Ice Queen, Pat Stevens, this has been a failure on the ARC's part to recognize!

Not relevant to secure water supply although there's certainly nothing wrong with doing this

We don't need more reservoirs, we need better water management practices.

As long as the reservoir prOvides a public amenity like Lake Lanier not for private development of lake side homes.

Water Comments

Georgia needs an alternative to Lake Lanier. Worst case scenario, and earthquake or bomb damages the dam at Lake Lanier and it has to be drained. What do we do?

Water conservation plans as typically implemented are a joke. The only true water usage is evaporation. All other uses of water end up with the water returning to the aquifer for reuse.

We have had ample time to start new reservoirs since the last drought. And yet nothing has been done. Irresponsible.

"Strengthen" gives a bad connotation. Seeking cooperation from the citizenry and product manufacturers to reduce water consumption and tax incentives are good approaches. Punitive taxation (like a carbon tax, storm water run-off, progressive use rate schedules) only make people mad and do not achieve the desired result.

Can't be done. You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink. All citizens should be afforded an equal opportunity to get a quality education, but not all will succeed. Equating equality of opportunity with equality of outcome is a fools errand.

Duh! The Atlanta area needs additional water supplies, which would involve creating new reservoirs. It is not possible to "save or conserve" our area out of the pending water crisis. New sources must be found.

We already have clean water. What is lacking is a source of additional water supply to serve a growing population. "Sustainable development" is a code word for excessive government intervention in the lives of the citizens which serves to limit freedom and innovation.

We can not save our way to a sustainable water supply. We must both conserve AND build additional capacity

I don't have a solution, but greenspace better helps protect water quality than more cars.

Conservation programs can only go so far. You have to develop more supplies of water starting now due to the regulations required to acquire more water

Green space is a great concept but who ends up paying for it and taking care of it. The taxpayers end up with the burden. Protecting water quality is important but developing more reservoirs is very important.

If you are seeing 3 million more folks in the next 10-20 years you had better start grading now to have the supply of water ready.

Can we work with GA Tech and other regional institutions for alternative energy projects, water conservation and designs connecting suburban neighborhoods to mixed use centers?

We need an up-to-date water infrastructure.

Water Comments

Allow recreational access to existing and future reservoirs. We need to be more realistic and sophisticated when it comes to protecting our reservoirs. A chain link fence and cameras are not going to keep out terrorists or those with evil motives. With the technology of today, fences really are false security. More should be done to screen for pollutants and poisons in the water source so we can open these areas up to the public for recreational use and public surveillance.

Water that falls in Georgia should be allowed to stay in Georgia and should be transferrable between drainage basins within Georgia.

Bellwood Quarry has the potential to retain upwards of 30 days of water for Atlanta. This conversion should be a top priority.

I don't know enough about the impact of reservoirs to know if this is a good idea or not.

Can we invest in water recycling, such as grey-water systems, and filtering sewage with membrane technology (toilet to tap)?

Careful studies via competitive bids need to be completed, recommendations made and voted on by citizens. When it rains the problem disappears, when we have a 10 year drought it is an issue, we need a cost benefit analysis to be voted on by citizens! Global warming alarmist info. should be rejected since they are based on unreliable computer models rather than the actual statistics that disprove the models.

This has been tried for decades and does not work. You need to limit office park use of water and grass to help conserve.

..create new reservoirs? Educate The People on Reservoirs, the people are to make decisions regarding "their" lands & waters. Do not "take" land from the people when creating new reservoirs!

Educate the people with the FACTS on natural healings from alternative health providers. Educate the people on the dangers of toxins placed/found in our water, air, food, etc.

Sustainability and Eco are "catch" words for Agenda 21 take over of The People's Property. Simply provide pure, clean, toxin free/fluoride-free water for consumption!

The People are best to make these decisions on water programs, not special interest groups. Simply educate the people on all issues concerning water, once armed with knowledge the people are capable of making all decisions regarding water.

It is only a matter of time before we experience another significant drought. The Chattahoochee is a small watershed and can't keep up with Atlanta's growth. We have to become better stewards of our natural resources.

This would result in more water, expanding economy and more jobs

Water Comments

We have noticed close to a 100% increase in the price of water over the last 10 years. We need to do something to bring the price of water down.

Only when our water storage or lakes are below safe levels when we are experiencing a drought situation.

I want to ensure that as Atlanta grows, its per-capita water use doesn't grow with it.

This is inevitable, but it should not happen before conservation efforts are exhausted. People can advocate for this and not have to address the region's gluttonous consumption habits of potable water.

Agenda 21 wants to fine anyone collecting water off homes which I like to use to water garden, that is a no-no according to them. Is that what you are trying to achieve.

Particularly in cases of severe droughts experienced in the region.

Again, great idea. My hope is the westside quarry reservoir would provide an ample reservoir...hopefully.

Great idea! The main issue, in my opinion, is the ancient water system. This SOUNDS like a great idea. The main objective would be smarter utilization of current supply.

Conservation of water must be the primary issue.

Reduce water consumption before adding water to meet bloated demand, please!

New reservoirs have their place, but that should be a larger state-level planning effort.

there is no more water. We would just be taking someone else's water.

We have to do this for reasons that go beyond water.

City of Atlanta has a well-thought stormwater management plan that could be a model for the region.

My understanding is that we have a large reservoir being developed as part of the beltline. I don't feel we need additional reservoirs.

Help businesses pay for water-collection and recycling in their buildings.

This sounds like 'one world order' nonsense. The government should not be in the 'development' business. Let private investment and private development provide the leadership in this area. Provide real tax incentives to all private development to promote greenspace and to assist in promoting water quality. Get the politicians off the boards and remove all elected officials from any group that makes these decisions. Stop the corruption associated with elected officials in this area.

Water Comments

It's hard for me to imagine any development that 1) doesn't somehow impact water and 2) is always taken into consideration with most developments.

Depends on usage projections. Can existing reservoirs be expanded as a less expensive solution?

Education on ways to have all the benefits of water use, without using as much water will engage citizens, create a mindset for conservation and save families money.

Establish stream buffers, especially with new developments. Create a wide enough corridor to both protect the water and allow for a nature path for public use.

Consider the Las Vegas model of water conservation.

Incentives The entire state should follow low flow plumbing stds. catch rain water and recycle

Water in our geographic area needs to be allocated to our area first, downstream second. Downstream users should consider the same for their areas.

Increase the water supply with more reservoirs

Just ensure that water treatment is effective.

I don't know if this is necessary, but I know that the Chattahoochee River is not sufficient for metro Atlanta's potential water need. This could make or break our region.

This does not actually increase the water supply, but diverts water from downstream users. It also removes the sense of urgency for conservation, hampering efforts to reduce wasteful practices.

EPA started out with great ideas but has morphed into a dictatorial monster & local govt is following suit with stream buffers, codes, etc.

If water conservation entails the draconian laws that are in place in California, Oregon and Washington then "NO" I do not support it. Taxes on rain water, puddles,ditches are absurd.

Repeal Obamacare! Teach holistic medicine and healthcare.

Take high fructose corn syrup out of drinks, food and medicine.

If you want a healthier population stop allowing the pharmaceutical companies from corrupting their vaccines with mercury, aborted fetal cells and other pollutants. Stop the U.N. from spraying our skies with aluminum, strontium, barium along with viruses so that we are all infected with these nano particulates. It is our government that is attacking the individual with unhealthy food, water(fluoride) and air.

As the cliché notes, you can lead a horse to water... There are choices out there; it's up to the individual to make them.

Don't punish outdoor water users unfairly

Fix the current problems with the water system and not spend more money to increase the problems for the ageing system.

Water Comments

I always thought acquiring all the Core of Engineer parks on our main watersheds and connecting them with bike paths would make this one of the most unique communities in the world.

I would like discussion of what the rivers looked like before dams, weirs and impoundments say back in the 1920s and earlier. I know someone whose granddad spoke of stepping across the Hooch in times of drought up in the Gainesville area.

Again, not enough info about HOW you propose to do that. Are you going to shut the water off to our homes? Tell us when we can and cannot take a bath? So much pie in the sky ideology.

We need better education, less huge areas of lawns that need lots of water, but only sustain 1 or 2 people to live in it. we need alternatives.

Isn't there more demand for water because of more development? In order to conserve water, shouldn't there be a cap on development in some areas?

If we could have more places doing what Conyers or Covington did (recycling and reusing water thru a series of ponds and wetlands), it would vastly decrease water use in the ARC region.

reservoirs have a very large surface area which increases water loss due to evaporation. What about some underground reservoirs

I do not currently have enough knowledge to determine if the benefit gained from creation of the reservoir would

Do not allow new development where water service cannot be provided for 30 years

I think that behaviors need to be changed. Creating artificial water sources can be considered, but that will increase taxes, and water rates. The most economical approach is to change the way people see water use.

Why hasn't this been done already? when Lanier was so low why wasn't it dredged to deepen it? a growing population needs to grow its access to water. catch more rain and there will be enough water to drink.

Get all water users involved in water conservation; residential customers, schools, businesses, government buildings, businesses, landscapers etc. don't focus conservation initiatives on just one type of customer.

Reservoirs are the "quick & dirty" and short-term solution. Every reservoir floods valuable stream ecosystems which provide clean water. Reservoirs won't have enough clean water unless our streams/riparian zones are protected. Reservoirs should be last on the priority list.

There are many ways to use our current water supplies more efficiently. Local Gov should follow best practices and stop hiding behind home rule.

Water Comments

We should encourage gray water usage for irrigation etc. also to encourage community gardens.

Reservoirs do not create new water. With more frequent and extreme drought, they can actually be a liability, evaporating water at a higher rate than rivers. We should use the water we already have in smarter, more efficient ways.

With the scientific and technical resources available in Atlanta, we cannot only identify systems and methods to deal with this issue in a safe and sanitary way, we can use this focus to develop export businesses for such items as water purification system, water metering and the like.

The process of improving sewage and water lines can include expanding fiber optic cable, and should not be agenda based, but a uniform application.

Having a reliable steady water supply will enable Atlanta to continue to prosper and grow. Take lessons from other regions/cities throughout the US.

using rainwater

Reservoirs tied into greenspace projects like the proposed Westside park in Atlanta are ideal and fulfill two different and important needs.

A few years ago Atlantans were asked to conserve as we had a shortage of water. We met and far exceeded the goal of conservation set for us. This task of conservation may be easier than anticipated.

This is the dumbest idea & I wish we could undo the legislation that was passed during the drought that promoted reservoirs. They're a boondoggle for politicians, destroy habitat, keep water from recharging in the aquifers. NO MORE RESERVOIRS!

There MUST be many feet of buffering around ALL water resources! No clear cutting of timber, either.

I'm not sure if any negative impacts of creating reservoirs would be offset by expected benefits so I prefer not to comment on this one.

Conservation should be able to do more, and much less expensively, to stretch out supply. Don't add to the supply with new reservoirs until conservation can't realistically be improved.

Reservoirs are an excuse for new development. This development will not be in Atlanta and will not contribute to the well being of the city. Rather, we should promote development and economic growth within the city. Also, Georgia has enough reservoirs and an ample water supply to meet Atlanta's demand.

Water quality is highly important to a growing city.

If you increase our ability to produce more water through the use of wetlands and reservoirs than increasing conservation programs will not be necessary.

Water Comments

Consider water reuse technology (i.e. Clayton Co.)

Mega reservoirs, No! Small ones (Ex. Black Shoals - Conyers) is a better management system. More dispersion, less pipe. Less evaporation. Less dead waer deep.

We need to be using less water -- and building homes that use less water -- instead of creating more water sources!

Consider bioswales, localized water treatment, water re-use (greywater, blackwater)and policies, funding and code measures that encourage them.

Get credit for water returned to where they are taken from

Charge more for water

Educate businesses and residents about the sewer system and how to properly dispose of waste inside and outside.

Start real planning and negotiations for an intake on either the Tennessee or Savannah river.

It is time to consider man made water ways to shuttle water from areas that have had plenty of rain to drought stricken areas. It could begin with a network with Georgia, then we could extend it to our border States. With cooperation, a water diversion system to prevent flooding & relieve drought could be networked throughout the entire Southeast

Copy Clayton County's (I think) model of reclamation in other counties to get maximum reclamation and re-use of wastewater.

Continue to fight and lobby to control the water in Lake Lanier.

Treat waste water to make to potable water and have theta put back into the system.

Increased use of green infrastructure to manage storm water, improve stream water quality, reduce heat island effect, and improve aesthetics.

Increased use of green infrastructure to manage storm water, improve stream water quality, reduce heat island effect, and improve aesthetics. Increased use of rainwater harvesting by homeowners and commercial/business customers. Use non-potable rainwater for outdoor irrigation and indoor toilet flushing purposes.

Restrain ARC to only fix things not to expand water supply to include "sustainable projects," greenscape - protect environment, etc.

Make water more affordable by reducing cost to residents.

Encourage a more regional approach to water issues (Atlanta has to many independent water systems)

Water Comments

A secure water supply is a "must have". I think that we have been too defensive in our response to those other states and regions within our state that have blamed Atlanta for using more than its share of water. We return 80% of the water that we use. Yet nearly all of our info is the based on the use per capita, etc. On top of that, we are a very small part of the basin that provides flow through either of our two large basins that originate only slightly above Metro Atlanta. While I believe that we need to assure Atlanta of a secure water supply through conservation, that should not be miscommunicated that it is remedial in nature because of our selfish use of water that deprives our downstream neighbors of water.

Water Desalination Plants on the coast and a water pipeline to area's common to drought and have it ready for emergency situations

Its already the existing governments job (State, City, County) to secure a safe water supply for its citizens as needed?? Why does this have to be a "regional plan"?

Water shortage is bogus. Stop pushing this agenda

Water is a huge selling point anymore. Please create more resevoirs. Sorry cant spell that durn word.

Plan development in conjunction with utility infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) and ensure developers are required to pay to play.

Restoration of our underground wastewater systems to meet regional standards.

Metro-wide promotion of personal water conservation and sustenance techniques.

Reuse grey water from shower to toilet. Recover sewer water for reuse with the method in construction by Emory University.

Water use should be priced to encourage conservation instead of vilifying certain uses such as auto wash or plant irrigation.

Negotiate sustainable, longterm agreements with neighboring states with regard to shared water resources such as the Chattahoochee.

The most economical approach is to change the way people see water use.

Keep an eye on and plan for adoption of technology that recycles waste water directly into drinking water. It's the last best conservation measure before inter-basin transfer, if such a thing could ever come to pass.

Improve public sewage management by separating storm water from sewage so as to reduce the leaks and spills, and initiate septic tank maintenance requirements

Provide "VISIBLE" security I believe our water supply is vulnerable to terrorist attack.

Water Comments

**More of a comment than a suggestion:
I'm new to the area and didn't know there was any issue with the water supply. I think educating the public on how our actions and developments impact our current and future water supply is important.**

Convert current chemical treatment at water plants to an ecological/organic treatment system in the future.

Offer an incentive for innovative water reclamation projects other than through the LEED or similar green building programs.

Water meters that read water usage indoors, so people have consciousness of how much they use. Publishing regional or neighborhood averages would be good too.

NPDES laws are selectively and poorly enforced, with the Counties and the State being the worst offenders of the Clean Water Act.

Charge Coca-Cola the same water rates as everyone else!!!

Clear house at the Watershed Dept

Update, repair, and maintain water supply conduits.

We need an HUGE LAKE NEAR OUR SKYLINE!!!

Add incentives for rainwater collection and the use of greywater systems to homeowners and businesses.

Education about water conservation and create and enforce conservative water-use policies.

Considering that water is a must have, you have to do everything you can to accommodate the demands.

Encourage wastewater reuse,

Hike/Bike Trails utilizing area creeks

Repair/maintain water delivery infrastructure system to assure less water loss and greater efficiency.

Invest in repairing Atlanta's existing aging, crumbling water delivery (pipes) system.

Educate people about the seriousness of polluting water, effects of and how these chemicals get into the water

We need county and other local government enforcement of regulations about things that stop up storm drains. Specifically, we need to prohibit using leaf blowers to blow leaves and grass clippings into roadways.

Explore alternative water supply sources and increase billing of water service to capture true cost.

Clean air, water and food would go a long way in making Atlantans healthier

Encourage rainwater harvesting. Also emphasize reduced consumption

Water Comments

1. Stop urban sprawl and force in-fill development; 2. Sentence litterers and polluters to 500 hours of trash recycling and pick-up in the community for each infraction. 3. Develop both above ground and underground water storage prior to the next drought cycle.

Increase existing reservoirs full pool capacities

Spend money on the failing sewer system

Scrap the combined sewer/storm drainage system --this would improve water quality and be a major infrastructure investment that would bring jobs

Adopt innovative water use practice for agriculture.

Upgrade water distribution systems to reduce leakage.

Raise water rates.

Improve recycling of waste water.

Reduce potable water used for irrigation.

Greenspace, particularly in the vicinity of streams and rivers is an important part of this. We must also induce everyone to conserve. Watering restrictions in the summer is the first obvious regulatory step. We also should provide inducements to people and businesses to conserve, such as rebates for water conservation equipment such as low flow toilets and shower heads and rainbarrels.

Increase water rates & restructure pricing to reward conservation.

Promote incentive to redevelop existing spaces that promote clean water and green space

Support sustainable development from urban agriculture to walkable neighborhoods to supporting alternative modes of transportation to encouraging the use of solar energy and water conservation

I like what you're doing here, but let's not forget I'm a professional, college educated, 23 year old, armchair urbanist with a weird fondness for regional planning and trains. If anything, I've skewed your data because I represent nobody. For goodness' sakes I look at a parking lot and worry about rainwater runoff, air quality, nearby transportation options, and affordable yet dense housing. So, if there's some way you could throw weight my answers (or throw them out because they're just outliers), that'd probably be for the best. That being said, I love the ARC and I applaud all your efforts.

Regional government for transportation, water, large infrastructure purposes makes sense! Let's do it.

Many of the items on this survey aren't regional matters. Rather, they would be better addressed by the concerned community and neighborhoods. The only issues that really need to be addressed top down for the region are transportation and water resources. As for business development...stop with the incentives and corporate welfare, but also let's make regulations less onerous.

Water Comments

Everything in this survey veils the effort of an unelected commission with a mindset of " It takes a Village". Nothing I see that an unelected commission could do that a program that already exists, an agency (DOT) that has charge of roads, or the force of individual choice or market forces that would drive development. This commission is also "plausible deniability" for elected politicians as attempts to raise taxes or install fees (like Gwinnett's "rainwater run off tax") that will be met with rigorous legal offense to stop such an unconstitutional step.

Water Provider - Government

If you build an excellent infrastructure (planned development, water/utilities, transportation, education, recreation, etc.), they will come.

This is sooooo broad in nature and makes it quite difficult to determine what some of the proposals really mean. E.g., we all want safe drinking water, but the survey tends to indicate that what we have is not good enough or that it misses the mark. That's not true. Another example: many of the questions indicate that the government should partner w/ business and provide incentives to attract businesses to the area. Tax incentives are one thing, but partnering becomes a sticky wicket, prone to cronyism and shady deals where neither the government nor the business is accountable for deals gone bad. The governments business is not business and it should satay that way. I fear the survey will garner skewed results that determine the direction the government wants things to go and ignores the real wishes of the citizens who will pay for it in taxes and more regulation.

I do believe it is about time to bring all Metro Counties together to better improve the traffic and conserve water supply. Another area of concern is increasing small business and higher educated business sectors to the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

We need an lake near our skyline and a mini time square for our city. But the lake feature will draw many people here + if we could connect the chattahooche river we could draw a port here for ATLANTA.

Water, Education, & Transportation should be the top three. ARC should focus on Water and Transportation. The state should improve Education (funding, standards, \$/pupil, etc.)

Trains and bikes, clean water. No more road building and no more sprawl.

get the roads fixed, the pot holes, the sink holes, the water infrastructure.

The area needs to start replacing its water and sanitary sewer systems now. Plus tie them all together to work as one system for the region.

Clean air, clean water, greenspace

Water Comments

As we have many more people in the city we should be getting lower water bills? Yes!

Flooding and Comprehensive stormwater management

Water is life blood for living and the other items are life blood for personal balance

As you can tell from the lack of clean water in third world countries, a good water supply is mandatory.

One drought was enough to make us realize how seriously deficient we have been in that regard. We need to be surrounded by large and well run reservoirs to secure plenty of water for any 10 year drought for a much larger population than we have today.

With more people moving here we need more add secure for our drinking water

Though there are other things that seem more important- water supply is a must! We cannot live without it.

The ARC has ignored their own guidelines for protecting our water resources. Preservation and protection of our water should not be an option exchanged for any development or political agenda.

A secure and abundant water supply is the key to support Atlanta's growth in the future. Insufficient water supply in regards to demand can lead to the death of the city.

This would be my number 3 priority. This is a necessity of life. With the serious drought issues in the Western United States and the growing population of not only the United States but in the Southern States specifically, this should be addressed. I am well aware of the recent, ongoing water wars we are having with Tennessee, Florida, and Alabama. Metro Atlanta growth rate will not sustain at the current water levels. This should be HIGH priority for future sustainment of growth and development. Without this issue hashed out, none of the list of priorities will matter.

Clean water that is secure is vital to the growth and sustainability of this region.

Develop and implement a comprehensive stormwater management plan

without secure water supply you cannot have the other things.

Water is key to growth and life!! we cannot continue to ignore it need regional reservoirs ASAP

More security and cameras for the water supply . We need more community programs to promote awareness on topics about keep in our waters clean and free from pollution

no clean water, no growth

water, nice neighborhoods, convenient transportation, good jobs, and high quality of life the innovation will follow

We need water, but the description suggest we can get there by conservation. I think we get there by more reservoirs

Water Comments

We must safeguard our water supply from contamination or from any poisonous material. Our water supply can be used by our enemies to Americans

without secure water supply no one can survive here.

Water & sewage systems have long been neglected and not just in the City of Atlanta.

Realizing that all life plants, insects, animals, fish, fowls, etc. could not survive because we all have that commonality, the need for clean water.

Yes, we need a pure water supply

Cannot do anything without water

For the future a better water supply system is needed throughout the State of Georgia.

We need water in order to grow. The water wars with our neighbor states needs to be settled.

With the expected increase of ~ 3 million new residents in the Atlanta area in the next 25 years, new water reservoirs will most likely be necessary, however implementing water conservation practices should come before the development of new water reservoirs, as conservation will be able to limit the amount of reservoirs we need.

Without clean water you're dead in the water so to speak. You can't grow in a productive manner. Clean drinking water is everything to an area. Look at the areas where Ebola is hitting hard there is very little to no clean water, to my understanding.

Make the water ways more assessable for the public. Re visit the MRPA regulations

Urban areas need a lot of water to attract new business and to keep what we have. Water is becoming more scarce across the globe...we need to conserve and teach that to our children and to our corporate community!

I do not understand why this has not been a resolution for all of the United States. I think that water authorities need to harness flood waters and channel flood waters to water reservoirs, similar to ancient aqueducts.

We do not need the issues of drought like California and Nevada have, especially with the water wars we are currently having with Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida and the growing population of Metro Atlanta.

This is the most important issue. If we have no water you can't have a thriving community.

Although our water supply need protecting, we have to also protect and promote greenspace!!!

Will this work with the Tennessee and Alabama claim to the same water sources?

Water Comments

Atlanta's water quality is actually very good and is improving. Atlanta's water cost is at least twice what it should be, and those who are most adversely affected are those with the lowest incomes. Look to Clayton County as a model for a water system. It is the best in the state, and its costs are half those of Atlanta's.

Let the market determine demand. Don't mandate behaviors. Example -- poorly flushing toilets result in double flushing and increased water usage. There are better ways.

develop a program were small neighborhood residents could have well water and have the runoff returned back to the water authority

Water quality needs to be a series of regional solutions such as retention lakes, restoration of vegetation along streams, etc. instead of the minimally useful flowells required today on individuals which don't function well at inception and less so as time goes by. Take the money spent on flowells and retention pits and do something useful with it.

Our earth is made up of lots and lots of water. There is no shortage.

Protect the region's water quality, but scrap the going green stuff.

Consider conservation programs and incentives not only for homeowners, but also for rental property owners and multifamily condos. Make it easier to reuse stormwater (too many regulations against), etc.

Improve local ordinances so that post-construction stormwater, construction sediment, and other water quality issues associated with development don't destroy downstream properties.

Repair and update water infrastructure

Price water appropriately. Even better would be to set each year a maximum allowable withdrawal from each water system and use tradeable "water shares" (like catch shares, or ITQs, in fisheries)

Provide incentive for capture of rainwater and grey water for landscape use.

How about making sure we have a sound infrastructure network in place? Too many times do we hear of water pipes leaking or breaking. Think of the waste that creates!

change the designation of Lake Lanier to include drinking water.

As we have many more people in the city we should be getting lower water bills? Yes!

Flooding and Comprehensive stormwater management

Water Comments

- Lower water costs.
- Lower taxes.
- Have Magistrate's courts impose "loser pays"
- Accelerate evictions to discourage deadbeats
- Impose tolls on expressway exits & use fund to make buses free.
- Convert rail lines to bus lines. Make free.
-

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Yes, we need a pure water supply

Cannot do anything without water

For the future a better water supply system is needed throughout the State of Georgia.

We need water in order to grow. The water wars with our neighbor states needs to be settled.

You must fix what is broken under the streets and the bridges over the streets. You must fix the dams. A penny tax could solve some the problems as long as general assembly could not get their hands on it and switch the use of the money to some of their pet projects.

With the expected increase of ~ 3 million new residents in the Atlanta area in the next 25 years, new water reservoirs will most likely be necessary, however implementing water conservation practices should come before the development of new water reservoirs, as conservation will be able to limit the amount of reservoirs we need.

Without clean water you're dead in the water so to speak. You can't grow in a productive manner. Clean drinking water is everything to an area. Look at the areas where Ebola is hitting hard there is very little to no clean water, to my understanding.

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I think if we implement more water saving, green practices, we won't need to increase the water supply. I also don't really want my tax dollars going to a reservoir when children need education and teachers need raises.

It would truly depend on where the reservoirs are located. This has become a political ping pong and is disastrous for some areas. This should be a last resort...but at least think the placement through based on sound reason...not political favors!!!

Water Comments

Urban areas need a lot of water to attract new business and to keep what we have. Water is becoming more scarce across the globe...we need to conserve and teach that to our children and to our corporate community!

I do not understand why this has not been a resolution for all of the United States. I think that water authorities need to harness flood waters and channel flood waters to water reservoirs, similar to ancient aqueducts.

Retention ponds and drainage should be easily and readily accessible to the EPA and Conservationist organizations. Regular inspections and investigations should be posted in highly trafficked and viewed areas like restaurant scores.

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New reservoirs are imperative to continued growth in the region. Period.

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Consider conservation programs and incentives not only for homeowners, but also for rental property owners and multifamily condos. Make it easier to reuse stormwater (too many regulations against), etc.

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How about making sure we have a sound infrastructure network in place? Too many times do we hear of water pipes leaking or breaking. Think of the waste that creates!

change the designation of Lake Lanier to include drinking water.

jobs with livable wages will support families which will lead to a better quality of life. Water conservation begins with recognizing that it is a finite resource. Roadways in Atlanta are adequate traffic patterns are deplorable.

In order of priority, possibility and potential, existence precedes all other successes. Water is life. If Atlanta becomes a world leader in securing water technologies including securing water supply, the other important things can follow. Else, not so easily.

Water is life which precedes life's activities. Secure water, air, environment first.

I live on the South side and our water supply is not as precarious as Atlanta's. I think future growth will be driven south to be nearer the airport and readily available water.

Water Comments

We do not need anymore big transportation road projects in the Atlanta area. We need Interstate projects which run Northeast from Macon to intersect with I-20 to go to Augusta and beyond I-20 to Gainesville and North to I-40 in N.C. We also need Interstates which go Northwest from Macon up to I-20 and North beyond to Chattanooga. U.S. Highway 80 should become an Interstate from East Georgia through Macon to Columbus and west into Alabama. High speed rail from Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson to Macon airport, Columbus airport, Augusta airport and the Port of Savannah would be a passenger's heaven to save time and money going to an airport and waiting for flights or going through all the security. Spread the wealth of the economy of the WHOLE STATE OF GEORGIA will give all of us in Atlanta Region a better quality of life, a respite on a bad water supply, traffic congestion in the Metro area and give the rest of Georgia a place to come to enjoy the Arts, Recreation, etc. Think about it, there is only so much room and so much timberland to be had to enhance are current quality of life without continuing to destroy our whole region.

We need adequate water supply for our current population and the economic development that currently exists. Georgia is the largest state in total area of any state east of the Mississippi. The Atlanta Region does not have to be the only viable area of the whole state of Georgia. Macon, Augusta, Columbus, Savannah, Dalton, Bainbridge, Cordele are all good areas which should be targeted for growth and development. That would relieve the transportation, water supply, and air quality problems from the Atlanta metro area. High speed rail can connect the Dalton area with Chattanooga airport for international growth. Savannah has a big military presence as does Augusta and Columbus. With the downsizing of the military there is a definite existing workforce in these areas which should be utilized in attracting industry, both light and heavy industry and have a good quality of life. Macon is a cross roads to this state and could be a viable alternative for air travelers for Columbus, SW GA and SE GA not wishing to go to Savannah. To me, the single minded thought that the Atlanta, GA metro is the only viable area for growth and prosperity for the whole state of Georgia is proposterous. While I love living in Fayette County and its quality of life, enough is enough on this trying to cram 3 more million of people into an area which is already challenged for potable water supply.

Water Comments

Water supply demands have been reduced during the recession but long-term are a major challenge for the region. We need to move now toward not only assuring local supplies but toward new sources such as the Tennessee River.

Without a sound water system, there will be no population of anything. Responsible yard maintenance might help some, although autos are problematic with run-off issues. Retention pond enforcement by GA EPA and counties would help too.

Dekalb county's water conservation rules are a good start. Increase rates to encourage conservation.

Gray water systems. Make it known to the greater community that this is a major issue. Need to invest in water systems even in non-drought years.

Every ounce of fresh water needs to be reserved for the future! This is the MOST important item on this list!

I would prefer to see the region drill wells as to developing more reservoirs. Wells can be maintained better for homeland security and will not impact the wildlife and human life currently living in areas reservoirs would be develop in.

People do not respect the importance of water. Water conservation should be taught early, in schools.

Today the biggest needs for attracting new business is educated work force and infrastructure - basic stuff - water, sewer, roads

In general, a regional plan should help with traffic and water and get out of the way of business - we don't need more taxes and regulations.

Find ways to lower the cost of water consumption for residential customers. Insure that commercial and industrial customers pay for water consumption in a timely manner. Insure proper billing techniques for all customers.

Find ways to lower the cost of water consumption for residential customers. Insure that commercial and industrial customers pay for water consumption in a timely manner. Insure proper billing techniques for all customers. Initiate a hiring procedure that ensures qualified personnel in all of the workforce.

Air Quality

Air Quality Comments

Air Quality Comments

Current traffic problems reduce quality of life for Atlantans and create poor air quality/greenhouse gases

There are too many cars in Atlanta and way too much traffic. Obviously this creates pollution and is very inefficient. People coming to work from the outlying areas need to take shuttles into the city.

The traffic nightmare of Atlanta makes it an unattractive locale for many, and contributes mightily to poor air quality.

Without a safer environment in which to start/build a business, this will not happen. Atlanta has one of the highest crime rates in the nation, and THAT is what deters businesses from relocating to the area.

Allowing certain pockets of the city opt out of the (rapid transit) transportation question results in fragmented ability to get around the city.

A plan to provide actual access to all parts of the city encourages the use of the Transit system, reducing pollution, use of fuel for single-occupant cars, and increasing awareness of the needs of other parts of the city. Bike trails to work, with safe access along major routes fosters alternative modes of transport. The city planners need to be proactive in creating plans that can be enacted to bear the level of traffic, to workplaces and areas of entertainment. The piecemeal approach that has been followed for the past twenty years has reduced opportunity for those who want it to be able to use rapid transit.

I hope this means to acquire greenspace, establish community gardens, add bike trails, and reduce pollution.

Providing more greenways, walkways, bikeways, and parks are key to improving the quality of life, improving our air quality, physical and emotional well being, and relieving automobile congestion. This coupled with a greatly improved transportation system will make Atlanta a model for other cities to follow.

I think we need to promote walking throughout the city wherever possible. This will not only promote better health for city residents, but will also reduce pollution, help air quality, and promote closer community ties.

One of the goals of improving our transportation system should also be to improve air quality for reasons of economic development and public health.

If we employ our well-educated workforce to innovative solutions to global warming and urban problems, we have a winning combination of better quality of life and a healthy economy.

The gridlock, air pollution and effect of excessive traffic are all negative impacts on our health and quality of life.

Air Quality Comments

We really need to improve public transportation. The car culture is choking the city (both with pollution and time wasted in traffic).

Environmental sensitivity

Other priorities should include: regional governance, climate change, housing, and equity.

Environmentally Sustainable Growth

clean environment

Under the comprehensive transportation system, I would strongly support developing an integrated public transportation system to reduce our reliance on roads, decrease traffic congestion, and decrease pollution.

Promote use of renewable (solar, wind, etc.) energy sources to cut pollution and global warming.

Establish a safer environment (attack crime).

Let the free markets decide which real estate projects will work. Do not force the Federal "cooker cutter" approach driven by Federal funds with strings attached. Not everyone want to live in an "urban" environment.

Environmental Sustainability

Educate county leadership positions on basic human rights and provide an environment where one can speak up without fear of retribution.

Extensive variety of living environments within each County or City.

Healthy Air Quality, reduce vehicle emissions through well planned traffic control.

Community focused, and environmentally friendly

Safe and secure environment. People MUST feel safe where they live and work.

Air quality

Vibrant Natural Environment

environmental task force to maintain best conditions now and in the future

Good environmental and air quality

Ensure good air quality

Protect natural resources and open/natural spaces

Focus on preservation of cultural and historic resources

Preserve the sense of place created by existing mixed use downtowns and nearby older suburbs

Work on adding more green space to deal with the air pollution and work on transportation so less people drive in the city.

Air Quality Comments

There should be a viable transportation link to all counties to allow those who are not fortunate enough to have cars. This would also help to reduce air pollution, which in turn would cut down on a lot of the on going health issues associated with pollutants in our air now. This state is growing, and this is just one of many needs that need to be addressed.

Moratorium on road building. More roads will only mean more vehicles, sprawl, pollution, and will not improve commuting. Moratorium may induce an end to sprawling development and spur development in existing locales to increase the density. We need trains, not highways. This is the 21st century, not 1955 when we lacked an interstate system. Trains, trains, trains.

1. Air quality is unhealthy and will get worse with increased population.
2. Stress levels due to traffic make this an unhealthy environment with frustrated, miserable commuters and because traffic is such an issue, it is difficult to enjoy the available amenities of the City.

Pretty sidewalks and storefronts do not make a safe environment. Crime and air quality are a challenge to be overcome before anyone can enjoy walking neighborhoods. Atlantic Station and Underground Atlanta are just 2 examples.

A must have to support our current population and increase our population. Air Quality needs to improve.

Rail that goes everywhere and/or streetcars that do the same, particularly from the suburbs. This would cut down on congestion and pollution.

We need to develop the arts more, including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and other forms of music, including smooth jazz. Our air quality has become a disaster in the 45 years that I have lived here. Used to have clean air. Now, it's terrible. We also need more SAFE parks and walking trails.

Reduce air pollution and smog alert days. Begin to see a decline in cases of respiratory illness such as childrens asthma

Air Quality Comments

Need to also consider connecting people and communities to or with recreation. Don't simply focus on business. People may find jobs and increase access to "business," but if quality of life does not increase or is not sustained at a high level, they will find jobs elsewhere, where there is a better quality of life (less pollution, easier access to recreation, etc.). Also, even if the only reason to develop a comprehensive transportation system is to increase access to business, that wouldn't increase the likelihood of my staying in metro Atlanta. I can telework and I can order off the internet for many of my needs. Having lived here during the entire '80s and early '90s, then returning five years ago, I find that transportation has not changed in terms of traffic congestion, little changed in terms of law enforcement, access (although HOT lanes have increased in price quite a bit—don't say no one has noticed), slightly improved in terms of recreational access (by that I mean for example moving from a decidedly bike unfriendly area to a somewhat bike tolerant area), and worsened for pollution from vehicles.

We need a better transportation system for all metro counties. This would help with air pollution as well.

How to care for those with mental illnesses & provide safe living environment; also a safe environment for those suffering hardships that put them on the street

This "solution" undermines support for alternative transportations and helps to increase water and air pollution.

Continue to work on adding green space for air pollution.

Where? On top of each other? More road, more cars, more pollution and we are again in square one

The worst "solution" for the growing region. It just induces more traffic and increases greenhouse emissions and congestion.

Study after study have shown the result of induced demand. Adding to roads only continues to remove neighborhood spaces, increases congestion, and increases pollution exacerbating environmental health adverse effects.

People should be less afraid of rapid transit making it's way further out. It's necessary. We have too many people in this city. This is the best solution. Better rapid transit. Less pollution, more jobs and I would spend a little extra to make sure it's monitored and safe.

We need commuter rail services, pronto. The air quality in Atlanta is not good. We need to breathe to live. Forget buses. We need rapid rail commuter trains.

Very important key in eliminating our carbon footprints. Bus lines need to be easily accessible and provide transportation throughout the region.

Air Quality Comments

All our streets should have bike lanes. If we are going to do our part to limit climate change then we must make bikes and foot power our main mode of transportation

Adding lanes to roads is a "band-aid" solution to a symptom - increasing road traffic- of a problem - increasing growth and sprawl. It's unsustainable (will the solution be to add more lanes in another five years?). It also has other consequences: increasing volume of vehicles on the road, paving over and creating more surface for run off, releasing atmospheric pollution into the air - which harms health-, taking up valuable space that could be otherwise developed to support alternative transportation and creates moderates to be maintained

Improving mass transit will also improve air quality and improve quality of life.

The more we can make our city Bicycle Friendly, the less dependent we will be on cars that create pollution and gridlock. At the moment, this city is not friendly to bicycles, even though there are lanes. It is hazardous to ride a bicycle in most parts of the city.

Change, improve, upgrade, make safer our MARTA system ... no need for more drivers, traffic, pollution and noise.

Change, improve, upgrade, make safer our MARTA system ... no need for more drivers, traffic, pollution and noise.

This is critical to cut down on traffic congestion, improve air quality and improve the amount of time and quality of time people spend with their families after working all day.

All the studies show that within a relatively short period of time, roads with added lanes are back to their pre-added-lanes level of congestion. This is the worst possible way to address traffic problems: it's expensive, it doesn't work, it exacerbates pollution, it continues the "pave the planet" habits that got us into this mess, it makes things uglier, etc. etc.

This is tricky, because limiting access to develop in the city can actually increase sprawl which is no better environmentally...

We need an urban boundary line similar to Portland, OR. Sprawl is terrible for the environment, farmland, and for preservation of beauty and culture.

The city should promote local companies that service these kinds of projects, like Ecologix Environmental Systems

This may be the only alternative, but lakes and ponds are poor methods to store water (runoff pollution concentration, problems associated with evaporation, other changes to environment, are not natural in this region, etc.). Limiting impervious development is the only long term solution

Air Quality Comments

It's very noticeable that environmentally damaged areas in north Atlanta are revitalized, however the south side is left in ruins, i.e., buildings aren't rebuilt and roads aren't maintained, etc. It's left to decay. NOT FAIR!

Some areas that are not environmentally sensitive will become so because we allow clear cutting and inappropriate building practices.

This is very important, however since I'm not sure how Atlanta defines an "environmentally sensitive area," I'm more inclined to suggest deleting this phrase and inserting "the environment."

The two favorites (one flagged and one mentioned in my comments for that solution) have a greater overall reach vs. what could be potentially a smaller "environmentally sensitive" area.

