

Script for PLAN 2040 Presentation: Who will we be?

Slide 1: Hello, my name is Mike Alexander. I am the Research Division Chief of the Atlanta Regional Commission. Today, I'm going to talk to you about our forecast related to PLAN 2040. "Who will we be" in 2040? In short, there will be a lot more of us in 2040 than there are now.

Slide 2: The ARC regional forecast shows that we expect the population to grow in the metropolitan region to grow by over 3 million people between now and 2040. For a population of 8.26 million people in the year 2040.

Slide 3: But that population will be much more diverse than it is today. Right now the metropolitan region is a bi-ethnic place with a strong white majority and a large black population but by 2040 our forecast show that population becoming much more diverse with an almost perfect balance between white, black and Hispanic in the year 2040.

Slide 4: Another dramatic demographic change we expect to see is in the change in the composition in the labor force. Now we have a strong working age population that dominates the share of total population in the Atlanta metropolitan region. As you can see on the slide in yellow, people aged 65 and older will continue to grow as a share, growing from 9% in 1995 to 20% of the total population by 2040. That means less people working to support more people who are no longer in the labor force.

Slide 5: To explain this further, we expect to see a 230% increase in the over 65 population in the metropolitan region between now and 2040. There are currently 487,000 people over 65. But by 2040, that number will grow to 1.6 million people. 1.1 million more seniors in 2040 than we have now.

In other presentations you will see in more detail the implication of these dramatic demographic changes will have for our region and these forecasts will form the basis of all the planning work that's done for PLAN 2040.