



THE ATLANTA REGION'S PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Atlanta Region's Plan is a long-range blueprint that details the investments that will be made over the next 25 years to ensure future success and improve our quality of life. The plan, developed with considerable public input, incorporates the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) planning areas – transportation, community development, water resources, aging & health services and workforce development.

The Atlanta Region's Plan aims to "win the future" through collaboration that leverages the uniqueness of the region's communities. The ARC Board has adopted a framework for the Atlanta Region's Plan that focuses on a vision of providing world-class infrastructure, building a competitive economy and ensuring the region is comprised of healthy, livable communities.

The following pages provide highlights of the Atlanta Region's Plan. For details, please visit atlantaregionsplan.com



Community & Stakeholder Engagement

The Atlanta Region's Plan was developed with robust public input. ARC engaged a diverse range of community members to foster meaningful, two-way dialogue and inform the planning process. ARC held more than 25,000 interactions with people during the past year to gather feedback about the Atlanta Region's Plan. Activities included community conversations and discussion groups, online surveys, a regional telephone poll, key stakeholder interviews and equity-oriented workshops.

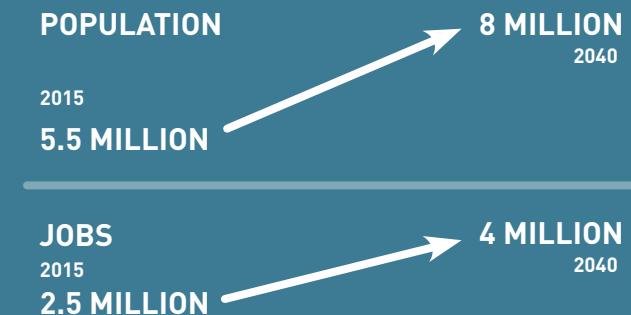
In addition, ARC made special outreach to better engage Millennials at the regional planning table. More than 135 of the region's best and brightest young people were selected to serve on a Millennial Advisory Panel. Panelists offered their insights into how to address some of the region's most critical issues, including transportation, housing and education.



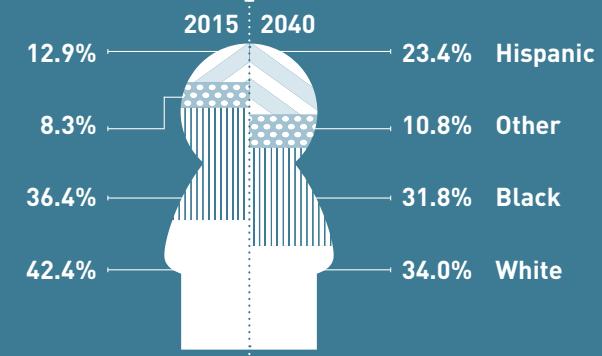
- 16,500**
Online Surveys
- 6,300**
Metro Atlanta Speaks Surveys
- 455**
Community Conversations
- 360**
Leadership Policy Discussions
- 400**
Millennial Panel Dinners
- 400**
Building Opportunity Discussions
- 360**
Leadership Policy Discussions

Population and Demographic Trends

In the next 25 years, ARC forecasts the Atlanta region will add 2.5 million people and 1.5 million jobs. Much of the population growth will occur in existing suburbs. However, significant growth is also expected in the region's core as an increasing number of people choose to live near jobs or transit.



The Atlanta region is experiencing a major demographic shift as Baby Boomers age and lifespans increase. By 2030, one in five residents will be over the age of 60, compared to one in ten in 2010. As our region grows older it also is becoming much more diverse, with minority groups making up the majority of the metro area's population.





To remain competitive and support anticipated growth, the Atlanta region must develop and maintain world-class infrastructure. This includes building a comprehensive transportation network that incorporates regional transit, and securing a sustainable, long-term supply of clean water. The 20-county Atlanta region is expected to add 2.5 million people between 2015 and 2040. Careful planning and robust investment is needed to ensure metro Atlanta has the infrastructure needed for a successful future.