This one can be very dangerous. Over zealous bureaucrats and environmentalists can do more harm than good.

impose heavy fines on those who make careless environmental decisions

I feel this should happen along side of clean up of environmentally damaged areas.

"Environmentally sensitive areas" could be taken as carte blanche to never develop - as there are always some environmental impacts. So, this is a thumbs down for me. Although, I think there are plenty of exceptions worth saving.

Yes, BUT - make it free and include "basic training" for people who have never worked in a corporate environment.

Yes, as long as the incentives don't cheat our communities out of environmental or social service protections.

Yes, through a less oppressive business environment with changes in the law made to reduce over regulation and lower tax burdens. No favorites should be played. All tax reductions/laws should be equal across the board and available to all companies for which any start-up would be eligible.

Such a network would add to improving our air quality.

Such action invites more vehicles; we need fewer vehicles on the roads if air quality is to be improved.

While this is helpful, I prefer that fewer cars be driven. We must tackle air pollution!

Challenge the developers to develop with a sense of protecting the environment.

I feel we need to work on the problems we ale before creating more issues. Fix the roads clean up the areas that causes pollution. Take charge for a healthy enviornment. Safe living.

As long as these are created in an environmentally responsible way.

Air Quality Comments

More aggressive watershed protections are a necessity in Georgia. Our rivers and streams are our lifeblood. Without better conservation we are screwing ourselves environmentally, economically, and physically. Climate change is real and Georgia needs to put on his big boy shorts and take exacerbated periods of drought seriously for people and agriculture.

Adding more lanes allows for more cars and the goal should be to get people out of cars and off the roads to improve congestion and air pollution. More cars will contribute to poor air quality so it is not a good idea but if you provide good transportation alternatives, people will use them. We can't get to a subway system like NYC but we should strive to get as close to that model as we can. Maybe people will find that owning a car is not necessary or at the very least is not needed often.

This would encourage mass transit, lessen automobile pollution and relieve traffic congestion.

I'm not sure. Would this have negative environmental impact?

Bikes are a wonderful pollution-free form of short commute transportation, but they don't belong on city street car lanes. BUILD SEPARATE BIKE LANES.

Environmental laws are out of control already

What is the other option? Leave environmentally damaged areas trashed ?

No such thing like no global warming

Research and local experience repeatedly shows that adding more lanes makes congestion worse by encouraging more driving. Adding more public transportation (comprehensive rail and more frequent bus), bike lanes, and side walks will reduce our dependence on cars, improve air quality, and improve overall health.

Bribery is not a good tool. Provide instead an educated work force, high school graduates who can read for comprehension, write a complete paragraph, and who have a workable knowledge of math. Businesses will come for the skilled worker base and for the right-to-work environment.

Global warming is a fact! We must get more cars off the road!

Who determines what is environmentally damaged. Nature does a great job at restoring her self. This is really a non issue.

Fine ALL those who environmentally damage our communities

As I've stated before this REALLY needs to be increased. Too many people commute already by car into the city. Expanding bus service would lower the pollution in the city and decrease traffic.

Air Quality Comments

Public transportation should not just focus on connecting job centers, rather it is crucial to connect the entire city. This will relieve congestion on the roads and decrease the wear and tear on the infrastructure, and by decreasing pollution will improve environmental conditions.

Careful studies via competitive bids need to be completed, recommendations made and voted on by citizens. When it rains the problem disappears, when we have a 10 year drought it is an issue, we need a cost benefit analysis to be voted on by citizens! Global warming alarmist info. should be rejected since they are based on unreliable computer models rather than the actual statistics that disprove the models.

The People are to decide how to protect their environmentally damaged lands, not appointed unelected individuals with personal agendas serving special interest.....

need to ensure the integrity of Lake Lanier. Overregulation and overprotection of environment has led to problems for those humans who depend on the lake!

Don't care for the typical definition of "environmentally sensitive".

Not actively (through subsidies, etc), but by promoting the right environment.

particular focus for lower income areas. Kids living on Boulevard aren't stupid- they're just not in an environment where their abilities are fostered and nurtured.

More roads = more traffic, every time. Never add more roads to the Atlanta system with the idea that it will reduce pollution, congestion, and increase mobility--in fact it will increase pollution and congestion and make people more dependent on cars rather than transit.

Need better definition of 'environmentally damaged' areas. Okay if the level of Love Canal; not at all important if a business left 2 drums of caustic materials.

Keep the taxes low, the workforce in a constant learning mode and the environment healthy and beautiful and entrepreneurs and companies will stay and expand here

Even small spaces that are planted with native and low maintained plants will decrease pollutants, add to air quality and friendly environmental spaces

Live/work communities make a huge difference in the need to commute, which greatly reduces pollution, strain on resources, and enhances quality of life.

Air Quality Comments

Science has proven for years that adding roadway capacity is a does not reduce congestion and that the lanes fill up.

Meanwhile, it encourages more driving and sprawl, which hurts air quality and personal health. The cities that we aspire to be understand and embrace this. Why do we continue to consider this as a legitimate solution?

Having quality public transportation and small vibrant "city squares" makes it easy to know your neighbors, reduces traffic and pollution, and increases jobs.

This would not only improve the traffic and air pollution situation and conserve energy, but also improve the health of residents who choose to take advantage of the improvement.

This is ABSOLUTELY what we need to help alleviate the traffic situation. Atlanta is a beautiful city with real potential to thrive; investing in reliable, environmentally friendly methods of mass transportation is the best way to KEEP Atlanta beautiful and thriving. Less air pollution, less traffic, and more mobility-- what's not to love?

Not enough consideration has been given to transportation alternatives and the possibility of the development of new materials for construction. For example, there exists a concrete in development that is self repairing. In a time where climate change is always the topic of conversation, we have to evaluate whether or not the use of "green cement" is feasible. To rebuild our transportation network we have to give more thought to what we want our network to do and how we can make the use of our existing network more efficient.

I'm on the fence about this one. If the expense and environmental damage aren't too high, I'd choose yes.

Especially if those companies address the hi-tech pollution they may generate.

Again, high-tech companies will move at the drop of a hat. provide long-term and equitable solutions for all business types - by providing a consistent and reliable taxing and regulatory environment a mixture of business will flourish. We can't survive on just high-tech companies that will move at the drop of a hat or better tax incentives.

subways and bus service will improve air quality, make a variety of educational opportunities more accessible, transport locals to jobs in nearby cities and allow them to live in their hometowns.

This is Agenda 21 thru and thru. Climate change, global warming which ever they want to say at the moment, green house gas it is all right here. W must not fall for the new terms.

Air Quality Comments

I will not support any programs that use the words "sustainable" or "environmental". I DO NOT SUPPORT AGENDA 21 . I will not support any efforts to promote the U.N. agenda to subject the citizens of this country to their tyranny.

Re cleaning up and restoring environmentally damaged areas, connect with existing organizations like East Decatur Greenway to take advantage of their expertise.

Get supermarkets in urban environments, and get the homeless out in the suburbs.

Allow motorcycles to lane split ONLY when traffic is stationary. This will increase small, efficient engined transport units such a motorcycles to safely have an advantage and cause less congestion and pollution on our roads.

Quit adding new. Fix the existing problems, and stop the bulls hit growth. There are too many people here, too much pollution, and traffic. Atlanta is ugly with the smog cloud.

Please contact me if I may be of service. I have a B.A. in Environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara campus. Above a 3.0. Thanks! Hillary Felker hillaryeritt@gmail.com

I like what you're doing here, but let's not forget I'm a professional, college educated, 23 year old, armchair urbanist with a weird fondness for regional planning and trains. If anything, I've skewed your data because I represent nobody. For goodness' sakes I look at a parking lot and worry about rainwater runoff, air quality, nearby transportation options, and affordable yet dense housing. So, if there's some way you could throw weight my answers (or throw them out because they're just outliers), that'd probably be for the best. That being said, I love the ARC and I applaud all your efforts.

DOT really needs to consider more rail service throughout the entire Metro area. New highways bring more cars which brings poorer air quality. Think "Long Term". If we are currently living with traffic nightmares, we can do so longer if we know rail service is in the future.

Jobs/new businesses need to be spread outside the perimeter. Atlanta to too crowded and traffic is awful. Businesses/jobs need to be created further out so less people are having to drive downtown and also have a job closer to where they live to cut commute time, decrease gas usage, improve air quality.

I like Atlanta for its infrastructure (roads, education, facilities, hospitals, human resources) and its natural environments. Atlanta seems to have a strong identity as a Southern, yet international city, yet it lacks the cultural integrity and tolerance that helps bind everyone together.

Air Quality Comments

The more people can walk/bike/use public transportation, i.e. the less they are reliant upon cars, the better Atlanta will be. Saves the individual money, helps air quality, and begins the reversal of Atlanta's national image of sprawl & gridlock.

More roads are not going to be the solution. It encourages more drivers thus impacting the air quality. Comprehensive mass transit is the way to move in to being a major vibrant city with a notable quality of life. Cobb and Gwinnett counties need to get over themselves and get with the program.

Does the regional Commission have a vision for the future of small manufacturers in Atlanta? What incentives are there for New Urban manufacturing? New York And San Francisco are already building regional support networks for makers and craftsmen who want to scale their production up but don't want to leave the urban environment. What is Atlanta doing to attract those who want to make things?

Protect the Environment

Clean air, clean water, greenspace

Sustainable environment

"Environmentally friendly" is less important than additional supply.

need an environment that draws quality people to do rewarding work that pays well.

This applies to all neighbors. Not just some neighbors. Create a friendly, neighborly environment.

Yes, as long as there is a safer environment to do so.

We have not children and are just two years away from being 50. We would like to live in town in a safe environment but can not afford anything right now. We need exceptional housing options for all incomes.

New development should not necessarily be completely limited, but new development should put into place environmentally conscious practices in order to protect the environment. Sustainability should be key in all new development in order to help develop Atlanta while keeping an eye toward the future.

Taking care of environmentally sensitive areas can be a real win-win and sometimes companies just need to be shown a new path to a better future thru such visions.

Depends on your definition of environmentally sensitive'.. I'm all for good stewardship, but will not stand for environmental idiocy stopping sensible progress

We need to promote greenspace by limiting development.

Air Quality Comments

Need to return to discipline in schools and reinstate teacher/principal control, not student control. Go back to basics, the children graduating today are incapable of being productive in a business environment due to lack of spelling, grammar and basic reasoning skills.

Until discipline is restored in the school system and parents held responsible for their children's behavior nothing will be improved, especially in an urban environment.

Limit chemicals on lawns and greenspace.

I believe the ARC is another bureaucracy that has been created by the legislature that will in time become detrimental to business and become more powerful. There are, however, merits to the ARC insofar as environmental issues are concerned. These merits do not justify the ARC's existence.

Sustainable environment

This is critical for Atlanta. It will tie suburbs together, bring folks into the city more easily and will aid in preventing more pollution and help subside traffic.

"Environmentally friendly" is less important than additional supply.

too many vehicles on the road...contributes to too much pollution. more buses and trains

Having a train system that would move us throughout metro Atlanta and the state would only help to allow us to grow - people want to live where they can move freely and not sit in traffic...not to mention pollution.

need an environment that draws quality people to do rewarding work that pays well.

Excellent idea! Over the last few decades man became preoccupied with exploring other continents and more recently the galaxy, in an attempt to escape the carnage of what we have created on the planet Earth and now the atmosphere. We have known for a long time what was happening with the planet and atmosphere. We knew fluorocarbons were being emitted from the burning of fossil fuels we also were aware that it was the number one contributor to the destruction of our ozone. We also knew that excessive harvesting of our farmland would destroy our food supply but that was not enough to stop the plundering of the soil and air quality. It is important for mankind to curb his excessive appetite for all the desires and wants for luxury, and convenience. We missed the vital facts of preserving our planet. Now, hopefully we have opportunity to correct this error and recognize man's basic needs - food, health and shelter.

This applies to all neighbors. Not just some neighbors. Create a friendly, neighborly environment.

Yes, as long as there is a safer environment to do so.

Air Quality Comments

We have not children and are just two years away from being 50. We would like to live in town in a safe environment but can not afford anything right now. We need exceptional housing options for all incomes.

This would be amazing and really connect our city, metro Atlanta region, and state. If we could get from Athens to Atlanta by rail, not only would our economy grow, but pollution from drivers commuting to Atlanta for work would decrease.

New development should not necessarily be completely limited, but new development should put into place environmentally conscious practices in order to protect the environment. Sustainability should be key in all new development in order to help develop Atlanta while keeping an eye toward the future.

Taking care of environmentally sensitive areas can be a real win-win and sometimes companies just need to be shown a new path to a better future thru such visions.

Depends on your definition of environmentally sensitive'.. I'm all for good stewardship, but will not stand for environmental idiocy stopping sensible progress

"Environmentally sensitive" gets way over used to prevent reasonable development. Just look at what counts as a "wet land". This region has lost many jobs due to environmental regulations that have made the businesses move to other countries. We need a reasonable balance and governmental assistance to go with mandates.

An environment that restricts gun use.

Develop more virtual school and office environments. Create less need for travel to a brick & mortar school or office. The time is now for a new business model.

Highly developed, well educated, yes -- but also spiritual, creative, sensitive, caring, humans who will treat the earth and ALL life with respect and loving kindness.

Air Quality Comments

We need adequate water supply for our current population and the economic development that currently exists. Georgia is the largest state in total area of any state east of the Mississippi. The Atlanta Region does not have to be the only viable area of the whole state of Georgia. Macon, Augusta, Columbus, Savannah, Dalton, Bainbridge, Cordele are all good areas which should be targeted for growth and development. That would relieve the transportation, water supply, and air quality problems from the Atlanta metro area. High speed rail can connect the Dalton area with Chattanooga airport for international growth. Savannah has a big military presence as does Augusta and Columbus. With the downsizing of the military there is a definite existing workforce in these areas which should be utilized in attracting industry, both light and heavy industry and have a good quality of life. Macon is a cross roads to this state and could be a viable alternative for air travelers for Columbus, SW GA and SE GA not wishing to go to Savannah. To me, the single minded thought that the Atlanta, GA metro is the only viable area for growth and prosperity for the whole state of Georgia is proposterous. While I love living in Fayette County and its quality of life, enough is enough on this trying to cram 3 more million of people into an area which is already challenged for potable water supply.

Adding lanes merely contributes to the deterioration of our air quality.

Equity

Equity Comments

College is no longer affordable for THE MIDDLE CLASS. too many foreign exchange students, low income going for free, middle class is paying for everyone else. Son wanted to go to Emory university 68,000 per year, yet a french exchange student paid only 200.00 a year. Unfair.

The education funds need to be spread out more evenly and/or more in the specific needed areas...low income,etc!

Especially for minorities that because of lack of transportation are relying on living and staying within their communities (farther and farther away from Metro ATL) which affects their opportunities, their fusion with the larger community and our planning for them

Highest priority for education, not only for white middle class but for minorities and especially immigrants. Immigrants must learn english and assimilate into American culture. Two countries cannot exist in the same space.

Equity Comments

Provide more low income assistance for recreational activities and camps, etc in the suburbs

Glad that the suburbs are retrofitting to be walkable...they just need MARTA rail and they'd be set. Also , it's critical that creating vibrant walkable communities near city centers not be a matter of pushing poor people of color out. If done right (thoughtfully and deliberately) it can be a way to improve their quality of life.

Other priorities should include: regional governance, climate change, housing, and equity.

Social Equity and Opportunities for Economic Mobility

Communities that have a mixture of income earning families in all communities. Business that attract middle and low earning families in all communities. Not all low income service and commercial facilities.

The wealthy and powerful need to realize that policies deliberately designed to keep poor people poor will prevent them from ever becoming paying customers.

Equity

Affordable housing for low income, disabled, and Seniors.

Build affordable housing so that every American that has a income can live in a home regardless of the source of income; low income, disabled, or retired.

A statewide initiative to help catch up the economically disadvantaged

This was too vague. Sometimes all the transportation system does is clog the roads, bring more poor people to the area or make it take forever to get some place because you have to keep changing buses or whatever. Also current public transportation has gotten to be pretty nasty and a little scary.

ages, ability levels, and economic classes. let's provide some protection for the lower income residents that are being displaced by gentrification (not displace them) and some caveats for new development to include low income housing. that's real diversity and it's what Atlanta has.

The lack of walkable spaces in low income neighborhoods is a significant factor causing chronic health problems, like obesity and diabetes. Higher end developments and road renovations should have additional costs to cover the expanded street lighting, and wide sidewalks.

Do something about the housing crisis for very poor people

Equity Comments

This should be a situation where the cost is little to nothing. And should be promoted for all races and people, not focused on a certain lifestyle, race or economically aimed. Atlanta Georgia is bad about doing this, of all the places I've lived. They always reach out to certain people (African Americans, and other minorities. Forgetting that if you're not a minority, doesn't mean you're automatically rich and can afford everything.

There must be a diversity in educations of people. We must educate the minority, i.e. black, spanish, asain and indian alike. This must be cost effective for all.

Police presence in low income areas would help invite businesses to expand there, and people to be involved in their community.

Food options are a choice, not an entitlement. Granted, organic foods purchased at high end grocery stores like Whole Foods are beyond a low income families reach, but there are lots of healthy and affordable options. You just have to choose those rather than the junk. Others should not have to pay for that. We are responsible for our own health; not the government.

No more food deserts. Promote farmers markets and make them available to areas that do not have access to farms or even supermarkets. Think about Mobile Market! Their mission is great to address affordable healthy food in low income areas. This also comes with education.

Healthy food shouldn't be a regional or income based proposition. Farmers markets and local neighborhood gardens should be the main focus. Not finding ways to decrease the cost of food in specific neighborhoods that are low income.

The quality must be ameanable to the low income families.

Learned recently og a program through UGA that has bus that goes through designated neighbors that do not have grocery stores close. Consider more of that in all neighborhoods. Healthy food is a huge issue for low income seniors due to transportation

I think we need to improve the availability of affordable healthy food for everyone in our region. Not just low income. Our healthy food sources at affordable prices are dwindling for us all.

Bring more restaurants with healthy offerings to the low income areas, as well as stores like Sprouts and Trader Joe's.

Start by keeping schools open during the summer evenings and provide computer training for low income parents. School buildings should NOT be closed during the summer, they can also be used for daycare for working mothers.

However, remember that this should include more than just the minorities, as Atlanta, Georgia is so famous for doing. If you're not a minority - tough \$*it. So, make sure when you say A L L, that you really mean A L L, the same treatment, equally.

Equity Comments

Not to just minorities, as Georgia, especially Atlanta is famous for doing.

Ashamed to see how poor people can be in ATL. Many don't want to see it ... ostrich policy!

It is easier and more affordable to have high speed internet located at central locations, such as the public library, rather than having it in everyone's home. Even if the internet is subsidized, are we then going to have to buy low income individuals computers and phones to access it? Have the internet in one central location so it can be maintained and operational 24/7.

sounds to me that I'll have to pay for mine while someone else gets it for free because of low income

Giving kids, particularly in low income areas, the tech tools to get a good job could truly transform the area.

While I would love to have faster internet access, I think that this has the potential to leave out low income residents in areas considered undesirable by Internet Service Providers. Please consider how this would benefit those who are less well off.

Yes. Gentrification is a good thing, but there must always be diversity of socio-economic backgrounds. Think of the East Lake Foundation model. That could be all of Atlanta. Big swaths of poverty should be avoided by careful urban planning.

People don't dislike poor people and don't mind living near poor people. What people don't like is drug addiction, mental instability and shitting parenting. Fix that and the rest will work itself out.

Small amounts of workforce housing carved out of new construction projects can be helpful. Generally people move to high rent areas to get away from poor people. If you force them to live with poor people the neighborhood will fail.

Providing safe neighborhoods for low income individuals

Including low income communities. Protect them without profiling them.

While bus services aren't hip, they are vital for low income people to have stability and be able to grow career-wise

Get rid of the toll lanes! Spread the traffic out in the existing lanes. Poor people should be able to use these lanes. I'm not opposed to HOV lanes.

Plus expand (not necessarily add lanes) to allow for bike lanes or enough space to safely bike. Create sidewalks and other non-car incentives in areas with high concentrations of low income workers. Create traffic calming improvements and safe pedestrian access for areas with high foot traffic.

Plus expand (not necessarily add lanes) to allow for bike lanes or enough space to safely bike. Create sidewalks in areas with high concentrations of low income workers.

Equity Comments

And be ever more mindful of areas of low income where nothing is respected. If we, as a city, help beautify all areas, maybe low income families would be more respectful. People born into those areas don't know any difference. It is all they've ever known. Let's help them take pride in a clean living environment in which they are proud to live.

When considering implementation of this step, be sure to completely avoid gentrification. That displaces minorities. Also support and promote the strengthening of predominantly black communities. Develop programs and assistance to lower income areas & teach/plant community gardening.

Why are there English classes for Latinos but not Spanish classes for English speakers?

Include all with no special incentives to any particular groups (like minorities). Equal opportunity for all!

This should apply equally to everyone, not just skewed to minorities only.

Depends...sometimes we don't want the character to be protected if it means building more equity into our cities.

depends on your definition of "key areas." low income and communities of color should be highest priority

Affordable food throughout the whole region not only in low income areas.

Eliminate food deserts for low income areas.

Eliminate healthcare deserts.

Provide transportation to medical centers or provide incentives for businesses that provide transportation for low income users of health services.

Mixed income level housing. Don't concentrate the poor people in one area (see NPR for recent study).

Set & enforce strict building codes for connected housing-- firewalls between units, in the attics, etc. Slipshod construction and loose standards are evil.

Having a well educated workforce from bottom to top is a necessary condition for equitable growth. The poor academic performance of low income families in GA needs to be a high priority for future growth. I also see it as an ethical mandate.

Especially for kids in low income families

Find ways to keep longstanding home owners from being priced out of their neighborhoods. Prioritize housing options for people with low income.

Equity Comments

Is there no broccoli in poor areas? Or is it that people don't want to have to cook veggies when a twinkie sits on the shelf?

And this is not a "low income" issue...it's rampant throughout the entire nation. People must chose to eat what is good for them not just what they want to eat. Of course a bowl of ice cream sounds better than brussel sprouts and beats!!!!

This doesn't mean moving poor people out of Atlanta

Not a function of government. If crime in low income areas was not so great, business-owners would build food stores to serve the public. As it is, shoplifting and robbery cause private businesses in low income areas to fail and close their doors.

First and foremost!

The education system in this state is the worst, especially in low income and minority areas.

It's disgraceful!

This is not a government role, but one that should be done by the free market. Non-riders are subsidizing riders (with MARTA alone, it's \$500m annually).

Charge enough to cover expenses; consider providing low income riders with a (partially) pre-paid pass.

But not just low income areas, those of us who are middle class need to have healthy food availability as well

"Keeping Neighborhood character" is just double speak for keeping out low income families.

We don't need to worrying about bringing wealthy people in from out of state. We have to give disadvantage youth skills to succeed.

Make healthy food available to every income level not just the poorer areas. If everyone had healthy food available to them at reasonable prices, we all would be better off and healthier as well. Healthy people reduces medical costs, makes for productive workers and a more pleasant family life as well. Healthy Food for everyone. Let's not limit it to just the poor people. All income levels should have access.

Please help to ensure low income housing is built. These multi use projects are great but doesn't provide nearly enough housing for low income individuals, i.e. students, low-income wage earners, etc.

Promote local farmers and public access to locally grown organic food. Access in all ares not just low income.

More neighborhood gardens especially in low income neighborhoods would be wonderful.

Need to make healthy food affordable in ALL region not just for low income. I am middle class and can not consistently afford fruits and veg enough for a week - much less organic ones.

Equity Comments

This is a struggle and a balance. There has to be some allowance for neighborhood change, but it should be done in close collaboration with existing community members, in order to avoid displacement and inequity.

Low-income areas need serious innovation and often serve as a hub for crime. Smaller market centers can be helpful. We need to connect low income with the entire region to provide better access. All communities should be connected regardless of income. We as a community will need a serious Paradigm shift.

Key areas are generally seen as middle to high income areas. People in these areas can afford internet connection. To equalize access to information and job development skills, internet access must focus on low income neighborhoods

I would support incentives for groceries to locate in low income areas and provide affordable, healthy food. They also need to provide cooking classes to show people how to prepare the food so that it tastes good.

Yes as long as the low income residents participate and take ownership. We should not use public funding for it if it doesn't do any good.

Too many of the new-style neighborhoods being built today are only affordable for the older, affluent citizens. Young educated people need affordable housing as well as poor people.

Affordable healthy food for all please, not just "low income" :o). Particularly low income neighborhoods that have been used as dumping grounds.

Encourage HOAs, cities and counties to not restrict beekeeping, urban agriculture, not require grass be kept <1' tall in back yard so pollen and nectar from weeds can support native pollinators. Ban ornamental herbicides and the rules that require them. Add beekeeping/support of native pollinators/urban agriculture to the definition of what it means to be sustainable and green. Not just low income areas.

There are plenty of ways to be involved in the community. Georgia needs to put in place better access to healthcare for everyone (especially low income and disabled).

Provide grants/incentives/tax breaks for building quality grocery stores in low income areas to eliminate food deserts.

Increase opportunity for urban farming in low income neighborhoods to provide access, education, and understanding of healthy foods

Clean up the Atlanta Airport. Too many blacks = Unequal opportunity. Everyone should be required to display southern hospitality.

Mentoring programs and programs like Habitat for Humanity which make low income housing possible in the longterm

Equity Comments

Legislature pass laws that enhance the opportunities for non profits to serve the disadvantages. The disjointed program that excludes sales tax for some non profits but others that are equally justified is stupid. Why shouldn't a non profit health care which exist almost totally on donations of time and money pay sales taxes while other non profits don't?

Providing ways for our disadvantaged youth to receive training and job opportunities is the only way to ensure that the efforts of the ARC will have a big impact. If people are involved in the process they tend to own it and we need to develop youth into responsible citizens to protect the future of our community.

gentrification is a real issue, as well as pushing people out further from work forces.candler road is a perfect example.why a train system doesn't go out in that direction should be more on the table.not just the beltline--which covers areas that already have some access. the reach has to get with the times. we also have to shift attitudes about metro usage and bus usage as not just for people of color or poor people. there's still a ridiculously classed notion of public transportation, which the local government reinforces in policy and attitude.

thank you for making the Spanish language option available

As a working adult in the public school system, I see the need to provide equitable access to technology; we must close the technological divide that plagues our low income citizens in their homes.

I would like to help low income persons in my community get an education, housing, and employment. What grant is available for this project?

Henry County is having to pay tolls on all additional lanes when Cobb, Clayton, Douglas, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Rockdale and Cherokee got all their improvements with Southside tax dollars. This new policy guarantees that the counties south of ATL are permanently disadvantaged and is a form of institutionalized public spending discrimination.

Create and provide training programs to poor young adults to equip them with skills to find jobs. This can be done by partnering with local businesses. . . .

Low income? Make sure all people can have healthy food.

Yes I agree this would be a plus, but we have more pressing matters that need to be addressed before the arts culture and artsrelated experiences. This would help those that have the means to participate but there are too many less fortunate persons throughout our region. The wealthy would benefit from this but not those is low income families.

Equity Comments

We need to educate everyone on healthier living not just low income. Low income needs to be educated on so much more than food.

Not only in low income areas but, there are some new developments areas that the close present of a full function grocery store is nil, let say within a 5 city block radiance.

The best social program for the poor.... Is a job! Not handouts.

Not only low income areas but you have people that have this issue that may not necessarily living in low income areas

Affordable health food should be for all people whether it is low income or not.

While I appreciate the purpose of low income housing, I have never seen it contribute to a community in a positive way.

There's a good mix of housing availability in Atlanta area. This type of question usually means bringing in low income HUD properties which lowers property values & brings in undesirable elements like crime & drugs.

But encourage ownership and have low income participants responsible for the upkeep and appearance of their community to instill pride in the surroundings.

Create more scholarships and grants for the "B" and "C" student. Often these students want to go to school, but often are limited by finances. Because they are not "A" students they often do not qualify for scholarships/grants.

This is especially needed in and near poorer communities, especially without pricing them out of their communities.

Healthy environment is critical. Educating low income on proper trash disposal, not in the streets.

Contrary to public claims, crime is a significant problem in low income neighborhoods. Landlords set standards for the communities they manage, so police should be much more supportive, particularly in terms of prompt evictions, prompt apprehension and prosecution of criminals, and minimal harrassment.

Affordable housing, micro housing dedicated to low income, single s who do work in the city. ..can qualify for other programs where you must have kids

This s vital but cannot come at the expense of inclusiveness and as a form of gentrification that pushes out older, poorer residents and replaces them with young and wealthy families, thereby causing resegregation of what had been integrated neighborhoods in transition.

Aging

Aging Comments

Aging Comments

In addition to walkable I would like my neighborhood to be bikeable AND to be a life-long community that will serve senior citizens as well as young families.

Once you can navigate a neighborhood without a vehicle, you'll want to be able to access the neighborhood from other locations.

A healthy transportation system should be easily navigable for the elderly, the youth, and the intoxicated. If that is achievable, you'll have a fantastic transportation system..

Get more advertising (flyers in mailboxes, social media, etc.) to senior citizens as well as others about the social activities that are available within the community. community centers.

Restructure Underground Atlanta to build another type of "Atlantic Station" so that people will have more shops, nice restaurants, movies, clubs, etc. to visit. Add man made water for a nice feature such as a lake to add to the scenery. I believe this will give people more reason to want to come and visit and hang out. Add out door patio feature for dog friendly restaurants and a small\large dog park.

Also, build more access roads or lower bridges under the expressways to help reduce traffic congestion. Please do not build any high bridges since there are some active senior citizens who are very independent and like to travel but may not want to go over any high bridges. Also, if it's possible, please build a dedicated bike\moped access separated by a concrete wall to avoid danger to people who would be willing to commute this way to go throughout downtown and beyond.

Support our growing elderly population.

You are not planning ahead in residential building, available jobs, communities for all of the senior citizens, now or in the next 25 years. Builders are again taking the greedy approach and building as many homes as can possibly get on a property. We need right now, one level, affordable residential homes for our aging population.

Affordable housing for seniors and individuals with disabilities

Affordable housing for low income, disabled, and Seniors.

Ability for senior citizens to Age in Place

Ability for senior citizens to Age in Place

intergrate Seniors into the communities with housing and activities and health care

SECURITY AND PROTECTION FOR DISABLED AND ELDERLY RESIDENTS

Create affordable housing for seniors in the suburbs.

Affordable housing for seniors and those with severe disabilities

Aging Comments

Senior citizens should services to direct them to good nutrition and safe homes, and all school children should be prepared for life after high school and encouragement to complete at least high school.

A health-promoting environment is conducive for every age group. Health and recreation planning enhances a more productive workforce, healthy active children and seniors who can live independently in their own homes, saving medical and care costs. The arts are so important in so many ways that enhance ones wellbeing. Programs such as nutrition for health and classes for fit ess and well being like tai chi and yoga would be beneficial.

Such a hard city to get around in if you dont drive. Need more viable options for seniors

I have seen first hand how the lack of transportation options limit community engagement, health care and independence for persons who are poor, disabled and seniors.

If we continue to just make available affordable healthy foods people will not get up off their butts and work for something. We need to make available healthy foods to all areas. There are disabled people in the areas that need assistance, elderly people that cant make it from month to month of SS. This is another area that needs some attention.

Organize local street cleaning crews, park restorations, with the introduction of peoples' art on the streets. Also, the organization of elderly citizens to provide vigilance in communities to assist police services.

Learned recently og a program through UGA that has bus that goes through designated neighbors that do not have grocery stores close. Consider more of that in all neighborhoods. Healthy food is a huge issue for low income seniors due to transportation

After the partnerships with government, Universities and private sector are established, incubator program with a youth and elderly component attached should be developed.

Not just youth, but all ages - older people are often the least tech-savvy!

Particular concentration on the elderly and access to community necessities like shopping, exercise and healthcare.

look at 285... there's plenty of lanes... it's a death trap. It's like driving in a third world country , no signs, left and right exits...

MARTA IN TH E BURBS!!!! Imagine getting on the train and seeing people in suits, college kids, elderly, teenagers, families, all income workers all at once living and breathing life into the community on the MARTA, now I go and it's empty and scary as there are no people around.

Aging Comments

Enlarge street signs and highway direction so that they are easier read by the visually impaired and seniors who need larger signs.

make it possible for fewer cars to be on the road by giving seniors the transportation access they need. adding lanes does not lessen the number of cars on the road.

YES, YES, & YES!! Especially for the elderly who no longer drive & for low-wage earners who can't afford an automobile. I am so "stunned" by the question.

Establish a connect station at county lines, include bus arrival and departure times. This will prove very helpful to seniors and others needing transportation to medical out-of-county.

All ages, (senior citizens included) races, genders, and economic status.

No standards of age, gender, race or economic must be met or considered. Only that the person can do the job. Do interviews over the phone, where faces and race, age, gender, or economic backgrounds are not known until the person being interviewed comes in. Then hired after they have worked a trial period - and proved they can handle the responsibility of the job. This should always include our Senior citizens, who have already contributed much to our communities. Don't let their wisdom and learning go to waste because they are too "old" it's not said, however it has been implied.

For seniors and those who wish to forego driving, this is ideal.

Transportation to existing educational offerings might encourage seniors to participate in enriching educational opportunities.

Food deserts are the single biggest problem for the elderly poor...

Safe bike lanes for all ages, children to the elderly. Routes to school and work

Why limit this to an age group? What the old people don't matter or work anymore?

Don't just connect major job centers, connect ALL of Metro Atlanta. As a resident I am confined to staying within a 15 mile radius of my house unless I want to face spending 3hrs a day in my car. Youth, elderly, and those who cannot drive are paralyzed by our lack of transportation options. Atlanta is horrible for transportation, and the main reason why I want to move elsewhere.

Utilize local resources such as our retirees and senior citizens to serve as mentors and role models for our youth. Cross generational interaction will create more understanding as well.

Provide a solution for seniors citizens to stay in their home with quality living.

Provide options for a growing elderly population--walkable commercial areas and more public transportation options

Aging Comments

define a role for seniors

There is nothing in the survey regarding seniors.

Creation of multiple areas of ranch style income housing for the vast increase of aging senior citizens

Quality Senior housing that is close to transportation, near art centers and restaurants, close to the city and affordable.

Again, this is not my top 3 priority, but it should be highly valued. We need to really focus on the senior citizens and their quality of life, especially with the growing number of senior citizens, retirees, and the dependence upon social security and single income. Technology, globalization, inflation, and higher cost of living is really widening the gap for poverty and the well-being of our beloved senior citizens.

Affordable housing for seniors in the form of rent controlled properties for adults 50+.

community preparedness for older society

Meaningful and rewarding job opportunities for Senior Citizens

Quality Senior housing that is close to transportation, near art centers and restaurants, close to the city and affordable.

Again, this is not my top 3 priority, but it should be highly valued. We need to really focus on the senior citizens and their quality of life, especially with the growing number of senior citizens, retirees, and the dependence upon social security and single income. Technology, globalization, inflation, and higher cost of living is really widening the gap for poverty and the well-being of our beloved senior citizens.

Look into the programs in San Francisco especially for seniors.

People do not like to be involved as then everyone complains to them it is always sad that 20 % of people do 80 % of the community involvement. Encourage children to become involved and stay involved. Add the elderly to some type of project so they are involved. The middle aged people need to be involved through their childrens school and they need to help teach children to be involved in their community.

Nobody, in the USA should be homeless. If we can spend millions building other countries why not spend some of that money building whatever is needed for the homeless population in the USA. Children shouldn't know the meaning of homeless in the USA nor should our vets and older population. Something need to be done about those situations in a hurry.

I tear up every time I see homeless people, even when I see senior citizens walking miles from a bus stop with grocery bags and other bags in their hands.

I just think that more can be done. More resources allocated to them.

Aging Comments

meals on wheels was not available to my aged neighbors because they couldn't pay for it... They could have gone the the grocery store if they had money

We need to help our youth, because they are our future; and our seniors because if it were not for them we would not be where we are today!

Have people in Neighborhood ones that are on HOA Boards become involved in events and parks and entertainment. Like NPU Units in the City of Atlanta but add other duties. Get college students involved and make events accessible to all people the disabled and the older generation.

Have partership between local Universities and start up business. Encourage College students to get a co-op with start up businesses and partner them with more mature workers. Access the knowledge of the old and young to bring things together in a business. Retrain older workers with continued education. Have Business Incubators to help start ups. Help encourage mentorships between Industry Gaints and start ups in leadership.

Call out experienced seniors for training and educating our youth to work, using skills taught.

Please consider the aged and disabled population

I need transportation now, and not only to the doctor, but anywhere in Gwinnett that is a public place. I'm 79 and don't have time left to wait. please do it now.

Disability

Disability Comments

Bring more IT entry level jobs to Atlanta so folks won't have to accept jobs out of state. Sponsor job fairs for certain groups of people so that there will be fairness in competing with one another (i.e. Veterans, Handicap, Students, folks that may not have degree but they have years of experience).

Support services for the disabled

We need better programs in Georgia for the support of the aging and disabled. The patchwork available now is inefficient, confusing, and burdensome.

Support for the Disabled

More Assistance for Aging/Disabled Population

Affordable housing for low income, disabled, and Seniors.

Build affordable housing so that every American that has a income can live in a home regardless of the source of income; low income, disabled, or retired.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION FOR DISABLED AND ELDERLY RESIDENTS

Disability Comments

I have seen first hand how the lack of transportation options limit community engagement, health care and independence for persons who are poor, disabled and seniors.

If we continue to just make available affordable healthy foods people will not get up off their butts and work for something. We need to make available healthy foods to all areas. There are disabled people in the areas that need assistance, elderly people that cant make it from month to month of SS. This is another area that needs some attention.

Homelessness is no longer exclusive to the mentally ill or drug addicts. Why can't they be put to work cleaning the city-- streets, graffiti, shelters, parks, city vehicles, etc. At the very least, they should be able to earn the money they need to eat and live in the shelters rather than on the street. Many of them have skills that can be put to use in the workforce as well. Why not give corporate incentives for companies to put them to work like they do the disabled?

Develop parks that already exist. Camping, festivals, swap meets, fishing. Little mulberry in dacula is huge nothing there but an empty lake..no fish, no handicapped access to fishing

Disabled,old and vets yes no one else. Tired of pahing government funded everything bailouts.

Only old, disabled should get free food. Drug test anyone else. They need to get a job, government is raising a generation of gimme, gimmie people. Whos paying??middle class is dying here

There are plenty of ways to be involved in the community. Georgia needs to put in place better access to healthcare for everyone (especially low income and disabled).

Work for food would be a great start, dont just hand it out. Whos paying for all of this?? Make them work somewhere unless they are too old or disabled.

Provide options for a growing elderly population--walkable commercial areas and more public transportation options

I am very concerned about improving transit options, especially for the disabled. I'd like to see better options for a unified system that serves regions, as opposed to counties.

Public Parking for low emissions vehicles and handicap spaces
Public Parking for low emissions vehicles and handicap spaces

Have people in Neighborhood ones that are on HOA Boards become involved in events and parks and entertainment. Like NPU Units in the City of Atlanta but add other duties. Get college students involved and make events accessible to all people the disabled and the older generation.

Disability Comments

Create more sidewalks (that are also wheelchair accessible), and bike lanes. This would help in reducing air pollutants and would encourage more walking (creating a healthier city).

Please consider the aged and disabled population

Other Category

Other Category Comments

has been hard for my wife and I to log our commute since the new system began.

Absolutely essential for me to be able to recruit the nation's top talent to Atlanta

There needs to be one system serving all the atlanta regional area, not 5 different bus lines that aren't connected.

Like it.

Like it.

Like it.

Like it.

I rate them all equally important.

This is critical but for this poll, the other choices rank higher better car alternatives

Yes .

I ranked them all. All are important in the best state for business!

Better socially, physically, and mentally for sure!

This is our future, harnessing our brainpower to create a new future

This is more of a local than regional issue.

