

PLAN 2040 Online Public Meeting Survey for March – April, 2011: Results

When: The fifth PLAN 2040 online public meeting was available for review and comment from March 18, 2011 through April 30, 2011

Meeting Objectives: To share and receive comments on draft plan recommendations on transportation projects.

Participation Statistics for the Period (03/18/2011 – 04/30/2011)

PLAN 2040 Visits:	1,826
Online Public Meeting Visits:	484
Survey Responses:	70

Question One: COMBATING CONGESTION

Based on projected population growth, along with the limited improvements we can afford, our congestion will continue and we must take personal responsibility for how we choose to travel. What is the most important action to take?

Living closer to work or resources	27.1%
Traveling at different times of day	0%
Using a different mode of travel than the car	50.0%
Teleworking	10.0%
Sharing rides	1.4%
Using a hybrid or electric vehicle	1.4%
Other	10.0%

Question Two: What have we missed and other thoughts? *(below are highlights from 41 responses)*

- Vastly expand travel choices, especially rail
- Rail travel needs to be quicker and more convenient

- Current real estate situation precludes living near work
- Need to address the issues of crime associated with public transportation
- Address intersection improvements, connectivity and reuse vacant land before new development occurs.
- We can look at it this way: Large scale improvements – public transit options and affordable housing; Individual level improvements – off peak travel, teleworking, ridesharing
- Traveling at different times of the day requires a change in the standard 8-hr, 5-day/week work schedule.
- Use existing train tracks that parallel Buford Highway – alternatives to interstates.
- Support for commuter rail as suburban access will continue to be an issue
- Driving is enabled by minimum parking requirements and failure to tax parking facilities that result in a gross oversupply of free or underpriced parking.
- Eliminate waste – time and resources and provide reliability
- Merge rail car and hybrid/electric vehicle: personal transportation through a hy-railer which are charged vehicles along existing rail lines and then convert back to road travel.
- Removing center concrete barrier lane dividers will help commutes as well as toll lane double decking of our congested interstates.
- Improve express bus services from outlying areas into the central part of the region.

Question Three: FUNDING FUTURE INVESTMENTS

Additional funding is critical to our goals for economic growth and access to community resources. The Transportation Investment Act of 2010 (HB277) allows voters in the metro Atlanta region to provide funding for transportation through a one-percent sales tax. This could bring in \$7-8 billion over a 10-year period. Projects for that list are being considered right now. In your opinion, what must be on this list? (*Below are highlights from 64 responses*)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of MARTA rail • Hwy 20 between Cumming and Buford • Commuter rail to south and Athens • Safe routes to schools • Managed traffic flow • HOV lanes for buses and dedicated bus lanes • Special transportation for those with disabilities • Improvement of transit safety • Light rail (Gwinnett, Cobb, I-285 top end) • Beltline • Outer Perimeter – link I-75 and I-85 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express train lines from the northside to downtown • Managed lanes (for interstates and key corridors) • Upgrade SR 400 and I-285 interchange • Tram/streetcar in city center • Freight rail improvements • Safe walking and bike routes • Multiuse trails • High speed rail/maglev to connect to other cities • Use of existing malls as bus stations and secure parking for commuters • Improvement of I-20 west with I-285 • SR 20 from Cartersville to Lawrenceville |
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- Move freight off of I-75

Question Four: What are you not interested in seeing on this list? (*below are highlights from 55 responses*)

- Additional roadways
- Bus transit
- Ronald Reagan Parkway extension
- Atlanta Beltline (should be funded in part by private funds)
- Bike trails
- HOT lanes
- Improvements only in the core
- Projects with limited regional impact
- Total focus on rail transportation
- Peachtree Streetcar
- Post Road improvements in Douglas County
- Mass transit
- Light rail between Centennial Park and MLK Center

Question Five: What is the most valuable benefit of future transportation investments?

Reduces congestion	34.8%
Saves money	4.3%
Protects the environment	10.1%
Reduces stress	5.8%
Supports the economy	26.1%
Reduces dependence on foreign oil	5.8%
Reduces travel time	13.0%

Question Six: What have we missed and other thoughts? (*below are highlights from 41 responses*)

- What about mobility and access
- Reference to children
- Safety and security of a commuter rail system
- Employer incentives for increasing teleworking
- Affordability and safe to live downtown
- Promotion of ride-sharing and park-n-ride lots
- Should seek to create a healthy, cohesive, sustainable community
- Reduce socio-economic disparities by providing better access for non-drivers
- None of these are mutually exclusive

Question Seven: Do you have additional thoughts to share? *(below are highlights from 31 responses)*

- Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- Consider slowing growth
- Need solutions for young and old
- Concern about air quality
- Need more funding
- Public education is needed
- Need to stop doing studies
- Infrastructure is a necessary investment
- If we continue to see the region defined by I-285, we are doomed to sprawl outside and lack of cohesion on the inside.
- Need operating support for MARTA's existing transit system
- Sanitation and marketing of metro area must be integrated into plan
- Invest in upgrades to rail lines to help movement of freight and have high speed rail option
- There are places in the text of the online public meeting where jargon should be replaced with plainer language.