Goal: Ensuring a comprehensive transportation network

The Atlanta region began as a transportation hub and remains a logistics center, boasting the nation's ninth-largest public transit system, the world's busiest airport and the convergence of three major interstate highways. The challenge of maintaining and expanding our region's transportation systems is greater than ever, as metro Atlanta's population is expected to grow to 8 million and a total job base of almost 4 million. The Atlanta Region's Plan includes an \$85 billion investment in transportation infrastructure through 2040, providing new choices for residents and keeping our economy competitive.

Goal: Secured, long-term water supply

A clean, abundant water supply is vital to the continued prosperity of the Atlanta region. Innovative approaches for better managing the supply and quality of our water resources support economic growth, while also preserving the region's natural resources. This type of integrated water management, which includes a robust education program, is a key focus of the Metropolitan North Water District's 2016 plan update.



Historic Old Fourth Ward Park in the City of Atlanta provides an innovative way to manage stormwater runoff, while increasing available green space, trails and playgrounds.

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Action Items:

- Maintain and operate the existing transportation system to provide for reliable travel
- Improve transit and non-single occupant vehicle options to boost economic competitiveness and reduce environmental impacts
- Strategically expand the transportation system, while supporting local land use plans
- Foster the application of advanced technologies to the transportation system
- Promote accessible and equitable transportation
- Support the reliable movement of freight and goods
- Protect water supplies and water quality
- Plan for and implement a diverse approach to sustainable solutions for the region's water and environmental infrastructure



PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Managed toll lanes create reliable travel options

The Atlanta Region's Plan includes the construction of a network of managed toll lanes on key highway corridors, adding new highway capacity and making trips more reliable. Transit vehicles, such as GRTA's regional Xpress buses, will be able to use these new lanes, offering faster and more reliable commutes. The purpose of managed toll lanes is to offer a congestion-free alternative for people willing to carpool, ride a bus or pay a toll.

Expanding the region's transit network

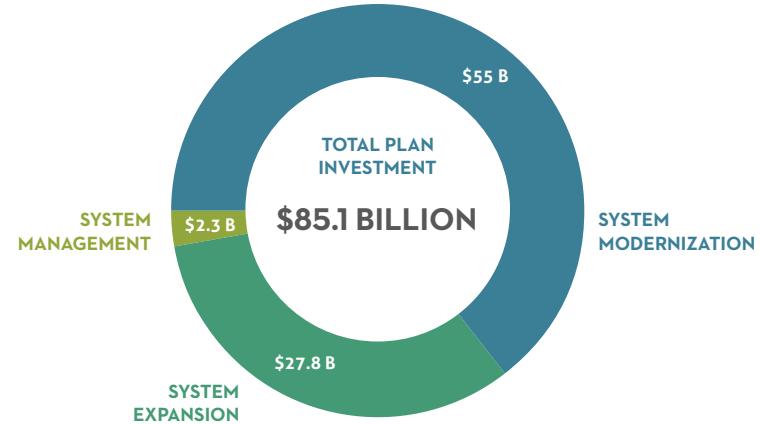
Transit provides people with travel options, serves as the main source of transportation for thousands of residents, helps mitigate congestion, improves air quality and helps people access jobs and essential services. The Atlanta Region's Plan prioritizes \$12 billion for transit expansion projects, including Clayton County, the Clifton Corridor, I-20 East and Ga. 400.

Maintain the existing transportation system and improve arterial roads and highways

The bulk of transportation funding in the Atlanta Region's Plan — \$55 billion, or 64 percent — will be used for maintenance projects such as resurfacing roads, repairing and replacing bridges and replacing buses and rail cars. Meanwhile, arterial and freeway improvement projects will add a total of 963 lane-miles of capacity by 2040 at a cost of \$5.8 billion.

Taking an integrated approach to water management

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) is continually refining its approach to integrated water planning. The Metro Water District and its member governments understand that water is one system and must be managed as such. The District's integrated approach to water supply, conservation and efficiency, stormwater and wastewater seeks to improve our understanding of the impacts, efficiencies and effectiveness of a particular action or set of actions.



The Atlanta Region's Plan invests \$85 billion in our region's transportation infrastructure through 2040, providing new choices for residents and keeping our economy competitive.



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Managed toll lanes are being built on I-75 and I-575 in Cobb and Cherokee counties and I-75 in Henry County, promising faster, more reliable trips. Transit vehicles will be able to use the new lanes.