Too late for this. You have fundamentally failed at this option throughout the years within Atlanta. Chunk this idea!

communities within the city will strive to be a community all of its own

when we continue to be leaders all the other things will fall in place.

doesn't work

How do you prioritize one over the other ?

Answer: You do not. With good vision, selecting good options complement each other to give a result greater than the sum of the parts.

Transport is long lead time. Transport is not about rich or poor and has nothing to do with race. Planning for long lead time, big capital infrastructure is critical.

For this item it is the vision thing. The question is does Georgia and Atlanta really have the vision to be world class. If you make decisions based on racial stereo typing, you are doom to mediocrity.

Other Category Comments

I love mine

this is Obama care

We need the above but we also need to inform citizens what's involved in having the above.

Arts are a local, not a regional issue.

This is a local, not regional priority. People who want this will choose to move to communities where it exists. People who would rather live on 20 acres and drive a little or work from home will do the same.

all this is good if Atlanta can keep crime down and corruption at bay

It would be nice to have more options however with a high crime rate many are not interested they rather stay home

The safest area in Atlanta is where the Governor lives. There is too much crime and it takes years to clean up neighborhoods. When Turner field is torn down you might rebuild but in a short time it will be trashed. The former Omni was once a nice place before crime took over. Men/women do not feel safe and don't want to be mugged.

This is a must as we found a few years ago. This region has too few options.

Limit growth/ this can be done by doing away with apt complexes

A critical factor in the continued viability of the region that is not being adequately pursued in a timely manner.

All the rest are important ... but metro Atlanta is bifurcating into the most unequal city in America, and that's because it's too hard for working class people to get to work.

YES! Make events like Atlanta Streets Alive a part of our culture, not just an event. We need opportunities to get moving and be active, for free, and every Sunday.

Beyond the car!

stay out of fayette County

Stay out of Fayette County

stay out of Fayette County

stay out of Fayette county

stay out of fayette County

Stay out of Fayette county

This too is so important!

most important or people will move away

very important

Atlanta lacks a comprehensive plan that engages and connects all places to all people. Let's do it!

I do think this is a priority, but feel like the region is already moving that way and so wouldn't list it as a top, top priority. We are definitely heading the right direction now.

Other Category Comments

As a senior, I'm looking for a place where I can safely access shops and restaurants on foot and have easy access to public transport to get to medical services and cultural institutions.

NONE

As an employer struggling to find employees to staff a growing business I constantly question the thought process of a state and nation who felt everyone needed to go to college. I need highly skilled tradesmen to grow my business. They are next to impossible to find.

This has to be a top priority for every community.

This means rational pricing and the promotion of the use of submeters for residential use.

If we do this, the lower priorities will follow!

Great; but without the addition of high-rises, condos, apartments, etc.

I agree that this subject is important, but if the powers that be, of which you all are a part of; then the concept and standards of Common Core must be abandoned immediately if not sooner!!!

Building on my first comments.

Can't comment on something that hasn't been fully explained.

from K through doctorate. We must also keep kids in long enough to graduate from High School as a minimum.

I believe, to some extent, that if we provide the first four priorities, the last two will develop organically.

Need conferencing and fine arts facility.

Other than my top 2, all this is lining up with Agenda 21 which is being ignored by most everyone.

Your reason for an Innovation Hub is so vague I don't see how anyone could make a cogent reply for or against.

The three I did not rank are also important. They all look like strong focuses.

This is important to promote good citizenship and well being of society.

I feel this topic goes hand-in-hand with the topic of "Highly Developed & Well-Educated Workforce"

I fine these to be of equal value and would put them on the same line if I could.

I have ranked this last not because it is not important but because this is less amenable to metro Atlanta planning. Many other external players (like the State of Florida).

I like this vision statement.

Sure, if it means to install police-video cameras to help deter crime or hiring additional foot patrol at night.

Other Category Comments

This means giving attention to potential growth areas that keep getting overlooked like downtown East Point, rather than continuing to develop areas that are already thriving like VA Highlands

Must end the corruption.

Do not want in my county.

Important.

Not important to me.

Vital.

Each are very important and almost weight in exactly the same on the balancing pans

Paid for by what? We have all of the people we need in the Atlanta area.

Make it easier to sign up for public school! The registration process is a nightmare and I speak English as my first language and have a college degree. If people can't get their kids into school they won't want to live and work here.

Please make sure you have options that are affordable for the majority.

Reject EPA regulations

Spread these companies out throughout Georgia, not just in Atlanta

All these items are vital to our future. It is very difficult to prioritize. All are priority

I am 60 and want to do the majority of things in old age that I do not (barring serious physical infirmity). Affordable and safe places to walk and work out with the inevitable byproduct of social interaction is a huge priority for me. I checked on the programs at the Senior Connections for my parents years ago and they were not very pleasant ... so disappointing.

Affordable college tuition

This is an outcome of the other, more fundamental, elements.

Yes. Yes. Yes.

'nuf said.

We need to invest in our Universities

We need more incentives for research.

Promote the elimination of lawns in favor of natural landscapes. These help in both drought and in deluge!

As someone with a career in the tech industry, I'm proud of the growth we've already seen in this arena in Atlanta - but there's lots of room to keep going.

We do need it.

All students are not the same. We should have programs available for young people to learn trades in their high school timeframe.

Other Category Comments

Need much more affordable child/teen friendly events. Love Cherokee's new Aquatic Center!

route subway to CDC.

We must attend to our infrastructure or we will have no foundation on which to build anything.

Allow artist to be able to support themselves through art and support art and music in the school system

H2O is #1 priority the world over for all humans! ATL has great H2O (from one who's visited & drunk it in all 50 states!)

This system should move away from using and expanding our highway system.

school vouchers will help deliver us from existing morass

A key component in neighborhood safety and security.

We need more opportunities for recent graduates to get trained within the programming/IT field.

This is paramount with the growing population in the metro area. If the transporation is well established and working the other will follow.

This is imperative

Massive decrease in intown crime.

Noise abatement on Edgewood ave. and rubbish from clubs and business by wheat st baptist church.

Strong Economic Development

Attracting/retaining companies with appropriate values: working wages, sustainability, community involvement.

Community that accepts and welcomes a diverse population, encourages participation in all facets of life

maximize our economic assets.

Safety for welfare of generations to come. A safer, less violent society.

Keep as much forested land as possible.

Reduce carbon emissions.

A real strategy to deal with homelessness rather than just "get them out of the city."

Civic Engagement

Welcoming and Inclusive Community

Clean air

Balanced and inclusive regional growth

Breathable air

Affordable living in area one works.

Embrace diversity with a International Blvd

Crime prevention

Safe communities, roads and work places with sufficient first responders.

Other Category Comments

Facilitate safe communities - minimizing crime while maximizing opportunity for the broadest diverse population

Poverty Alleviation

Eliminate the citizen member positions on the ARC Board of Directors and be more accountable to the public.

Live,work, and communities

**More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.
more accountability from elected officials**

Inclusive is better than exclusive.

It leads to a whole greater than the sum of the parts.

Here I am thinking about attacking blight - every where. For example blighted strip malls. A symptom of failed planning and the antithesis of what we want for Georgia

Repeal HB 1216 and HB 277

enforce immigration law

Public Safety

Stop the political graft and dishonesty. Find away to openly discuss the issues of corruptions and also the issue of leaders who view everything as a race issue.

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board

Reduced economic stratification

Sustainable energy

Sustainable solutions for homeless

Safety- a reduction in home & car break-ins, violence, etc.

top notch hospital/ER facilities (but so far we already have that)

Planning for development of areas of Atlanta that are south of I-20.

Sustainable development -- more LEED-certified buildings and homes.

we need a secure atmosphere where noone is afraid to go out and to visit in the area. For this we need a first class police force, I think.

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board

Sustainable energy sourcing and production

more accountability for AEC members

Safety & Secure Communities

**More accountability ofr citizen members of the ARC Board
button does not close as completed**

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.

More Law Enforcement

Safety and less violence and crime

Low Crime Rate

Other Category Comments

Affordable, quality childcare services.

Better safety and more consistency of police presence in atlanta neighborhoods instead of just after a crime

Accountability of citizen members with term limits.

Effective leadership that accomplishes more than they talk about accomplishing.

Marijuana decriminalization.

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board

INFRASTRUCTURE

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.

greater accountability of unelected citizen members of the board and conflict-of-interest concerns

The PEOPLE make all decisions of all priorities facing the state of GA, not appointed, unelected individuals individuals

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.

reduce crime

Reduce high density developments.

Limit Length of Service and number of terms served by commissioners to limit influence of special interests

Building Regionalism

Reduce (if not eliminate) the power of unelected regional governance.

Establish TOUGH and enforceable ethics bylaws that all citizen members and Chair of the ARC board must follow and live by.

need more accountability from ARC to citizens

Dismantle all unaccountable, unelected regional 'authority' over any aspect of citizen lives

Repeal HB1216 and HB277

Building Roads.

Engaged and connected people

Renewable Energy Infrastructure

Finish the beltline project sooner

No common corr

Public Safety. Lowering crime will attract better citizens to our region.

Programs to get People Out of Poverty

Thoughtful inclusion for the aging community

Reduce regulation.

All our police precincts are understaffed. Our precinct 4 has atleast 6 cruisers paraded everyday! That's a huge priority!

Conserve green space and trees

SAFETY: less gang violence, fewer shootings, drug deals, etc.

Let the free market operate

Repeal regionalism

enforce immigration laws

reduce federal gov't dependancies

Other Category Comments

Restore and maintain individual freedoms and liberties. Get rid of the police state and the invasion of our privacy through "security" cameras, cell towers and radio towers. They are incredibly ugly as they are cropping up all over the Atlanta highway system!

Control of crime

Address the issues with the homeless; protect citizens and their properties; punish those that break the law; Make the area safe.

SAFE, SECURE neighborhoods - more police

Focus on reducing, reusing or recycling our resources.

We need to attract top employers so people will want to live and work in Cobb County.

Reverse the trend toward city and county Balkanization; follow the lead of Athens/Clarke County and other successful UniGov systems to create fewer, not more, layers of bureaucracy and to match the geography of regional authority to the geography of regional problems.

Conservation of undeveloped space

Highly developed, sustainable agriculture circling the metro area.

More green space. Too many forests are being destroyed.

Well educated & trained inter-county team to administer these changes

Better highway and road infrastructure

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.

Roads that are in good condition

Preservation of smaller, older, single-family homes (and neighborhood character) instead of tear-downs for enormous, generic single-family homes/McMansions.

Low Crime and Safety

Give special consideration to the history of our region by preserving historically significant places and providing information on them for the public interest.

Safety - we need to raise the pay for police. They put their lives on the line for us and deserve much more. We need quality police and enough to protect us all. Same for fire personnel. Good pay brings good employees. It's a proven fact.

Commitment to public safety

Golf Cart Community

Relocate homeless folks

Promote well-being for children and youth

Cut back on high occupancy apartment homes, townhomes, sub-divisions, etc...

Increase home ownership with acreage (5+ acres per home)

Other Category Comments

Better fitness options for the whole community. Love this Tai Chi reference in the picture... where do I sign up? Perhaps a website even with doctor/certified trainers suggesting workout ideas that could grow into a space where one could find out how to actually attend such a class.

Comprehensive Tourism Development

Guarantee up to 20 hours of labor to any applicant. Employ the otherwise unemployable. Treat them with dignity and respect

Increase pay for peace keeping officers. Without safety we have nothing.

Safety and crime

Pay Public Safety Employees

Embracing Democratic ideas instead of closed-minded Republican ideologies.

Improve the I-20 and 285 on the west side of Atlanta. All other major intersections have been improved over the past decades. Stop treating the west side as the red headed step child!

Crime reduction and a feeling of safety in order to use facilities already in place

more accountability for the citizen members of the ARC board

Illegal immigrant control

Meet Beyonce and Jay Z

Green Space

Pass progressive legislation.

Infrastructure,

Make Atlanta a safe place to visit. It's scary everywhere except down where Centennial Olympic park is because there is more APD there.

crime issues

The number one priority for the Atlanta region is to cease viewing itself as a collection of independent communities and start operating as a cohesive unit. With the constant competition between metro counties and cities, Atlanta is in no position to grow and improve as a region and will continue to suffer a lack of progress and development.

Safe areas for cyclists on the roads

Safety for ALL!

Stop the illegal imigrants and the numbers will not be so high.

Eco-Friendly Practices

Green Infrastructure

Industry

Diverse, thriving community

Better relationship with police department within the community

Better relationship with police department within the community. Ongoing campaign to keep community clean.

Require tree preservation for all land development

Other Category Comments

Encouraging co-operatives and workplace democracy.

Multicultural

Multicultural is top priority

Revitalize downtown Atlanta by ridding the streets of the homeless population

Safety!

Well thought out priorities...Accept.

Improved Interstate and Major Highway System

economic development

Defensible Rock Solid Power Grid

Safety....The area has become very violent lately

safety and law enforcement

Sustainable Infrastructure - through conservation, efficiency of existing and new structures, and the promotion of clean renewable energy sources, reduce the need for fossil and nuclear energy generation.

Political corruption is killing us. We need honest individuals in office both at the city, county and state level.

Reduce crime, but with responsibility community policing methods

Capable, honest leadership

public safety

Create economic opportunities and better services for underserved communities

Great public spaces

Economic Development! Duh!!

Infrastructure rehabilitation before ANYTHING else!

Much better quality of elected and appointed officials

Crime reduction

Improve moral culture of society

Economic growth balanced throughout the region.

Address the Smog

Less Sprawl

safety

Expand/Recognize International Presence in Area

less idiotic boosterism atlanta is NOT a world class city = yet

All of our communities need to be cleaner..litter free (as much as possible) More recycling!

Children's welfare and youth development.

Democratized access to information and other resources

Law enforcement that actually patrols

Growth plans that do not exceed natural resources available.

Educate our poorest children along with the privileged.

Eliminate panhandlers

Eliminate panhandlers

Reduce crime

Other Category Comments

Maybe something like space reuse/ revitalization. There's a lot of underused space in the city limits that could be recaptured and put to better use.

Music Scene - look to New Orleans and Austin

sense of security/feeling safe

Focus on gaining trust of leaders and law enforcement

Fighting crime early in life of children

Proactive and more efficient police force

Youth Development

Teach everyone to grow their own food sustainably with permaculture principles

We need decent work so we can support our families. I am a Georgia Tech graduate and cannot find employment. None of the above matters if we have no job.

Integration of all these efforts

A safer City

National Leader in the adoption of Renewable energy and Smart Grid

Public safety and crime reduction

Public safety and crime reduction.

I prioritized items that can not, generally, be supplied by private enterprise.

Less crime

World-class Medical Care

Clean Air

keep Atlanta's forest canopy

Duluth seems to have become a play house and party area.

Abundant and protected natural areas

Safety from criminals

Send the Illegal Aliens home

Safety - get the criminals, thugs and gangs off the streets and out of the neighborhoods.

Increase general safety measures, decrease crime

Reduce visibility of the homeless/indigent population around major hubs downtown.

Infrastructure

Food access needs met.

General safety. Are we reforming the criminals taht we arrest.

Family oriented activities, events, concert related

Be all inclusive in the areas prosperity and growth and don't leave any citizen behind.

Aggressive action to entice new business to the Atlanta Region and Atlanta in particular

Some of these other important topics cannot happen if we do not have individuals well-trained in these specialties.

This should be a top priority.

Other Category Comments

very important, we need to stop the sprawl, retain green space, and be more dense.

Community is important and should be accessible to all.

Life should be lived, body is for movement.

Get rid of all crime. Get rid off all gangs. Promote birth control to all to end pregnancies that result in children supported only by crime. Do not wait for a solution that pleases people and does not work.

Designed specifically with all income demographics and neighborhoods in mind.

Continue to develop communities that have easy access to food and small business that are within walking distance. STOP building high rise's with no commercial at street level! Mixed use is the way to engage the community.

This is great, but it should not be our first priority. Why can't we make what we have better rather than constantly added more to try and prove we're better?

If people get around or get home none of this other stuff matters. See ICE STORM 2014

Being a worldclass headquarters for job is essential to bringing more applicants.

Having more options for a world class work force.

Please do so.

Please do this.

Please do this.

Please do this.

Please do this.

Please do this.

Why did the Board of Regents seek to destroy Southern Poly by rolling it into a sadly mediocre generalist school like Kennesaw? Why do they continually direct resources away from GA Tech, the best and most respected institution of higher learning in GA?

WE HAVE TO HAVE A TRAIN THROUGH THE CLIFTON CORRIDOR NOW.

Living in a Neighborhood used to promote a feeling of belonging activities in the Neighborhood promoted families

One of the things I would like to see more will be inexpensive public lectures through out the city during weekends in history, science, philosophy and others depending on peoples interest

Good luck! It takes individuals with work ethics to accomplish this.

Individual County issues, not Regional!

We in Fayette County can take care of ourselves without Regional redistribution and promoting "one size fits all" mentality

The most important

Other Category Comments

This is the most important, especially for the south side of Atlanta which includes all of Clayton, Henry and Fayetteville GA.

Continue to expand the Beltline. Have arborists do regular surveys of trees for our safety.

We are attracting film and television companies by offering incentives. Offer similar incentives like TX and CA are to attract tech companies.

Art is the spirit expressing itself and communicating with others.

Catch phrases, is that the way you are going? I am about to give up this survey!

I need specifics please. That explanation is way too vague!

More specifics please. The comment doesn't tell me much.

That sounds like a good thing. We don't have that in many parts of our city.

The need is at the bottom. Developed well educated should be creating decent ways to employ them

Put sandbag 'filters' by drainage areas so debris is filtered out. Like they do at the Ryland new home communities.

They have to be SAFE first. Can't go for a walk if you're going to get mugged.

WITHOUT THE EDUCATED MAN AND WOMAN OF THE SOCIETY TODAY WE WILL NOT SEE ANY OF THE DEVELOPEMENT THAT WE SO DESPERATLY NEED IN THIS DAY.

Invest in keeping the infrastructure up to date rather than in new park barrel stadium in Cobb County.

promote / encourage internships for credit for highschoolers to show the value of work to society - not just for \$ but for the benefit of our community. Kids need to know that workin can help the community and themselves. With promoting a deisre to work, there will be a desire to stay in school and t go on to college to educate themselves even more.

this poto looks like thai ch in the park . Do this more often and where is this, I would like to attend?

Without this other cities in the southeast will start to pull companies away from Atlanta

City of Decatur and ATL are doing well on this!

The focus should be on connecting intown residents, not extending connectivity to the people who decided to move OTP just so they could buy giant cheap houses.

have an "innovative staff dept" to try new ideas

yes

Would help bring people together with a sense of belonging to an area/neighborhood.

as well as equalization opportunities for Atlanta's poor

Other Category Comments

I definitely think this is important to have as a way to balance out the work/life issue - but not a top three.

Specific focus on building infrasture aside from additional roads
However it is designed, it should de-emphasize driving wherever possible

This is, by a long shot, the highest priority facing Atlanta. Millenials like myself absolutely hate having to drive. Those of us with the luxury of having choices of which city to live in will simply move out of cities where you need a car to get around.

Think New York, London level of connectivity

Has to go to more places and be more security on it.

Toll road as 2nd perimeter

We need this to survive. Conserve it because we do not want to end up like Ohio and California recently. Learn from them. This factor may not rank high on this list yet or care as much until it's gone, but let's ramp that up now.

Need to focus planning on more high density mixed use living arrangements to allow for greater walkability.

This is challenging to create.

This should be a no-brainer, look to Austin and other cities.

build tram system to north east & north west areas of northern atlanta

Also include people of all income levels.

Attract artists and arts industries to the region; improve food security for residents of all income levels.

Improve the system's equitability to benefit lower income residents' mobilities.

In particular, support higher ed at public community colleges.

By far the MOST important thing!

It's hard for trained, qualified people to be un or under employed while they wait for the City to recruit the Leaders and employers.

You have to fix the crumbling infrastructure, then you can maximize the natural resources.

I currently live in the burbs. It would take a whole lot for me to want to move into the city

Crucial; as the world grow smaller we need to be on the fore front of combating any future diseases on the horizon, such as an outbreak of Ebola in the US.

This is very important in growth for any area.

Extremely important to the community, people demand this.

Better roads is most important component, but not enough by itself.

OF COURSE

Great!

So people can feel secure and feel good about

To make it a great place to relocate and better for citizens here

Other Category Comments

Is the infrastructure in place to allow for business expansion.

Matching pay and attractive benefits will be helpful to meet this goal.

This perhaps the most pressing issue for the region's future.

Train and educate regional residents.

Yes this is very important and next is securing the electricity grid

with stores you can walk to

yes. as soon as can be done.

This is the number one priority if it could be at risk

Plan for the 22nd century, we are still in the 20th century now.

we need solid infrastructure in order to prepare for the influx of people.

This is the single most important issue that will hinder development in the Atlanta region. We cannot continue to be a productive, vibrant city if we can't get where we need to go efficiently.

N. Fulton and Cherokee counties are such that walkers and cyclists take their lives " in their hands" by walking or cycling.

Brings a community together

This is important but not as important as infrastructure to accommodate the workforce.

We need this or we can't function as a city.

Wellbeing is great and it would be nice if we could have this too. advanced broadband at affordable rates

not sure what this means

This needs to involve All of the area outside of 285 also and another international Air Port just like New York and Chicago. We are a major City we need to look like one!

Not everyone is going to take a bus the majority will always drive, which should be obvious by now. We should have built the outer perimeter when we had the chance so, if that is off the table we must improve what we have.

this does not apply as much to me. living in the suburbs, i do not care as much

Incorporate suitable infrastructure for the aging population

While this ranks # 6 on my list all of these are priorities and they are not mutually exclusive.

Every neighborhood should have commuting choices.

WON'T HAPPEN IN ATLANTA WITH THE CROOKS AND CLOWNS WE HAVE RUNNING THE CITY !! ATLANTA IS GOING DOWN THE DRAIN !! GEORGIA CITIZENS NEED A REAL GOVERNOR TO SET THE CITIES AND COUNTIES STRAIGHT !!! GA HASN'T HAD A GOVERNOR WORTH A CRAP IN 30+ YEARS !! AND DON'T REALLY HAVE ONE WORTH A CRAP TO VOTE FOR IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS !!! I THINK I WILL SIT THIS ONE OUT !!!

A must do!,,

Other Category Comments

Good luck with this...but it would make us all better members if the community.

Not as glam as the others, but it's the one absolute essential on the list

very doable.

Educate in HS & Tech Sch in all regions for job invite tech related for companies,

This is to me one of the most important characters of a community - walking remains the most natural and sustainable mode of transport for most people.

I would hope that this highly developed & Well-Educated Workforce includes more of the demographics of this area than is shown in the ad with three Caucasian women and the other figure is not visible enough to determine the gender. Include diversity in this Highly Developed & Well-Educated Workforce or Rename the title to "Limited to certain ethnic groups and to more of the female gender."

Wow...the infrastructure is still perhaps not correct...What can a citizen say...

Develop surrounding areas so the mass doesn't have to go into Allanta.

Use some innovative ideas not the same old hash to pay off supporters..

Developing the infrastructure should benefit all citizens, not just a few. What good is an infrastructure that does not support the needs of the city and surrounding areas?

Not sure I understand this or why its important

Every student should be educated to be self supporting by high school graduation and all students should be educated to their highest level capacity

Improve neighborhood security so people feel safe and enforce clean streets so they are proud of their neighborhoods.

It has to be on-time, frequent, safe, clean, simple, quick

The city of the future will be mostly car free

The city of the future will be mostly car free. One must be able to do everything they want close by.

It's the only way we will be able to grow. Without we're not contenders.

It's the ultimate driver.

These are the things desired by the highly educated work force we want to attract.

Eliminate "Educators" and employ Teachers!

Mandatory

Need to a system that works and can adhere to a schedule.

Other Category Comments

The growth of cities in the region has helped build a sense of community, and smart planning is helping to foster this concept. We are making progress in this area!

Develop throughout the region...not just in northern arc.

Requires local vision and leadership which is sorely lacking in many communities.

We need real solutions from Federal level on down...stop "kicking the can" and make tough decisions.

This is critical as a base for all other issues listed. People are going to start leaving the area if we don't resolve this issue.

Having lived in cities with decent transport it makes all the difference!

include the suburbs not just city in walkability planning

Ideally, all of these priorities would have inter-related solutions, and all are dependent on the others to some extent.

Long overdue.

Green space, independence, safety

I believe infrastructure is important for this and Leadership which exists.

If you don't have enough on this one, I can't add anything!

These will be built based on demand. pls insure they will be accessible as many of us age.

VERY VERY IMPORTANT FOR GROWTH OF ANYTHING

All Needed

We have become slave to our community with the crime rate rising. People are afraid to walk their community alone. We need protection and people need to start coming forward when they see a crime in progress. Yes guns is a factor and people are afraid they would get shot. with enough police force watching and protecting us we will be better of.

This is a must if Atlanta is to become a world class city and region.

While this is an important factor in building a sustainable future, I have not included it in my top priorities because it is not perceived to be as big a problem.

I wouldn't move my company to Atlanta with the current conditions.

I wouldn't move my company to Atlanta with the current conditions.

I wouldn't move my company to Atlanta with the current conditions.

Connect residential centers w/ employment centers throughout the region

A must have!!!

Must be able to move people with as few problems as possible

All of these are very important as cannot have one without the other

Other Category Comments

We need a nationally ranked STEM high school.

This very important to our future

If people want it they will strive to get it and support it. Does not need to be controlled by the city.

Must be able to move people more efficiently around the region.

Younger people want to walk everywhere, must appeal to them, they are our future.

Duluth is ,NOT Atlanta!!

Already had those years ago.

Help this happen with incentives to companies that help employees move within 2 miles of their location instead of the the clean air ride together campaigns

Legislators should be charged with this from a unified voice from every state and local chamber.

This will help all the other objectives happen.

While important unless the state legislature is knowledgeable and helps to put a plan that they believe in together nothing will happen - SPLOST 2011 ring any bells - Governor must lead the charge.

ALL CRITICAL, VERY TOUGH TO PRIORITIZE

This is an awesome/exciting quest. I am very hopeful that it will be realized.

Joke. You lost the war.

What is a neighborhood?

need badly

Atlanta has everything in place to continue to grow to be a international hub.

This needs to be developed for all of metro Atlanta.

Please make our lives more worth living

share regional resources to educate lower income students well use Green Infrastructure at site, neighborhood and regional scales

All of these are great objectives. Right on in priorities of what is lacking.

Desirable yes, somewhere in the Region, but probably not in the CBD.

This is to something desirable that every community should strive to establish and support.

As you represent the Atlanta "Region" I believe it is imperative to consider all of the communities/cities in the metropolitan area and their needs. And support their efforts to become live/work/play areas. The smaller footprint creates the greater sense of community.

We need regional planning to develop a system that effectively moves people and goods through the region. This has to be an effort that rises above local politics.

Again, Safety & security is a must have

Other Category Comments

Safety & security is a must have

Obvious

Self-obvious.

important, but not a regional responsibility

not a regional responsibility

not a regional role

I do not think this needs to be a primary focus but I think it should be addressed

I would be glad to oversee and manage a community center that gives our kids an outlet to express themselves, be creative and just have good old fashion fun.

This is exactly what we need. not just china cafeteria and wings.

I think churches and private organizations should be responsible for these issues. Their members and employees are what make up the community and they should be more involved.

Hire Rudy Giuliani to solve this problem the way he did in New York City

all areas not just low-income

Get a job! Eliminate many social hand-out programs.

No need! Get a job

Oh, yeah! This will REALLY help people.

The opportunities are already there! Seek 'em out!

I am not in favor of projects that make ATL attractive to more homeless people. I am interested in programs that act as social safety nets and try to lift people out of poverty.

This is analogous to homeless programs in terms of justification and importance.

Although this will be difficult to do since most will not get involved until it happens to them.

Currently poor management of current resources now both political and public in fighting.

Not affordable to all now.

I think it's more about promoting the ways that already exist but are under-utilized. Public meetings, NPUs, etc

There are ways for people to be involved in their community. The problem is that we have so many people who wont get involved. I have had people tell me well i'm from New York and we dont do things like they are done down south. We let the leaders of the community do everything it is not my place to be involved.

That sounds good but how can you do that? Subsidize grocery stores? Put people to work so they can afford more food!!!!

This is not going away. We have to address this issue and not close homeless shelters or put them in jail as a solution.

A compassionate response shows the heart of the city.

The ways exist. Create volunteer days.

Get corporations involved in this aspect.

Other Category Comments

Get down to their level. Pass out flyers on the street. Set up seminars in shelters and at food shelves. Walk the streets and talk one on one. Send lit home with school kids. Billboards.

Get out into the streets and enighborhoods and show people how to create vegetable gardens, plant fruit trees and berry bushes. Encourage farmer's markets to keep prices really low or to accept food stamps.

Through the private sector

Fulton county needs to do a better job.

Resources should be made available but with active participation from recepients.

Do this through private sector - question was not specific.

Private resources are most effective - focus on developing private.

Urban Perform in VINE City just had a farmer's Market for 6 week trial near English Ave, it was a hit!!!

Nope. That's covered. Go ask Obama! Really? What's next people?

People will be as involved as they want to be. Or not. Their choice.

Statist art? (Art paid for by the sate - what do you call that?)

Good art can fend for itself.

Statist art? (Art paid for by the sate - what do you call that?)

Good art can fend for itself.

Too vague of a statement...

NO MORE FOOD DESERTS.

ATL is developing into a tourist hub, and this could be a key source of revenue in the future.

Check out what Utah did to address this...

The current services do nothing to tackle the core of the problems. Just providing beds/shelter isn't enough to help.

Including (but not limited to) farmers markets that accept SNAP

This is important, but should not be a priority of the city in the Information Age. Getting information is not hard today, and will not get any more difficult between now and 2040.

In order to lower and prevent crimes.

This is the very most important resource and number one thing to do.

If people are more involved with their communities, they are more likely to also be community leaders and fight for the city of Atlanta as a whole, once they see where their community fits into the Atlanta community.

And make it fun.

Double Up Food Bucks program currently active in Detroit

Prevent suburbs from dumping their homeless in Atlanta

Other Category Comments

Homelessness is not caused by lack of resources. Those who are homeless either choose to be homeless or have other major mental challenges, such as drug abuse

only for those that can prove they truly have a need for it.

mobilize Atlanta artists and the community to create public art!

Private organizations are key

I don't feel like this is the city's job.

Love community gardens for this purpose. Its a small step but it helps on many levels.

This is important but we do have a good arts presence in the city already, and I speak as a parent with a daughter interested in art.

Private sector responsibility

Private sector responsibility

Expand medicaid in Georgia under the Affordable Care Act!

Make way and easy access for those who want to grow urban farms.

I think this should be a private sector endeavor - awareness should be the public sector side, that will create the demand.

I think this should be more driven by the private sector.

Though limited - awareness with an aim that private sector help the most.

Waste...

Atlanta has a serious homelessness problem and does very little about it.

Ambiguous much?

The number of homeless folks will not lower until those in power create a humane and compassionate solution. People are not trash to be cleaned up or swept away out of view.

Promotion of local food is important

My second favorite!

but strict control is necessary to prevent abuse!

Not to subsidize but to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society.

could start with improving the availability of food period in some neighborhoods (looking at you Turner Field)

I think Atlanta already has a great arts community with organizations like Wonderroot, Eyedrum, Living Walls, Goat Farm... let's continue to encourage this culture

Less important because there are already a ton of resources out there. People need to look and WANT to listen.

There should be a farmers market in every neighborhood and public space to support it

encourage transformation of abandoned properties/lots to community gardens

Other Category Comments

most are on welfare no and they make 3 times more than I do
most spend there fund on booze & drugs not food, I have seen
them get cash for there cards

Is this a wish list? Most Americans don't even vote.

I actually think we have a strong arts and entertainment scene in
Atlanta. I think this is lower on the priority list.

This is a question of personal motivation.

Eliminate food deserts.

There are many, many existing ways to do this.

This is VERY vague. Is it speaking to the "displacement"/arrest
of homeless or actual assistance to help reduce homelessness?

Why don't we do what other states do, give them a one way bus
ticket out of the state. Until everyone in this state understand
this is a real problem that can be addressed and brought to an
end.

Yes ONLY IF throughout Georgia, not just the city of Atlanta and
metro area

People need to start being more accountable for their own
communities. One area to work on the educated, informed
voting decisions - stop putting ineffective and unethical people
in office.

This information is already readily available for free from
multiple resources. This plan needs to focus on where it will
have the greatest impact.

This is going to be difficult - there has to be a reason for a
business to operate in an area that is unsafe and unprofitable.

Yes Yes Yes!!!

This sounds good but I am not sure what it really means or how
it could be measured

Instead promote self sustaining initiatives such as community
gardens for those in need to participate in and receive those
benefits.

It's easy enough as it is.

Studies should address who the homeless are and whether the
homelessness is related to mental illness. If it is then we should
develop strong support systems for our mentally ill.

This information is already available. Having it available does
not mean people will follow it.

Relocate homeless and homeless centers outside of touristic
and commercial zones, like downtown, etc.

I cannot imagine how we can make it easier, unless we have a
doc in the box on each corner.

I would prefer to see less of the art representing us as a third
world city and more quality art.

Other Category Comments

We must address this culturally by modifying the culture of most of those affected. Many are missing marketable skills and to many suffer from mental disorders that need to be addressed in a workable compassionate way.

this should be private/philanthropic rather than public. Govt cant do anything effectively and efficiently.

Most people who want to be involved with their community already are.

Homelessness in our city should make us ashamed, considering the number of vacant houses in Atlanta.

Some choose to be homeless, not sure there is a solution for that.

There are millions of ways to get involved - you only have to want to be involved and take a look.

this is a tough one to solve. People who want help should have access. People who don't want help may need it anyway but what can you do?

Only if you can do it without there being loopholes and abusives.

I'm ambivalent about this. It would be nice but other items are more important.

Add a sense of playfulness and interaction

This is too vague... find out what the reasons behind lack of involvement are. There are a lot of opportunities and needs but not always enough participation - why?

Build on the film and sports industry that already exist.

Yes, but focus on prevention

not a high priority b/c most people have access to twitter, facebook, etc. that tells you about what's going on in the area, but can be a challenge for those without access/connectivity. but more community centers with the ability to have conferences/seminars for the public would be nice.

yes, and decrease the areas where we have urban food deserts.

If there was more information, I believe this would help with Homelessness and how to get food to the less fortunate.

Give incentives to shopkeepers who want to carry fresh food in their stores (fruit, veg, etc). They can't compete with Publix pricing unless they get incentives.

Incentives for small shopkeepers who carry fresh fruit and veg.

We can always do better providing for the poor but let's give a hand up not a handout which just perpetuates proverty

Already done.

I like the idea, but it is hardly an area to focus on when we have bigger fish to fry.

This is my second favorite.

Other Category Comments

I think making it easier to have programs is better than information. People need to get action.

Not so sure what this means. We need to improve productivity here as well as increasing resources.

This is an important goal, but how we are going about..

Provide adequate long-term mental health facilities

Give them a chance to be part of something and they will take ownership of it.

Should be in any neighborhood no matter the income level

Now you're daydreaming.

Neighborhood organization are among the most powerful ways for people to be connected to their community and to each other. Create a network of neighborhood organizations throughout the metro area.

Rebrand "homelessness" as "houselessness" - "homeless" people often HAVE shelters and ways of making a living, even if they are not ideal or sanctioned by the greater community.

Atlanta is good where the arts are concern. Be sure to maintain where we are, but this should not be priority.

How can any city call itself progressive without addressing the issues of homeless? Public and private resources should be used.

We need a social program that provides guardianship and support for those not able to take care of themselves.

We need a social program that teaches people skills to be able to work and provide for themselves. (Pride of being independent)

be more efficient and coordinate what we have.

Can't just provide shelter. Need programs to prevent homelessness. That usually starts very early in life.

My son is in the 5th grade and has always attended an APS school. They have never had a field trip to the King museum!

These exist for those that want to participate.

Ditto...my previous comment. We've been there and done that for a long...long...long time. I'm not convinced going the same path down this road is going to create a better scenario in any of these areas..

It depends on your definition of homelessness. Some folks need specialized care yet we don't want to institutionalize them. They don't just need a home they need help.

Should mean, if you go see it, use it, etc. Should be held responsible for the up-keep as well. Don't leave trash behind, a "FINE" if found doing so. And pay people to be responsible for ensuring the upkeep or even volunteers like the Georgia aquarium - uses volunteers to help with the support and upkeep of the place. It's our community - all people should be involved in the volunteering.

Other Category Comments

This is a good idea as long as the local authorities ensure the homeless are made to be clean when going into these area/buildings, and be made to consider that they cannot sleep in there or leave trash or pee or other things inside or outside the building.

Mental illness laws need address. Hospitals discharge mentally ill persons because once they ill person is on meds, his/her behavior becomes "normal", but once out of supervision, they have difficulty remembering/being able to take the meds.

much bigger problems need to be addressed first
plenty of info out there to those who will pay attention

This is useless unless they also have reasonable access to the appropriate resources to apply what they learn.

Anyone can be more involved who will get off their butt, off their sofa, turn off the TV, and do something. But, again - how do you propose to force them to want this?

Not sure how a regional authority could help this grass roots need.

"LONG OVERDUE"

There are NONE in these areas. WHY?

We already have that at every level of the govt.

Living Walls is one of my favorite things about Atlanta, and I hope that the city will continue to foster and enable public art, instead of impeding it.

Important, but should not be in regional plan, it is really only an Atlanta city problem.

out of the scope of the regional plan, since this problem is highly localized.

Should not be in regional plan, but it is important.

Most homeless people have mental and substance abuse problems. they need help but they can not be allowed to harass citizens that just makes people hate them and ruins areas for commerce.

This goes hand in hand with a successful community.

I think the Atlanta already does a great job of this

This is an important goal for the future, but I believe there are more pressing issues to be addressed. The homeless dont care whether the Lion King is coming to the Fox or what exhibit the High Museum is showing.

When people feel as though they are a part of something, they care more about its future. Involve the citizens of a community to improve the community.

Involved and active versus just a "conversation". Action items, follow up and measurable results should follow any "conversation"

Other Category Comments

But too much focus on addressing the "down stream" homelessness issue just creates more homeless to serve. We need to shift more resources to preventing homeless, which pays dividends down the road.

Before we do this, we need to have a program to invest in that has demonstrated success. I do not believe such a program presently exists.

There are already multiple opportunities. Too many people just are not willing to get off the couch and get involved.

This information is already everywhere.

And homelessness prevention!

Get rid of the liquor stores and install more grocery stores with fresh produce.

I only say no, because I think there are more initiatives listed here that are more important. Atlanta has a deep art and cultural program already.

Encourage the market to provide this.

Hands on Atlanta does a fine job, why create a competitor?

Provide more mental hospital access and you will take care of 90% of the problem.

The Market

The market

Homelessness is an outcome of other issues - solve the problems that lead to homelessness first.

I work with homeless veterans - the state's lack of resources for homeless people is almost shameful - homelessness will continue to be an issue in the City of Atlanta and surrounding region until it is adequately addressed - it won't just "go away"....

Medicaid expansion. period.

The city doesn't need to do this -- communities need to do it on their own. Otherwise it's top-down and not sustainable.

Please explain further. Too vague.

This is obviously not the whole answer but it could go a long way to making the DT streets more safe.

Food programs, shelters and counseling services would be a great asset to have to help combat the homelessness in the downtown area.

Not Illegal Aliens!

Stop the crime and the stores will come!

Nothing to Illegal Aliens.

Stop the crime and criminals and it will come.

Coordination of those resources already available would have more impact than increasing the resources.

If you are suggesting more shelters - no. If you are suggesting help for the mentally ill and initiatives to help jobless and thus homeless to gain job skills, then yes!

Other Category Comments

I think Atlanta does a great job with this except for Peachtree and Pine which blights the area and is not helping the men staying there.

I think The Affordable Care Act has simplified this enough for us and we have greater areas of concern.

This is definitely a major issue.

