

## Plan 2040 Meeting: June 3, 2010

### Local Government Economic Development Professionals Input Meeting

#### Feedback

- Need to focus on State and County level elected officials in order to fix funding problems and push solutions to the region's problems. Rail/transit given as example.
- Need leadership in region to push transit and transportation funding and projects.
- Education funding goes back to state – need change in thinking re: importance of education, even if it means raising taxes.
- Make quarterly meetings ARC Economic development accessible by phone/web
- Meet w/ED staff in region re: projects they are doing and possibility of assisting with taking them to the next level
- Incentives to help promote sustainability efforts in addition to LCI program. Seed money for local planning efforts to help local governments put in place the type of development they want.
- ED efforts should start from the top down, not just by ED pros in the field
- ARC could help get everyone on the same page (Counties, Cities, State)
- ARC could help local governments go after federal \$\$ as a region, not as separate local governments, especially ones who don't meet opportunity zones or DCA regulations.
- There is a lack of action on the big issues because elected officials are influenced by their constituents – there is a need for education of the public on issues (such as transit/transportation and land use) in order to prevent the “fear factor”.
- ARC needs to put more focus on ED as an agency (\$\$, personnel, etc)
- Meet w/ ED staff to understand local challenges and try to work into ARC's work
- Urban Georgia Network – was a group of larger Georgia cities that met to talk re: common topics, share ideas and best practices of ED. Originally convened by DCA and made up of ED staff of larger communities. Day and half long, held in different cities quarterly around GA.
- Institute a forum for discussion of issues and how what happens in one local government impacts others – making the regional connection (e.g. transportation).
- ED is not much of a focus in good times – only in bad. Needs to be more of a policy issue.
- Elected officials do not understand ED
- How can ARC help educate boards on planning for education because education is so important to the workforce and economy
- The Atlanta region is doing really well on K-12 education, lets sell it at a regional level. Show how we are doing compared to other states and regions (Gwinnett Chamber does a good job of promoting their schools)
- Showcase projects being done in other communities.