



# Plan 2040 Neighborhood Forum

Fayette County, March 10, 2011

On March 10, 2011, The Civic League for Regional Atlanta hosted a community forum on the future of regional transportation at the Wendell Coffee Golf and Events Center in Tyrone, which is located in Fayette 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 will allow the citizens of the region to vote on a penny sales tax to fund transportation improvements over a 10-year period. Though Plan 2040 addresses both land use and transportation, the presenter focused on its transportation recommendations, which have prompted significantly more questions and concerns during previous public meetings.

Sixty people participated in the forum. Of the 46 who turned in completed demographic forms, 85 percent were residents of Fayette County; others came from Cobb, Coweta and Fulton. They were about evenly divided by gender; 89 percent were white and 11 percent African American. One participant was 18 or younger, and the remainder were ages 40-54 (33 percent), 55-65 (39 percent) and over 65 (24 percent).

The participants were grouped into six discussion circles, and following each of the ARC staff member's presentations, the forum facilitator asked participants to address several questions within their groups and record their answers on flipcharts. The following discussion group 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").

In some cases, groups recorded notes that did not clearly correspond to any of the discussion questions. Those notes are identified by the heading "Other".

## GROUP 1

### A. Briefly share your motivations for attending this forum.

1. Quality of life preservation
2. Environment
3. Future and technology
4. Realtor – sustainability
5. No Clayton County quality of life
6. Who controls Fayette County – us or them
7. Working together with the region

8. MARTA's next station

\*\* 74/ I-85 exit – trucks

**B. Please list any questions you have.**

[No questions recorded.]

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

1. Planning – thinking about the future
2. Considering alternatives

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

1. Technology – telecommute/broadband
2. Live/work/play communities

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

1. I-85/Hwy 74 interchange
2. Half diamond on Hwy 92 (for truck traffic)
3. Traffic exiting Fayetteville to interstates
4. Adequate access/parking for/to mass transit

**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. Concerned with where we live
2. Curious
3. Concern for future
4. Become informed
5. Interested in growth patterns
6. Plans for region
7. Interested in conversation
8. Interest/concern for seniors

**B. Please list any questions you have.**

1. Can mass transit expand?
2. Impact of telecommuting?
3. Is there a model of success?
4. What is a true definition of transit?
5. Can mass transit be forced on communities?

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

1. There is a plan.
2. Fixing the I-85/Hwy 74 interchange
3. It incorporates various people seniors/disabled etc.
4. Getting people out of cars
5. What happens if we do nothing
6. Opportunity to weave this all together

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

1. An endowment fund
2. Place emphasis on the use of technology (telecommute)
3. Analysis of impact of truck traffic
4. Allocate funding to users

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

1. Hwy 74 interchange
2. All state routes in Fayette 4 lanes
3. Hwy 38 interchange
4. Adding an interchange south of Hwy 74
5. Adding HOT lanes
6. More funding for MARTA for expansion
7. Explore opportunities for light rail
8. Identify what transportation vehicles currently exists to leverage and max them

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

[No responses recorded.]

## GROUP 3

**A. Briefly share your motivations for attending this forum.**

1. Roads for intermodal vs. general roads

2. Local chamber focus
3. Better understand issues
4. Understand coordinated growth patterns
5. More user friendly transportation/easier access
6. Curious/concern on Atlanta suburb
7. Concern on oil dependence/economy
8. Better understand
9. Transportation and access to jobs

**B. Please list any questions you have.**

1. Why no plan to generate maintenance funds when roads, etc. built?
2. What about transportation needs between areas, not just to Atlanta downtown?
3. How to solve transportation without dealing with transit system?

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

1. An additional exit/interchange from I-85 to help with truck traffic?
2. Long-range planning discussion
3. Regional cooperation (infancy?)
4. Meeting in our “neighborhood”

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

[No responses recorded.]

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

1. Hwy 74/I-85 interchange improvement
2. US 29 expand from 2 to 4 lanes from Palmetto to Newnan
3. Widen Camp Creek Pkwy or reroute trucks
4. Clear 154 from Hwy 29 to I-85
5. Widen Lower Fayetteville Road in Coweta
6. 19/41 expansion south of Fayette congestion relief
7. Light rail – mixed opinions

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

[No responses recorded.]

## GROUP 4

**A. Briefly share your motivations for attending this forum.**

1. Region's future
2. Children's future
3. Support transportation
4. Senior int.
5. Roads/infrastructure
6. Short term
7. Transportation
8. General interest

**B. Please list any questions you have.**

[No responses recorded.]

**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?**

[No responses recorded.]

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

1. I-85 and SR 74
2. Dogwood Trail – control/truck traffic

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

[No responses recorded.]

**Other**

1. Where does \$ go?
2. Land use and transportation
3. On-demand services
4. Aging population and land use to meet it

## GROUP 5

**A. Briefly share your motivations for attending this forum.**

1. Traffic at 74 and 85
2. Concerned about pollution
3. Transportation – discussion??

4. Stop mass transit in Fayette
5. ARC plan – benefits for Fayette
6. Future tax payers
7. Voice in change
8. Understand area/county
9. Transportation for families

**B. Please list any questions you have.**

[No responses recorded.]

**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?**

[No responses recorded.]

**Other**

Fix existing roads

- Before starting new roads and bridges
- Where is the funding coming from?
- What other transportation besides mass transit?
- Who decides how the money is spent?
- How are the projects picked? Who decides?

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

1. 74/I-85 interchange – fix
2. 138/I-85 interchange
3. Repair existing infrastructure
4. Add lanes to 19 and 41 in Clayton Co. – elevate with limited access
5. Express lanes – interstate and other lights for through traffic

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

1. Build new infrastructure (unless repaired the old first)
2. 92/I-85 NO interchange

## GROUP 6

**A. Briefly share your motivations for attending this forum.**

1. Preserve quality of life in county
2. Create opposition to ARC
3. Halt regional concept and help defeat SPLOST (home rule)
4. Stop ARC
5. Protect environment
6. No mass transit
7. Defeat HB277

**B. Please list any questions you have.**

[No responses recorded.]

**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?**

[No responses recorded.]

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

[No responses recorded.]

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

[No responses recorded.]

**Other**

1. Develop multi hub work and live centers
2. Atlanta is not the ultimate work and live destination
3. Problem
  - a. Everybody going to same small area → Atlanta
4. Solution
  - a. New business
  - b. New community
5. Review Phill's list - We've been working on it for over a year!!!!+\*\*\*\*\*