The Atlanta region is a dynamic place, with a rapidly growing population that is growing more diverse and older as well, as Baby Boomers age and life spans increase. Residents of all ages and abilities are demanding a better quality of life. They're seeking vibrant, walkable communities, greater access to parks and greenspace, and improved housing options, including the ability for older adults to age in place.

Goal: Promoting health, arts, & high quality of life

The Atlanta Region's Plan includes programs, policies and initiatives that are designed to improve the region's quality of life. The plan seeks to encourage healthy activities such as walking and bicycling, provide opportunities for local food production and promote strategies that improve energy efficiency and air quality. It also aims to improve our public spaces with public art and creative placemaking and preserve the cultural and historical treasures that make our communities unique.

Goal: Developing walkable, vibrant communities

The Atlanta region is a collection of historic communities and urban places that people and businesses call home. Making these communities even better places to live, work and play is critical to the ongoing vitality of the Atlanta region. ARC and its planning partners are working to better connect people to their jobs, families and nearby amenities.



The Atlanta Region's Plan invests \$1.9 billion through 2040 for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

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Action Items:

- Improve quality of life at the neighborhood, city, county and regional levels
- In partnership with local communities, equitably and strategically focus resources in areas of need and importance
- Invest in equitable and improved access to a variety of housing, including options for aging in place
- Promote land development that expands the sustainable use of resources
- Improve public health through the built environment
- Integrate sound environmental principles that ensure the region's sustainability
- Promote creative placemaking to build and maintain the character of communities

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Better quality of life for older and disabled adults

The Atlanta region is experiencing a major demographic shift as Baby Boomers age and lifespans increase. The Atlanta Region's Plan includes a range of plans and programs to meet this growing need. ARC provides comprehensive services to older adults in the Atlanta region via its role as the federally designated Area Agency on Aging. ARC's Aging & Health strategic plan, Live Beyond Expectations, is designed to deliver increased support services and provide greater impact, despite a reduction in resources. In addition, ARC's Lifelong Communities initiative helps guide efforts at the local level to create communities that meet the needs of residents of all ages and abilities.

Livable Centers Initiative helps create vibrant, walkable communities

Since 2000, the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program has invested \$184 million in 112 communities throughout the Atlanta region to fund planning studies and transportation projects, such as sidewalks and intersection improvements. The LCI program is also helping communities re-imagine their public spaces to include amenities like parks and public art. The Atlanta Region's Plan allocates \$500 million over the next 15 years for transportation projects resulting from completed LCI studies.

Promoting equitable transit-oriented development

The Atlanta region is embracing the idea of transit-oriented developments (TOD), which typically include a pedestrian-friendly mix of housing, office and retail built near transit stations. Successful TODs can increase transit ridership, reduce household driving and improve access to jobs. Potential MARTA TOD projects include the Avondale, Edgewood-Candler Park, King Memorial and Oakland City rail stations.

A regional trail network for bicyclists and pedestrians

The Atlanta Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan envisions the completion of a regional-scale trail network, community-scale walking and bicycling networks and first-and last-mile connections to regional transit systems. The Atlanta Region's Plan includes funding for the completion of this network as well as for other regionally significant pedestrian, bicycle, trail and transit access projects.



Art classes are among the services provided at local senior centers.



The Atlanta Region's Plan includes transit-oriented development at several MARTA stations, including Edgewood-Candler Park.