Community gardens would be a way to achieve this. Any other means would involve price setting and the elimination of free market pricing which is best.

This is done charitably through private organizations. Public resources go into public safety measures. How will it be addressed?

County websites are great but only if they're backed by actual people who respond to the consumer. Please rework these sites so as to produce accountable results from real actions.

This can fall under programs to get people more involved with the community. Homeless people are still part of the community. There are shelters and buildings throughout the city of Atlanta that provide food during the day for homeless people in Atlanta

This can fall under programs to get people more involved with the community. Homeless people are still part of the community. There are shelters and buildings throughout the city of Atlanta that provide food during the day for homeless people in Atlanta. I've volunteered my time at many of these places; what they lack is promotion to expand the awareness of their mission to assist the homeless or help build homes for habitat for humanity or volunteer at schools and boys and girls clubs to paint and clean and garden. This opens up community learning and sharing through common experiences of helping those who live and benefit from the work put into taking care of the community.

Other organizations are doing this

If only by use of advertising - radio, tv, mailings.

This should be a top priority. Stop separating the standard of well being by the region. i.e. The West end Joseph Lowery grocery stores vs. Clairmont rd. North Druid Hills

Could we incent big boxes to open in brownfield, inner-city areas?

Develop city based fiberoptic networks. Get rid of the Comcast monopoly for cable.

yes I waited on AT&T on a list for DSL services and never got connected. I stopped dealing with them on all levels.

How fast does anybody needs to brows on the web?

That train left the station long time ago. Check out new developments, which are in incubation now to build for the future. High tech can be old news by the time Atlanta is ready.

GA Research Alliance

Other Category Comments

There should be no "special" areas--all areas should have enhanced fiber options.

This is done all the time and what are the results ??

This would benefit only the affluent sections of the region.

This is good however you need the everyday person to be on some of these committees that do not work in these areas.

Atlanta needs spaces to network locally if we really want to be globally competitive. "Fiberhoods" is an excellent idea

This should not be limited to the youth - they may be our future however they are not our present.

This is already in the works however it is over-proced compared to other regions.

MANDATORY for a workforce

The market needs to drive this.

Not everyone needs to go to college for 4 years. A lot of kids just need to learn a trade.

if they can hire Georgians. So many downtown employees are in green card status

Be careful not to build too many incubators.

These partnerships can also include a training component, as well as internships (preferably paid) or opportunities for entry level staff to gain experience that can lead to job advancement.

Yes, yes, one hundred times yes!

Incubators are a great idea - let private industry do it.

Private Enterprise responsibility

Private enterprise responsibility

emphasis on dropouts for free job training

Do what it takes to get Google Fiber to expand to Atlanta

Free market. Stop monopolization of utilities.

Everything that can possibly be done to support Google Fiber should be done

Comcast et al will throw a hissy fit. Don't believe them, their service is nearly worthless.

We already have amazing universities. Leverage the knowledge held in each one of them and build relationships to enhance life in Atlanta.

See Chattanooga on what kind of impact this can have for a region

GOOGLE FIBER. YES.

I actually think the universities themselves and the private sector are taking care of this on their own.

Please encourage Google Fiber - and other service providers - to provide services in ALL areas.

The whole city should be connected by "fiber"

Comcast is the **WORST**. We need Google Fiber.

Other Category Comments

I think this should be a priority with the strategic plan. This combined with connecting the city and making it a more enjoyable place to live will make it very attractive for just those companies.

This is already happening all over Atlanta.

Atlanta has so many research institutions located within its borders that this is a no-brainer.

The entire city should be unified into one giant "fiber hood," not just parts of the city.

Coincided with outdoor life!

Just keep them away from their shitty addicted parents until their parents learn to not sabotage their children's chances.

More important than streets

More emphasis on this than on sports. Train kids earlier starting in lower grades.

The rate of company success from incubators is incredibly low - no need to have more, just for the sake of having more. What kinds of incentives? Hightech is meaningless. Focus on 2nd stage companies.

The state of Georgia should be encouraging competition in this area, not just allowing for monopolies like we currently have.

Fix APS first.

But don't the plethora of major universities in the region already do this?

With the customer base, private companies can do this on their own.

"Fiberhoods" no, fiber everywhere YES!

Municipal fiber, end comcast's monopoly on atlanta.

Many of these quotations seem like an easy yes, but I believe these are private sector, not public sector responsibilities.

Don't focus just on high tech job training for youth. Look at Mike Rowe's project to train young people in high paying low-tech careers like construction, plumbing, etc.

Encourage private sector to do this.

Yes, please do this. It's a tragedy that we only have two broadband providers in this city, one of which has won the worst company in America award twice in the past 5 years. It's a necessary evil that we have to deal with these companies.

I think this is a private sector item that will come with demand.

This should be driven by the private sector by demand.

I could get behind this if it meant allowing a competitor to the entrenched cable companies a chance.

Currently the broadband market is monopolized by one or two companies that overcharge customers for mediocre service. US is proudly getting to the bottom of industrialized countries in this and other fields. Where is the competition?

Other Category Comments

Any partnership needs to be completely open source and transparent because corruption is rampant in this city.

These are very favorable, but do not forget about the high tech manufacturing or even the low tech manufacturing sectors. We dont want to become like Silicon Valley.

I think that these things are already happening.

It would allow me to be much more efficient at my job.

again, less important to me, those more knowledgeable in this area may feel otherwise

this is fine and may be more important than i realize, but in my mind it is "not as important"

Again, ideally the companies would hire local talent

There's been an idea/program floating around where public libraries also rent out wifi hotspot devices.

most kids I know no more than some teachers in the field

Look into building a municipal network, or letting Google build one to increase competition.

Invest in fiber infrastructure like Holly Springs, NC.

Need to expand our science and math opportunities. Our county is falling behind in these areas.

There will be fighting to see which company will conner the market.

This already exists, and the regional plan needs to focus more narrowly and use the resources available to sustain priorities that others are not recognizing.

Wouldn't it be better to say offer training for youth in the region, rather than 'all'?

seems like you're trying to pick the economic hubs. Why would you do invest for access for all?

We have that now. We will have more with the opportunities to help and interface with the new Georgia Cyber warfare center.

I would hate to see a race- or income- based digital divide perpetuated by the fiberhoods.

something about this makes me a bit weary...but i could see a lot of good come from this, however the outcome of these partnerships should never be profit driven. thing that makes me accept this is the word 'research.' As long as this is a learning initiative, I am okay with this.

This is a more localized topic rather than a regional strategy.

Atlanta should be the premier research center in the world for medicine.

I work in tech and care a lot about this area and developing the metro region, but we have higher priorities for the ARC. That's the only reason it's a thumbs down.

what is a "key area"

Other Category Comments

I don't mind Chambers of Commerce doing this, but I think ARC should use limited resources elsewhere

What and who is included in key areas?

I don't know why all areas can't have this.

No incentives unless they are US owned and operated companies.

The Gov't has no business in owning, or investing in, media networks or infrastructure. You are barely competent to take care of the roads, let alone something as sophisticated as a fiber optic network.

They have existed here in the past - but Gov't morons made these partnerships die with poorly conceived regulations imposed by the stupidest of people who can't find work in the private sector - instead they work for the Gov't where intellect, skill, or thinking are not required, and they can never be fired.

Chattanooga has had great success for this. It's such an economic development opportunity as well as an accessibility issue.

Invite corporate partners to help accomplish this task.

Break the Comcast / Uverse hold on our community. We need more and better options.

University research should stay in the public realm and not privatized!

with limitations.

As a technologist, I'd be happy to volunteer as a trainer for kids who want to learn basic computing skills. Unfortunately I see no programs in my neighborhood (Summer Hill) that need my skill set.

Ask these innovators to innovate for our city. Give them a forum to help us solve our most troubling problems. Then LISTEN TO THEM!

i'm not sure i see this as a priority. transporation is way more important

support laws that encourage competition in the broadband market.

How do you define "key" areas that smacks of high income areas.

One would expect an industrialized country to do this, right?? So what are we waiting for??

YES, YES, & YES!! This is a MAJOR flaw in the region & state. Georgia is not "small business" friendly.

Why just key areas? Make all areas fiberhoods.

As long as you do not allow the private sector to dictate the curriculum and deny academic freedom to professors and students.

How would you determine those 'key areas'?

Same concern: Who is paying for this?

Other Category Comments

Who is paying for this?

What about citizens over 65 regardless of income?

Who will pay for this partnership. It is difficult to vote without other factors in place. Who will select these research partners from the designated areas?

This is a must do.

This type of collaboration must be a part of the new norm.

I had a hard time with this question, training opportunities, yes. I don't want technology teaching my child which is how I interpreted the first part.

I think demand drives this.

My comment would surpass the available space provided by this system. This has become a run away train with not enough coordinated oversight.

Not sure what equitable access means... will it be free? so that income level is not a factor in broadband access?

Good way for students to do a little "on the job" training to get ready for their careers, of course mentoring from the Professionals in their connected/related fields.

Need to stay connected with all safeguards in place.

with safe guards in place, and monitoring in place. It's the future, can't get around it. So determine now to go about it the right way. Now, before too many wrongs have been established.

What does this comment even mean?

I oppose incentives for any company.

This smacks of more croney-isms as the areas are selected.

Too great a chance for favoritism and kick-backs

"Key areas" sounds pretty exclusionary to me. Every part of the city should benefit from any enhancements, not just the affluent ones.

Let's make all areas eligible and stop playing favorites.

For that, ATL is a bit retarded ... Shame. Would help the ones working from home.

AGREE. Again, everything has moved in the technology era. Again, why must we be charge to access what will get us there?

Private market and competition should handle this.

I thought this exists already!

I don't want to say no to this, because I'd love it--especially if Atlanta could get on Google's list--but it's less of a priority than more equitable access, as far as I'm concerned, and I'm guessing these fiberhoods would be selected in areas where people already have access. If the fiberhoods could be focused on areas where the tech incubators are locating, that would be great. And please! Let them be in town, not the burbs....

Access to information is becoming a human right.

Other Category Comments

Comprehensive cooperation.

Surprised this hasn't been done.

leave socialism out of it

This seems to already be happening...Atlanta's universities are a great resource for the city

Everyone else is doing it, so you must.

The market will provide.

The market will provide.

The market will provide.

I mean, it is 2014.....

This is a classic "rich get richer" scheme.

investing in our youth is important, they are tomorrow's leaders and law makers. Giving them adequate tools and knowledge will create a solid foundtaion.

Availability but not lower prices or subsidies for some.

None for Illegal Aliens!

Innovators are not the ones having trouble gaining access to broadband.

Leave this to the private sector

Partnerships that are specific to the community's needs.

to be determined at lowest local levels

This solution sounds exclusionary to those that don't fit into those groups. It is possible to do reasearch and work in a library or B&N.

The existing duopoly drives people to public frustration on neighborhood forums and mailing lists on a regular basis. What passes for broadband in the US is a national disgrace.

Aren't we already doing this?

Aren't we already doing this?

Aren't we already doing this?

I believe that this is already in action

I think that is statement is already addressed. Live within your means

This should be a subject addressed but not made a primary focus

I don't know. Protecting "character and integrity" often seems to mean CHANGE IS BAD, which isn't the case. This needs better definition before something like this is stated.

Yes. Without options for *all* income levels it's a struggle to keep middle and lower-middle income residents (families and singles, particularly renters) in areas of growth. We get priced out of areas very quickly.

Other Category Comments

my neighborhood has wall to wall convenient stores one high priced grocery store and a lot of liquor stores. I would like to see some nice chain store and shoe store its like they think all black people can afford is high priced tennis shoes and low end clothes. The 99cent store really is not 99cent. Give us a chance to have nice things

please help protect us and we try to keep our area clean and nice but the fake gang bangers and poor drug dealers wont let it be.

Build communities so people don't have to drive all the time.

Having active communication with the neighbors is important.

Having reasonable options is very important.

This is very well don in most communities that surround me. I would like to see more more "small scale" events.

These things are important, but should be secondary to sorely-needed infrastructure improvements.

And just who pays for this? The user or the general public.

Kinda like Ferguson, huh?

We already have this! Some people just work (harder) to reach their level of satisfaction. No work! No move up!

Why do I care if all income levels (like the very rich) have a means to find a home here in the greater metro area?

All need to live within their own means. Currently too much abuse and no accountability or tracking of what is there now.

And affordable with no deceptive practices for any property owner to gouge consumers.

Enforce currently all laws and rules and mandatory completion of any jail terms with no early releases due to over crowding, or other nonsense exceptions.

With the caveat that protecting "character" doesn't ever mean excluding or de-incentivizing non-white residents.

Gwinnett is already there. Maybe people need to take a look at what they are doing.

If you are talking about building apartments this is not an answer. When these are built this put stress on the schools and the students who are there all year. Having lived in a "revolving door" community the school started out with a group of kids at the beginning of school and by the end it was totally a different group.

This should include historic districts and areas as well. For example, the Historic West End should stay that way (with historic homes, universities and sites) with more help from the city for updates and improvements.

This is counter intuitive to increasing options for getting around without driving.

This is a no-brainer.

Other Category Comments

Friendly police to walk the beat and live in the neighborhoods.
Safety - Protection.

Part of the problem here is that many people don't really know what it takes to maintain a working house. We can build homes and give them away but if the residents don't keep them in good repair they'll be slums in a month. If you give people a home then also give them a way to get repairs made. Teach them home maintenance.

You can be responsible for everything. There are apartment, etc. Not everyone needs a house.

Mixed income...no projects!

Not a bad idea - just not your business.

Not your business. Not a bad idea - just not your business.

So now your entertainers?! What are your talents?

this is the cause of some of Atlanta's greatest problems not the solution

while allowing for growth

and not \$20 - 30.

As much as possible while still being developer-friendly

Free market.

Atlanta has been given flack for a 100 years for its ease in destroying history and character. We need to protect what we still have left. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

I have seen too many failures. If you come up with a new concept, I would listen, but at this time, I am pessimistic of this proposal.

Make it expensive to drive a car.

More walking, less driving. That is a sustainable answer.

preserve homes and build in similar styles.

This is needed greatly, too much reliance on driving.

Stop bulldozing down history just to build cookie cutter apartments. We are too quick to overlook the past!

Atlanta is already doing a great job of this. We need to address our shortcomings.

Frankly, I'd love to say no comment.. but having to choose, I would like to see a renewed emphasis on historic preservation. Too often the easy solution of demo is taken when a rehab could keep a beautiful building standing and contribute to the neighborhood image. I will say that there needs to be some sort of architectural design review in place. Novare has dotted our skyline with duplicates of the same skyscraper, and while their efforts to increase density is appreciated, some architectural diversity and increased building quality would be much appreciated.

The city does a terrific job with this already but should continue

Protect what is integral to the communities but also encourage adaptive reuse/densification properly.

Other Category Comments

While I do think this is important, I don't think it should be as high of a priority for the city's strategic plan. I think this will come naturally as an added benefit of other priorities.

This is a crucial component of "vibrant."

This is extremely vague

Gentle infilling is good and necessary.

And make to safer, require high quality cameras live attendants and don't ketone company monopolize it.

This could be done with easier permitting for events, farmers markets, etc.

This already exists, no need to focus any more effort into this.

To a point in the city. Small, older homes have to be able to be enlarged, probably rebuilt, to accommodate societies desire to have larger living spaces.

NO MORE MCMANSIONS!!!

This gives the city charm and personality.

Places like Old Fourth Ward for example, should not become home to wealthy people at the expense of the underserved.

Via some historic preservation and character area architectural ansrreetscape standards

Yes - but find ways to integrate improvements within it. Inman Park is a prime example.

There are plenty of boarded up houses and buildings in this city. Start with those instead of building new cookie-cutter apartments that no one wants to live in.

Kinda vague and I'm not sure what this means. If it means protecting the native trees and historic architecture in the various neighborhoods, then I am all for it. If it means that no new development will be allowed in certain areas, then this is not something I am for.

I'm not sure what 'protect' means - it probably means very different things to different people. Protect the architectural character? Sure? But - allow increased density. People should be allowed to build-out basements and carriage houses for apartments so that more people (more density) can live in our most desirable, centrally-located neighborhoods.

There are plans for those who live below the poverty line. But Atlanta residents who earn an income slightly or moderately above the poverty line, and therefore don't qualify for assistance are forced to live in a suburb.

it is already easily available

Pretty vague suggestion

This is so important to the foundation of a city. We can't leave this one out at all!

How though of this.
no way could this every happen in Ga .

Other Category Comments

within reason

Great idea. Good luck.

Car-free streets could be a great option for certain streets.

Don't encourage the car culture.

This may extend beyond the walkability of a neighborhood if partnered with a comprehensive transp. system.

And free or very cheap, meters are not a good option

This never works. Check other cities.

Also, make all neighborhoods safer to keep the rift-raft from taking over.

Don't see this as the responsibility of this commission.

Too broad for this group. There are already community activities every weekend, nearly everywhere.

Anytime and anywhere... safe and secure!

Establish standards of community for safety and growth with infrastructure to maintain and enhance. Core values of "would you want to live here"

This will require legislation relative to more regulation of investors and their ability to purchase properties more easily than the average citizen

AND CONTROL PARK ATLANTA

This would be my second favorite after accessibility to key community places without the use of a car.

it is. get up and walk already!

This should be managed locally, not regionally

Another lip service issue, since ARC's track record is to aggressively promote the opposite

Depends on the neighborhood and the goals...this could be misconstrued as encouraging existing segregation of incomes and races.

You mean providing these options all in the same area right? There already are options for all income levels and lifestyles; they are just very segregated.

Roswell does this well!

Absolutely!

I give a "thumbs down" only if realistic and viable alternatives are provided.

I think those are already available.

All income levels includes the middle class which is being forced out of many cities - I see it starting to happen in Atlanta.

There is a shortage of community events now? Really?

This goes hand-in hand with holding citizens accountable for litter control by citing them and sentencing them to 500 hours of community recycling and clean up for each infraction . . . develop a culture of maintenance, including apartment owners and individual citizens.

Other Category Comments

Get the people more involved in their own communities by volunteering to keep it cleaner and more beautiful.

CHALLENGE THE COMMUNITY TO GET BACK TO BASIC INTEGRITY. IT WILL BEGIN WITH POLITICAL LEADERS OF INTEGRITY. WHO CAN WE TRUST NOW?

free

Only if market driven

Only appropriate sensible ones..

provide corruption free transparent bid process.

Wouldn't that be the humane thing to do in the 21st century?? This is America the greatest country on earth, right?? So what are we waiting for??

and free.

Discourage driving in urban centers and encourage other modes of transport.

And revitalize the existing ones that are run down.

Everyone can't afford to live in a highrise or a McMansion.

Many residence have been relocated to areas that are not prepared to sustain them.

I'm not sure I get what this is driving at....

Not necessarily a good goal. Houses and buildings wear out and changes have to be made.

Some don't need protectin. they need to be changed.

I know it's not very "PC", but it's been proven time and time again, upper middle income families do not want a section 8 renter next door to them. Mixed level communities simply do not work as much as we'd like them to.

Personally I know you have to be careful about property values, scenery of area, amenities, security of area, and the increased likelihood of a criminal element in the area. Most people that work hard, save, sacrifice, and desire a certain neighborhood don't want to live in a mixed community.

This is a good idea, however the Police are no longer honorable as they used to be. Sometimes I think we have the wrong people because it's almost as if a person has to be connected before their rights or anything else is observed. There are few and far between good Policemen. Neighborhood watches would be better with a Legal Policemen heading it up. Because the Watches have a personal invested interest in the Community or Neighborhood. Training the people in the Neighborhoods the correct way to handle their community problems.

Where meaningful character exists...

I would like to protect the character, etc. without going overboard on historic preservation.

And free for a change! Copy Washington: free museum access ... promote culture!

Other Category Comments

But make it SAFE for all!

Keep history alive!

Don't we have this?

I'm not sure what this means. Sounds like the rich ones get to keep people out that they don't like. NO!

What does tis mean?

And affordable

Again, not only downtown and north of the atlanta area but also south of the airport area too.

Place good paying job opportunities (companies) south of the airport area just like there are north of Atlanta.

Strongly agree. Too many (working poor, students, and the homeless) cannot afford the skyrocketing prices that most apartments are offering.

This should be in every neighborhood. Not only downtown or north of atlanta but south of the airport also.

T I think this can be achieved by providing better police protection, thereby reducing the nightly murder rate in Atlanta.

Local problem, not regional.

Blight is a cancer that eats at communities.

From failed strip malls to crack houses, it is all bad.

Stop crime, and everything else will work out.

This is the key to livability.

Important, but Im hoping it will become obsolete soon.

leave socialism out of it

How does more convenient driving options make this happen ?

With form-based codes & green space protection.

Encourage cycling

Not sure what this means?

All residential areas should have paved walkways along main road to avoid walking in the street or in mud

has never worked before, in any city, solution - ?

A connection to the outdoors is a game changer for Atlanta vs. the major cities to our north.

Let the market do it.

Let the market do it.

Yes and NO, if west Midtown/Downtown are going to evolve, they need to change. Virginia Highlands, not as much. However you run the risk of additional sprawl, if you don't let areas change and densify.

YES!!

I feel this is already well done in the Duluth area.

But also make it so that is out of sight as well.

Other Category Comments

I believe that this is sorely needed in every respect. Most importantly, I believe that having multiple events, restaurants and retail in close proximity to increase and promote use. There is nothing worse than an empty park.

Having come from a community that had no "sense of community" I can tell you that if you don't accomplish this nothing else will matter

This needs to be done in even communities that don't have a character - give it one, have the public school host meetings - what is good about the community - celebrate it and then preserve it.

Especially the historical areas.

Make it easily available AND affordable.

And Less Expensive!

This is too vague. I don't understand the meaning of this option and would suggest that it be clarified further.

This is too vague. Please define.

Make available but no provisions. Not for Illegal Aliens

Stop the 'booting' and lower the rates.

Stop the criminals and the stores will come.

When we moved here 20 years ago, this was a very nice neighborhood. Now there are drug dealers and people riding 4-wheelers thru the neighborhood.

Easily available, but affordable-- and without threat of being booted or scammed.

I think public community events are a great way to get to know your neighbors. While we may be hesitant to invite people into our homes, community events are a way to come together and discover how much we have in common and that our differences don't mean we can't be neighbors.

Midtown needs to be a historic designation that keep builders from ruining the neighborhood feel by tearing down 100 year old homes and putting up super modern ones. Virginia Highland has a similar problem.

Things like the Betline parade and Atlanta Streets Alive are great and should be replicated

This is important for buildings too. I can't believe Novarre has been allowed to put basically the same building twice in Midtown, Buckhead, and other places throughout the country. Developers need to build a dynamic and unique city but the only way that happens is if the city regulates it some. You can't have a city looking like the suburbs where everything is the same

By what means and for whom?

you need to make it easier to do community service and not have so many homeless people doing nothing, so visibly.

on street, not surface lots

Other Category Comments

That is "code" for exclusionary big-lot, big single family house restrictions.

Combine these uses both vertically and horizontally

I'm not sure how this would be done so I am neutral

The responsibility for this should be 100% with the individual

With the se considerable care to the areas.

Not needed

Not sure if this can be done regionally with a top-down approach.

Not sure if this can be done regionally with a top-down approach. Would this be better if done organically/locally/ bottom-up?

Not sure if this can be done regionally with a top-down approach. Would this be better if done organically/locally/ bottom-up?

DUH!

The people in the suburbs (and I'm one of them) need to get over their fear of people who look different than they do.

DUH!

#1 priority

The people in the suburbs (and I'm one of them) need to get over their fear of people who look different than they do.

while I like this as a goal, I don't think it's a realistic goal for commuting

NO MORE EXPANSION OF ROADS!!

A moving target! People will move towards work centers without Regional help

Local determination, not Regional

No, just another step towards Agenda 21 goals coupled with more crowded cities

Of course; but not Regionally! Local

Sure; if two Counties agree.

The more stops a route makes, the less effective (quick) the route becomes. I am only in favor of this solution if it makes for better (faster, cheaper, simpler) routes.

This has to be a regional plan with no regard to the tea party and like minded CAVE (Citizens against virtually everything)supporters.

This does not help.

this should be like a park and ride.

We have a great deal of wide open roads in which people can ride.

And establish clear, strong rules for their use and for cycling on streets.

Require the counties served by the expanded (new) bus services to pay for those services.

we have it already

Other Category Comments

This has proven over and over again not to work

No, no, no. We need better public transport options - train and bus, more routes, and more frequent service.

I am amazed at the lack of actual signs for highways in ATL, The conditions of the roads are awful as well.

Number ! by far. Just like you've been "talking" about for 30 years.

too many potholes now

We need to stop expanding roads.

Incremental line expansion

create a single agency for the entire metro

This will be the best way to connect neighbors that have long been separated by ethnic and cultural divisions. This the direction of the modern city.

I used to live in Seattle. During rush hour, most bus routes would have service every 10 minutes, often more frequently than that. All kinds of people were able to use the bus more readily because service was so convenient.

Definitely needed, expand I-285

Roads are terrible in the perimeter, I am embarrassed by the roads, when the city markets itself as a world class city, it has 3rd world roads.

No, no, no! Not the answer!

PLEASE! I would rather sit on a train/bus to work than drive my car! It is a nightmare here - let's work to fix what we have created!

This is crucial.

This is the absolute worst thing that could possible happen to Atlanta. Please reduce the size of roads.

arterials, not highways

no-brainer

Expanding the subway is a must!

Don't just focus on commercial hubs, also develop residential hubs so you don't have to drive to the train, board, and then have to hike 10 miles when you get off the train (busses are not a solution)

Don't just focus on commercial hubs, also develop residential hubs so you don't have to drive to the train, board, and then have to hike 10 miles when you get off the train (busses are not a solution). Also, provide more frequent train service so a drive to Sandy Springs doesn't take less time than waiting for a train.

No one rides the busses and they just add to the already congested roads.

A majority of the current infrastructure is in dire need. This is well documented through the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

How many more roads do we need.

Other Category Comments

Bus service is important for residents below a given level of income but more service will not be an incentive for wealthier areas

I look forward to the day when we can ride the train from Alpharetta to Jonesboro.

Please fix Piedmont Road north of 14th Street. That's just one example.

Almost every where I need to get to in Atlanta is far enough to need a car. Maybe if we had more communities that had everything in biking distance this would make more sense.

This should not even be a question. Of course, you have to maintain them. It should be basic to the running of the city, and never counted as some extra expenditure or project!

really? you guys can't come up with any other solutions than this.

This is just a quick easy solution but it will never really solve the issue. Let's be real, people.

Please.

There are enough roads.

Continue work on the Beltline.

Existing roads need to be reevaluated and used more efficiently. We don't need more huge roads - they need to be better used.

It is imperative we maintain existing infrastructure.

Vital to bring connection to suburb/exurb areas.

honestly, a dumb question (no offense intended). This is not a choice, but a necessity.

Absolutely not

This is especially critical for a better workforce and overall bustling city--also incentivizes the move to Atlanta from other cities.

stupid.

bring back more point-to-point bus service that doesn't just feed all riders onto the train.

China tells us that this doesn't solve anything.

Best Idea yet. This should have started over 30 yrs ago. Will not hold my breath on this one.

Gosh, another no brainer. Our elected officials are not the smartest to figure this one out.

We cannot pave our way to prosperity. And someone need to put a leash on the Department of Highways,, oh, excuse me, the DOT!!!

While this hits home (being a cyclist) I believe you get a lot of "bang for the buck" here. The sheer number of cyclists you see downtown now is huge compared to even 10 years ago.

Again, this is a stop gap and may be the only politically salable option, but I can't help believe it is short sighted, expensive, and adversely affects moving toward a positive solution

Other Category Comments

IF THE DENSITY IS AT THE LOCATIONS TO CALL FOR THIS

I want to favorite this as well.

This is of course a necessity, however the focus should be to get people off the roads as much as possible. When volume decreases on the roads, repairs become less of a priority and the roads will hold up longer.

While this would be a helpful solution it also brings safety concerns.

I moved here 18 months ago and have lived in NE and on the West coast. The roads here are horrible and I wish now I hadn't bought a new car. It's like playing a live video game trying to dodge all the potholes, wrinkles and dips. Terrible! Will someone please pave Piedmont Avenue? It's the worst!

Safety first make sure the infrastructure is safe before you start something new!

It will be good to have this, but I think the brunt of the work should be done through local community leadership. Just request that laws and statutes for the County be supportive of the initiative.

Absolutely! I live in Dekalb County and only 3.5 miles from work. Taking the bus involves walking over half a mile to a bus stop and then taking a 45 minute bus ride. Cycling is too treacherous to be an alternative option.

4 and 5 must be worked on together

In some places, where feasible, but this is not the Long term solution. this is only a temporary fix

This should be a priority.

let's not neglect what is there and being heavily used

THIS IS NECESSARY!!!!

this will be hard but it is doable. even biking 2 miles in buckhead is dangerous

That should go without saying.

This will be difficult because people live extreme distances from the centers they work; many pass by work centers to get to others two counties away.

Sounds appealing, but our dispersion and weather make it an impractical means of transport for significant numbers of people

NO, NO, NO!!!

Our existing infrastructure in need of repair.

This sounds like a back door for more roads.

We have plenty of roads in the metro area; time to think of other solutions.

The key is job centers.

Of course!

YES, YES & YES!!! We're living in the 21st century, is this suppose to be a revolutionary concept? My goodness, where is the brain power???

Other Category Comments

Great idea. There are too many fat people.

Please do, but stop putting those metal plates down, they tear your tires up. Even when you do go over them slow. What other city does that?

Whose expense?

a must to keep all existing roads in good shape

This is absolutely necessary

The GRTA "Xpress" bus system should be greatly expanded to a lot more places and add Saturday services.

This should be a given.

We need new and alternate route, and no more of the same.

Can't do it without security. Crime is too bad

I think this sounds good, but who wants to come to work hot and sweaty? I also don't think it is safe.

This should be an automatic, for every town, believe it or not, not everyone has a car. And if they do, not everyone always wants to drive. It's nice to have this way of commuting available if chosen.

PLEASE repair roads and RAISE AWARENESS so that motorists understand and are more considerate of cyclists.

Too expensive; does not pay for itself. Unsafe.

Perhaps in very select places, this could be a 'yes.'

Also bring major job centers South of the Airport.

Especially in downtown Atlanta.

Especially South of the Airport.

This seems to be working for Gwinnett. I remember in the '80s with the formerly rural counties of Cobb and Gwinnett and their NIMBY scare tactics- how'd that work out, hmm? The coordination piece is my concern- why can't I get my information from one website that allows me to plan my route to this or that between county lines and across services?

This would be useful in select areas (Druid Hills and North DeKalb areas)

We need an outer arch as was once proposed for Atlanta. In addition to a cross county highway from I-85 to I-75.

Cycling is growing in popularity. it needs to be supported but not at the expense of existing green spaces.

Cycling is growing in popularity. it needs to be supported.

This is a must have and has to be done, probably sooner rather than later.

It is time to get rid of the notion that bus service brings black people and crime. Who is going to steal a flat screen TV and get on the bus. Anyone can get a car.

Yes - need mixture other than being car dependent. Atlanta will probably never be car free, but there should be a variety of areas where you could be car free if you wanted to

Other Category Comments

And make sure they use natural gas not diesel!!

I need to know more about the pluses and minuses of this option. It could be good or it could be bad. Or it could be another Atlanta pie in the sky, let's try it and see if it sticks.

This is a feel-good idea that I don't think really helps business.

The current system is absurd, where there are no connections for passengers between Delta and Amtrak.

Beltline/silver comet, great long term attractions to future generations.

Must maintain what we have. The state of the city of Atlanta's infrastructure is horrible compared to the burbs.

Primarily for visitors and moving large number of people from an event (football, baseball, concert, etc.)

Our existing infrastructure has become antiquated and in disrepair.

This is so 100 years ago. We need to give large companies such as fast food/retail incentives to hire from within walking distance (or apartment communities with van service to and from work.

this is a luxury item we can't afford now

I believe that we should redesign better what we have

This is a must because of the crowded interstate system here within the metro area.

Our community is too spread out for this to have a major impact at this time.

Distances between locations in in-town Atlanta often can make walking impractical. But biking is very practical if it can be shown to be safe and fun. One key element of emphasizing biking beyond the young, fit population will be to enhance connectivity over routes with only small elevation changes.

Atlanta has too much sprawl. We need to build up the city, the hub versus the burbs. Have you seen the layover map of Barcelona compared with Atlanta? We have a ridiculous amount of sprawl for the same amount of people. Efficiency comes from cities. Not sprawling suburbs

local cities and communities at the most local level can vote to pay for that if they want it.

there is insufficient data to warrant the need for this. It is a very expensive operation that the whole community pays for while the very few ride, and few of those who ride pay.

Also landmarks visited by out of town guests.

Roads that haven't been serviced in years should have priority.

This is fine in Downtown, Midtown... But not the high end burbs... crime rate will increase!

We already have this here in PTC

Retrofit roads with a complete streets philosophy

I'm not sure about this one

Other Category Comments

Safety concerns

I'd like to see this, but this is more of a nice-to-have.

Needed very much. Please do so.

This has to be given a great priority due to the number of increased residence within the county that can benefit from this service. Thank you.

Anything is better than chlorine.

Good luck on that one.

Always important.

Again, good luck! We can't even get people to quit throwing their trash on the roads

If needed, the local County will initiate and promote.

Better yet, if the area was damaged by someone that can be held accountable force them to repair the damage.

This is a limited yes. Not sure I understand or believe in sustainable development practices.

Do not allow any under the table payoffs to exempt any developer, political and/or land owner from avoiding the rules and laws.

Enforce all laws and codes to all developers to maintain this project. No exceptions.

Enforce all rules and regulations that pertain to this project. No exceptions.

Green space would not be needed if the farming and agricultural land had been left alone. Enough is enough!

Make improvements on what we have now first

This will almost certainly be necessary if the region is expected to grow by 3 million!

This is a priority

This will make the city more vibrant as a gathering place for residents.

Very important

This does not necessarily lead to conservation of resources.

None of your business.

What does "sustainable" mean to you? This survey and its "solutions" are heavily freighted. "Do you want OUR solution A or OUR solution B" seems to be what you are saying. In the end, it's YOUR solution, isn't it?

logical need

I saw with shock how a realtor group organized to shout down discussions of mandatory toilet upgrades for house sale. You need to overcome this special interest opposition to easy wins in this realm

As they are developed.

This is a part of any modern city.

If I could have two favorites, I would pick this one as well.

Other Category Comments

Is this not already a plan with the Atlanta BeltLine Inc...?

Like Proctor Creek!

Start by getting the local utilities to improve current infrastructure and repair leaks quickly.

Restoration can revive a neighborhood, as was the case with Atlantic Station.

We have plenty of room outside the Perimeter for this.

We need to maintain our tree canopy as much as possible. The main enemy of this sustainability is sprawl.

Growth is necessary. I don't want the area damaged any more, but there has to be some middle ground. Maybe better incentives for "green" infrastructure?

Need to find a way to incentivize through planning

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!

Depends on where they are. If it's inside the perimeter - it's probably no longer natural or is strongly compromised. Build on it. If it's outside the perimeter and has a chance of functioning like a natural system, protect it.

These can also be leveraged to build land value in surrounding areas.

What does this question really mean? How are you going to interpret it?

This is another great idea which is not defined and loaded with an agenda.

Any damage control that can be done at this point is good. sustainability, sustainability, sustainability

this is the best option for the greatest long term results. No brainer.

Conservation programs must be enforced by ALL including corporations and ALL land owners.

Waste not want not.

I don't know enough about this one to respond - it seems to me that we should manage what we currently have as efficiently as possible before we go taking more for ourselves.

I'm not sure the word "Limit" describes what the region should do...maybe "Develop wisely and thoughtfully depending on each situation"

If there is monetary fee attached to the initiative, it will be effective.

Is this truly an option?

Yes, redevelop not always develop.

Green is a game. Who is against sustainability? But sustainable practices and "green" legislation and codes are often at odds with true sustainability.

This option only serves the uncontrolled growth in the suburbs.

Other Category Comments

yes, and not so much conservation, as alternative options to saving, protecting, re-engineering quality, quantity and serviceability.

yes, and not so much conservation, as alternative options to saving, protecting, re-engineering quality, quantity, flows, and serviceability.

Develop "brownfield" sites. Stop developing new areas and regenerate and reuse old buildings.

These area should be cleaned up by owner. If they do not provide harm to other area then they should be off limit to the public by some secured means

Protect the entire length of the Chattahoochee and other rivers

There are a lot of abandoned or un-used spaces that could be re-developed instead of destroying our current limited green space.

Metro Atlanta has a culture of filth; the solution is to force police to cite those who litter and judges sentence those same people to hours of community clean up with a focus on sort and pick up; focus on the miles of discarded tires first. Start with 500 hours of community clean-up with recycling integrated into the plan.

Eliminate clear cutting of trees in new developments and subdivisions.

If this is doable without creating a lot of issues, then OK

If you live in a community, don't wait for someone to come in and do it for you. Do it as a community, because you live or work there you should keep up your own community. If someone in your community refuses, then do something about it. Have a community meeting where this is confronted and taken care of the right and legally way. Don't contribute in some way, don't get to stay.

Stop cutting down trees and replanting, or building up sound barriers, this is the silliest creation ever thought of. Destroying our natural filters of the air. Who says we're getting smarter, it seems to me the future is bringing in people who do not quite think things through.

Don't lose your mind, though and overregulate.

Possibly, but there are a finite number of viable sources.

It depends on what the impact is.

Keep the History and keep the green!

This shouldn't be done until we learn how to responsibly conserve and manage what the system and policies we already have in place.

"Strengthen" is an ambiguous term. HOW would conservation programs be strengthened? Increased policing, fines, support, marketing? . . .

Not as first line of a plan.

Other Category Comments

not as first line of plan.

Developers whine but they will not go away if we are building a better community that will benefit everyone (even them). They have too much influence in this State!!!

Promote is good but a mandate and enforcement in some cases might be better.

Within in reason.

Be careful with this one. Regulators and activists can become oppressive.

This sounds to me too much like interfering with property rights.

Don't flush the toilet dozens of times per day.

DUH...

This is imperative.

we have ample supply, what we lack is the leadership and willingness to more-effectively manage that supply and its use

I believe it is important to increase supply. I also like the idea of personal rain collection methods such as from rooftops.

I don't think you need to limit them but rather put stipulations around how they are building and what type of things they are using. Following LEED standards and reducing their footprint is good

As long as private property rights are upheld over "practices" you mention here.

This is a local level decision by elected representatives of the people.

This should not interfere with private property rights, but locals should keep clean or restore what the people want restored and are willing to pay for.

Areas that haven't been regentrified. The clean up should be community oriented not a missionary trip to cover up another regentrification process.

Protect areas with conservation easements

Yes, if this option is financially attainable.

Hold those that destroy accountable for the damage!

Aren't we already doing this?

Probably could do more to promote xeriscaping.

but with more even geographic distribution than has evolved for the northern suburbs

more a local than regional responsibility

not the role of the regional plan

The recent partnership between Georgia Tech and APS should be extended as much as possible to include all metro counties.

Especially if it's small business. They are the backbone of our society currently.

Let the companies provide the training.

Other Category Comments

Let's work at improving what we have and focus on the more important issues.

Needs significant focus across the City and Region

Improvements to the region itself are more important than partnerships and incentives

Sure! Step one - get parents (2) to instill the need into their children. Eliminate dumbing down via Common Core

Sure.

As long as no assistance goes without accountability.

As long as no political payoffs are involved.

This use to be the norm. What happened?

The Technical College System of Georgia is a great partnership that can be increased. Currently there are so many people in the state that do not know about the system and the state should help with the promotion of these colleges.

This will work if advertised properly.

Stop expanding Atlanta! We don't need any more growth. Let's fix our existing problems and stop creating more. The growth needs to stop! We can't pave over the entire universe and continue to live!

Please include opportunities for EVERYONE including city of Atlanta residents or i.e. Fulton County. The regions residents should include all residents and not exclude anyone.

