



Plan 2040 Neighborhood Forum

Cobb County, April 19, 2011

On April 19, 2011, The Civic League for Regional Atlanta hosted a Neighborhood Forum on the future of regional transportation at the Mansour Center in Marietta, which is located in Cobb County. A staff member from the Atlanta Regional Commission gave two presentations, the first on Plan 2040, which is the regional plan for accommodating economic and population growth sustainably over the next 30 years, and the second on the Transportation Investment Act, which was passed by the state legislature in 2010 and . Though Plan 2040 addresses both land use and transportation, the presenter focused on the plan's transportation recommendations, as this topic has prompted significantly more questions and concerns during previous public meetings.

Fifteen people participated in the forum. Of the 12 who turned in completed demographic forms, eight were residents of Cobb County, with others coming from DeKalb, Fulton and Fayette. Participants were about evenly divided by gender. Eight were white, two were African-American, one was Asian and one was Hispanic. Seven participants were between ages 40 and 65, one was between 18 and 24, two between 25 and 39 and two over age 65.

The participants were grouped into two discussion circles, and following each of the ARC's staff member's presentations, the forum facilitator asked participants to address several questions within their groups and record their answers on flipcharts. The following notes were transcribed from those flipchart pages. For clarity, we have:

1. Inserted the discussion questions posed by the facilitator above their respective answers.
2. Noted where groups did not record answers to certain questions.
3. Numbered questions and answers for easy reference (i.e. Group 1, Question A, Answer 3).
4. Corrected obvious spelling and punctuation errors.
5. Written out obvious abbreviations (i.e. "Rd.") but left alone ambiguous ones (i.e. "trans" might mean "transportation" or "transit").

GROUP 1

A. Briefly share your motivations for attending this forum.

1. Member of Civic League board of directors, plus community interest
2. Commute to Atlanta – interest in transportation
3. Already familiar with 2040 – interest in update
4. Interested in grassroots input
5. To see action plan
6. Be a voice to empower the underserved in these discussions

B. Please list any questions you have.

1. What percentage of the \$59 billion is roads?

- What percentage of the \$59 billion is mass transit?
2. Same questions for the \$125 billion mentioned?
 3. How much is local, state, federally funded?
 4. What is the likelihood of MARTA being able to use reserve for operations?

C. What excites you about the recommendations for maximizing transportation resources in our region?

[No responses recorded.]

D. What changes would you make to the regional recommendations to further maximize limited resources?

1. Would like more background on Plan 2040 – who mandates?
2. Too much info to give educated response
3. Need more localized info from presentation
4. What assurances do we have that our comments are appropriately interpreted?
Need to consider how this information is being distributed
5. Label maps – very difficult to identify anything other than I-285
6. Like idea of HOT lanes
7. Like compilation of land use plan with transportation plan
8. Not excited about HOT lanes
9. How is money from HOT lanes allocated?
10. Excited about light rail from Atlanta to Chattanooga
11. Excited that this discussion balances local decision making with regional decision making
12. Need to hear more about light rail

E. Which transportation projects must be on the list and considered for funding?

1. Mass transit over roads ... anything but car
2. Extended hour
3. Rail around region ... buses locally, strategically routed
4. I-285 to GA 400 interchange

F. Which transportation projects should be excluded from the list?

[No responses recorded.]

GROUP 2

A. Briefly share your motivations for attending this forum.

1. Community activist
2. Information/education – use of tax money

3. Education about all topics/quality of life
4. Education/long history in Cobb Co. and with zoning issues
5. Listen and learn
6. Understand process of public involvement/Civic League process

B. Please list any questions you have.

1. How will land use and transportation plans be integrated? And funded?
2. How will “mag lev” options be included?
3. Where will revenue from “HOTS” be divided/managed?
4. How fast would investment be recouped?
5. How will aging infrastructure be evaluated and prioritized?
6. What are considerations for seniors? Sidewalks, etc.
7. Need information about land use!

C. What excites you about the recommendations for maximizing transportation resources in our region?

1. The prospect of less congestion and being able to get where I need to go!
2. Maintain roads/bridges
3. HOT lanes
4. Transit governance regionally

D. What changes would you make to the regional recommendations to further maximize limited resources?

1. Continued reduction of Federal, State and local funding
2. High cost of all projects

E. Which transportation projects must be on the list and considered for funding?

1. Mass transit
2. Street cars/buses
3. Increase capacity/efficiency of Rte 78 intersection and whole corridor
4. Increased use of existing smart technology
5. Regional transportation system and management
6. More services for seniors, e.g. regional call center for transportation

F. Which transportation projects should be excluded from the list?

[No responses recorded.]