

PLAN 2040

Workshop on Equitable Planning

February 18, 2010

Workshop Report

Background on Workshop

Purpose: To share the PLAN 2040 initiative with community leadership and to gain input into evaluation measures for the plan components

Participants: Representatives from advocacy organizations for housing, disabilities, transit, education, workforce, health, seniors, minority populations and others

Agenda: Introduction of PLAN 2040 planning process; presentation of 2009 Regional Assessment of needs in the metro Atlanta area; presentation of five community voices, breakouts in areas of *Transportation Accessibility; Affordable Housing, Access to Jobs, and Communities of Opportunity*; reports of breakout group discussion; and next steps

Workshop Participation: 61 participants contributed to the workshop activities from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Next Steps: Take results of breakouts into the goals and performance measure work of the ARC land use and transportation planners; continue the conversation with community advocates through Social Equity Advisory Committee and Community Conversations around the metro Atlanta area over 2010.

Summary of Results

- Provide transportation infrastructure to connect affordable housing with accessibility to jobs and services
- Provide land and transportation infrastructure to enable healthy community interaction and growth
- Provide choices through mixed-income and mixed-use communities
- Regional job centers should also include accessible transportation, affordable housing, and community services
- Develop a plan that enables self-sustaining communities
- Provide better utilization and effectiveness of infrastructure and resources we already have
- Anchor communities around institutions and other core assets

Breakout Group Discussion Summaries

Access to Jobs

- Provide ½ mile walking access to transportation options; no more than 2 modes, no longer than 30 minutes, and shuttles to major modes
- Provide for Community Benefits Agreements that contain social benefits of capital expansion
- The region needs a living wage
- Increase locally-owned businesses
- Change policy direction on zoning, work ready job planning, and prisoner re-entry/job prospects training
- Need greater public participation to push elected leadership
- Mixed-income/use communities are needed
- Create communities of entrepreneurship as self-sustaining communities
- Limited transportation accessibility to good paying jobs

Housing Affordability

- Allow for different types of housing
- Need housing options within locations
- Mixed use communities provide for opportunities and vitality
- Economic centers can be the catalysts for mixed-used communities and different types of housing
- Healthy mixed-use communities and adequate housing provide psychological factor for healthy individuals

Transportation Accessibility

- Connectivity and accessibility improves quality of life for everyone
- There is a human right to mobility
- Utilize what we have; address stigmas
- Provide for legible and accessible transit schedules
- Address language, literacy, and technological barriers to accessing schedules and services
- Provide for effective transportation services
- Determine what the taxpayer incentive should be to provide good transportation accessibility
- Gauge public attitudes of services and need through surveys
- Connect people to quality jobs – not just service sector

Communities of Opportunity

- Anchor communities around institutions (universities and others)
- Leverage universities to steer knowledge/research and community participation to regional issues/solutions
- Everyone deserves a grocery store; provide models and incubator projects

- Community organizations are the critical mass to represent needs and get involved with public agencies
- Community organizational infrastructure is outdated
- Transit does not go into the neighborhoods
- Community vanpools/shuttles should be created
- Need connections between communities