There should be some training involved where students give back to the community.

College is not for everyone, stop acting like it is. Invest in a vocational trade school. See Coweta Co BOA's Central Ed. Center as an example.

I think this is the one biggest change that can have an impact on so many issues that our city/region deal with - poverty, crime, etc. super important

It is essential to improve APS to stop flight from the city when kids reach elementary/middle school age.

This should not be done by dumbing down standards.

Especially technical training!!! Not every person needs to go to college and get a 4 year degree.

Encourage ... don't subsidize.

Vouchers

Encourage employers/companies to take what Jamestown did in hiring/training locals within the community they were impacted as a job training resource at Ponce City Market

I don't think the city will have to do this. It's certainly important, but I think will come naturally as a result of making the city more well-developed and well-connected.

And tie it to infrastructure spending.

Provide more job training in high school for trades.

Other Category Comments

Partnerships yes, incentives less so

What's the alternative?

Quality should be the focus, not just affordability.

Be innovative. Look for new approaches.

I never thought of this, but it sounds pretty cool.

The rise of tech companies is extremely profitable and it allows for a better-off population in Atlanta.

Hesitant to say yes - I think we should help by providing targeted, educated people willing to work, not by subsidies.

quality absolutely, but it may be time to think about more privatized or sectionalized school districts. The large ones that dot metro atlanta appear to be too difficult to really handle without major scandle.

We have to be ahead of business demands. It is a major mistake to educate based on the demands of today. That short-sightedness will pigeon-hole a city in a heartbeat (detroit put all of its eggs in the manufacturing basket because that is what was needed at the time)

As long as they can prove they are born in this country

As long as they can prove they were born here

I can see help out some of the people but no to the free loaders from other countries

Again, great idea. How are you going to do this?

What is this? Great idea. Who is going to pay for this? Are you suggesting that social security and other entitlement programs be reduced to pay for this?

Only after careful analysis and there's a good chance of a positive ROI.

GA has one of the highest entrepreneur populations in the U.S. and I see that as a MAJOR strength. Many friends of mine do contract work versus typical full time hired positions, and I see them and myself going into business for themselves in the future. Most of the millenials want to be able to dictate their own schedules and ways of life, and in most cases that means becoming self employed. Therefore I think opportunities and incentives to support that are really important.

Boy this sounds like Socialism. Giving assistance are not people supposed to pick themselves up by the boot straps. This is a good goal, not sure it would pass the muster.

depends on the partnerships/incentives

throughout Georgia, not just the city of Atlanta

I'm not sure what this means exactly...examples?

Incorporate mandatory training in labor laws for anyone looking to open a business in Georgia that will have employees. Companies don't know what they are supposed to do or not do and they end up getting into trouble.

Other Category Comments

not a bad idea

Please explain ensure-all. This sounds good but what does it mean? That is a mighty big statement and requires explanation, otherwise it is meaningless.

This might be something that could be accomplished and quantified.

If you are to accomplish this, you will likely have to issue vouchers to parents who want to transfer their children out of a school district into a private school.

Provide access and maximize opportunity. However, wary of economic based incentives which limit the opportunities for those who put forth the effort and achieve who also happen to have economic means.

Not only our youth, but adults currently not qualified to fill skilled labor and tech positions. If adults lives are precarious, youth for whom they are responsible, will also continue living in unstable households.

Quality is the key word.

Actually try to find a way to say yes to people wanting to start small businesses

promote private schooling and home school support programs

It seems like we already have this with UGA, GA Tech, Kennesaw, GA St, etc.

Let Chambers of Commerce do this

Let Chambers of Commerce do this.

This would be great but how can you "ensure" this?

Stop taking all the operating capital from business and let them do the training. They are smarter and better at what they do than any moronic 'Regional Commissioner' will ever be. You all are poorly equipped, intellectually, to understand what it takes to run a business, let alone train an employee.

We must ensure those who need this has access and it is being used as intended

This includes the city of Atlanta and not just for our white kids.

Keeping in mind that not all children are "college" material. Some people are better equipped to learn a trade vs a degree from college.

Encourage apprenticeships

This should be a given always

I think this should be matched up with the partnerships and incentives solution. Having mentors involved too.

Not just youth.

Sustainable companies not just ones who will come in and use our resources

No. Attract them by providing the best educated work force, the best connected homes, and the best commuting options in the

Other Category Comments

country

I only gave this a thumbs down because when business receive incentives, part of that should be to hire, develop, and promote within the community they are a part of. A percentage of new hires should be guaranteed to the community.

Also a "Favorite" but am only allowed to tag one.

We need to actively promote skills training and matriculation from our Technical colleges to our University system

Partnership with business for internships and on the job training with these programs. Supports the cause with meaning.

If use incentives ensure that the community gets back more than they give.

I lost my favorite GreeK restaurant to the new Sandy Springs city hall. Small business should be reimbursed fully if the property is condemned.

More opportunities on the southside of Atlanta more specifically Clayton County!

Hands on, internships, and business participation are proven winners. Best I've seen is Southwire in Carroll County!

I gave this a thumbs up, but you also have to include the humanities and the arts to develop a well rounded workforce that is able to think critically.

Will other ethnic groups be included? What percent will be representative of all of the areas ethnic population?

Its all available online

If we don't assure that each student is self supporting, we will pay to keep them in jail or support them on welfare.

Another given. We cannot grow without addressing this basic need.

This has worded well for our film and television industries.

No age, race, gender or economic barriers or consideration - always "qualified" should be the incentive. Train our future generations, so they will be qualified.

Where age, gender, race or economic status does not apply. Qualifications do, with willingness to learn and be trained if qualifications do not quite meet.

I agree with partnerships, but not incentives. I believe incentives creates scheming and dishonesty when benchmarks are not met.

too likely to be become corrupted

This is the absolute most important piece of the puzzle!

Other Category Comments

Get all kids to go to school! Provide a monitoring system and make sure that they all sit on the school bench! Educate the parents to make sure they send their kids to school! ENFORCE IT!!! Start from the roots to get crimes down. Get people educated and the crime will get down.

A MUST!!!

Every school should have access to the same resources. Instead of having to share or not having none at all!!!

Through PUBLIC schooling, not charter schooling...

Not unless it is a well thought out, targeted approach with clear objectives. This region doesn't do a very good job at this - too many gimmie's for a business, usually benefiting a select few at the expense of the majority of local residents (I'm thinking new professional sports stadium in Cobb County).

Address the gap specifically.

This is already being done.

With real food in the morning and at lunch.
What a bargain.

will not happen unless the bank loosen their purse strings..

How about making sure their for 'citizens' not 'foreigners' who don't plan to stay in the US. We're educating everyone except our own citizens.

A well educated would be able to support and grow its self

"Provide" is not the correct word. "Encourage" is better.

I give this a conditional yes. Some incentives work well, others simply drain the coffers for the benefit of themselves with no discernible benefit to the area. Incentives must meet targets that balance the equation.

Since you worded this in a way that people would feel guilty if they said no, I said no. Come on people. Stop having an agenda and just be real.

Markets responsibility

The Market!!

Yes, but this can become a slippery slope.

Take a look at what Year Up Atlanta is doing:

<http://www.yearup.org/>

PRIVATE INDUSTRY CAN ADDRESS IF SOME INCENTIVES ARE PROVIDED

we already give away too many goodies

I don't see why I should subsidize employee training for private corporations. They can do that on their own.

All students should gain the same treatment and incentives, regardless of ethnicity, income, etc.

Early childhood reading by third grade

Not for Illegal Aliens

Not for Illegal Aliens

Other Category Comments

Not for Illegal Aliens

Not for Illegal Aliens

Not for Illegal Aliens

Not for Illegal Aliens

Not for Illegal Aliens

Not for Illegal Aliens

Not for Illegal Aliens

The best way to do this is to remove bureaucratic red tape.

as well as local community business co-ops as well.

Provided and assisted by who? Who is paying for this?

Your people are your most important assets. Treat them like you want to invest in their mind, making the community a freeing place to learn and grow through many avenues

Have hiring managers meet people face to face and not just on paper.

It's here... you just have to look & have the desire to succeed.

refer to my last comment!

Would this include more school choice? It should.

A good idea. Is it practical?

AARP and Medicare offer this information

Perhaps they can share information.

All these empty houses and so many homeless people are inconsistent. Can they be melded?

An excellent idea!

And adults too!

Another avenue to reduce joblessness

As a retired educator, I continue to volunteer wherever I can, yet so much more needs to be done.

If this can be done, we can eliminate joblessness.

Learning to work together is a sure way to utilize all our strengths!

Life-long learning should be a feature of every community, and there are many people who can contribute to this effort- people who live in each community.

Such community living would insure diversity

We really can learn to live together if we try.

This can be a winner!

This idea is commendable - and necessary, but I have no suggestion for how to achieve it.

This is a great idea, but I don't have suggestions for how to do so.

This is such a vital necessity! I don't how to accomplish it, but it is vitally necessary.

We should include this idea as a necessity to community living.

Yes!

Other Category Comments

Atlanta's core has 3 large university areas that need to be tied together and allow students of those institutions to interact and exchange ideas.

Each intown neighborhood has its own character and if developers keep building the same, bland design those areas will lose their identity.

Maintain our existing infrastructure should be a priority over building new roads.

The diagnosis is not followed up with treatment and counseling and these people fall through the cracks of society. By giving the less fortunate access to job training and a place to live we can help lift them out of homelessness.

Are the counties pitching in financially, then yes.

not so much repair as reengineer

key word: equitable!

Look at what Twitter is doing in Tenderloin District in San Francisco and how that has contributed to people in the community and cleanliness.

I am going to say yes to this, but want to say only up to a point. This is a tough subject.

And urban ag

We already have an outlet for this one in LookUpAtl.org

Build new roads

Just implement the stuff that's already there. TAKE CARE OF VETERANS. Stop giving to those that just want to stay home because everything is handed to them. Let everyone at age 18 serve 2 years in military, period.

Army corps of engineers does a bad enough job as it is they don't maintain what they already have control of. Look at the dams we already have there falling apart. Buford dam is held up with rocks and trees growing there's a huge leak!

Leave private companies private

Only as long as it's the SAME PRICE FOR EVERYONE!!

Too many incentives and too much assistance. If gov wants control pay the teachers, charge EVERYONE EXACT SAME PRICE. NO DISCOUNTS PERIOD

and make business and other employers employ some based on their abilities and need for work

i.e., SAVE WRAS

It would be great if these research partnerships began with urban planning - look to New York's Regional Plan Association as a model for this.

Avoid vanity projects.

This is too vague.

Other Category Comments

I believe there is greatness in all. Some are just led in the wrong direction and some just give up. If we as humans help one other by giving them a helping hand in leading them the right path which they are intended to. Those in need will be a great asset to humanity. You pay it forward and I'm sure they will too.

I have a dream!!!!

please don't!

Not so much to address homelessness as to prevent it

Get rid of the Pine Street shelter that is a gaping wound on the SoNo and lower Midtown area.

Loaded question.

Loaded question. How is the term "Limit" implied?

No on incentives

No on incentives.

Why should only a privileged few benefit from Gigabit when we all should?

there is already too much of this, it is of questionable accuracy, mostly propaganda, and most people ignore it.

The monetary benefits must also benefit, not just big business

At prices comparable to what Europe pays.

Promote xerescaping.

Promote xerescaping.

Ban the sale of English ivy and wisteria or other invasive plants. Everywhere.

Promote xerescaping.

Ban the sale of English ivy. Everywhere.

Easily available and affordable.

Free things for low-income people

Companies are expanding access all the time. if you want access, pay for it. nothing is free.

If people don't want to drive, then move near work.

NO. allow the voucher system so parents can choose. will bring about competition.

Plenty of programs now. no need to create more. look online purchases need to be transparent. no insider deals.

Up to the private sector. if they want employees they will do this on their own.

Social media like neighborhood Facebook groups and Nextdoor are great ways to improve community involvement and communication between neighbors.

Other Category Comments

Atlanta metro is already a service-minded community with countless opportunities for people to become involved, so we should not invest in creating more opportunities, given other important work that must be done.

Broadband is already available throughout the region.

Most important in my opinion

Connect major job centers with major local areas. A route between Emory University and Monroe would be a great success.

LET THEM PROTECT THEMSELVES

Yes, builds smaller houses also, not just the big, two story huge houses. Think of the baby boomers aging, and looking to downsize. A two bedroom two bath is perfect. Look as an example in Grayson, on Hwy 78, "The Villas at Pebble Creeks Farm". Small, comfortable, not condo but community, garage, privacy. AND AFFORDABLE.

If there's a need. Maybe we need to learn to conserve and not waste.

We need to do a much better job of promoting conservation and recycling. People are so wasteful, partially because they don't know any better. It's the mindset of the region as well, that it's our 'freedom' to do as we want, regardless of how it affects others. It would be nice if we could think more collectively.

I couldn't 'favorite' two, but I think this solution is also EXTREMELY important.

Not sure what this really means.

As I work to recruit the nation's top talent to Atlanta, this is what they are asking me for as I interview...

The young, educated talent and employees I am trying to recruit are constantly asking me for this

Add massive state subsidies. The State of Georgia allowed this mess and should take some responsibility in cleaning it up.

Reclamation of what's already wrecked should be a top priority. Delimit construction on undeveloped lands until grey fields and brown fields are restored and reclaimed.

Absolutely!

Allow street vendors, like in New York City.

I don't know enough about the issue to lean either way.

I don't know enough about the issue to lean either way.

Improve road quality within the city of Atlanta.

Indeed! See previous comments.

but maybe NOT so expensive to park

Decrease the number of urban food deserts

Especially on Dekalb ave and Clifton rd

As long as the existing neighborhood supports non-motorized transport...

Other Category Comments

If you have a plan to achieve this without foodie elitism, great. Otherwise, this could end up culturally imperialist.

I guess I do not really understand what this means... We have two public universities in Atl

We have 3 major universities in Atl- why hasn't GA capitalized on this like in other major cities?

Add to two lane roads. We don't want any six lane roads.

And while you're at it, don't put all the shelters in the same neighborhood. Why do we have Pine Street, Open Door, Genesis and a halfway house all withing a mile of each other in the part of the city with the highest land values? This doesn't make any sense.

These things should be located where people most appreciate them--in the City of Atlanta. People who choose to live cookie cutter houses on cul de sacs, surrounded by strip malls cannot appreciate art. Arts and culture belong in the City.

People already have access to this information. They are just NOT interested in putting themselves out to find out and they use it. Put it in American Idol format and they will be all over it

People can get their own luxuries. NO MORE FREBEES. IF YOU WANT IT, WORK for it.

Google Fiber would be a great start...

Same as the previous comment on "Broadband"

I think there are already plenty of resources. Maybe too many. Seems to me too much is spent on program administration due to redundancy, and not enough on actually helping people get back on their feet.

Its already available.

Its already available.

there are already plenty of opportunities. People just don't take advantage of them.

No would be depending on the type of incentives. If the incentives were based to lure relocating companies than the answer is a definitive no as this is always an economic loss for a city or region. If it is incentives for start ups and expansion then yes.

In some places this would help, but in a lot of places this isn't the right solution

Only if non-HOT

Also need to ensure that limited English proficient youth and parents are engaged.

Ensure that foreign born residents are able to access these opportunities

controlled at a state and local level, not federal.

Repeal the Federal ACA

Other Category Comments

So much of the infrastructure is not only outdated, but in poor condition. Implementing modern communications systems would last for the next 50 years.

This measure is simply social engineering. The free market should determine what the demographic will be.

This would be a significant attraction to a skilled work force.

I can't "favorite" just one of these because I love them all.

Look at a local business called StartCode. This is an example of how to do it. I don't think public school teachers have the expertise to do something like this.

Maybe...

Parents / Teachers / Community involvement in APS...

The city's Urban Ag bill is a great step.

Using media outlets to encourage local involvement.

ARC does not need to be involved in this.

ARC does not need to be involved in this.

ARC does not need to be involved in this.

ARC does not need to be involved in this.

ARC is not accountable to the community. Amend the Board, remove citizen members (unless elected by the population themselves) and stop acting like an advocacy organization for liberal policies. That is a place to start on how you can become an organization that can get more people involved. Look at your own organization and how you involve the ENTIRE Region (not just people in Atlanta and DeKalb). As an institution you ignore and do not reach out to people that do not share your liberal philosophy and viewpoints.

ARC should not be involved in this.

ARC should not be involved in this.

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ARC should not be involved in this.

Not a responsibility of ARC.

Not a responsibility of ARC.

Not a responsibility of ARC.

Not a responsibility of ARC.

This is a regional issues ARC should be involved in.

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This is a regional issues ARC should be involved in.

This is a regional issues ARC should be involved in.

Favor local majority to protect historic/cultural assets, not mandated protection by ordinance

Other Category Comments

Foster community gardens, wherein volunteer "gardeners" reap what they sow

this is the highway program of the 21st century

this sounds like a good local level program

Too vague...this is an important, multi-faced issue, and any call for "increased resources" should have a well defined program(s) in place

we may need to address the need for clean energy first, but also don't want to miss the boat

Wording is too vague. Community members are definitely an undertapped resource for public good.

No incentives

AFFORDABLE is the key word in this idea.

As someone who lives in Decatur and works at the Home Depot Store Support Center in Smyrna, this would be tremendous.

Arts are a luxury, and though they are certainly a public good, I think that the plan should focus first on improving living conditions.

Community groups should be created by the individual communities to suit their own needs, outside of the city's oversight.

absolute moral necessity

I fully endorse this policy goal.

Jevon's law.

Look to an internship or apprenticeship system like Germany. Also, copy NC with community colleges being involved in economic development.

See N.C. and Germany.

The lack of bus service to areas like Cobb and Marietta is deplorable.

The homeless are unfortunatley becoming an nuisance in the Old Fourth Ward, we need to help them get off the streets

Absolutely! Preservation of history and culture is crucial. Atlanta is rich in it and has suffered multiple struggles periods throughout key USA milestone periods. We should NOT allow our history to escape us. It's what defines the culture of one of the greatest cities on earth.

Couldn't stress this enough. The citizens cannot bear all the burden of an expanding city and if we're expecting 3M+ new residents then the work must be here to support that economic growth. But Georgia leads the union in it's business friendly attitude...so more of the same!

Does this not exist. If this is a limitation then free the market to local business competitors will deal with this issue probably overnight. We need not favor, we need to let them fight each other at their own game and for the same targeted, but limited, market share.

Other Category Comments

Just don't see this as the city's duty. This is a community thing, maybe, but inside the home / family most directly.

Particularly in high tech targeted areas which are currently expanding in and around the city both ITP and OTP.

People love to lend hand if they just know where a hand is needed.

The region should not do this. The developers should do this based on demand.

This should be done through local community support groups like ministries. The city will need to enforce laws like pandhandling issues of people like me will just chose to spend time outside the city. I group off Boulevard but I do not want to be brow beaten when I drive in to see my Mother over a weekend...except my Mom that is.

This sounds like an action item and would need to be centered around a specific quest for knowledge. Research for the sake of research turns into philosophy and the pragmatist in me says we've got too much work to do.

Through private institutions. Let them make a profit and what how motivated they become in building adult learning for the future.

Yes, but you have to make it fair to a business or they won't want to come here.

The living walls project is an amazing way to brighten up neighborhood and improve spaces. (livingwallsatl.com)

But HOW will this be done? Haven't we had that goal for years?

There are other organizations who should focus on this

This should be a given.. I find it upsetting it even needs to be asked.

Overall community not individual communities.

Bad idea

There need to be bus lines that can extend to cities like Augusta and Athens on a regular basis.

Create but only if absolutely necessary

Insure that the broadband is affordable to all income levels!!

Keep the pricing affordable so that all families can enjoy!

Code to do a better job of monitoring abandoned houses and properties that are in need of maintenance.

Extend Train lines

I think people do this on their own. Vibrant communities are vibrant because people are involved. I'm not sure we need to force the issue. Let it happen organically.

I would always opt for conservation first. If that doesn't work, then build your way out of the problem.

I would hope such partnerships develop organically, but it seems that is not the case.

Other Category Comments

I'm not really sure what this looks like. I'm also not sure that something like this applies to a majority. I would have rated this a maybe if I could.

How do you define "key"? Seems it might suggest that one or more areas are "better" than others

This is rally individual driven isn't it?

Expedite this!

Too many asphalt lots in CBDS. Discourage people from driving alone.

More urban agriculture sites will help to alleviate this problem. Also, lessen any present restrictions that prevent private homeowners from planting gardens on their private property-- i.e., their front yard.

More urban agriculture sites will help to alleviate this problem. Also, remove any present restrictions that prevent private homeowners from planting gardens on their private property-- i.e., their front yard.

This is the best step in the right direction for the Atlanta region.

This would only create a bigger problem.

Why not make Atlanta a WiFi hotspot?

Only for highways and state roads.

Let the free market operate without meddling

Only solution that really works

Should be left to private enterprise

There are already many ways to be involved. No excuses.

This should be left to private enterprise.

Too expensive, does not pay for itself. Huge burden on population.

veiled communism

Yes, but don't go too far

This is the most critical element Atlanta is lacking to make us a world-class city.

Create career academies with colleges, secondary and major employers, it works!!!

Use the Career Academy model in key industries, it works

Use the web more effectively for community dialogue, see MindMixer software as a forum

allow and asaist through policies those neighborhoods ready to change to change

Probably most needed interregional connections are at best difficult

NEVER allow the practice of "fracking" anywhere near Atlanta!

Other Category Comments

I've lived in downtown Atlanta for over 16 years. Many of the suburban counties bus their homeless into downtown because downtown has shelters, wrap around social services and of course Grady. This needs to stop! Public feedings also need to stop and the suburban counties need to be educated on the problems with public feedings. We also need to address that many of our downtown homeless are coming from other regions of the country, namely Detroit, so Atlanta is supporting other cities' populations.

Need to address the food desert in SW Atlanta

This should be only when necessary. Proper resource management is more important and effective.

why?

All areas

not all counties want bus systems to cross county lines.

Many of our roads, particularly urban roads, are in terrible shape. When was the last time you drove down Boulevard? It's a major in-town thoroughfare but the areas around the 'future' Beltline are awful!

Greater exposure to learn a trade, electrician, plumber, auto mechanic, all around handy man duties, not all folks need to go to a four year university.

Hold developers accountable for this repair if in fact they contributed to the damage.

Try to avoid duplication of what is already in place, more collaboration versus individual silo thinking.

To all the New Urbanists - GET OVER IT. Atlanta is not New York, Boston or Chicago, NOR DO WE WANT TO BE!

You've got to be kidding . .

WE need a facility for those who choose to live on the streets

I'm in favor of the individual counties taking the lead on this and joining as they are ready.

Not a regional responsibility.

Not a regional responsibility.

Character and Integrity in Atlanta???? Are you kidding me???? Issue everyone that comes into Atlanta a hand gun, this might help!

Don't discriminate! Some areas get sweetheart deals.

How?

How?

On the larger scale, that's just a dream, but the developers make more profit.

Stop moving major sports teams all over the place.

We do that now.

Why not teach conservation methods?

Usually won't work.

Other Category Comments

Any improvement needs to do anything possible to prevent the displacement of current residents. Gentrification is an unfair practice.

Possibly.....

Just fiber-hoods? We really need universal fiber to the home, school, and business.

I am all for this.

I would need more information before I could give an opinion.

I would need more information before I could give an opinion.

No.

Not all counties want bus service!

This is the most important of all.

how would you advertise this?

not just awareness- but the solution- also how would a homeless person know of the available resources? a street meter once was an ad against panhandling- I wish it was a way to fund raise for a shelter or foodbank to help those pan handlers

According to growth projections and capacity planning.

Adopt policy for and provide incentive for modernization.

Innovators seldom go to areas of staunch conservatism. Or do they ?

The village or small town concept. This was Georgia before NAFTA killed the textile industry.

Don't leave out the non-profit sectors from these partnerships, from local grassroots organizations to major international organizations located in Atlanta.

These already exist and most people do not take advantage of them. Perhaps technological-based ways would be more used.

I would very much like to see more green space in urban areas, as well as in suburban areas.

I don't understand incubators...what is that?

No gangs in my town, thank you.

No more crosses in a jar of urine type crap. No no no

Not on my dime. stupid need to quit having babies

Not on my dollar

Quit trying to make people look like idiots. LEt them learn on their own or thru family and friends.,

We have soup kitchens and churches for this already. I'm fully aware of the homeless

Who's investing...me? If it's the public, no.

You want that kind of job...drive to it and car pool.

You've got to be kidding me.

Jazz 91.9 radio station does a great job of getting the word out, thanks to Fulton County's public service announcement. More counties in the metro area should follow their example.

Other Category Comments

We should undertake a review of our systems that may contribute to the homeless. Let's not just treat or react to the situation, but look beyond and determine if our systems are partly the blame of the homelessness.

My wife and I have worked as innovators in high tech industry for the last 30 years. It seems that her job is almost always 20 miles from mine. Who gets to walk the 20 miles today?

Plan on long term expansion. Look 20+ years into the future and buy right of way to expand roads early.

Sometimes it's better to tear down the lead painted asbestos covered buildings and replace them with something modern.

These are local, not regional issues.

This is a local, not regional issue and should not be part of a regional plan

We have been trying to do this unsuccessfully for 50 years.

Why limit these incentives to "high tech" companies. Why can't I get the same incentive to employ 80 people in a "low-tech" industry.

Already too much fraud, graft and corruption going on
eliminate high dollar (unproductive) professors and administration (politicians in academic robes)

income restrictions on EBT and WIC programs to eliminate present FRAUD

Depends on which roads you are talking about. Some are wide enough already.

We are already doing this!

Yes but apply these equally to all our residents not just immigrants and illegal aliens.

You have to get this into the suburbs to allow residents into the city. Especially in the south side.

Is this not a market based issue?

Isn't that what the Hope Scholarship already does?

Isn't this a market based incentive already?

Most of these items are better handled by determined individuals

private matter, not public

This is absolutely essential.

High School? Higher Ed?

I wish I knew more about the potential benefits and drawback for this approach.

I worry that incentives for new industry or high-tech companies will improve the regions overall statistics by drawing in new, highly educated, highly paid employees from other areas while doing little to help the people who are currently here. That just masks problems or drives them elsewhere without actually solving anything.

Other Category Comments

Depends upon the definition of "equitable." Only opportunity is truly equitable. What people do with the opportunity is up to the individual. Spending a king's ransom will not ensure "equitable" access.

Who decides what are "key areas?" Is some unelected panel of "regional officials" going to make that decision? Let the market decide where are key areas are located and service will be provided.

Individual systems must be integrated into single network to be efficient and be of greatest benefit.

Needed whatever else is done.

Absolutely essential.

Proven to not be a sustainable solution

Can't emphasize this enough. In Atlanta, I often feel that the infrastructure dictates this choice so that there is virtually no choice. If the infrastructure was there more people would gladly choose not to use their car.

Targeting matters.

Yes! Help people build roots in Atlanta by getting them involved in things they care about. Community engagement is so important. And it takes way too long for people to "find their people" in Atlanta. The Cities of Purpose Dinner Party Project is one thing that's aiming to get more people involved with their community.

Yes! The fact that we only have one major incubator (Flashpoint) is very, very sad. We need many more incubators, and physical spaces for people to work around other entrepreneurs, social ventures and more.

yes! through events like Atlanta Streets Alive, and supporting organizations like Living Walls

The idea sounds be to discourage driving and to encourage walking, biking, etc.

Food access to a grocery store or market with fresh locally grown food

140 and hwy 20

Not through the G'ment

already exists and market conditions will drive development of new incubators

I am not really sure how this would affect our relationship with other areas, cities, counties or states.

I am not really sure how this would be different in limiting or marginalizing certain households.

I am not sure what regionally connected means in this sense.

I am somewhat confused by the term "protect the character and integrity of existing neighborhoods."

I believe that this would add to our being competitive.

This would be most advantageous to all levels of employment.

Other Category Comments

We have a lot of resources already and I believe that it somewhat negates family assisting family in some cases.

Coordination between current bus services and the expansion of GRTA are two very important elements in expanding bus services throughout the region.

The focus should be on abiding by the current EPA/EPD regulations. Including stronger language in the new plan could create red tape that impedes quality development.

Never noticed it to be problem.

control the high-rise proliferation, especially buckhead-lenox area

expand tech school concept; most don't need college degree

it's fine now

let companies do it with non-economic proding

most people won't use them unless golf carts available

put them in barrack camps outside 285 until they take their meds and get job training; many mentally ill

teach them to read and write and stop paying people to have more illiterate children thru reform of welfare system

Increased theater and dance performances in South Fulton.

We do need to maintain the roads we have already.

I don't have a suggestion for how this can be done, but it is desirable.

Include training for adults as well.

Integrating diverse interests is a way to include diverse solutions to all our needs.

It is in the interest of our collective communities that we learn to live TOGETHER

Sharing resources is a good start.

Local communities could address this option as an alternative to fighting off undesirable 'cheap' business in their community.

Somehow so many HOMELESS people and so many EMPTY houses don't add up!

This is doable and desirable.

We need to learn to live together- all races, all income levels!

YES!

Need to put the seven metro Atlanta Counties under one Transportation System.

Local communities can take the initiative to develop ways for folks to become involved. Not the ARC responsibility to do this.

Very important that these partnerships be formed and work together.

dispelling the myth that the ambulance gets you into the ER faster would be one place to start. and the ER as primary care for lower income families.

Again, too much control, when you need to develop, sometimes a snail should not win progress must go on.

Other Category Comments

Again, yes this is a great idea and could be a great resource.
Would be very helpful.

For those students that are not college bound, that has all the ideas and yet not enough sources to begin with. Not \$\$\$ wise but knowledge and support. again not \$\$ Share ideas and see what or how they can work with what they have. Too lengthy or wording

The choices are there, they are offered, its up to the individual to read, educate, and find the source. Opportunity is always available.

If members of the community want to be involved he or she will make it happen. There is no reason to waste resources to attract people into doing for their own community.

again excellent public transportation is essential for this to occur. s

"Equitable"?

Is that code for subsidized access to areas favored by those in office?

Provide student & parent choice throughout... don't categorize young students into fields w/o their opportunity to have a say so

I believe the private sector will best address this issue not ARC initiatives.

I do not like the idea of govt providing "incentives". I fear regional takeover of local control!

Get a job! Go to school! Homelessness will go away!

Let's add the thousands of illegal children now crossing our borders.

Let's hear your ideas. Educating AND MOTIVATING through teachers who won't have to teach tests would help a lot

No! Too dangerous!

Some, Yes! Some, the people just don't care and only look for a hand out to fix what they've let deteriorate or destroy!
Detroit???

Sure! And don't allow universities to pay \$200,000 for a commencement speech. Spend properly!

Sure! Hire QUALIFIED teachers who will MOTIVATE their students. NOT THROUGH COMMON CORE!!!!

Sure; without Common Core and teachers who won't fear about their careers if their kids don't meet FEDERAL standards. Local standards only

This is NOT Regional's business! These decisions are BUSINESS decisions.

Why not send this to our FEDERALLY elected representatives and ask them to resolve the fighting among our States?

Why? If the social agenda is to move everyone into the cities (Agenda 21) why bother! They can walk to their high rises and services.

Other Category Comments

Yeah, right! As the prices of food continues to rise!

Yes! Through our LOCALLY ELECTED Representatives.

Allow the local communities to work together.... NO TO REGIONAL DECISIONS that affect us all.

Keep this very local. Don't need a region making these decisions.

Leave this to the local community, NOT the region.

Leave this to the local community.... not a regional decision.

LOCAL decision, NOT regional.

LOCAL decision, NOT regional.

LOCAL decision, NOT regional.

LOCAL decision, NOT regional.

NOT a regional decision. Allow local communities to create such if they can afford to.

NOT A REGIONAL DECISION. The local county commissions make these decisions based on the wishes of their community.

PRIVATE SECTOR should do these things.

Depends on how you propose to do that. I say local control.

Who "provides" these?

Promote, do not dictate!

Especially under-served, low-income students with potential.

We have enough of an economic divide in Atlanta as it is. I can see this being the start of giving everyone fiber optics, but please don't make isolated "fiberhoods" a goal.

We know this doesn't solve anything.

Invariably, this means the wealthy areas will get class A facilities and poorer or middleclass areas will get the substandard. It is time to stop giving away perks to the people who can afford to pay for it, while the rest have to do without.

Information on community events is not easily accessible.

Property values are so low. I am a strong believer that everyone does not need to own a home. If you just give someone a home, they won't appreciate it as much as if they worked hard and earned it. In addition, shuttling undesirables from one community to another is not a solution; you are just ruining communities. Placing persons on section 8 in vibrant communities only brings the communities down. If you teach the undesirables and make them comply with the rules and regulations where they are, this is a much better solution.

Repair all the roads; not just the ones in predominantly white communities. There are roads in minority communities that have not be repaved in over 10 + years.

Within reason, but do not infringe on individuals personal property rights.

Other Category Comments

The Atlanta area has some terrible roads. Many times I feel like I'm in a jeep on safari because I'm being bounced around so much. This is a huge issue that needs to be solved.

Instead of giving every kid an iPad, how about giving them a book, and telling them that when they can read the book, then they can have the iPad.

Free market should rule.

Well, only to those who have a desire for this. All others...leave them to fend for themselves.

Well, you could maintain and repair them or let them fall apart and look like Detroit.

285/20 INTERSECTION!!!!

Not really a no, more of a "maybe" depending on who manages the incentives.

Sounds like a great idea, but community gardens is a better idea.

Atlanta is the business hub of the South. Follow the model of a Nashville/Greenville and it'll be the cultural one too.

The LAST thing Atlanta needs is more/bigger roads.

How about some green space that ISN'T occupied by a ton of homeless people?

Move control to the local level and eliminate teacher unions influence.

Yes, this should be encouraged. However, market dictates and property owners should not be dictated as to what they should or should not build.

The homeless need to be pushed out of public and commercial areas where they are a blight and reflect poorly on ATL

Don't cater to what is a dinosaur: the car needs to go away!

Get Google!

Get Google!

An increase in availability to get to places would provide greater interaction between neighbors. This would act like a neighborhood watch with everyone participating.

I-285 is in dire need of repairs. Too many bumps and holes.

The current public and private resources are doing a great effort.

The presence of culture must also include preserving our architectural heritage and making known the incentives .

I don't think there's a lacking in this area... perhaps more of publicizing ways to get involved.

Public art enhances communities.

A nice idea, but it really won't have much of an impact for the majority of the people.

Don't play favorites

Too hard to do.

Other Category Comments

Access to more Farmers Markets and Whole food stores.

Interstate 75-85, going through downtown.

You have to want to be active in the community.

There are many available resources for homeless, what needs to be addressed are those that do not wish to avail themselves of the resources due to rules/regulations, more resources are needed to prevent the working poor from becoming homeless

A picture speaks a thousand words. it's much easier for by standers to stop and checkout/admire a painted mural on the street than another boring brick wall.

Better bus service within the city. Not in favor of across county lines. Those people choose to live out there and their county should provide bus service in and out of the county

Address the crime problems and grocery stores will spring up everywhere in those "food deserts".

Everybody hates bicyclists on the roads. Get them on the sidewalk. It's stupid for a 3000 pound car and a dork in ugly pants to "share the road".

Start with a free bus ticket to any city in the U.S. Many of the homeless linger here because they can't get back to family and their support group. Providing food and shelter makes the church ladies feel good but it actually makes the homeless problem worse.

Every community already has a hundred ways that people can get involved. This is a culture issue.

Keep feeding the poor and you will always have well-fed poor. Why not fix the poor part?

Support only those who have the people and incentive to be successful.

Tons of information is currently available - almost everywhere. The leaders of our 'underserved' need to make this a priority.

Make it affordable for everyone. Currently, it's too expensive for most families.

And affordable.

Carnegie Mellon does it.

Require green space for all new construction. Look at Pittsburgh. Prime example.

Sites and services, just like in the developing world!

They'll do this on their own.

This is currently taking place, so I think the progress should continue.

There should be no digital divide. All neighborhoods should have equal access to the information super highway

Maintain local control of communities through elected representation, not appointed boards.

Must focus on language access to care!!!

Other Category Comments

Promote intercultural awareness... Atlanta is very diverse but tends to have isolated communities

I am not sure this is a relevant expectation for the master plan. I am not really sure where you want to go with this statement.

Do add dedicated bus pull-outs and don't run bus where there are no riders or potential riders.

End ALL govt giveaways to corporations.

Tremendously stupid. We going on 30 years of this "digital divide" crap, billions have been wasted.

Utterly stupid.

We have PLENTY of these already.

Boondoggles all! If this were such a great idea, private investors would do the job.

Just let markets work. Otherwise, who defines "quality local training" and the nature of "business demands". If it's not the market, it will be influence peddlers and their constituencies.

Like Michelle Obama's lunches. No more nanny state!

Like Solyndra? I don't think so. The sole incentive for any investor should be free (not rigged) market profits.

People can take care of themselves just fine.

This is a code word for subsidizing modern (i.e., garbage) art.

Yes, if needed. The way to determine if they are needed is if the price keeps going up.

You do this by establishing free markets.

It is not that people don't have information, it is they are too lazy and stupid to act on it, or don't have the resources.

Agree in principle but this can be abused to include just about any area as "environmentally sensitive" & therefore ripe for corruption and steering, generally accepted protection practices should be voted on by citizens

Any additional regulations should be voted on by elected officials, those affecting all citizens should be voted on by citizens. Preferably, incentives should be used where practicable.

Be sure it is not free, make everyone have "skin in the game" and it will work!

Carriers should pay for and do this!

Carriers should pay for this!

I don't think unelected or appointed bureaucrats should make these decisions, rather, they can study & recommend but not decide. Transparency and avoiding conflict of interest are of key importance

Nice but not need. Private sector is doing this.

The private sector will do this based on demand. Only get a program involved when one sector is not being served and maybe provide incentives for that only.

Other Category Comments

This is the answer to many of these types of programs. It used to be done mostly by churches and civic orgs and still is, people need to be connected to existing orgs.

This makes a community real for most people and gives them a sense of belonging and pride to make things better

This simply encourages more growth and over building. It adds to the problem not the solution.

Not your business. Personal responsibility builds strong communities.

Not your business. Ppl should themselves. Whose \$\$ would you use for this?

Only as an "as needed basis"

Personal responsibility. If ppl want to get involved they will.

Again, No, No, No.

Before I could answer "Yes to this, I'd need to know more. Again, perhaps if homes had two parents, there might be time to get involved, but then again, as long as it takes the earnings of TWO parents to survive, this may never happen.

Duh! This looks like a business problem/opportunity -

NO, NO, NO.

NO. Remember the last attempt.

NOT A REGIONAL CONCERN!

Sounds like Agenda 21 propaganda to me.

The Fed's beat you to it. Stay out! Get rid of Common Core!

Work on families with BOTH parents and perhaps, this will happen.

Yes! Perhaps a Regional Police Force? Agenda 21 at its finest! Fix Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton Counties and then ask again.

Encourage local business! think local, local, local! Empower The People, not Corporations!

Encourage the people to grow their own food. Educate the people of the dangers and toxins from GMO foods!

Form a TRUTH and Transparency Group to educate the people of the power of one! They are responsible for themselves and their community, NOT appointed, unelected individuals with personal agendas!

Give the power back to the people and the creativity will flow.

Only if the people approve! Appointed, unelected individuals do not represent the needs of the people!

Only if The People approve. Appointed, unelected individuals do not represent The People or the needs of the People!

But not free

I think our rivers should be a focus

Needs to be free market driven.

It would be great for this to focus on gentrification issues and cultural barriers as well.

Other Category Comments

This is the most effective form of economic development. It should be the focus.

"Equitable access" sounds like "free porn" for libraries. Don't they already have that?

Enforce existing laws.

Google may beat you to the punch.

The free market provides this.

The private sector is already doing this with some success.

Tragedy of the commons

Tragedy of the commons

Get rid of Common Core

If the counties want to pay for it.

I'm sure some would like this, but living out in the suburbs (25 miles from work) - there's no way I'm biking to work.

