

## **Talking Points for Forum and Online Public Meeting (OPM) #4**

### **Dan: Focusing our Resources**

#### Slide 1

Hello, this is Dan Reuter, Chief of the Land Use Division at the Atlanta Regional Commission. PLAN 2040 is a metropolitan Atlanta planning effort looking at today, tomorrow and on until the year 2040.

#### Slide 2

This planning process looks at how the Atlanta region's economy, its environment and its communities are affected by many factors: land development, changes in the transportation network and shifts in the makeup of the population and employment along with many other factors including energy, water, education, and health – all impact our region's future.

The metro Atlanta region has many challenges to address now and in the future. Over the past two years, ARC has assessed current conditions, received broad input, tested future scenarios, and has come up with plan directions that I want to share with you today. It is ARC's intention to have a draft plan with specific projects and initiatives in early 2011 for review and then adoption by our Board in the summer of 2011.

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Given these inputs, here is the path that PLAN 2040 will use. It will focus on promoting an economic recovery, job creation and better access to those jobs, water availability and quality, housing alternatives, mobility options, and community resources.

#### Slide 4

PLAN 2040 is fundamentally based on Sustainability. A vision for the metro region is one that will be sustainable by balancing environmental responsibility, economic growth and social needs including access to community resources.

Our hope is that PLAN 2040 will focus on maximizing our available resources to make the most efficient use of them. We are looking for plan components that make us more efficient, do everything that current technology will allow us to do, and squeeze the most out of what we have. We should also focus on implementing what we can afford and operate within our budgets.

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Accomplishing the goals of PLAN 2040 will be critical for meeting today's needs and positioning the region for the addition of future resources when available by shoring up our current resources, prioritizing key projects for additional funding, and putting policies in place to support new expansion.

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PLAN 2040 is a long range regional plan that provides initiatives that can be implemented by ARC, its public and private partners and the region's community. I would like to share with you the five objectives that PLAN 2040 will seek to accomplish along with some examples. The first objective is to increase mobility options for people and goods. One way that ARC will seek to do this is by continuing to implement cost effective improvements such as sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes to expand transportation alternatives.

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The second objective is to foster a healthy, educated, well trained, safe and secure population. One example of how ARC will seek to accomplish this objective is by promoting a regional community that fully embraces diversity – age, ethnicity, and lifestyle – as its strength.

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The third objective is to promote places to live with easy access to jobs and services. One way to accomplish this goal is building compact development in existing communities with integrated land uses that will minimize travel distances and support walking, cycling and transit.

#### Slide 9

The fourth objective is to improve energy efficiency while preserving the region's environment. ARC will seek to accomplish this objective by conserving and protecting environmentally-sensitive areas and increasing the amount and connectivity of greenspace.

#### Slide 10

The fifth objective is to identify innovative approaches to economic recovery and long term prosperity. One example of how ARC will seek to accomplish this objective is by focusing financial resources and public investments in existing communities.

#### Slide 11

In other words, PLAN 2040's Sustainability Themes will focus on existing communities, maintaining infrastructure, support to local governments, activities to create jobs, transportation investments that support land use, and management coordination of environmental, cultural and historical resources.

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing these elements of PLAN 2040. More information is available for you in the Resources Section of this online public meeting.