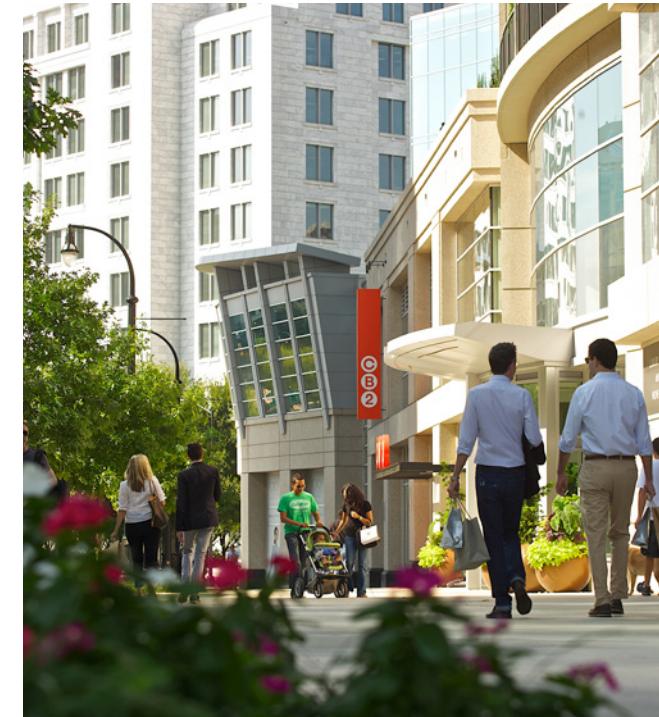
A strong, growing economy is essential to the success of any region. To ensure that metro Atlanta's economy remains thriving and competitive into the future, the region must take steps to become a globally-recognized hub of innovation and prosperity. The region also must also invest in its greatest resource, its people, to develop a highly educated and skilled workforce that is able to meet the needs of 21st century employers.

Goal: Building the region as a globally recognized hub of innovation and prosperity

Over the last few decades, logistics, hospitality, information technology and life sciences have blossomed in the Atlanta region. Incentivizing start-up opportunities and local business development and expanding successful ventures will ensure continued prosperity. The Atlanta Region's Plan seeks to further improve the region's economic viability by preserving access to key intermodal freight facilities and by advancing policies that make the region more attractive to businesses. The Atlanta Region's Plan also encourages developing and enhancing existing and emerging employment centers, which serve as the backbone of the region's economy, through improvements in transportation and land use.

Goal: Developing a highly educated and skilled workforce

Having a well-trained workforce is also critical to remaining competitive in the global 21st century economy. A regional approach to workforce development will be essential. We must improve coordination between educators, workforce organizations, employers and government. This approach ensures every student's educational success and equitable access to opportunities, career training and skill development.



The Atlanta region added 79,600 jobs between May 2014 and May 2015, the fourth-highest total in the nation.

Action Items:

- Ensure that employment centers support innovation, balance job growth and economic development
- Maintain and grow current success in employment sectors
- Implement a regional approach to workforce development



PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Atlanta Regional Economic Competitiveness Strategy

Metro Atlanta is a dynamic and thriving region that competes globally for business and talent. The Atlanta Regional Economic Competitiveness Strategy seeks to foster a stronger regional economy. This effort is being implemented by hundreds of volunteers who are working in four committees: Developing an Educated Workforce; Supporting Innovative Entrepreneurs; Growing Prosperous Businesses; and Developing Healthy, Livable Communities.

Improving movement of freight

Freight traffic volume in the Atlanta region is expected to increase significantly in the next 25 years, driven by the rapid growth in international trade and the expansion of the Port of Savannah. To fully capture the benefits that increased trade can provide, metro Atlanta must continue to maintain its position as the Southeast's logistics hub through the development of safe multi-modal solutions that build new capacity for freight traffic and increase the efficiency of existing freight infrastructure.

Preparing today's workforce to meet the needs of 21st century employers

Federal Workforce Development programs are administered across the Atlanta region to provide an array of services to unemployed and underemployed adults and youth, as well as employees who have been laid off from their jobs. Atlanta area workforce programs are designed to ensure that the region's workers the skills, tools and knowledge that employers need in today's rapidly-changing, technology-driven economy. ARC's Workforce Solutions Division serves Cherokee, Clayton, Douglas, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties.

Boosting economic development around Atlanta's airport

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International airport is one of the region's most important economic assets. But the area around the airport has lagged compared to the rest of the region. The Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance aims to transform the airport area into a world-class aerotropolis, making the area more attractive to international corporations, logistics companies and others that can benefit from proximity to the world's busiest airport.



Metro Atlanta is the largest freight market in the southeast. The Atlanta Region's Plan includes funding to build and improve highway interchanges that can improve movement of freight in metro Atlanta.



Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is a powerful engine of economic development in the region. The Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance is working to leverage this asset and transform the area around the airport into one of the region's major economic hubs.