This could definitely be an option.

This is imperative.

Why incentives for doing what needs to be done?

Again, sounds like social engineering

Homelessness is a big problem but not sure throwing more resources at it will work.

Information is everywhere and I am not sure that it makes a difference.

Not sure how this can be done via ARC

Sounds like social engineering.

we already do

The so-called "Green" movement and the EPA have done more to harm us than to help us. Churches and other groups can encourage good practices such as "don't litter."

This is a dangerous practice.

Unelected bureaucrats & their special interests should not be driving their image of what living conditions Americans want. The free market principles should drive those choices. It has worked well for over 200 years. Free market capitalism has made America a success. Other nations are copying us for that reason.

Stop running empty or nearly empty busses. Switch to vans instead.

work with local (within 100 miles) farmers

Except for police protection, this is the responsibility of the owners.

It's already available everywhere. Save our \$\$

Over-regulation

Private sector only!

Private sector!

Should e done through Jr. colleges and private employer training

Stay out!

Other Category Comments

This should be the #1 priority.

Too much regulation already

Too much regulation and ridiculous laws already!

Would be a great help. The car is here to stay, in spite of your misguided efforts.

I don't even know what this question means.

I live in Cobb and I see empty busses all the time. Last thing we need is to run empty busses to other counties.

If it stands a chance of success the initiators need to have something in it otherwise they will end up like Solyndra.

What about vouchers so families have the power to choose where their children attend school.

What does this mean? Are you going schedule play dates?

Who decides on what constitutes a key area?

Who decides what is equitable?

And perhaps smarter use of those resources...

Certainly such partnerships are essential, but not sure "developing" them belongs in a regional plan.

Definitely not

Important, but I think metro Atlanta does a great job of this already AND most of it takes place at the community - not regional - level.

NO

School-based community clinics - wonderful idea!

To do so successfully, we must acknowledge and take on the challenges faced by families living in poverty - a large segment of metro Atlanta's population. Unfortunately, even the best teachers and the best schools cannot overcome many of the developmental deficits common in young children born into precarious circumstances. Our commitment to these children should begin at birth.

Again, not a regional responsibility.

ARC has no business doing this. It makes an already-difficult situation worse.

Google and Comcast are already doing this. Why should ARC get involved?

I am against the Agenda 21 "sustainable" idea.

Make ATDC independent of Ga Tech and open more suburban incubators.

This is not a "regional" responsibility. Don't create another layer.

If our communities are to survive and thrive, we all must pitch in whenever we can and wherever needed.

Options are fine but limitations are not. If we are a free people, we should be able to choose where we live, how we live and what areas suit our needs the best.

Other Category Comments

Who determines what culture is promoted? I prefer that we stick to our multi-faceted cultures here in the US but nothing that is in opposition to our Judeo-Christian values. It must be in good taste and no one-sided.

This is the most important thing we can do.

Again, this is the kind of things the radiates benefits in numerous directions.

I think this kind of long-range thinking helps create a sense of community and value, the benefits of which extend in all directions.

I'm not sure I understand the potential benefit of this.

We have a great and untapped potential w/so many institutions of higher learning in town.

This begins with recruiting a higher caliber of educators and school administrators. How can we task our children to learn effectively and above other districts and areas when some of our educators are apathetic and sub-par, at best?

this is a good option--with careful planning

Flexible office space is available, but more could be useful.

Google fiber, please.

Is the issue a limit to ways, or a limit to information?

Encourage HB 195 to allow counties to work together if they choose.

Focus on job / skill training and provide special assistance for homeless people with mental illness

Great - just not as vital as other initiatives

Great - just not as vital as other initiatives

Great to do, but not as vital as the other objectives.

Perhaps better advertise the existing avenues for this. They're out there.

Keep Gov't out of it as much as possible. They are the reason we are in the mess we are in. We can not afford anymore Gov't fixes.

So the Gov't will have even more info on all of us.

Where feasible.

I think incentives to employers should come in the form of employee training or market research.

Emphasis on Quality

Too expensive

Attempt to increase private resources to address homelessness.

I always look to the services closest to me and in walking distance. Please continue this trend.

I put down as important but it's more a nice to have that have to have.

Other Category Comments

This not only help the individual potential homebuyer but diversifying is always a smart thing. If the market is to fall again the whole area will not lose.

this is so insanely important to Atlanta- we just aren't managing to help the homeless AT ALL.

we're going to be in trouble if something isn't done in the next 30 years.

Especially local biz dev and expansion - that's more effective if we can figure it out

Way overrated as a lever

We've already done this

Safety

Safety

Safety

Homelessness is everywhere, not just in the more urban core of the region.

Where appropriate, sustainable, and supported by citizens and political officials.

Gov't needs to get out of our universities and leave to private sector.

Let private resources, not gov't do the job.

Locally controlled by parents; not gov't.

No to Agenda 21.

Provided by private sector; not gov't.

be reasonable here.

"equitable"

I like this suggestion, however do not believe it to be a priority within the comprehensive plan.

I chose my neighborhood specifically because of its architectural integrity and its location. As homes are torn down and developers built generic spec homes, I feel more of a pull to sell my home before the neighborhood loses its integrity.

Merging the multiple bus services with a single ticket would be helpful.

While this will be great for those areas, it will alienate people from other areas. If networking is going to be invested in, it should be city-wide.

aren't there already a lot of these around? if there's justification for this then ok....

beyond research - engagement, projects, doing, learning, teaching. Look into the Sustainability and Community Engagement curriculum efforts at Georgia Tech (look up "georgia tech" "sustainability" and "QEP" on google.)

See lookupatl.org Look Up Atlanta!!!!!!1

However, gradual density increases and appropriate mixes of uses should be allowed

Other Category Comments

prioritize based on which provide the most benefit to the region

This is very important, in my opinion - and one area where Atlanta generally lacks.

Make a push for google fiber... seriously... we're being looked at. Don't be overlooked.

Teach kids to code.

This should not be a priority.

Yep.

I'm unsure what this means, nor how a regional entity could achieve such a goal. Especially at the neighborhood level. That's a very granular goal, one that lies outside the reach of an agency .

This is another area where a regional entity would be hard pressed to really have an impact.

Try to decrease the price of museums, botanic gardens, aquarium,...

No, no, no.

This depends on the solution

This is essential.

A little bit of help could make a big difference.

although I am sure there could be improvement "all youth" are not prepared to take advantage of this even if available.

hoping Google Fiber really shows up.

I am not sure about "all" youth. Things like the new Nano degree program that AT&T is supporting with Udacity could help.

I am not sure that "more resources" will solve this problem. A lot of this is mental illness and lack of family or friends who can help. But without more resources there is no chance of improvement.

I am on principle opposed to incentives.

I think this is already available and if there are shortage issues it's because people are not taking advantage of it

if there is going to be a Next Big Thing, this is where it will come from.

Model is Chattanooga. hoping Google Fiber really shows up.

Part of what is awful for so many of us so much of the time is driving. It is soul-crushing and brings out the worst in all of us.

this doesn't seem to me to be the problem.

this is already happening but am sure it could be strengthened or enhanced

totally not exciting for people who want the Next New Thing but critical. Otherwise things fall down.

Promote local farmers and public access to locally grown organic food.

BeltLine is doing a great job with this.

Other Category Comments

Do not be overly restrictive with this. Let areas change character if people want the change.

public service projects and neighborhood clean-up projects foster community.

Allow the market to dictate this.

Everything should be accessible via the beltline!!!!!!

This should be extended to all households in ATL.

Depending on how this happens, this could reduce crime during summer months when schools are out.

Encourage adaptive reuse of existing buildings versus always tearing down and building new. Promote and protect historic buildings that remind us where we came from and how we got here.

Are you talking about people who are out of work and became homeless or those that made poor choices in life and hence the results, or the mentally ill roaming around? I only support programs to help people get back on their feet, and for mentally ill to have treatment.

Promoting doesn't help. Everyone knows what SHOULD be done, but unless it becomes mandatory, it's pointless.

There are hundreds of unused/vacant buildings in Atlanta. Update these buildings and let start-ups use them cheaply.

Again, it will not matter how often a crappy area is cleaned up if those surrounding the area continue to throw trash and dump tires there with no consequences.

There are already dozens of these programs. Consolidate those that work and eliminate all others. Hold those who run these programs accountable and fire those who are irresponsible and corrupt.

This is NOT needed when we are 17 trillion in debt.

This would be helpful if the bus schedule were more reliable.

I'd like to see ways to "incentivize" this.

too broad a statement -

We get over 50 inches of rain a year - while some conservation has its place, there are better solutions by increasing supply.

Depends on who owns the damaged areas. These are owner responsibility only.

Protect, but tread lightly. Don't stand in the way of progress.

Any proof that this works??

Great idea. We lived overseas and never needed to use our car for commuting to work or shopping.

Not sure I understand the issue here.

This is really YES or NO. Depends on the neighborhood. The community should protect its own character.

We need to design communities that integrate activity into every day life.

Other Category Comments

We need to have the best science and math programs (and music, which I consider a form of math) in the country.

It will not be enough to open this up for folks. We must compel people to become involved as they were in the sixties to support a war.

Over the passed five decades this has become a bad joke. All true artists have been locked up in prison and now practice their traid on the back of envelopes holding letters to their loved ones leaving the rest of us to enjoy the likes of Piss Christ.

That was the intent of Obama care. Thanks but no thanks.

I prefer this over increased bus routes.

No, No, No, No!!!!!!!

Should be doing this already

This is the information age, info is everywhere & if someone wants to know about it, they can find it!

This is the information age, info is everywhere & if someone wants to know about it, they can find it!

Way too much empty retail space, yet I see new strip malls and stores going up everywhere. Down come the trees for more shopping. Remember, most of us will be shopping on line cuz we can afford \$5 gal gas!!!!

Encourage telecommuting, home based employment

Provide co-op and apprenticeship programs for students to train in fields where work is plentiful.

Service that is reliable and affordable

See previous comments.

I really like how Chicago and New York handled it. Atlanta and San Diego have done a horrible job.

If you develop the start ups you don't have to worry about trying to fund a multi million dollar training program.

Seems the only house in cobb county is a 3000 sq foot tri-level.

Some of these gated communities ruin the idea of a community

This are always so difficult to get, too many people complain about the selection process. Its get's too political.

We are pretty close to that now

We have done a good job in keep green spaces

Anyone who really knows the Metro area realizes the huge acres of land that we are referring to with "damaged areas" daunting task

I believe growth is essential BUT it needs to be well thought out with good POD and PUD growth to serve those expansions

This is a very expensive item the CCC camps are gone, this is a national wide challenge Have we asked the questions about privatization and who owns the aquifers?

Other Category Comments

I have been here for 25 years, and worked with you guys at ARC. This is an OLD SONG. Give it up. People are MOVING NORTH AND WEST AND SOUTH> What about teleworking? HM?

Ok really? You mean people with handicaps can use it? or older people? really?

Ok, creating a Have and Havenots infrastructure goes against the principles Atlanta is based on.

Startups make lousy employers.They are sweat shops. why not invest in Small business in general? Even the ones that have been around?

Stop saying YOUTH. Just cut that off the sentence and then I would approve.

This is old. Give me a fresh idea.

Access, yes; assistance, no.

Coordinate with existing bus lines is a viable idea. In terms of expansion, who would pay for such a program. I would say no to expansion.

There are already enough people in the Atlanta area. If you don't like it here, I would suggest that you go back to wherever you came from.

There are already enough people in the Atlanta area. If you don't like it here, I would suggest that you go back to wherever you came from.

Although this will help, GA roads are way better than our bordering states so we just need to keep at it.

Not necessarily. Change with changing times.

This should be done without a big brother such as Google.

Vocational training will definitely help without the burden of student debt.

Subway system for entire metro area.

A local responsibility. Should be done in some areas. Not universally.

A responsibility of educators and the private sector at state and local levels.

A responsibility of educators and the private sector working together at the state level.

Again, the educators and the private sector need to develop more programs at the state and local levels.

Local gov't responsibility. Not to be part of a regional plan.

Local responsibility, not to be part of the regional plan.

Must happen at the local level under plans of educators and private sector.

Must happen at the local level. Not a regional issue. Varies greatly between communities.

Needs to happen, but not on a regional basis. Must occur at the local level.

Other Category Comments

Primarily a local DOT responsibility, along with GDOT in some cases. Not a regional function.

Provided by the private sector under regional plan and standards.

Responsibility of local gov't and HOA's and homeowners.

Should be done by the private sector, fostered by local gov't. Certainly not a regional issue.

Should be done, but not under regional control. Counties and cities need to manage their own.

This is a local issue. Not for regional planners to do.

All bus service should be private

Avoid eminent domain seizure. Easements are too big.

It's a pipe dream. Retail Clerks can't afford apartments next to the stores where they work

Leave it to the free market

Leave this to property owners

Let consumers decide

Let consumers live wherever they can

Let parents do this

Let people make their own choices

Let the free market and non-profits decide

Let the free market do this

Let the free market provide this

Let the homeowners do this

Let the market decide

People already have this information

Stop all immigration to reduce unemployment.

Stores and office buildings need to do that

These already exist in the private sector

This is too expensive to even consider

In addition to homelessness, also victims of abuse.

make it too available and it attracts out of county homeless

we have other more pressing needs

for societies to develop they need to relax and enjoy the sense of community. This is where I am from, this is where I live and I am proud to be from here.

get private sectors to sponsor shelters; provide food and counseling

you can provide as many ways as you can, but will need to get people motivated to get involved. I think this is another area were our society is changing, it's all about me. Starts in learning, maybe college course of getting involved. More nightly news coverage of people getting involved. If you want to get involved please contact..... would be a good message to here nightly. maybe have an app for that.. where to get involved in your area

Other Category Comments

ALL YOUTH - not just young and minority !!! Not just live in Fulton and Gwinnet

If there is a will, there is already a way. Dont need resources here

Make Atlanta the jewel of the south with quality. Not with cheap tourist attractions - aka ferris wheel.

No question of information - need locations and equipment. Resources - Daycare so parents can work out.

For those high school and college age students that have the drive to go the extra mile

More family activities and green space areas

High speed service should be available to all business not just select areas

Most homeless seem to be mentally ill. We need to solve the mental problem that contributes to crime and homelessness

Reliable websites offer a great deal of information. Some people just need more access to libraries to access the information. Quit cutting library hours

This is being done through universities and business partnerships

that is for the private sector

College needs to be affordable for us older folk as well, since many times we have to learn new skills to get or keep a job.

Limiting resources to do this should not prevent the other more important priorities.

Big ideas to educate people rarely work but just put the students into debt.

Enough of the give away programs, but let people work and save for what they want the way past generations have

This would be helpful if it can be done without the extended arm of the EPA gaining more control over us.

Too many agencies get formed to handle certain things and then they grow into controlling forces that prove not to be so good

Also, close off some roads and create walkways.

Make private companies pay for their own messes!!!!

Private companies should pay for this.

We need to maintain a a lot of green space and avoid the cityscape look (buildings and roads everywhere. Families love green space and will move here for it.

Do not use immanent domain to achieve your purpose.

No to AGENDA 21.

People who have an inclination to volunteer will. No need to develop another bureaucracy.

Plant gardens.

Other Category Comments

A tough area. Some are homeless by 'choice' but some truly are temporarily down on their luck-that's where we need to direct our resources (hand UP vs. a free meal just to give out a free meal)

Improve connectors between highways. 1-20 west and I-285

There should be reasonably priced broadband access and that won't happen as long as each community is served by a monopoly provider.

We can't build enough roads to fix the problem.

Necessary evil ? :)

Put those who want to work to work, and ship the rest out.

Make it available everywhere, not just for "certain" areas. This will help all concerned and not the rich!!

NO!! Example: People have been taught about pregnancy for ages, yet people still get pregnant when not wanted. You can't teach ignorant to be smarter when they just don't care!!

Provide the opportunity, but not make it that Section 8 living styles and no proper background checks bring in the criminal element.

Really??? How much wider can you make some of the area roads without further encroachment onto people's personal property?

There are plenty of ways for people to be involved with their community. Only those that want to be involved become involved. Others never get involved because they just don't care.

Target high tech and medical by maybe identifying the areas they can be sold - most desirable - on moving to and then making it affordable. High paying employees with great skills need choice areas to live.

The best conservation is to charge based on use and let the pocketbook solve much of the issue

Planning partners must be well-trained in community outreach!

This depends on the meaning of "advanced." It doesn't have to mean university. However, many residents, especially in low-income communities and communities with higher unemployment, may need incentives and assistance to access opportunities in the near term.

The Atlanta area does a good job on small business. Its the key for our long term employment. We need to provide a comprehensive data for communities to spark new business. This will ensure that we have a balanced income for business for long term growth and prevent overbuilding.

This is a must, I am very disappointed in Atlanta area for not thinking ahead. I have lived in Atlanta since 2000 and have seen very little. Not sure why progress has stopped.

Other Category Comments

This should be provided in every square mile in all counties that touch Fulton and beyond. I am surprised that broadband is not available in parts of Cobb County. That is poor planning.

Encourage the marketplace to address this.

Essential priority.

I am opposed to this unless it is grade based. Not everyone needs to go to college. We need to encourage more skills development through apprenticeships.

I think there is already a lot of this going on - maybe just needs coordinating?

Leave this to Georgia Tech.

Let the marketplace take care of this.

I live in a mixed income neighborhood and there is more segregation here than in a non mixed income residential area. Social engineering doesn't work

Another long time, unfulfilled promise. Yawn!!

Because common sense is never part of the equation.

Granted, I live in the city and never hear anyone complain about not having access. But the lack of info and further explanation repulses me. Just because it sounds all warm and fuzzy is not enough reason to give my approval.

Maybe. Where's the plan? Where's the transparency?

NO to partnerships!! YES to small business.

The options are already there. Just that some groups think all peoples need to live together. The fact is, that is not how the people choose to live. Leave this issue to the individual's choice. You are not God.

They are already in place. When will you understand that people make their own choices and because of all the entitlements they receive they choose not to better themselves, thus increasing crime because they have nothing better to do with their time.

This is a tired old issue. In my opinion in some cases there is too much of this being done for all the wrong reasons.

We already do plenty of this.

We already have programs in place.

We already have this.

We have programs in place for this already.

Broadband should be provided with citywide access, as a public utility.

It is difficult to understand the local governing process. This need simplification and better dissemination of information. No fees should be required to participate as is common in neighborhood associations.

Training should be done by the employers and associated unions.

We need to better manage what we have currently.

Other Category Comments

It's already easy, in my opinion, but the gov't cannot do a parent's job.

There could be more inexpensive options in certain parts of Cobb where it's impossible to build a home for under 400K.

Truthfully, there are many who would never use busses but it is important to coordinate with other counties.

Yes, but be realistic about the real causes of homelessness and the solutions that actually work.

Yes, BUT there is no need for every elementary school student to have an iPad. They get that at home. Read, read, drill math facts!!!!

incentive and access only; no public resources

Private resources should be the sole recourse for homelessness except where crime is involved

There is so much information out there now, in so many places, this does not need to be a priority.

While this is very good to do, and a key thing for our entire country to address, it is not something that inhibits our region growing and so is not as important for this survey.

local business attracts more customer loyalty

This is an inherently regional challenge and should therefore be a priority.

This is an inherently regional challenge and should therefore be a priority.

My issue with this is the repairs never last and it seems crews are PERPETUALLY repairing roads, especially on the weekends. Can materials that actually last be used??

"Key areas" tends to mean "affluent areas." Care should be taken to invest more in lower-income areas.

More urban gardens open to all

"Key areas" should not get preference; this should be a regional effort. Broadband is needed by everyone.

Increase competition on broadband so no one or two providers (frequently only one) have the monopoly on broadband service to any area.

Information is rarely the problem; access to services is.

Motherhood and apple pie ... community involvement comes from having a community, not from public efforts.

Green space is important for many reasons.

Hope Scholarships have worked. They've kept good students in state. Keep program merit based.

Let the market determine this. People will buy what they like.

Good idea only for those with proven school skills

Nothing seems to have worked so far

What is a "key area"?

Other Category Comments

Incentives for all companies, not just high-tech. We need variety and variety also leads to more creativity - even among the high techs.

None of these are easily achieved - if they were, we'd be doing them already. Incentives are one of the few things that we can readily do right now and keep very good track of to determine how they and if they work. We must run many experiments to figure out what does and does not work.

This is more of a role for the private sector to take on, but ARC might help coordinate.

Better services to the homeless will just attract more homeless to metro Atlanta and cause more southern cities to bus homeless people here.

Employers won't want to relocate to an area where the kids are all stupid.

Google fiber needs to be everywhere in Atlanta.

Hi tech is locating all up and down the 400 corridor. This would just fuel suburbanization of north Fulton and Forsyth.

The companies will just hire the smart people from outside the region, which might help growth but won't help the people who are already here. The focus needs to be on the people who are already here.

The NPU system in Atlanta is a joke. The city just passes whatever it wants to anyways.

Too late for that! Metro Atlanta should have done that in the early 80s when there was still land available. Some of the exurb counties like Cherokee and Forsyth still have a chance to do this, however, that window of opportunity is closing quickly.

You can't do this to the point where it negatively impacts growth. Look at Castleberry Hill post 2006 "Landmark Status" and post 2008 "we don't want bars" status. Nobody wants to set up shop over there, but it could be a vibrant 24/7 district, but the current residents are NIMBY about changing the "character" of their neighborhood.

Start urban farms through outreach organizations and communities

Support Google Fiber to help break up the existing oligopoly

I am so sick of hearing that a company promised to keep trees or other things and then just clear cuts and pays a small fine. There need to be bigger penalties

please, please, please! Stop the bickering and work on getting us out of the bottom 50 states for once!

this brings revenue to our region and brings in tourists

Is this the ARC's responsibility?

I like this idea in theory but large institutions can be too cumbersome and have too much bureaucracy to get anything done quickly. They need to be more flexible and adaptable.

Other Category Comments

Only if this will be equal for all residents

It depends on what you define as integrity. If that means make everything look the same, then I'm not sure that's what we want. We do want sensible design guidelines.

I think promoting diversity provides a richer culture than have everything look the same.

There needs to be attempts to break the stigma of riding the bus. It has to be efficient, reliable, and affordable.

Georgia Tech and the local cellulose based industries (Pulp and Paper) can benefit from consortia like -

<http://nano.gov/ncworkshop>,

<http://www.nanocellucomp.eu/consortium>,

<http://umaine.edu/pdc/process-and-product-development/selected-projects/nanocellulose-facility/nanocellulose-research-program/>

This can help us to create the next generation of renewable industries that will manufacture materials for everything from transportation to telecom.

Incentives and assistance: no. There are scholarships out there already. No other entity needs to do this.

They already have access.

Love that the entertainment industry is growing here. Keep up the good work on that front!

Unless you are implementing fiberhoods in areas that are not already affluent, then this just reinforces the gap between those who have, and those who have not.

I believe in incentive's should be earned not given away. Perhaps I am confused by this b/c the word "assistance" is used. That to me means FREE.

Yes and the homeless need to have to meet criteria to have access to these resources.

please repair the potholes!!!

This is sort of a "yes and no." We have to be very careful with public incentives and their impact on public financial resources.

(a) not the way of the future, and (b) I thought this had been discredited anyway?

Dekalb Avenue, for goodness sake.

Other Category Comments

Keep in mind that current, truly innovative arts tend to thrive best in areas that are either inexpensive or "up and coming" - usually *because* they lack qualities pointed out in a lot of the rest of this survey. The only way around this is to pay artists enough to live and work in great places, like a lot of Europe used to. That's a difficult political proposition but certainly one I'd be first to support. Knowing the difficulty here and the fact that most people prioritize other things in this survey, it might be good to let the arts go towards the bottom of the list, much as it hurts me (a musician) to say.

Keep in mind that current, truly innovative arts tend to thrive best in areas that are either inexpensive or "up and coming" - usually *because* they lack qualities pointed out in a lot of the rest of this survey. The only way around this is to pay artists enough to live and work in great places, like a lot of Europe used to. That's a difficult political proposition but certainly one I'd be first to support. Knowing the difficulty here and the fact that most people prioritize other things in this survey, it might be good to let the arts go, much as it hurts me (a musician) to say.

This ties-into goal #1

This trng. should be expanded to others...not just 'youth'

This will be possible only if the first two goals are implemented.

Atlanta seems pretty progressive on this. Would be good to extend NPUs to other areas, and give the NPUs more authority.

Don't we already have enough legal problems with the ones we have? Whatever happened with that anyway...

Food deserts should not be a thing that exists.

This should be a part of highschool STEM programs anyway...

Worst idea ever, and that's not hyperbole.

Atlanta has done a poor job of training beyond the entry level.

Not just youth. We have an enormous number of adult residents who need retraining.

People should actively seek ways to be more involved in community rather than passively wait for Gov, NGO, etc to create whiz bang marketing campaigns to promote engagement.

How will a blue city in a red state pay for that?

Just dont use Bob Moses as a reference!

Not just apartments above starbucks either!

This is a joke, right?

With all the universities in the region, there are many students who would love to go out and show us their skills. This could be cheap or free!

educated people = better decisions being made for our community

YES!!!

After the failure of the T-Splot, this is the best we can recommend.

Other Category Comments

More support for urban gardens, like Truly Living Well.

Parents should be driving this initiative. When you get too much for free you don't work for it.

If people want to get involved in their neighborhood the opportunities are already here, they must want to act not just talk it.

No wasteful spending please. Only repair was needs repaired.

Unless in state of needed repair

Where possible

Atlanta is already doing a very good job in this respect. It just needs to continue.

Explore the use of the apprenticeship model used in Europe for technical operator type training.

The economic concept of barriers to entry needs to be considered as a critical problem in entrepreneurial pursuits. People with great ideas need access to capital and guidance first and foremost.

This is a given. It is not a goal.

This is already an ongoing activity.

This is already established law and policy; we do not need to commit resources to add to what is already in statute and policy.

This is an ongoing activity which we should always be working on, not a goal.

This should be a state level activity so it would place Georgia's priorities first and national priorities second.

We don't need to "re-invent the wheel" by competing with other already well developed technologies.

We should limit urban sprawl by addressing density issues in a rigorous, analytical way.

decrease regulatory hurdles

Be strategic about road expansion; do it only where really needed.

Not only job centers, but also residential centers and tourist/entertainment destinations

This is only less important because I think Atlanta does this well already.

This one sounds good... but I worry it will only advantage some...so it must be done carefully.

Provide community gardening areas on abandoned properties. Streamline the process for abandoned or blight property cleanup.

I believe this has done well for Raleigh/Durham.

I notice fewer homeless people here than in other metropolitan areas.

Pride in your community allows it to thrive.

This could help draw in tourism.

As long as it is not an entitlement and or a give away

Other Category Comments

We need to fight to change Federal and local laws that make it impossible for entrepreneurs to develop business and offer proper incentives for them to do so.

Such as Emory/CDC!

Ensuring the opportunities for current & future generations is incredibly important

Incorrect grammar = it's among when used among more than two entities.

People will improve their own communities if educated about relevant issues and given tools and support.

You can make a region so attractive to business that it is horrible for your people.

I'm not opposed to high tech training. But giving a tablet to a student isn't teaching.

Don't restrict beekeeping and urban agriculture. Have farmers markets where locals can sell their products.

This solution will not work in all areas. But yes some road do need to be expanded.

This is absolutely not necessary or needed if other alternatives are put into place. Teleworking incentives will erase this need.

Awarded to Top Achievers in each field, make it competitive to drive up standards. Not just given out as a "needs based" handout.

There are a lot of outreaches for homelessness currently, increasing resources to existing outreaches and unifying them to address core issues is a must. Not creating more outreaches.

Absolutely!

Know that the NIH is a necessary part of research.

And start training earlier. More information about technical colleges at early ages

Important, but less so compared to other options

Important, but less so compared to other options

With today's level of connectivity people can make a little effort to be involved. You can only reach out so much

There are plenty of ways for people to be involved, there just isn't a great way to find out about all these opportunities. I think a good example of someone that is informing people well is PTCpeople.com

We talk with local business owners everyday: the majority do not use the chamber of commerce or any other local resources.

Again, if this results in companies paying living wages, I'm all for it.

I have no idea whether this is necessary or practicable.

This should result in *publicly* available benefits. There is way too much privatization these days.

Other Category Comments

Again - all job types and levels. Let the unions open a charter school to offer high school students opportunities to graduate and learn a trade at the same time.

isn't this already in place?

Make sure it is consistent and reliable. don't make shady deals and don't leave out any business type because it isn't shiny and new.

private companies should do this. They have the network and planning capabilities and can engage their customer base to expand.

revamp the "educracy" and remove the county-level school districts.

We need Medicaid to expand.

Georgia Tech get's it. Thank them for thinking out the box in providing opportunity for Atlanta kids. Hoping this will lead to other opportunities.

Google Fiber within all metro areas.

How is 'advanced' defined?

should not provide incubators. Should be "support incubators."

With School choice/vouchers.

Only if they can be policed and kept safe, which currently seems unlikely.

Where feasible

NOT BY DEVELOPING UNDEVELOPED LAND, BUT BY USING ABANDONED, CLOSED BUSINESS/ BUILDINGS.

Better to focus on training for the type of business sought, not necessarily the type present

Bread and circuses didn't save Rome. Encourage higher level of entertainment

ASO performing in open concerts - good!

Dispersion of homeless, not grouping - which blights area.

Not clear as to how.

Sounds like a financially loose cannon

Suggests privileged benefit for some?

The distinction between "ensure" and make available is not suggested. Available, yes.

With a focus on dispersion rather than bunching by income levels. Difficult, but helpful

need more homeless shelters outside of the city of Atlanta, a lot of them are in the suburbs.

Much of this is already happening but in my experience it's mostly grassroots efforts, rather than ARC or govt. "providing" the opportunities.

We are already doing this! CDC, Emory, GSU, Ga Tech, UGA....these partnerships are all very well-established.

Other Category Comments

In my opinion, we already have this in most areas

Mirror programs like Arts Memphis that utilize creative methods to bring arts awareness to all communities.

Promote policies, developer financing practices and other key factors that can contribute to small-scale, local retail.

This are again, nice and fancy words. Concrete programs and plans?

Encourage local food production through urban farming, community gardens, and home gardens.

STOP BUILDING. There are enough buildings. Make use of existing developed land and for Gods sake leave something unpaved

Implement "Fix it First" infrastructure strategy to rehab and enhance infrastructure in older communities

In the 42 years I have lived in this area, I have heard these same words over and over, again and again. We have been paying for research, new agencies' budgets, surveys, etc. probably in the trillions of \$'s. Nothing will change.

Not sure how to respond to these.

I think this should be a local initiative, not a regional solution.
omit the word sustainable

We need to convert many of our intersections to roundabouts to reduce waiting time, reduce emissions, increase the average speed while lowering top speeds.

Again, in Cobb, it appears that transparency and adhering to master plan and code matters is about to go out the window.

Cameras in all classrooms.

There is no benefit in "growth" for the sake of growth. Stop "trying" to grow! Take care of the problems. Growth will come anyway due to normal population growth.

Limit growth in the area. Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of a cancer.

Also, provide incubators and support for non-high-tech start-ups. High-tech is great, but isn't everything.

More on-the-job training programs led by employers that target local residents.

Increased emphasis on tele-commuting.

PLEASE do not interpret this as me being in favor of Common Core. It has been an utter nightmare for me as a parent.

Maintain strong police and fire protection.

If the homeless problem is not addressed and resolved, much of the potential economic development will, either, move to a safer, cleaner area or refuse to locate where it is an issue.

Other Category Comments

As our over 65 population continues to grow, we need to have more Tools for Caregivers programs throughout the region. As a co-leader for a series of classes for caregivers, I understand and see this need expanded and we need to meet this need. Also, the RSVP program is vital to our senior population and I encourage expansion of this program as well. We also should not limit the resources in these programs to the existing resources but provide a myriad of outlets through the RSVP program in particular.

These need to be a little more critical. Who would say no to any of these?

Encourage more mixed income communities with diverse groups of people living together.

Effective, right-sized policing.

Do nothing in support of Agenda 21 and limiting citizens access to land and resources.

Sustainability is an Agenda 21 buzz word.

Clearly state in your governing document that nothing you do promotes the UN Agenda 21.

But, let us just say, that none of these needs to be gone overboard with trying to fix something that is always going to be with us!

ARC should focus on being an effective communicator between communities and leave proactive governance to the existing ELECTED officials.

Regionalism leads to communism. Beware of the isms. Please stop pushing this terrible agenda. If the people making this survey would just take the time to read about UN Agenda 21 you would run from this planning committee.

This is not the responsibility of govt.

Pass HB 195. Repeal HB 1216 & 277

Go back to the drawing board involve private citizens and try again.

Richard Pawlowski
770-445-5964

Same as all my other comments. This is Agenda 21.

Same as all my other comments. This is Agenda 21. Rack-em stack-em is not a solution it is control.

Again, you guys should really get some non-policy people to preview your questions. This slide is a mix of platitudes and mixed concepts that don't help you identify anyone's actual preferences.

Expand train system to cover more of Atlanta and reduce reliance on busing.

get the brightest to become teachers and pay them accordingly so they will stay teachers and then leave them alone

Other Category Comments

Ensure access to quality affordable childcare, preschool, and pre-k (helps parents return to work and improves life chances for kids)

Increase the police force and aggressively reduce crime.

Provide more enrichment classes and "out of the box" teaching methods, and encourage creative thinking

Finish the beltline!

work with more programs that are in place regarding homeless to help educate public and to give hope / help to homeless to re-enter the working world

People should live close to work.

More police protection, more arrests, something to make it safer to live in Atlanta

Require higher driver standards.

People just don't know how to drive!!

TOO much overbuilding and construction on less than 1 acre of land - tighten up Building Regulations.

Incentivise Organizations to move to Atlanta and hire local resources

Connect residences to Job Centers.

Get lazy minded people off welfare immediately.

If law enforcement doesn't enforce the law (burglary), then none of this matters.

Improve/shorten timing of lights. Some of the length of time for each cycle is ridiculous!! People will then be forced to pay attention and may be even less likely to use their phones while driving.

The private sector, charities, churches - ecumenical

Inducements to encourage not just STEM students but particular specialties such as materials science and microbiology.

Provide more assistance to youth who do not have support at home - more after-school activities and enrichment opportunities. More summer activities

Provide more assistance to youth who do not have support at home - more after-school activities and enrichment opportunities. More summer activities - year-round school would help tremendously for those youth who have no parents at home and whose parents cannot afford to put them in camps or summer activities so they get into trouble.

Encourage community involvement, & listen

My suggestions have already been provided.

Suggestions have been provided.

Suggestions have been provided.

Suggestions have been provided.

Other Category Comments

A special focus on low space intensity, high tech. Ex. Clean room type industry. Ex. hi-tek catheter extrusion

Make sure ALL roads are paved!

Emphasize the family unit.

Provide a hand up not a hand out.

More sensitivity to motorists re: construction. Construction should be shut down and cleared out if possible during rush hour and take up as little space as possible.

School vouchers

The key word is all

Giving people in positions already the tools they need to advance to higher positions, in that way we don't have to pay to attract outside state candidates.

Any and all of these options should require voter approval.

Incentives and advantages should be the same for all, not for a select, chosen group

Make HOV time of day

Make HOV time of day
and make a breakdown lane on the inside(next to the barriers)

Public Art projects designed with community input (versus elitist expressions that insult) don't come under lowest bid protocols. Hence can be used to employ more of the neediest without time pressure. Offers some therapy and a way for those with no job reference to get something

SIGNIFICANTLY reduce the amount of police in Gwinnett County. It is ridiculous and wasteful to have county and city police. Gwinnett County police should be abolished.

If the political arena would stop playing little I'm and Big You'S, we would all be better off. There should be a greater meeting of the minds. All of this unnecessary bickering that takes place just takes away from the greater issues that need to be addressed. Show our children that politicians can work together for the good of all.

This Web site is messed up, you need to fix it. You have this problem with this Facebook, etc sitting right in the middle of the submission page. These are just some of things people take of. Seemingly no one really checks to make sure things are working correctly. Do we have people who really care about doing things right? Wow, this just shows we still. Have a long way to go.

develop maps offering suggestions of backroads instead of only interstate options.

Atlanta has the most disproportionate distribution of wealth in the entire country. This is shown best by the "food deserts" around the city. The are mostly around people of lower incomes which is unacceptable in a city that strives to be "world-class".

Other Category Comments

If Atlanta would like to compete with other major cities accessibility is a major concern. Driving is not a sustainable nor sensible way to access a major city.

This would be a great area for Atlanta to make a big push to keep talent in Atlanta. There are several world class universities, notably Georgia Tech that produce engineers or varying degrees and many do not call Atlanta home after graduation. In order to keep that talent there needs to be incentives to stay and contribute to the community.

Comcast needs to be reigned in....seriously they are basically organized crime and hurt Atlanta business and residents.

Ensure Georgia is not dead last in social issues that would prevent innovators from considering the state. We need to emphasize freedom, from pot to gay marriage. If our image is "so conservative we make Texans blush" we won't get the right people.

Institute a green roof program akin to Chicago.

An integrated approach considering all options listed is critical to success.

Fund and replace an aging infrastructure.

Train system should go to surrounding counties, e.g. Cobb, Gwinnett. If this is done, bus service would not have to be expanded. Think of cities like NY and how comprehensive their subway system is.

Keep the new stadium OUT of Cobb County.

Develop new solutions to address the panhandler problem in Downtown Atlanta so that locals and tourists can both feel safe there.

Continue to develop contacts through Ga Tech and its entrepreneurs' contacts.

Develop the beltline initiative and business growth in those area in metro and outside.

Encourage community gardens and outreach from the agricultural outlets. Set up gardens in vacant lot areas for communities.

the solutions offered are so general as to be essentially meaningless

Road sharing and carpooling incentives.

Community Gardens

Crowdsourcing historic resources would help people feel invested in their communities, especially younger people.

Develop an outer loop, particularly the northern arc.

more public art!

Who is paying for this?

need low density building

Build new alternate routes to include a tunnel beginning with 75 (entrance near 285/75 and exit south of exit 218)

Other Category Comments

Reward/encourage employers to allow more people to work from home.

I'd like to travel but I need a job first.

expand subway service to outlying areas

Provide programs beginning in grade school that encourage math and science. The Science/Math Fairs and the Gifted Students programs are examples. Show the students the long term advantages of learning.

Ensure safe, enriching, and affordable child care is available for working parents during regular business hours.

I oppose further growth of any kind. This city is a shithole.

Evaluate Cloverleaf interchanges in many of the major expressways

Suggestion-TOLL ROADS Proved profitable with 400 toll booth. Many other states do it and get things done

Create 1500-5000 sqft community co-working centers across the region with WiFi, chairs and worktables to allow the rapidly growing self-employed to work together and network.

Strengthen Public Safety departments (DVPD, DCSO) by developing administration and adding officers.

400 is the tech corridor

Deep wells

Recruit

teach people how to follow the existing rules and be aware of other people on the road.

DRIVE COURTEOUSLY

add an outer perimeter on the northern arc

Add more roads.

Promote the support of local resources through campaigns that encourage purchasing items and food products locally.

hire teachers who are committed to improving our school ratings

Look into police confiscation of ID of homeless people. It's a real barrier to them getting services and back on their feet.

I don't have a solution... my solution is to live in Peachtree City (We call it the bubble). One of the best places to live in the USA

Gwinnett Great Days of Service is a great model for ways to get community more involved. ARC could sponsor and support duplication among other communities.

Claim our right to the Tennessee River that runs through Georgia (or where the border was suppose to be.

this addresses many of very important issues needed in Atlanta, Student at tech

N/A

Less luxury, more practical solutions.

Other Category Comments

Great and easy way to get buy in. It would be great to post this to LookUpATL.org

This survey looks amazing. Great job on the layout and format.

Great survey! Love what you guys are doing.

Atlanta has so much potential that can be realized through quality planning.

I'm happy to see an accessible method of obtaining resident feedback about the ARC plan.

As an urban and regional planning student, I am very interested in the implications for this update to our regional plan. If there is any way that I can be more involved, I would greatly enjoy the opportunity.

Would love to join or be apart of the ARC one day. Time to make things happen and it starts with all of us coming together as one with peace and love.Keep all negative aside in order to progress through the vision. We are all equal no matter were we stand.

Great effort

I'm highly interested in any job opportunities at ARC.

East-West Corridor from Macon to LaGrange

I'm a former city manager and believe in all the initiatives set forth in this survey!

Thank you for making Atlanta a better place!

I would like to see the results of this survey. Will you be publishing a report, and if so could you send it to participants?

Thanks, great survey.

Without a clear, obvious, and well-sold plan for the next decade of growth, Atlanta will fall badly behind other, more-attractive cities such as Chattanooga and Charlotte, and even colder cities like Minneapolis. These other cities all have a well-defined identity and are digging a lot of ground to remain attractive and to become more-so. What's Atlanta doing to become attractive? (. . . aside from the Beltline, which isn't a City project nor even a state one).

a good start to a Regional Plan...easy to get some very basic input from a broad range of stakeholders

Last mile connectivity needed to make incremental improvements to public system; also a program for achieving greater school bus riders imperative!!!

bring tsplast back :)

There is nothing in this survey that is 'bad' or should not be pursued...it's just all about priorities

EMORY SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL

Please consider more than female and male for gender. You could add "transgender" or "other." That way you include everyone in your categories. Thanks.

Thanks for asking! Wish more public policy allowed for this level of feedback with this ease of input.

Other Category Comments

CMTA is always crowdwd. Everyone but emory employees are able to get seating. (30) minute schedules should come into play.

The success of ARC will depend on its ability to regulate inter-county practices and develop a comprehensive plan without the limitations of county specific biases.

This survey is tooformulaic, broad and only addresses the obvious. 25 years and more ago the scorecard was the same and we are still on it. The questions you ask look like headings for a final report which is already drafted and for which you are only looking for endorsements. This same-old,same-old exercise is tiresome and aggravating.

Thanks!

If nothing else changes I hope the transpertation piece gets better

I am concerned about your sampling methods. They do not appear to be random. However, the survey format is very nice.

Where the contrarian is not heard there is no change.

Support the Complete Streets initiative.

Excellent public input tool

Good luck! I hope this plan is implemented!

Great format....needs wider range of choices

I'm a Landscape Architecture Fellow at the Atlanta BeltLine.

Thanks for asking for my opinions. I am eager to see what happens next.

Survey limited one to only one most favored and would automatically swite an earlier "favorited" to "yes".

Thank you for inviting input fromthe community

Go ARC!

work from home, company based in 94010

Thank you so much for requesting input in a convenient way!

Thoughtful questions and answers

none

Thanks for asking for the input.

Need more accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.

No comments

I hope that our State Legislture will look into make the ARC Region 10 leadership those who were elected to office by the voters of Region 10! for the 2nd time we have a "Real Estate Developer" who like Mr. Leithead is not accountable to the voters. Mr. leithhead wore way to many hats including working as "Consultant!" to the same people are looking to benefit from deicision made by the ARC Region 10!

Have the ARC leadership be accountable to the citizenry. Try not to behave like you are in DC.

Other Category Comments

Let me know if there are any committees that you need idea people to serve on. I'm willing and able.

We greatly need more accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board!!!

Do not think in term of who it was 'when I grew up" Think in term of how you want it to be for your kids kids to grow up.

Our roads won't handle that many more people in the next 25 years. Something drastic needs to be done to accommodate all those people.

Economic Developer and social engineering professional and Small business consultant.

Why does race always have to be included in this equation?

more accountability for the citizen/ members of the ARC and may I add what does race have to do with this. Is this not for all and not for a few chosen

Some things the govt just is not responsible for... Do the things govt should do and don't overreach...

Thanks for asking.

Thank you for this. It is so important

Retired librarian. Have lived in Lilburn unincorporated area for 40 years.

Sometimes we need to step back and assess whether we are benefiting or harming humanity with current level of governance.

Need to get away from GIVE AWAY programs, and establish priorities for individuals willing to WORK. They must have (OR LEARN) the skills. Have learned after living all over the world that HUNGER IS BY FAR THE BEST MOTIVATOR of people to get off their duffs and WORK! We do not want this region to turn into another Detroit; Gary, Indiana; Southside Chicago; or Washington, DC!

Focus on teaching self sufficiency, accountability, respect for others. Try reducing regulations where they serve no useful function to the community.

Stay out of my business.

Equal opportunity for all

Thanks for the opportunity to be part of this effort.

stop spending !

Thanks for asking!

Retired

Volunteer Nonprofit promoting safety in greater Lilburn

Seeking full-time employment.

Clever. Part push-poll, Part way to generate targeted leads.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment and participate!

I dislike being called WHITE!

Other Category Comments

Retired, Atlanta native. DT Atlanta has been greatly improved.
All metro areas need to be as well

I drive from Snellville to Smyrna five days a week and see it all.
Ga. DOT doesn't have clue. All your little city police force on
285 should be banned.

Some of the things I said no to was not because I was against
them, but they should be handled locally - not regionally

Thank you

There's nothing here about reducing crime; which is rampant in
urban such as Atlanta, Marietta and other cities.

I am a Nurse, contract.

Fayette County needs to pull out of the ARC. I see zero benefit
for Fayette County

no additional comments

too little accountability for citizen board members of ARC

Stop

Wonderful. On the right track. Now please help the Cityhood
movement become coherent and be fiscal to the region. Where
are uouninall of this ??? We need the ARC input

Unaddressed mental illness that attributes to much of our
homelessness and crime will destroy this city if not totally
resolved.

This survey is very limited and confusing, even to a college
educated person in the transportation engineering industry!

I Love The Area Where I Work!!!

"If you work"yeah, because everybody can't sit at home and
watch TV all day while collecting welfare checks and EBT cards.

Please consider prioritizing solutions within ranked priorities

Don't make this a 1% win - make this truly for all!

I'm looking forward to seeing the plan come together and
reading more in the future.

I volunteer at the Frank Bailey Senior Center in Riverdale and
work under the auspices of the ARC. Your current work is
phenomenal and I have watched for over 8 years how your
planning continues to help the Atlanta Metropolitan Area at your
yearly breakfast meetings in downtown Atlanta.

Thank you for asking our opinions!!

College student

Thank you for creating and distributing this.

More accountability for the citizen members of the ARC Board.
BTW - the survey yes/no options were inoperable in most of the
emphasis areas.

Section 3 would only let me thumbs up or down a limited
amount of items.

I completed all sections but your progress bar seems to think I
didn't. Oh, well.

Other Category Comments

Just here for the opportunities that don't exist where I'm from.

Thank you for providing a great survey format!

Retired

Local is almost always better.

All regions in GA need to be dissolved and place governance back in the hands of citizens who ELECT those that represent them.

Regions are Unconstitutional.

Another useless survey. \$\$\$ will be the only thing that drives Atlanta.

Love ARC's work!

Regional control by unelected, unaccountable 'citizens' is a soft-start intro to back-door socialism. The ARC is, IMHO, an extra-legal entity and should not exist in its current form. This includes the so-called Community Development orgs.

The People ask - who do "Appointed, Unelected Individuals" serve? Answer: Developers, Corporations, Politicians, other entities. . . ? Remedy: Empower The People - The Power of One!

Loose focus on regionalism. America was founded on actions at the community level. Regionalism causes loss of local input and gives omnipotence to appointed bureaucrats.

I hope you will start by not trying to change the By-Laws of the ARC, so that it is easier for you to cover things up not be transparent!

thank you for asking my opinion

Thank God for ARC

There is too much waste in spending.

Stop asking about peoples race! It has nothing to do with any of this!

Very liberally biased survey

I work from home as a Certified Paralegal and have for the past several years.

I am sick of the ARC being run by business people profiting from our higher prices. It should be an enforceable law to arrest any members who have conflicting business while a member. Prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

secretary

Thanks for asking!

I am a professional transportation engineer, who may be moving from the region.

I am not for Agenda 21

i really think that all of these things are really important. It is very hard to choose which are more important than others.

Aspiring Civil Engineer. Would love to internship here.

Other Category Comments

These "goals" appear to have been written to draw pre-determined conclusions. I can't imagine this survey will help you learn anything new, and as such, it's a wasted effort for everyone involved.

No Agenda 21. Let it all happen through private resources.

God Bless Atlanta

I'm a professor in Sustainability and business at Georgia Tech (<http://cbss.scheller.gatech.edu>) and also involved with Sustainable Atlanta and the Lifecycle Building Center.

hope we can do it!

None

I don't currently live in Atlanta, but have for the past several years. I love what is happening in its urban areas and marvel at the potential it has. I want to see something great built.

No more resources for Homelessness until a reasonable standard of behavior is attained in the public realm.

Happy to be a part of the community and have a voice in it!

This survey is not mobile user friendly.

Looking for affordable living closer to work that is affordable while I return to school and is pet friendly. Not a lot of options!

thanks for asking!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback - this was a fabulously written and executed survey! (From someone who administers surveys for a living...)

I'm a stay-at home mom that has not returned to work yet. My husband drives to work area code 30346.

We need more regional solutions to our regional problems, not for parsing into smaller political entities that attempt to ignore our regional problems. These solutions are not free, but will require community decisions to invest in our communities.

I've lived in Suwanee my whole life. I am excited to see that we are actively trying to make Atlanta a better place.

Will be working in Ponce City Market soon.

Cobb County resident since 1994.

Actually I am retired

Make the greater Atlanta area less car dependent!

The leaders of metro atlanta counties and cities need to lead. It seems everyone will not work together and there is a lack of trust - making atlanta better will involve all the metro areas as well.

The "Choose Solutions" section of this survey could be improved. The instructions ask the respondent to rate options based on two sides of a scale (most/least important), then offers a dichotomous response system (like/dislike). This will cause ambiguity in results.

Repeal Regionalism

I would be happy to contribute, be involved and volunteer for any committees or groups.

Other Category Comments

This is a great start. I wish all metro Atlantans were able to participate in this sharing of opinions.

very well done survey!

I also have a residence in 30310.
Keep up the good work!

Incent municipalities to implement "real" Complete Street policies.

This looks very familiar. I may have taken it earlier this year but thought when I started that it was a new survey.

Thank you for putting this out into the community.

I am a musician, I work all over the metro area and at home.

this was hard. the way you view the questions are not the way i've ever thought about our community before.

I am retired but volunteer with several groups related to my former field of expertise.

The survey showed a flag that my answers were saved, but I had a hard time getting it to reflect on the screen. I think it worked for me after multiple attempts, but I am concerned that the results of this survey may not reflect our views accurately, since it was difficult to save the answers.

I'm new to Atlanta. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

I hope that you are successful in coming up with a cohesive plan that everyone can get behind

I lived in in-town Atlanta for 30 years and know some of the problems it faces. Some of the issues are daunting and require someone with real vision to sell the public on any new ideas.

CPACS Center for Pan Asian Community Services

educate public about city/county ordinances and enforce them

Thank you for the oppty to give feedback. Wise choices always pay off long-term.

Program Manager for Senior Services

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my input.

Architect!

Thank you!

Race shouldn't matter in the suvey.

Thank you for reaching out for public input!

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input! I'd love to see our region learn from some of the "best practices" in other parts of our country and around the world.

alternate email address: spirwin@outlook.com

The direction of our cities and counties are creating a state that is moving toward a type of feeling of isolationism. We currently have 130+ counties throughout the state, with only a few that is living above the poverty level. If the current trend of we can do it better as a small city continue, our metro will be as our counties are, small minded and stressed.

Other Category Comments

I like the idea of broad participation in these surveys. But the instructions didn't always match the options.

Less social engineering, more practical solutions.

Nicely done!

A great city or region is one that invests in ALL of its people, and consequently everyone can thrive.

Have Gwinnett county stop restricting beekeeping and urban agriculture.

Native of Atlantan for 30+ years... considering moving back. Worked for Midtown Alliance for 4 years in sustainable transportation.

As far as methodology, this is one of the best surveys I've ever taken! Loved the design, layout, easy for non-tekkie people like me - kudos!

I am semi-retired (30 yrs with AT&T) and now self-employed.

Thank you.

Great survey!

I should plan everything for atlanta and its regions.

We need a London Tube style metro system. Like yesterday! This is how growth and development will occur. It could be the largest public works project in the nation and would serve to build Atlanta as a truly international city.

love the format!

teacher

This was a great idea to get input without leaving your office or home. thank you for inviting the input.

Thanks for asking. In Douglas County we are often overlooked as a "metro county".

eliminate legislator input and control and leave decisions to experts and the people.

Creating a sustainable future for the area is very important to me. However, so is helping less-fortunate neighborhoods and the homeless WITHOUT the gentrification of them that tends to raise property values and push the poor and PoC that live there out.

This is a great survey! Please continue to solicit input from the residents of Metro Atlanta.

Thanks for the survey.

Thanks!

good survey instrument

Thank you for considering community input! Looking forward to continued improvements throughout Atlanta!

Please please please add additional lane from 316 west from Sugarloaf Pkwy to I-85

I want this to move faster!

Other Category Comments

I am a Main Street Manager for a small community in the metro Atlanta area.

I like this survey. I typically don't like surveys.

I am happy to assist in any project to bring a better Atlanta, and Rockdale County

I am willing to be part of a group of people that works on some of these area.

I am cautious to enter my race because I know my opinions won't count once you find out I am not considered one of the 'minority'.

Retired and would like easy access to all venues with driving so much.

Good luck! It is hard job, glad ya'll are on top of it.

Please continue to keep the public informed and updated on changes taking place. Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts.

Enhancing creativity and public gathering spaces is good for a feeling of well-being and community. (Like the Beltline)

Safety and security of residents in the Atlanta area should be the number one priority above all else.

Don't be afraid to think a little more about the needy and to curvy less favor with the greedy

Make sure your ideas/policies trickle down to the people on the street. Don't sit in an office and have a meeting to tell your plans, get those plans outside to the individuals who need to hear them - those who need to do the actual work to get things done.

I am retired military.

Excellent Survey! Thank you for the opportunity to voice my thoughts.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of projects and activities underway in the Metro Atlanta area that do not support the goals described in this survey. I consider many of them the result of bad politics and favoritism towards big business and cronies in city, county and state governance.

Good Luck!

retired

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

Thanks for the survey.

Will you actually take comments under advisement, or is the outcome pre-determined?

Thank you for taking the time to get community input and please help me stay involved, especially with the upcoming elections. It would help to know what candidates I should vote for based on my priorities and helping implement this plan.

Thanks!

I plan to retire in downtown Atlanta. I need to return home.

Other Category Comments

I look forward to seeing the results of this survey. I'm excited for what Atlanta could become.

I plan to relocate to the Atlanta area within the next two years and would like to see the regional develop to a major hub like NYC and DC.

I have lived here only for a year and have noticed many unaddressed issues with the city.

I love this city and wish you all the best in planning its future.

Thanks!

Please do keep in touch and let me know how I can be involved in the ARC. I work for an ad agency, but am extremely interested in urban and regional planning.

Definitely interested in how I can stay involved and make an impact into the future of our region. Am an officer within my Home Owner's Association and would be willing to help spread the word or get others involved. Thanks.

Currently a student in New York hoping that by the time I decide to move back home the Atlanta area will be something we can all be proud of.

Go team go!

It's very difficult to prioritize these topics, considering I see value and importance in every single one. Anytime I elected "no," it was simply because I want to allocate comparable resources to other "solutions." The ones I picked, I believe, will help in the short-term so that we can address ALL concerns in the long-term in an effective manner.

Moved to Madison because it was a small town. I do not want to see Atlanta consume it as it has other communities. Atlanta needs to build UP, not OUT.

I've lived in Atlanta for 23 years, no foresight into all of the massive growth is one of its biggest downfalls.

Well thought-out survey. Thanks!

Thanks for listening!

Thank you for running this survey, I hope it helps

It's awesome to see that citizen feedback being gathered. Thank you!

I'm doing this because it is important to me since I plan on moving to the region within the next one to two years

Atlanta residents need a mindset shift. Rather than thinking of themselves as residents of a particular city or county, the region residents need to recognize that they are part of a greater statistical area that prospers or fails as a whole.

Other Category Comments

It would be nice if Atlanta focused on community gardens. Maybe save some green space and plant fruit trees (non gmo). With the population raising, more and more trees and Forrest will be torn down. Some consideration for our wild life would be great! We only get one plant!

Yes, I work out of state most days - otherwise I work at home 30080

Love that Atlanta is taking the initiative to ask its residents what they want from their community. Just hope that this advice and input is taken into serious consideration!

Thanks for asking

Good luck! You have one job, don't f*** it up!

I vote and I do not forget.

Former Atlanta resident...would love to move back some day if a comprehensive plan makes it a more livable, equitable city.

I would love to be involved in this planning process if you are considering including average citizens.

Thank you for your hard work.

Work location will change next month to Buckhead from Midtown

Could have put a directions box on the page. I went back to previous slides/pages to rearrange the order of the ranking priorities and couldn't get the directions on how to do it. I did it though,

It is a good start, but what about the building and permitting process? Police and Fire resources? Crime reduction?

I've been an Metro Atlanta resident all of my life. This is where my entire extended family has lived for generations. I feel as if the voices of some of the long-term residents are being drowned out by the wishes of the huge number of transplants who are accustomed to a different lifestyle.

great survey! design-wise and question-wise

City - County consolidation. Start with Atlanta/Fulton. Add Dekalb and Cobb. We need to function as a region. We can move that direction over the next 26 years I should think.

Holly Springs P&Z member

I am not connected with any group, but would like to become involved in the planning process. I am retired and would like to see volunteer opportunities for individuals like me. I want to see more involvement.

I truly do not believe this survey was written well or asked questions which will lead to useful quantitative results.

Thank you for doing this survey!

Lack of foresight and planning decades ago has led us to our current state. Time to fix that oversight with COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL planning.

Other Category Comments

Good luck!

Survey does not lend itself to underscoring the importance of an integrated, comprehensive incremental approach over years. That is what the plan should include, in my opinion.

Not in favor of toll roads and such

Thank you for taking the time to get the people's opinion. This is a wonderful thing. Thank you!

This was a GREAT survey!! Very interactive and I love the option for comments. Well done ARC, I look forward to having my voice heard through future surveys!

As you can see I am a Progressive, meaning good government works for the people not just the wealthy or corporations.

Great survey. Insightful questions. Very engagement layout.

The ARC needs more teeth and more buy-in from the State. Once the State legislature gets on board, the ARC can really do what it needs to.

It is important that the commission not get spread too thin and stay focused on its core mission. Some of these topics are better handled elsewhere.

ARC needs to enhance programming for aging in place and highlight communities that are making bold steps to integrate an aging communities into suburban areas where apartments and density prevail as an argument to stop new multi-family developments because the 55+ communities could end up converted as apartments for all ages at a later date.

Clean the city from trash, homeless and trashed poor maintained roads and freeways.

many of these questions seem like apple pie and motherhood issues. Who would be against?

Thank you for involving the community. Please do more to make sure people are aware of the ways they can contribute.

Read Jeff Speck and Donald Shoup.

Non-profit org.

none

I sincerely hope that this survey will not only get attention, but will as have some positive results.

Thanks for the survey. I would like to have answered yes to all.

Thank you for offering this important survey. I look forward to reading the results, and learning how they influence the ARC's Plan 2040

Thanks for the opportunity to be included in this survey. I do hope my comments are considered.

Get rid of Park Atlanta. What a stupid idea!!!

Thanks for doing this! Have to think long term!

Other Category Comments

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to participate. It is an excellent idea to get input from the community. I'm looking forward to the next step.

Good luck !

Atlanta metro is stuck in a rut. It is still too car-focused, worker unfriendly, and infatuated with the private sector. Think more like Bill de Blasio

Get this survey to high schools (public and private).

very nice survey. We definitely have to think and act regionally based on the upcoming growth that is predicted. No county or group should be shut out of the process.

seemed so general and ill-defined, it was hard to disagree with anything. I question the value received. Many alternatives didn't seem like real choices. hopefully things get more specific as you proceed

Thank you

More communities built near large business areas promote shorter driving trips

Focus on economic issues, incentives for business not restrictions, get better elected politicians and appointed officials-clean up the incompetents and self-serving current officials

The more local control the better dont need feds or state doing it

HOLY COW!!

I hope the intentions behind this survey are sincere and that my views and opinions are actually heard/read/considered. My age, gender, ethnicity are irrelevant, in my opinion--the required demographic data can be mined elsewhere. I live here, and have lived here for over 35 years. I care about this place . . .

The survey was well prepared, and user friendly. What a pleasant surprise! Lots of accolades to the IT professionals that created the survey. The questions and available responses were on point and thought provoking. Good job!

Every county that borders Fulton should be a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission. Carroll and Coweta are not included. Henry and Rockdale are and they do not even border Fulton county. The make up of the ARC appears to be random and lacks uniformity.

Thanks for all you do!!

Regional summit needs to inform the Atlanta regional population of up coming projects and proposals

Thanks for the opportunity to give input. I think that South Metro has excellent potential for numerous advances.

This is Ralph Moore, former mayor of Union City and ARC board member.

hard to navigate this survey on my iPhone

Other Category Comments

Appoint experts in the fields being worked on and take the planning and "leadership" out of the hands of politicians.

This appeared to be an intense survey mechanism but it turned out to be easy to do quickly and thoughtfully- nice work!

Thank you for making a way for our voices to be heard.

Create incentives at the State level for Counties to buy into this or we will continue to have a fragmented approach to all infrastructure needs in the Atlanta metro area.

Public transport brings undesirable elements to the area. It seems that all new business come to the City of Atlanta and not here in Clayton County.

Great survey but not too specific about actual action items.

Thanks for the opportunity to have input in this important process.

Born and raised in Atlanta, and want to see it survive and thrive for my grandchildren's grandchildren to enjoy.

We need these programs in Paulding county!

If so called leaders approach the future with blinders on then real social change is futile.

Thanks for a creative and fun survey--only the best from ARC employees!

You should also discuss fund options and consequences.
thanks for asking.

For my time & effort completing this survey, I would very much appreciate getting a copy of others comments regarding this survey. Thank You. I hope that I haven't wasted my time with this.

Atlanta has the potential of being a national leader in all of these area; now it is time to work together to achieve these goals.

Please keep up informed.

Thank you!

Thank you for your efforts.

Thanks for seeking community input.

architect

Thank you for letting me give my opinion

I will be glad to work with future planners of metro Atl as I am an engineer.

I like participating in regional planning and currently am part of the outreach/ social media group for Concerned Citizens for Cityhood of South DeKalb.

You need to add "Two or more Ethnicities." My father was Spanish (born in Tamp and spoke the language), my Mother's family spoke German and French even though the off spring didn't learn the languages.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input! These issues impact us all, and finding ways to engage the public is important! Thanks for what you do!

Other Category Comments

I work freelance in the film and television industry.

Why is my race important? Or even gender and age? It seems to be the tune lately.

AP human geogRAPHY CLASS OF 14-15 YEAR OLD
MALES/FEMALES

Thank you.

This survey was put together very well. Its interactiveness made me want to complete the survey.

I hope that this commission is dedicated to listening to the citizens of the City and that this survey isn't just a smoke show.

Don't be afraid to look at examples outside the US ... the Netherlands, Belgium...Get also recycling a must: batteries, light bulbs,... Make free drop-off containers available at various locations ... Follow California for glass recycling ... look around you and take the best!

Excellent survey. User friendly and very, very well designed. Kudos to ARC.

I would like to have my area redevelop into nice single senior living and streets repaved. Thanks.

Home Care Provider

Everything mentioned has merit. Do it all.

Please include the voices and opinions of people with physical and intellectual disabilities as you make all of these plans for the future.

I am very interested in making the Atlanta region the best it can be!

GA can be the promised land in America. Think Big God Damn It.

I found the survey format a bit busy and confusing

Sustainable equality for all areas is crucial

Leaving Atlanta in 176 days

Thank you!

The Facebook, twitter, email etc. icons in the middle of the screen are annoying as hell. They often block seeing what you've written in your comments and you trip them inadvertently if using a touchscreen device. Please redesign the site so they are somewhere else.

Proud Atlantan!

why do you always request my race when I cannot ask a job applicant his or her race?

This city promotes hate toward whites in all of the black colleges. Why?

prioritize reducing income inequality and wealth inequality

I'm a pastor of a church that has just planted in East Lake. We really want to stay connected to this initiative.

Thank you for including me.

Thank you for attempting to involve the community in solutions.

Other Category Comments

I am a person with disability who is trying to work and be independent, self-sufficient and stay out of debt, rather than be on public assistance.

Thank you!

Thanks for this convenient input opportunity.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to participate.

THANK YOU FOR REACHING OUT. ALL ISSUES OUTLINED ARE VERY CRITICAL.

Until we stop bowing to conservative political forces within the state, you can poll, survey and question citizens all that you want - things are not going to change..... Change the politics & you can change this state....continue with the same and we will continue to get exactly what we now have... It's unfortunate but it's true - the ARC is great but look what happened to the TSPLOST - we kill the good in search of the perfect....

I work with the geriatric population.

The development of this commission to study, plan and develop real solutions for the problems affecting our cities and towns and their citizens is remarkable. Please keep up the dedicated efforts.

UGA

Regional dialogue is needed to agree on strategies and tactics or plans won't be realized.

Hi - are there opportunities to volunteer with the ARC? I would be interested in learning more about that. thank you! Mary 404-256-5646
www.linkedin.com/in/marynford/

It is good to know there plans being made to prepare the region for a better future. Thank you.

none

Thank you for this!

N/A

Would really appreciate more police presence in our neighborhood.

I'm an Atlanta resident and homeowner who just moved away for a couple years to start graduate school. I can't wait to move back to Atlanta because I think it has incredible growth potential.

Thank you! This was an excellent, and well thought out survey.

I really appreciate what you have done and are doing.

Promote assimilation rather than cultural isolation

N/A

We need to feel safe and look at all the issues to best resolve.

I really enjoyed answering the questions presented within this survey...

Hispanic/Latino = ethnicity. White/Caucasian = race. These are not mutually exclusive, nor do they imply "Two or more races".

Other Category Comments

Transport!

please improve our school ratings-for our kids and for increased property values-druid hills should not be the only place where schools are rated 6 and above

n/a

peace love and happiness

You are a superhero!

planning is great but lets see how easy this is to implement some of this stuff!!!

I'm an entrepreneur and community builder.

Wish it were possible to list more than one recommendation as "favorite" solution. Some items should be done in simultaneously.

Georgia Tech Student

If you need volunteers to help on this project I might be able to help.

Almost none of these high-minded ideas can be implemented--ever..The ignorance slothfulness of inner city Atlanta will drag down all worthwhile efforts--we are,in fact, a poor version of Detroit--putrid!!

Thank you, great interactive survey - asks the right questions and allows meaningful input

Thanks!

Thank you for seeking community input for future plans!

Safety within all neighborhood.

Preparing for the radical demographic changes that will occur in the near- to middle-term(aging, increased ethnic diversity, etc.)

More clean energy options

Secure national border, with controlled immigration.

Low carbon footprint

Public safety...safe communities, safe streets. Atlanta is a very scary place!

Public safety

#4. Reduce crime & violence

#5. Provide Pre-K to all children

Reduce crime & violence

Promote understanding and collaboration to blur the lines between racial and ethnic groups and economic classes

Provide employment

Grow into a top flight pre K-12 public ed system.

Pay attention to what is needed for our community to survive and be attentive each other's needs!

safe at home

need good police watcher

schools

Less federal control, more local input

Other Category Comments

community preparedness for older society

Infrastructure!

Infrastructure! Better planning of roadwork. DI SOMETHING about yhe bottlenecking onto I-20 downtown!

Deal with the homeless situation

Send all racists, Specially the back ones, back to the north. Period.

Secured, Well Maintained Communities/Neighborhoods

Investment in schools.

Meaningful and rewarding job opportunities for Senior Citizens

Developed a well educated workforce that everyone will benefit from.

Secure food supply

Transparent rotation each month

this is a great start

utilization of existing space; undeveloped neighbors; empty strip malls....occupy what is there before building more.

Definitely what Atlanta needs if they are to progress

no. build wider high speed roads

Above all most important.

If this is not fixed will be last when competing with carolina and Texas.

We need to compete with cities like New York, Chicago, Boston even Baltimore.

The only way the city will survive and people will be mobile and permit visitors ability to 'see' Atlanta.

When the people are educated and aware of importance they make the rest will happen.

Please do!

Please do!

Yes!

Yes!

Include the paving of the roads in these communities. With pot holes, debris, etc., the appearance severely brings down a community.

There is a lack of opportunity for those college educated , over 40, who got dumped in the great recession. I am still trying to find full time work and i am being discriminated against because of long term unemployment and age.

With Ga. Tech, UGA. Ga. State and Emory as well as Mercer and the TCSG I think we are on our way. but we need to continue to grow in that area to attract more innovative and futuristic companies.

Yes, that is exactly what we should do. I think we are looking pretty good in that area already. we should be at the forefront of revolutionary ideas.

Other Category Comments

Business is what helps us grow, so this too is very important. How do you prioritize? These are all very important priorities.

To better our city and bring in the next generation - this too is very important.

Sense of belonging and ownership in our surroundings is very important to me.

This success area will increase our economic development opportunities so much!

Although I do not rank this as the top 3 for my priorities, this aspect should be highly valued and prioritized. I think of Atlantic Station and the The Avalon in Alpharetta when I think of this. These are monumental projects that gave Atlanta a great urban presence.

With many technology companies putting regional hubs here and relocating here, this is a no brainer. We may not compete with Silicon Valley, but we can definitely continue to attract regional and district offices. Google, Yahoo, Twitter already have regional offices here. Continue in the technology trend with attracting support companies and data centers, as these and startups has been an Atlanta strong suit in recent years. Build on it and the growth and appeal will impact more companies.

Metro Atlanta needs a comprehensive conservation plan

Well not sure what that means entirely... sounds like the highly developed and well educated workforce

If you have the others - this will follow

It need for all over the state,

This should be the core - neighborhoods are the key to all the other elements.

Fortunately this does not need a high priority in the southeast due to abundant rainfall.

good idea that is important for the future progress as a ideal place to live, work and play.

I feel we are doing a great job in that area but we need to involve the community for suggestions and ideas

we definitely need this

A system similar to the one in the District, Maryland & Virginia Region. Also, another system connecting the Metro area to Savannah & Tennessee.

a place to feel secure

a small percentage of our time

needed for new steps forward in science

no brains no forward movement in anything

This one goal would actuate some of the others listed.

Other Category Comments

This tied to the educated workforce or economic development, but it's difficult for me to prioritize as a stand alone category.

There are neighborhoods that need revitalizing so that people will live there, rather than simply building more neighborhoods.

Educating our children on the importance of conservation is the first step. Then have them in turn educate their parents, siblings, and friends. We keep trying to teach old dogs new tricks. I say start with the young pups, it's easier going and more far reaching in its effects.

Everyone would like to see their neighborhood look good and crime free.

I would like to see this all over Georgia.

look at the street and fix them in every neighborhood not only in buckhead.

Look in to make a train system that will go from here to Augusta to Macon, to Savannah and back to Atlanta. So if I work in Savannah I can work in Atlanta and be here by 8:00am

We should have built the "Northern Arc" 20 years ago. It would be coming online now. (Outer perimeter I-20 W to I-20 E)

Crime must be stopped.

I could care less!

Steal it from TN.

the other issues can be solved with educated workforce

We already have this working in our favor!

Yes, let's work to have the ATL as an Innovative Hub in leadership

agree with proposal. less mc Donald's and more scientific industry

Cobb County riders comprise a large percentage of revenue, but service is lacking significantly. it prevents me from access to ATL on weekends

This is critical to the future

The drought of the last several years demonstrates the importance of a secure supply. Nothing much has been done.

Georgia Tech is already doing this

Good luck

Look into the programs in San Francisco especially for seniors.

people in Atlanta don't walk, they drive

A more advanced system is needed which should be able to take riders all over the state to their destination.

I live in Lithonia, GA and this is truly needed --- if our City is revitalized like this picture portrays, we would have a better community.

Without a sound and sustainable infrastructure Atlanta will not maintain any prominence in leadership/technology

make affordable

Other Category Comments

more socialism

Homelessness is one of those unfortunate things that all cities seem to have problems. These are human beings, created by God, whose lives have gotten turned in the wrong directions somewhere along the way. Some can be helped and some are beyond helping. Drugs and alcohol have been easily obtained and this needs to be addressed. Christ said, "If you did it to the least of these, you did it to Me". We need to reach out and help some way. May God give us wisdom to address this matter.

Yes I agree this would be a plus, but we have more pressing matters that need to be addressed before the arts culture and artsrelated experiences. This would help those that have the means to participate but there are too many less fortunate persons throughout our region. The wealthy would benefit from this but not those is low income families.

People do not like to be involved as then everyone complains to them it is always sad that 20 % of people do 80 % of the community involvement. Encourage children to become involved and stay involved. Add the elderly to some type of project so they are involved. The middle aged people need to be involved through their childrens school and they need to help teach children to be involved in their community.

Work with the food desserts and encourage a community to keep the land and property clean....I am not sure how to do this in a blighted area. it needs to be learned and enforced as not one likes a ugly, messy dirty neighborhood.

This is a national problem, creative solutions and collaborative efforts to house first, then wrap services are essential

This is important, however it is a more local, neighborhood issue. Also, many neighborhoods do a good job of this already.

Not only in low income areas but, there are some new developments areas that the close present of a full function grocery store is nil, let say within a 5 city block radiance.

We should all be allowed to enjoy our arts culture and there should be here in Atlanta a excellent sample of the different arts and culture, because we live in a very diverse city.

I would expand this to middle income areas as well.

Would like to see more regional (county) clothing and food drives for the homeless and foster care. This will can help with residents supporting their own regions and not just the popular drives.

There are ways for people to engage should they choose to do so.

The best social program for the poor.... Is a job! Not handouts.

Not only low income areas but you have people that have this issue that may not necessarily living in low income areas

This is critically important but I am not sure we know what to

Other Category Comments

fund.

It seems that we are talking too much about this subject already. No need to provide still more information.

Let's not create dependency; absolutely no way should we do anything of this sort. All of Mexico will arrive on our door steps. Thank you.

Maybe that is an idea, though those of us who are inclined to be active in the community know how to make something happen and get involved.

Good but not a priority. People will gravitate as their interests dictate.

I would need data on this. How big a problem is homelessness in Atlanta? 20-25% of homeless people have mental illness and is the 3rd largest cause of homelessness. Unless we are going to provide medical help for these people, homelessness will always be a problem. Encouraging food drives, volunteers and researching best practices on dealing with a homeless population is the better answer I believe.

s

mostly private resources

This is key!

Ask major insurance providers like Kaiser and others to step up their partnerships with opportunities to educate people about "food is medicine..." Kaiser is already doing a lot...others need to get on this bandwagon. Particularly in the lower economic communities... urban gardens...etc.

I tear up every time I see homeless people, even when I see senior citizens walking miles from a bus stop with grocery bags and other bags in their hands.

I just think that more can be done. More resources allocated to them.

We have the CDC here as well as American Cancer Society here along with renowned institutions like Emory, CHOA, and WellStar. There is no reason this should not be campaigned.

Yes, but this is not solely on placing 'Whole Foods' in impoverished areas, the community has to demand it. If these are placed in impoverished areas, how long would it take for these establishments to go out of business due to cheaper alternatives.

Georgia has plenty of arts venues/events. More than most states.

The internet has more than enough information. It's available to most.

This may not be a problem throughout the region, but it definitely needs to be addressed downtown Atlanta.

Other Category Comments

Reach out to national fraternities and sororities to adopt an area, building, room in a shelter, etc. to keep up, decorate, or provide necessary items. Televising their donations or efforts.

"Homelessness" is a complex issue. I am not sure what is meant by "increase public ...resources". I have no problem with private resources.

I am not sure what you are talking about. Anyone who wants to be involved can do so now.

Run them out of town

It would be nice to have a more diverse and affordable arts culture and experiences than we currently have in ATL due to our reality as a mecca for African Americans.

There are plenty of ways for people to become more involved in their community. Those who care, participate. Those who do not, do not participate.

Who designed this survey?? Come on, there are more important topics that we need to address for the region!!

How about increasing local neighborhood structures like the NPU and Athens-CC NNI to all core counties? Don't give lip service to participation while clinging to the bottom rung of Arnstein's ladder.

The more we improve in this area, the more we attract homeless from the surrounding southeast. If we could solve, that would be nice, but am afraid this is up there with world peace.

I'd say that opportunities exist. I feel that it's more of a matter of clarifying or targeting participation and involvement.

INCREDIBLE LEVELS OF OBESITY

INSTEAD OF TURNING EVERY FESTIVAL INTO A BAZAAR OF THE SAME VENDORS

INTEGRATED INVOLVEMENT

Cultural Arts and social pleasures are important but they need to be revised to fit the interests of the current populations. It seems to me that younger generations are moving away from the old-fashioned ideas of sitting and listening to the orchestra, maybe need to update the presentation of this to generate non-traditional interests.

there are plentiful abandoned buildings that need to be torn down/renovated or otherwise repurposed, many of these are in areas where homeless persons tend to stay as they are skirting the developed areas but in the "shadows" enough to not draw attention. Reuse Repurpose Recycle, but have them get involved. Some homelessness is a choice due to mental issues and or choices made about fitting into societal norms etc.

Coalition of the Atlanta universities

Everyone should be provided necessary shelter which should be funded on some level.

Seems like the more resources provided, the greater the

Other Category Comments

problem

Love the symphony but a lot of the stuff that passes for public art in this city is terrible. Think of the stuff that was installed for the Olympics.

There are plenty of opportunities if you are willing to put down the phone and get off the couch!

But we need to make sure they are receiving it and not those who do not need it.

Mostly definitely I do have some awesome ideas for helping with homelessness if anyone is interested

Even more important to address the root causes of homelessness, usually related to mental illness or addictions.

Art and culture should be broadly interpreted> a variety of offerings in smaller scale can be more interesting than a single mammoth project.

If there is a market business' will move in for the opportunity provided it is a safe place to do business.

One man's art is another man's offensive past time. . . What do you mean by "art"?

This should be private

Thru private efforts only

All companies should be provided access to these incentives not just high tech startups.

more socialism

this is plain socialism

Unfortunate we have a large percentage of youth walking the streets and not interested in learning new skills and maintaining a regular job. I question, How can they be motivated to work for a better life?

If we are truly a world class city, they will want to here regardless.

We are too research-oriented now. What is needed is commercialization.

We need good math & science, not the junk being peddled as "Common Core".

Have a committee review several broadband companies to ensure our citizens are getting the best service.

other nations are paying for their students to study in the US (China, Japan, India, etc.) see recent Brookings Inst. report. why are we not fighting for locals to have the same opportunities?

universities are already busting our piggybanks.

let the free market take care of this

let the free market take care of this

Making Atlanta a destination for high tech startups is a low priority. Making it a green tech location would be more interesting.

Also essential

Other Category Comments

Don't know much about this.

Good idea. Realistic?

With accountability for resource usage and results.

Yes but there are many in existence. Focus on other strategies.

Need more information

This is especially important and we could use our library systems to assist in low- income neighborhoods.

Atlanta is already a trendy city with startup companies. Once again, EMBRACE it and NURTURE it. It will only enhance the appeal not only to startups, but to well established companies as well. This leads to partnerships and mergers between startups and established companies.

I am not saying home economics and other curricular are not important, but technology is the way of the future. American youth needs to be prepared to compete in technology on a global scale.

Please see my response to the "Ensure reliable, equitable access to broadband internet throughout the region" question.

The internet is going nowhere and is only going to grow. Imagine the vastness of space, well, here you have the similar vastness of cyberspace.

I am aware of Atlanta selected as one of the cities for Google optics to increase the internet speeds here. We are on the verge. Do not wait for opportunity to come knocking, open the door and not only invite opportunity in, but HOST the opportunity. Nurture the opportunity and potential to grow it beyond initial thoughts.

This gives the impression to companies that Atlanta work together across all facets of stakeholders.

It has a greater appeal when everyone is working in synergy.

YES. The silos dividing private with public and gov'n't must go. We all need to work together.

This option could turn out to be a political nightmare! All areas should have highspeed internet access!!

Not just the youth but to all income brackets that have suffered a loss of income due to the economy.

It really depends on who pays.

Maybe you need a "maybe" option. The devil is in the details.

I like this, yet think it would be abused. Political favoritism would put investment in certain locations driving property gains for the well connected.

I think GT is already doing this

Key areas? I'd have to see which areas are considered "key areas" and understand why.

Other Category Comments

Research on what? Most research are found to be false years after the research was done. Take for example salt consumption and the number of eggs they claimed we are suppose to eat.

GOES BEYOND AGE

WHY NOT ALL LOCAL BIZ

needs to be hands on type "real world" training and partnerships to be effective.

Internet providers should be regulated similar to the way phone company's once were. Provide the "pipe" in a neutral way.

There were a lot of pipes installed around the time of the Olympics, are they full with camera feeds?

I'm not sure about this one either concerns are fraud and PII

I'm not sure about this one to many people are already dealing with fraud and PII

We need to help our youth, because they are our future; and our seniors because if it were not for them we would not be where we are today!

However, be frugal in giving away public monies or future sources of revenue.

Not against this, but let these groups develop these partnerships on their own.

If there is a demand for a service some one will provide it. "equitable access" sounds like a plan to rob Peter to give Paul free stuff. If you want work for it.

Let people pay for their own stuff.

Maybe; I barely understand the question

close the digital divide. Internet access should not be for those with \$\$\$

look at touchdown centers/ mini office spaces for major employers with concentrations of employees in a neighborhood/ region;

First bring back the character and integrity of the neighborhoods then maintain it.

I own my property. I can do anything I want to it. What ever happened to property rights

Build communitis with stores underneath living space. Encourage live, work and play communities.

Encourage Historal preservation and give tours of neighborhoods.

The ARC should come to the table with Major Developers when planning new places of business. We need to get our citizens out walking.

community creates safety and security and you will return to the ways of the 1950's when neighbors knew neighbors and supported each other as needed.

Other Category Comments

This is what makes a community great! It has definitely strengthened Gwinnett County.

only in historically significant areas, otherwise, let the free market work

One of the things that I love about Atlanta is the flavor of different neighborhoods. We need to keep that going.

It depends

Yes but not all neighborhoods need all lifestyles.

Everyone wants to have a sense of community. Strengthening this bond will assist in the upkeep of the community and create a bond between all residents, regardless of differences in age, income, and race.

Make every neighborhood more desirable to live in.

I am torn between this. I am all for gentrification. However, you have to take into account, putting poverty and lower class in middle and upper middle class neighborhoods. Section 8 is a great reference to lower income bringing down a community or property value.

Not a high priority if the plan is to move to a less car dependent city.

Some neighborhoods have a strong sense of community that should be encouraged, while others need a complete change. Neighborhoods will always be changing and we can't be too stuck on the now. Some neighborhoods will be lost to provide for the improvements for the greater good.

Yes with the understanding - things don't stand still will need quality redevelopment to prevent decline

This is a solution that should be left up to the local community.

This solution is a local solution.

only increases car use

See comments about transportations.

And safe and secure

unfortunately ,Atlanta has lost a lot of its character, appealing to the Hollywood crowd.It feels as though we are all over the place in our building,some could call it eclectic,but it looks as if we build without a plan of what the city will look like as a whole. African-American communities have suffered the most because the city doesn't invest in them, they just come up with ways to move its residents for the betterment of big business and the convenience of young white Americans.

Yes, this is good as long as it can provide broad appeal for all demographics in the area this is being served.

Instead of offering options/choice, consider making travel reliable and efficient.

There are times I like to drive so I'll leave this one up to the majority

Yes, as long as people are not being pushed out of their homes

Other Category Comments

But encourage ownership and have low income participants responsible for the upkeep and appearance of their community to instill pride in the surroundings.

Common city or regional database to communicate events, arts, etc. Currently, information is "available" but difficult to find because it is too fragmented.

stay out of the real estate business.

Why?

I think this is the way to attract young, smart people to the city. Already the belt line is too narrow. People of all ages benefit and the city in turn benefits by having productive populous .

ponce or other artery roads where development is planned/ built

Lines already operate well

the most expensive option.

More specifically, re-work E-W arteries to be continuous-flow, with roundabouts, jump-overs and jug-handles.

The network of the interstate system in the Atlanta is rated as a poorly designed system. The State of Georgia had an opportunity 30 years ago to have a northbound exit ramp off I-85 heading north on SR 400. What happened? Heads were buried in the sand saying it would never be needed. I pray that we have learned our lessons from this method of poor planning.

absolutely!

enough already, haven't we tried that already?

Starting repairing the roads with parts of Campbellton Roads. And of course infrestruction need serious attention and be quick about it.

to some roads - but not the interstates...

This could help, but not long term solution

only to the extent that the service is self-supporting financially

This has to be the number one priority if we are really going to be a GREAT community.

Fix the 400-285 interchange and the 285-20 interchange

We're too hilly

Yes. But job centers shift. What is the threshold for high capacity?

This is great, but only after we have succeeded in repairing and maintaining existing roads and bridges.

Only where other alternative solutions don't address the need

Not only with the job-centers but also with the neighborhoods.

We must have more roads! These roads must be free of tolls!

Regional bus services should be available on the weekends.

Only in some cases and only as needed as required by growth.

A must and the sooner the better.

Another must and the sooner the better.

Other Category Comments

This could be helpful in a few areas but this will not solve the problem or help much.

All regional counties don't necessarily want this.

More isn't necessarily better.

The citizens of individual regional counties should have the option of whether or not they want expanded bus services or any bus services within the individual counties.

Not necessarily. However, more cut through routes should be opened up. Eg, Plaster Ave should cut through to Peachtree. E. Paces Ferry should cut through to Lenox, Ga. 400 south should go into a tunnel and come out at I-675 with exits at Freedom Pkway, Freedom Pkway should go into a tunnel & come out at Stone Mtn Expressway.

Who can argue with the Beltline? It will lead to rebirth to adjoining neighborhoods wherever it goes.

We need a subway system that actually connects all of Georgia, plus the proposed bullet line between Miami, Atlanta, & New York

Currently unpopular, but critical for long term growth.

But NOT all at the same time! Leave at least ONE freeway available to get around while others are being worked on.

Yes, yes, yes!

only where practical

This would be a band-aid at best and would hinder future sustainable growth.

Not a great solution to an already heavily congested area.

should be a component of any plan

I'll let the majority rule

I'll let the majority rule, however, something needs to be done

Expand bus service BY coordinating across county lines

And involve communities and civic groups by letting them adopt sections of the routes. Also add solar lighting and seating with some being weather covered along.

Unfortunately, most of those in the Atlanta area WILL not ride a bus. EVER

The City of Lithonia and surrounding areas seems to be forgotten --- it takes me approximately 2-1/2 hours one way to get to work and then another 2-1/2 hours back home.

This is badly needed.

This is badly needed. I am appaled at the streets in downtown Atlanta where we have a constant stream of visitors --- this needs to be fixed.

A priority. People want to drive. Major truck carriers are on our roads. They must be maintained on a consistent basis.

tell the feds that drains into Lanier belongs to Georgia first.

Other Category Comments

tell the feds that drains into Lanier belongs to Georgia first. The no new reservoirs need to be built.

take steps that do not infringe on private property rights

I'm not sure about the pros and cons with this option.

Within reason.

It would truly depend on where the reservoirs are located. This has become a political ping pong and is disastrous for some areas. This should be a last resort...but at least think the placement through based on sound reason...not political favors!!!

Look at what Atlantic Station did for the Steel Mill and the 4th ward in Midtown.

Need I say more.

We have too many houses on very little land and it needs to stop!

Really don't know enough to suggest this.

Control flooding.

Especially if those areas are lived in. Hold the polluters sensibly accountable.

Atlanta needs more new development, not less. The kinds of policies suggested here may result in a Portland or a San Francisco, but the average Atlantan cannot afford to live there. Atlanta can do better.

Drive along Campbellton Road or Allison Court and you will see abandoned properties that have been boarded up for years. These properties have a much more perverse effect on the community, yet the city delays in condemning and razing them.

I dislike this. Intellectually we'll be better off if we start earlier. Practically, we'll suffer a backlash if we try to implement too soon.

This tends to be more abusive than effective.

Not sure where this would work but if it is feasible why not.

within reason-ie. not protecting 500 sq miles for one bird...

New reservoirs are imperative to continued growth in the region. Period.

the impact should be managed to limited the impact not the development

I thought this was already done

Yes, as long as you aren't putting people out of their homes to do it.

Be careful how this is done. Do not "limit development," but rather "limit the impact of development." VERY different things.

No opinion - not informed about this

Limit the influence of the EPA and protected species.

Other Category Comments

Of course everyone would want this but Atlantans have been burned by sinking a lot of dollars into a system, APS, that shows no results or even worse results in scandals. This is too broad of a statement to be helpful in any meaningful way.

school choice

Add Charter School, support homeschooling, use technology for learning.

Call out experienced seniors for training and educating our youth to work, using skills taught.

It's not that I don't think this is important, I just think there are other agencies that can focus on this priority.

Make SBA loans obtainable.

Create more scholarships and grants for the "B" and "C" student. Often these students want to go to school, but often are limited by finances. Because they are not "A" students they often do not qualify for scholarships/grants.

shouldn't we already be doing this?

Most important

through allowing increased number of school districts to ensure local control

The floor needs to be raised. ALL students need to be performing at a higher level. Check out Cincinnati STRIVE

There are a lot of organizations doing this already.

I think any job, working at McDonald's gives people skills that they can use to progress in their careers. People need to have a reality check that you don't graduate from college and make six figures. There's competition and people need to put their pride aside and just work! Heck, I cleaned toilets before I got my job and landed in Law School.

Incentives are helpful but the recipients must show results for incentives to continue.

An educated population is a productive population.

Yes! We must support local business and be supportive of small business too. This is what sustains communities.

Diversify the locations and types of opportunities recruited to the region/state

Make it affordable to the residents.

It's not just youth that needs this opportunity but to all those adults that have been "downsized" to poverty levels

Needs to be more specific

Again, not just the youth, but all ages. As we move into the future and with projections showing we are living longer, make it equal opportunity for all who want to take advantage of such!

Who "provides"? If a person really wants to get ahead, why do they need incentives to improve?

Other Category Comments

And provide incentives through quality job opportunities so that graduates want to stay within the region.

I view this as economic development, not education. Important, but wrong bucket.

This is by far the most important item. Improving the public school systems so ALL students get a quality education is critical.

Yes, but only if the business that benefits helps pay the bill.

Providing incentives and assistance to local residents is most important because we don't want to have employers relocate and not find a skilled workforce.

Targeting elementary and middle schools is the foundation to building a well-educated workforce...igniting a fire to learn.

Employers should have more entry level positions without prior work experience.

employer training should come from the employers.

If improving your & your family's situation is not important enough there isn't enough incentive from Govt. available.

Why does it just have to be youth? Let's get other age groups involved.

Depends on whose demanding

This is especially needed in and near poorer communities, especially without pricing them out of their communities.

The pros and cons of every offered incentive must be carefully considered.

I don't see many night courses offered in my county for self improvement and new skills. If I want to learn how to weld as a hobby why do I have to enroll in a 2 year course plan?

stop spreading the Hope scholarship thin. It should be for college not every program that can be dreamed up. DO NOT means test HOPE eligibility. It should be open to all those who excel.

Depends what and who decides what quality and affordable mean. This should be up to each individual.

This is great and all, but if people are coming from outside of Atlanta to benefit from these opportunities and the residents of the city are not given first dibs at job participation then we're still failing.

last time I check grades 1 thru 12 were free schools.

Expand the Quick Start program.

Not only youth, but adults who need job training. Support technical and community colleges.

Get the public schools right first. Provide a high quality pre-k through 12 experience and the rest will come on its own.

U.S citizens,

elevated people movers downtown, airports,

Other Category Comments

Again. All good options. Can we do everything?
We should not dilute efforts by doing too much.

So many of these strategies are lime Mom and apply pie. How could you say no?

Work with others across the country to figure out why so many kids drop out of school, feel hopeless... fix the cause, not put a bandage on the problem

Not turn the need to educated and train our people into the fiasco the Hope Scholarship is....the people running it are highly paid and the students needing it keep losing benefits.

Encourage greater use of flex hours, job sharing, and telecommuting.

Paying more attention to those neighborhoods teetering on the edge of surviving or decaying should be a major focus point in getting vibrant neighborhoods. Rebuild these neighborhoods and the surrounding areas will thrive as well.

Partner with the unused potential of the private school population.

Expand capacity of existing non-freeways

co- ops

The HOV lane that stops at 285 needs to continue all the way to Bartow County.

Contrary to public claims, crime is a significant problem in low income neighborhoods. Landlords set standards for the communities they manage, so police should be much more supportive, particularly in terms of prompt evictions, prompt apprehension and prosecution of criminals, and minimal harrassment.

Incorporate sustainable and universal design into all development.

All of these pieces have a place in the plan.

Provide very high quality city/county programs for youth and families that are connected to schools to address childcare, after school care, and weekend enrichment.

will send email about hub and spoke office model

I like taking surveys. Thanks

Thank you for providing this survey.

Thanks for asking.

Make ARC board entirely elected officials. Developers should not be eligible.

I hope to become a sustainable city planner in the future. If you have any internship opportunities available, please let me know at camilladartnell@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Other Category Comments

Planning is essential for Atlanta. I realized that most serious planning in Atlanta began in 1992, just before the summer Olympics. Atlanta exploded without proper preparation we are putting patch over patch, we need to really plan for the future.

Keep sending out email about our opinion

It seems like most of the options have a social welfare skew to them. I am much more interested in long term economic competitiveness than social programs to coddle those that can't compete successfully.

glad to see ARC leading the charge on this...

As a visitor to Atlanta, I would like to see one of our great cities here in the South continue to be at the forefront of planning.

Very good survey. I'm curious to see the results. Very tough to choose among the answers, since most everything mentioned is very important to our city of the future.

Create an Urban Growth Boundary and focus development in areas where walkability is feasible.

I am a certified commercial investment member (CCIM) I practice Commercial and Residential Real Estate Brokerage and Consulting in the Atlanta Region.

Good Survey! glad i was able to participate.

Is the board and/or staff of the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts and Cultural Coalition still a part of ARC? If so, who are they and what function do they serve?

Give Maria Sotnikova a full time job.

Southern Poly Civil Engineering student

Thank you for helping create a bright future for Atlanta.

You did a good job of keeping the survey, focused, short and easy to use

Nice survey. Well done to the marketing/research folks. #hatsoff

This is an awesome idea. I will pass this along to all my friends and family.

Thanks for this opportunity.

The ARC has helped make this region great and this kind of thinking is essential to keep us moving forward together in a safe, desirable city. We can be considerably better. Thanks for the ARC's leadership getting us to be one of the top urban areas in the country.

as a native of atlanta, it worries me to see historical structures torn down instead of preserved

Please keep me informed of upcoming events and surveys. I enjoyed and felt empowered giving input.

Wish you lots of success

The growth our community always be on the minds of our representatives,our children are our investments. Thank you for your hard work & your finished work. Keep going never STOP.

Other Category Comments

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments on these most important issues.

State of GA

Keep up the good work and keep listening.

This was a great survey! I have been in the Atlanta Area for nearly 30 years, I hope to be here at least 30 more and would love to see some of the recommended changes take place.

Please consider the aged and disabled population

Building community with involved, knowledgeable citizens will help engage local resources to address the many challenges listed in the survey

Thank

The questions all seem to be 'leading' as positive questions and very few 'tough choice' questions.

none

Good survey.

Interesting plans. Need more information and support to and of the public

Retired Educator/Administrator

Looking forward to seeing the final regional plan

I manage working class apartments all over the city. I understand what it takes to make these apartments clean, quiet, safe communities.

Me and my husband are white Americans between the ages of 25-39, with two college degrees. Our combined income is less than 50,000 per year. And I was diagnosed with cancer. If you want to improve the state of affairs in Georgia you must improve them for all not specific cultures or races. I realize that I was given everything I ever needed in life to succeed because I was born white. But this reasoning of unfair advantage based on skin color only furthers internal strife. By which Georgia will never be able to rebuild and further its economic development.

born and raised in Atlanta
still love the city

Encourage diversity and economic parity for all

Atlanta is disgusting in the area I have to work

To attract income through tourism from external visitors and Metro area residents, clean up the downtown area. It stinks in the ten block area around Five Points. It is dominated by homeless and vagrants and it is a huge eye sore.

Your questions were designed to elicit yes responses. This isn't a survey designed to determine what citizens want as much as a survey to justify current public policy

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. This is a wonderful initiative. I hope I can help more again.

Other Category Comments

Survey was a little difficult to complete, please work on it a little more, then again it could have been the trouble that's between the computer & the chair.

Thank you for the opportunity to commend on this!

I would love to review the results of the survey once results have been compiled.

TOO MUCH justification information on the first 30 pages. I would have liked to read a summary of the plan. Based upon this survey, there is no real plan yet. I could have summarized the first 40 pages in about 3! Waste of working/busy person's time. Cut to the chase and summarize issues. Way too many pages and mired down in obvious facts and details - - -too many pages to explain Atlanta growth trends - way too many pages justifying the regional plan. I wanted to read "The Plan"!

n/a

I think I said enough, Thank You for asking..... :)

OUTSTANDING SURVEY FORMAT Kudos!

Thank you for your hard work

Actually, I could care less about 25 years from now since I plan on retiring elsewhere in 13

Can this survey be designed for the collaborative leadership in my community? If so, how do I make it happen?

Holler, holler, holler

Good luck filtering and prioritizing these! So many of the options are positive things that I would imagine lots of people would support.

Safety within all neighborhood.

Preparing for the radical demographic changes that will occur in the near- to middle-term(aging, increased ethnic diversity, etc.)

More clean energy options

Secure national border, with controlled immigration.

Low carbon footprint

Public safety...safe communities, safe streets. Atlanta is a very scary place!

Public safety

#4. Reduce crime & violence

#5. Provide Pre-K to all children

Reduce crime & violence

Promote understanding and collaboration to blur the lines between racial and ethnic groups and economic classes

safe at home

need good police watcher

Less federal control, more local input

Infrastructure!

Infrastructure! Better planning of roadwork. DI SOMETHING about yhe bottlenecking onto I-20 downtown!

Other Category Comments

Deal with the homeless situation

Send all racists, Specially the back ones, back to the north.
Period.

Secure food supply

Transparent rotation each month

this is a great start

utilization of existing space; undeveloped neighbors; empty
strip malls....occupy what is there before building more.

Definitely what Atlanta needs if they are to progress

no. build wider high speed roads

Above all most important.

If this is not fixed will be last when competing with carolina and
Texas.

We need to compete with cities like New York, Chicago, Boston
even Baltimore.

The only way the city will survive and people will be mobile and
permit visitors ability to 'see' Atlanta.

When the people are educated and aware of importance they
make the rest will happen.

Please do!

Please do!

Yes!

Yes!

With Ga. Tech, UGA. Ga. State and Emory as well as Mercer and
the TCSG I think we are on our way. but we need to continue to
grow in that area to attract more innovative and futuristic
companies.

Yes, that is exactly what we should do. I think we are looking
pretty good in that area already. we should be at the forefront of
revolutionary ideas.

To better our city and bring in the next generation - this too is
very important.

Sense of belonging and ownership in our surroundings is very
important to me.

Although I do not rank this ask the top 3 for my priorities, this
aspect should be highly valued and prioritized. I think of Atlantic
Station and the The Avalon in Alpharetta when I think of this.
These are monumental projects that gave Atlanta a great urban
presence.

If you have the others - this will follow

It need for all over the state,

Fortunately this does not need a high priority in the southeast
due to abundant rainfall.

good idea that is important for the future progress as a ideal
place to live, work and play.

we definitely need this

Other Category Comments

A system similar to the one in the District, Maryland & Virginia Region. Also, another system connecting the Metro area to Savannah & Tennessee.

a place to feel secure

a small percentage of our time

needed for new steps forward in science

no brains no forward movement in anything

This one goal would actuate some of the others listed.

Educating our children on the importance of conservation is the first step. Then have them in turn educate their parents, siblings, and friends. We keep trying to teach old dogs new tricks. I say start with the young pups, it's easier going and more far reaching in its effects.

I would like to see this all over Georgia.

Look in to make a train system that will go from here to Augusta to Macon, to Savannah and back to Atlanta. So if I work in Savannah I can work in Atlanta and be here by 8:00am

We should have built the "Northern Arc" 20 years ago. It would be coming online now. (Outer perimeter I-20 W to I-20 E)

Crime must be Stopped.

I could care less!

Steal it from TN.

We already have this working in our favor!

Yes, let's work to have the ATL as an Innovative Hub in leadership

agree with proposal. less mc Donald's and more scientific industry

Cobb County riders comprise a large percentage of revenue, but service is lacking significantly. it prevents me from access to ATL on weekends

This is critical to the future

The drought of the last several years demonstrates the importance of a secure supply. Nothing much has been done.

Georgia Tech is already doing this

Good luck

A more advanced system is needed which should be able to take riders all over the state to their destination.

make affordable

more socialism

Other Category Comments

Homelessness is one of those unfortunate things that all cities seem to have problems. These are human beings, created by God, whose lives have gotten turned in the wrong directions somewhere along the way. Some can be helped and some are beyond helping. Drugs and alcohol have been easily obtained and this needs to be addressed. Christ said, "If you did it to the least of these, you did it to Me". We need to reach out and help some way. May God give us wisdom to address this matter.

This is a national problem, creative solutions and collaborative efforts to house first, then wrap services are essential

I would expand this to middle income areas as well.

Would like to see more regional (county) clothing and food drives for the homeless and foster care. This will can help with residents supporting their own regions and not just the popular drives.

There are ways for people to engage should they choose to do so.

It seems that we are talking too much about this subject already. No ned to provide still more information.

Let's not create dependency; absolutely no way should we do anything of this sort. All of Mexico will arrive on our door steps. Thank you.

Good but not a priority. People will gravitate as their interests dictate.

I would need data on this. How big a problem is homelessness in Atlanta? 20-25% of homeless people have mental illness and is the 3rd largest cause of homelessness. Unless we are going to provide medical help for these people, homelessness will always be a problem. Encouraging food drives, volunteers and researching best practices on dealing with a homeless population is the better answer I believe.

s

mostly private resources

This is key!

Ask major insurance providers like Kaiser and others to step up their partnerships with opportunities to educate people about "food is medicine..." Kaiser is already doing a lot...others need to get on this bandwagon. Particularly in the lower economic communities... urban gardens...etc.

We have the CDC here as well as American Cancer Society here along with renowned institutions like Emory, CHOA, and WellStar. There is no reason this should not be campaigned.

This may not be a problem throughout the region, but it definitely needs to be addressed downtown Atlanta.

Reach out to national fraternities and sororities to adopt an area, building, room in a shelter, etc. to keep up, decorate, or provide necessary items. Televisе their donations or efforts.

Other Category Comments

"Homelessness" is a complex issue. I am not sure what is meant by "increase public ...resources". I have no problem with private resources.

I am not sure what you are talking about. Anyone who wants to be involved can do so now.

Run them out of town

Who designed this survey?? Come on, there are more important topics that we need to address for the region!!

The more we improve in this area, the more well attract homeless from the surrounding southeast. If we could solve, that would be nice, but am afraid this is up there with world peace.

I'd say that opportunities exist. I feel that it's more of a matter of clarifying or targeting participation and involvement.

INCREDIBLE LEVELS OF OBESITY

INSTEAD OF TURNING EVERY FESTIVAL INTO A BAZAAR OF THE SAME VENDORS

INTEGRATED INVOLVEMENT

there are plentiful abandoned buildings that need to be torn down/ renovated or otherwise repurposed, many of these are in areas where homeless persons tend to stay as they are skirting the developed areas but in the "shadows" enough to not draw attention. Reuse Repurpose Recycle, but have them get involved. Some homelessness is a choice due to mental issues and or choices made about fitting into societal norms etc.

Coalition of the Atlanta universities

Seems like the more resources provided, the greater the problem

There are plenty of opportunities if you are willing to put down the phone and get off the couch!

But we need to make sure they are receiving it and not those who do not need it.

Mostly definitely I do have some awesome ideas for helping with homelessness if anyone is interested

Even more important to address the root causes of homelessness, usually related to mental illness or addictions.

Art and culture should be broadly interpreted> a variety of offerings in smaller scale can be more interesting than a single mammoth project.

One man's art is another man's offensive past time. . . What do you mean by "art"?

This should be private

Thru private efforts only

All companies should be provided access to these incentives not just high tech startups.

more socialism

this is plain socialism

Other Category Comments

If we are truly a world class city, they will want to here regardless.

We need good math & science, not the junk being peddled as "Common Core".

Have a committee review several broadband companies to ensure our citizens are getting the best service.

other nations are paying for their students to study in the US (China, Japan, India, etc.) see recent Brookings Inst. report. why are we not fighting for locals to have the same opportunities?

let the free market take care of this

let the free market take care of this

Making Atlanta a destination for high tech startups is a low priority. Making it a green tech location would be more interesting.

Also essential

Don't know much about this.

Good idea. Realistic?

With accountability for resource usage and results.

Yes but there are many in existence. Focus on other strategies.

Need more information

Atlanta is already a trendy city with startup companies. Once again, EMBRACE it and NURTURE it. It will only enhance the appeal not only to startups, but to well established companies as well. This leads to partnerships and mergers between startups and established companies.

Please see my response to the "Ensure reliable, equitable access to broadband internet throughout the region" question.

This gives the impression to companies that Atlanta work together across all facets of stakeholders.

It has a greater appeal when everyone is working in synergy.

YES. The silos dividing private with public and gov'n't must go. We all need to work together.

Not just the youth but to all income brackets that have suffered a loss of income due to the economy.

It really depends on who pays.

Maybe you need a "maybe" option. The devil is in the details.

I think GT is already doing this

Key areas? I'd have to see which areas are considered "key areas" and understand why.

Research on what? Most research are found to be false years after the research was done. Take for example salt consumption and the number of eggs they claimed we are suppose to eat.

GOES BEYOND AGE

WHY NOT ALL LOCAL BIZ

Other Category Comments

needs to be hands on type "real world" training and partnerships to be effective.

There were a lot of pipes installed around the time of the Olympics, are they full with camera feeds?

I'm not sure about this one either concerns are fraud and PII

I'm not sure about this one to many people are already dealing with fraud and PII

However, be frugal in giving away public monies or future sources of revenue.

Not against this, but let these groups develop these partnerships on their own.

If there is a demand for a service some one will provide it. "equitable access" sounds like a plan to rob Peter to give Paul free stuff. If you want work for it.

Let people pay for their own stuff.

Maybe; I barely understand the question

I own my property. I can do anything I want to it. What ever happened to property rights

Build communities with stores underneath living space. Encourage live, work and play communities.

only in historically significant areas, otherwise, let the free market work

It depends

Not a high priority if the plan is to move to a less car dependent city.

This solution is a local solution.

only increases car use

See comments about transportations.

And safe and secure

Yes, this is good as long as it can provide broad appeal for all demographics in the area this is being served.

There are times I like to drive so I'll leave this one up to the majority

Yes, as long as people are not being pushed out of their homes

Why?

I think this is the way to attract young, smart people to the city. Already the belt line is too narrow. People of all ages benefit and the city in turn benefits by having productive populous .

Lines already operate well

the most expensive option.

More specifically, re-work E-W arteries to be continuous-flow, with roundabouts, jump-overs and jug-handles.

absolutely!

enough already, haven't we tried that already?

This could help, but not long term solution

only to the extent that the service is self-supporting financially

Other Category Comments

Fix the 400-285 interchange and the 285-20 interchange

We're too hilly

Only where other alternative solutions don't address the need

We must have more roads! These roads must be free of tolls!

Only in some cases and only as needed as required by growth.

A must and the sooner the better.

Another must and the sooner the better.

This could be helpful in a few areas but this will not solve the problem or help much.

All regional counties don't necessarily want this.

More isn't necessarily better.

Not necessarily. However, more cut through routes should be opened up. Eg, Plaster Ave should cut through to Peachtree. E. Paces Ferry should cut through to Lenox, Ga. 400 south should go into a tunnel and come out at I-675 with exits at Freedom Pkway, Freedom Pkway should go into a tunnel & come out at Stone Mtn Expressway.

We need a subway system that actually connects all of Georgia, plus the proposed bullet line between Miami, Atlanta, & New York

Currently unpopular, but critical for long term growth.

But NOT all at the same time! Leave at least ONE freeway available to get around while others are being worked on.

Yes, yes, yes!

only where practical

This would be a band-aid at best and would hinder future sustainable growth.

Not a great solution to an already heavily congested area.

should be a component of any plan

I'll let the majority rule

I'll let the majority rule, however, something needs to be done

And involve communities and civic groups by letting them adopt sections of the routes. Also add solar lighting and seating with some being weather covered along.

The City of Lithonia and surrounding areas seems to be forgotten --- it takes me approximately 2-1/2 hours one way to get to work and then another 2-1/2 hours back home.

This is badly needed.

This is badly needed. I am appaled at the streets in downtown Atlanta where we have a constant stream of visitors --- this needs to be fixed.

A priority. People want to drive. Major truck carriers are on our roads. They must be maintained on a consistent basis.

tell the feds that drains into Lanier belongs to Georgia first.

tell the feds that drains into Lanier belongs to Georgia first. The no new reservoirs need to be built.

Other Category Comments

take steps that do not infringe on private property rights

I'm not sure about the pros and cons with this option.

Within reason.

Look at what Atlantic Station did for the Steel Mill and the 4th ward in Midtown.

Need I say more.

Really don't know enough to suggest this.

Control flooding.

Especially if those areas are lived in. Hold the polluters sensibly accountable.

I dislike this. Intellectually we'll be better off if we start earlier. Practically, we'll suffer a backlash if we try to implement too soon.

Not sure where this would work but if it is feasible why not.

within reason-ie. not protecting 500 sq miles for one bird...

I thought this was already done

Yes, as long as you aren't putting people out of their homes to do it.

No opinion - not informed about this

Limit the influence of the EPA and protected species.

school choice

It's not that I don't think this is important, I just think there are other agencies that can focus on this priority.

Make SBA loans obtainable.

shouldn't we already be doing this?

Most important

through allowing increased number of school districts to ensure local control

The floor needs to be raised. ALL students need to be performing at a higher level. Check out Cincinnati STRIVE

There are a lot of organizations doing this already.

I think any job, working at McDonald's gives people skills that they can use to progress in their careers. People need to have a reality check that you don't graduate from college and make six figures. There's competition and people need to put their pride aside and just work! Heck, I cleaned toilets before I got my job and landed in Law School.

Incentives are helpful but the recipients must show results for incentives to continue.

An educated population is a productive population.

Diversify the locations and types of opportunities recruited to the region/state

Make it affordable to the residents.

It's not just youth that needs this opportunity but to all those adults that have been "downsized" to poverty levels

Other Category Comments

Needs to be more specific

Again, not just the youth, but all ages. As we move into the future and with projections showing we are living longer, make it equal opportunity for all who want to take advantage of such!

Who "provides"? If a person really wants to get ahead, why do they need incentives to improve?

And provide incentives through quality job opportunities so that graduates want to stay within the region.

Employers should have more entry level positions without prior work experience.

employer training should come from the employers.

If improving your & your family's situation is not important enough there isn't enough incentive from Govt. available.

Why does it just have to be youth? Let's get other age groups involved.

Depends on whose demanding

The pros and cons of every offered incentive must be carefully considered.

I don't see many night courses offered in my county for self improvement and new skills. If I want to learn how to weld as a hobby why do I have to enroll in a 2 year course plan?

stop spreading the Hope scholarship thin. It should be for college not every program that can be dreamed up. DO NOT means test HOPE eligibility. It should be open to all those who excel.

Depends what and who decides what quality and affordable mean. This should be up to each individual.

This is great and all, but if people are coming from outside of Atlanta to benefit from these opportunities and the residents of the city are not given first dibs at job participation then we're still failing.

Expand the Quick Start program.

U.S citizens,

elevated people movers downtown, airports,

Again. All good options. Can we do everything?
We should not dilute efforts by doing too much.

So many of these strategies are like Mom and apple pie. How could you say no?

Work with others across the country to figure out why so many kids drop out of school, feel hopeless... fix the cause, not put a bandage on the problem

Not turn the need to educated and train our people into the fiasco the Hope Scholarship is....the people running it are highly paid and the students needing it keep losing benefits.

Encourage greater use of flex hours, job sharing, and telecommuting.

Partner with the unused potential of the private school

Other Category Comments

population.

co- ops

The HOV lane that stops at 285 needs to continue all the way to Bartow County.

Incorporate sustainable and universal design into all development.

All of these pieces have a place in the plan.

will send email about hub and spoke office model

I like taking surveys. Thanks

Thank you for providing this survey.

Thanks for asking.

Make ARC board entirely elected officials. Developers should not be eligible.

I hope to become a sustainable city planner in the future. If you have any internship opportunities available, please let me know at camilladartnell@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Planning is essential for Atlanta. I realized that most serious planning in Atlanta began in 1992, just before the summer Olympics. Atlanta exploded without proper preparation we are putting patch over patch, we need to really plan for the future.

Keep sending out email about our opinion

It seems like most of the options have a social welfare skew to them. I am much more interested in long term economic competitiveness than social programs to coddle those that can't compete successfully.

glad to see ARC leading the charge on this...

As a visitor to Atlanta, I would like to see one of our great cities here in the South continue to be at the forefront of planning.

Very good survey. I'm curious to see the results. Very tough to choose among the answers, since most everything mentioned is very important to our city of the future.

I am a certified commercial investment member (CCIM) I practice Commercial and Residential Real Estate Brokerage and Consulting in the Atlanta Region.

Good Survey! glad i was able to participate.

Give Maria Sotnikova a full time job.

Southern Poly Civil Engineering student

Thank you for helping create a bright future for Atlanta.

You did a good job of keeping the survey, focused, short and easy to use

Nice survey. Well done to the marketing/research folks. #hatsoff

This is an awesome idea. I will pass this along to all my friends and family.

Thanks for this opportunity.

Other Category Comments

The ARC has helped make this region great and this kind of thinking is essential to keep us moving forward together in a safe, desirable city. We can be considerably better. Thanks for the ARC's leadership getting us to be one of the top urban areas in the country.

as a native of atlanta, it worries me to see historical structures torn down instead of preserved

Please keep me informed of upcoming events and surveys. I enjoyed and felt empowered giving input.

Wish you lots of success

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments on these most important issues.

State of GA

Keep up the good work and keep listening.

This was a great survey! i have been in the Atlanta Area for nearly 30 years, i hope to be here at least 30 more and would love to see some of the recommended changes take place.

Thank

The questions all seem to be 'leading' as positive questions and very few 'tough choice' questions.

none

Good survey.

Interesting plans. Need more information and support to and of the public

Retired Educator/Administrator

Looking forward to seeing the final regional plan

I manage working class apartments all over the city. I understand what it takes to make these apartments clean, quiet, safe communities.

Me and my husband are white Americans between the ages of 25-39, with two college degrees. Our combined income is less than 50,000 per year. And I was diagnosed with cancer. If you want to improve the state of affairs in Georgia you must improve them for all not specific cultures or races. I realize that I was given everything I ever needed in life to succeed because I was born white. But this reasoning of unfair advantage based on skin color only furthers internal strife. By which Georgia will never be able to rebuild and further its economic development.

born and raised in atlanta
still love the city

Encourage diversity and economic parity for all

Atlanta is disgusting in the area I have to work

Other Category Comments

To attract income through tourism from external visitors and Metro area residents, clean up the downtown area. It stinks in the ten block area around Five Points. It is dominated by homeless and vagrants and it is a huge eye sore.

Your questions were designed to elicit yes responses. This isn't a survey designed to determine what citizens want as much as a survey to justify current public policy

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. This is a wonderful initiative. I hope I can help more again.

Survey was a little difficult to complete, please work on it a little more, then again it could have been the trouble that's between the computer & the chair.

Thank you for the opportunity to commend on this!

I would love to review the results of the survey once results have been compiled.

n/a

I think I said enough, Thank You for asking..... :)

OUTSTANDING SURVEY FORMAT Kudos!

Thank you for your hard work

Actually, I could care less about 25 years from now since I plan on retiring elsewhere in 13

Holler, holler, holler

Good luck filtering and prioritizing these! So many of the options are positive things that I would imagine lots of people would support.

Carpe Noctem -i.e. seize the night initiative

Work on terrible crime problems.

Address the issue of poverty.

Cyber Security

Cyber Security. Augusta is becoming the US Army Cyber Security HQ and Atlanta is already a hotbed of financial transactions. We MUST address the ever increasing threats against cyber security.

A small community, like family, is where it starts. Maximize the neighborhood with Carpe Noctem -- i.e., maximize the utilization of the infrastructure.

All the foregoing future growth items will create such a hub.

All the foregoing future growth items will create such a hub. Carpe diem and noctem.

Humans are in control, like it or not. We need quality, wholesome, caring, creative, artful and smart humans.

Other Category Comments

With the politics of this region today, I don't see any of these goals being met! Too me this means that ARC must become much more visable and forceful in its presentation to the public. Very few people know about ARC or care!

From Paul Zane Pilzner's book, "Unlimited Wealth," we are not limited by physical resources, our potential is the physical x the human creativity. I agree and think that our future depends at least as much on ingenuity/creativity as it does on our physical resources.

From Paul Zane Pilzner's book, "Unlimited Wealth," we are not limited by physical resources, our potential is the physical x the human creativity. I agree and think that our future depends at least as much on ingenuity/creativity as it does on our physical resources. Atlanta is alaready a hotbed of financial transactions and we MUST address the ever increasing threats against cyber security.

Seems both young and old want the same thing is this regard.

Good luck. The quality of our teachers is horrible - too religious, too political and not well versed in the humanities or STEM.

This is profoundly important. Somehow we are returning to the values of the early 1900s, where community was an assumed virtue.

This should include gun restrictions.

Promote personal responsibility for reducing homelessness.

There are already a million opportunities for community involvement. People just need to CARE more about others.

Encourage voluntarism that helps people get to know their neighbors as well as those who are nothing like them.

I favor neighborhood gardens and farmer's markets.

All of the city should have fiberhoods as we never know whose garage/basement/bedroom will come the next big thing.

Make driving a car a less attractive option than other forms of transport.

That is the responsibility of neighborhood residents.

Carpe Noctem

Carpe Noctem

Carpe Noctem

Carpe Noctem

Other Category Comments

As the region grows, so must the roads, but volume always seems to expand to capacity. Encouraging telecommuting will put less demand on the roads.

Again, as in the comment above, there needs to be some common sense used when determining which projects or problems areas need to be addressed in what priority.

Also, these programs need to be viewed thru eyes that can understand the long range effects of a particular project.

Yes BUT: there needs to be some common sense included in the discussion! Here in the Atlanta area we have done fairly well balancing both needs. However, the balance can be destroyed very quickly if it is not reviewed often by those who can make things happen when they need to happen!

Again with reservations, using common sense!

Again with reservations, using common sense!

With reservations, using common sense!

Start with the Atlanta Prison Farm property!

You could start with the Atlanta Prison Farm property!

Do not give away the city to attract new folks. It is important that they agree to play a role in the quality of the communities (\$\$) in which they reside.

Make nighttime work and activities available

I think these are notable and worthy but more of a private sector issue.

Long term facilities need to be developed for the mentally ill.

Thank you for seeking input. We are in this together.

None. I said it all in my comments with my priorities.

I like that the survey was interactive, short and allowed for comments.
