

Responses to PLAN 2040 online survey through December 2009

What is the most important public or private investment that could be made for the Atlanta metro area to ensure that the region remains economically competitive?

63%	Transportation
15%	K-12 Education
6%	Technology
6%	Other
5%	Higher Education
5%	Manufacturing
1%	Health Care
1%	Don't know/No opinion
0%	Retail and Other Services

- Atlanta has a sorry excuse for a mass-transport system (its getting a little better in the form of buses...but there needs to be a much more serious effort to get people out of their cars).
- K-12 education is a very close tie with Transportation
- Atlanta needs faster, more convenient, and more sustainable public transportation. I would gladly use MARTA more if I didn't have to walk a half mile from my residence on GT's campus. I hate using my car because of the traffic and the pollution it causes, but this city is not very walkable and the public transportation is weak at best. We need more walkable streets and better subways if this city is going to continue to grow sustainably.
- Atlanta's public transportation needs to reach out to areas of dense population. It needs to be efficient, reliable, and accessible. MARTA's a good start, but nowhere near where it should be. Cities like Chicago, D.C., New York, and Seattle have much better transportation. The Beltline is still only a fraction of what public transportation should be in Atlanta.
- Attacking transportation issues will eventually reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on Atlanta's roads. This makes for happier residents and reduces the environmental problems suffered by the region, making it an attractive place for business and industry.
- I think Atlanta should invest in items, such as primary education, that bring smaller communities within the big, broad city closer together. This will help people to take pride in the local community in which they live and work.
- Atlanta has done a great job of bringing in great attractions – World of Coke, Aquarium, and plans for the big problem with all of those – they are a paid to get to whether you drive or take Marta. Marta is pathetic and needs to be rehailed completely. A train system should not take longer and cost more money than driving somewhere. And driving to a parking lot, paying to park, to then pay to ride a slow train and then walk forever to get where you need to go – seriously, who thought that was a good idea? Bring in a European company to do this – somehow every major city in Europe has an efficient, clean, well

planned rail system and has done so in cities far older than Atlanta. Besides the inefficiency of it, it's very sketchy. I would never take it alone.

- Atlanta already has a reputation for horrible traffic – this isn't good for people and companies wanting to locate here. If this isn't addressed, Atlanta will not be able to be competitive. Transportation must be addressed for all modes, serving all parts of the immediate Atlanta region. As a big city, Atlanta must address a more viable transit option.
- Transportation is critical. We can't have gridlock traffic and suburban sprawl that hurt our health and our economy. We need commuter rail, increased housing density in the center of the metro region, and expansion of MARTA.
- Water
- Availability of water, either through conservation of use or expansion/preservation of source, may be the greatest growth limiting issue for the Atlanta metro area during the next 20 years.
- Multi-modal station downtown; high speed rail to Raleigh and on to the northeast; maglev train to Chattanooga; commuter rail to Athens, Macon, Rome, expansion of Marta to cob town center and out I-20 east, light rail around the Beltline.
- Optional routes (such as the 400/I-65 connection) and expansion of MARTA rail service need to be built and not just mentioned and studied forever.
- We need to solve our transportation issues. Quit beating our head on the same concrete block wall. Better transportation/mobility helps attract/accommodate growth, better jobs while improving our air quality and energy footprint. No other issue touches more collateral issues than transportation.
- We need water, and not privatized water like the City of Atlanta is planning. Our governments need urgently to develop our water
- Many people have been laid off. In order to reenter the workforce, those people are finding that they need to improve their level of education and to learn new skills. They need to be supported in their efforts to go back to school and get retrained to improve their employability and to give companies in Georgia a better workforce to draw from.
- Mass transit, especially rail, not more roads
- Atlanta needs public transit, such as light rail. Also a lot more affordable housing so those who work in new organizations or newly transplanted organizations can find a place to stay in metro Atlanta.
- Government is not the answer. Higher taxes are not the answer. Feeble/self-interested politicians are not the answer! Please understand this – private individuals, business, organizations are the answer. Therefore, our focus should be on helping people make better life decisions (work, nutrition, childbearing, child-rearing) and help community, church, and charitable organizations work – and keep government as small as possible? Schools need less admin, less overhead, and more competition! More charters, more at-home schooling, less public waste and failure. Transportation needs to be evaluated on cost-benefit. Rail is a favorite of big-government proponents, but it simply does not compete with road-based efforts on an efficiency, effectiveness, or value-per-capita basis. ARC needs to promote better decision-making, not more government, more government programs and more government spending.
- Your list did not include water. We MUST build another reservoir asap or we will blow away in the dust.
- We need to maintain our larger mfg's, ie, Ford, GMC, Lockheed, etc.
- Water is the number 1 issue followed by transportation as #2.
- It can't be just one thing, obviously. Promoting Georgia Tech and Emory will have a tremendous impact on technology and jobs for the city; without K-12 improvement in public education, families who cannot afford private education will not move downtown and retain will never fully flourish without a larger downtown population.

- A rapid transit system to cover the entire region. You simply can't get around anymore in a timely fashion and in safety. I even consider spending the night if I go to a meeting in 1 ½ hr away from my residence.
- Metro Atlanta, outside Atlanta city needs roads and funding to get these roads widened or built.
- Transportation is not only about automobiles. It should focus on enhancing and better coordinating mass transit, regionally, and creating a substantial regional/commuter rail system.
- Metro Atlanta needs the higher educated, entrepreneurial students being educated at the areas universities and colleges to help create the next new wave of technology and jobs. Without the draw of new jobs, there isn't the demand for any of the other. An investment in our universities will provide far greater multipliers than investments in the other items listed.
- MARTA is a disgrace to this city. Countless smaller cities around the US and Europe run a more respectable, clean and less costly rail system.
- Atlanta is doing what Los Angeles did 50 years ago. We should have learned. And it is worse because of the Red Neck mentality than governs Georgia state government.
- Water resource
- Please develop transportation options besides driving. We need better, more comprehensive transit, bike lanes and other bike accommodations, and sidewalks need to be included in all new developments.
- We are choking ourselves on traffic and overdevelopment. We are losing businesses and young workers going to cities and regions that make the tough decisions for the larger community.
- Rapid rail from Macon, Augusta, Athens, Rome, Columbus and Chattanooga.
- We absolutely need to disinvest from the highways and re-invest in transit if we want to have any chance of remaining economically competitive.
- Transit and access to the urban core are critical
- Ensuring water supply
- Atlanta's economy will not grow and thrive unless there are viable modes of alternative transportation. Why would a company consider headquartering here instead of other major cities with more thorough transit networks, or in smaller towns with less traffic overall? It used to be that low cost of housing was an attractor for businesses, but property values near the city and employment centers have risen dramatically over the last several years, much due to the high costs and inconveniences of traveling around the region.

What is the most important factor for you in deciding where to live?

29%	Close to work
20%	Other
13%	Neighborhood Safety
13%	Cost of housing
12%	Close to family or friends
11%	Close to retail shopping and other services
1%	Don't know/No opinion

- Transit accessibility as well
- Don't plan on living in a neighborhood unless it's safe for me. However proximity to work and retail (most importantly grocery stores) is also VERY important
- We live in Tucker, and my wife and children love it there. We're not moving. I'd like to drive less when I commute into the city, but MARTA has a single bus line that comes to us, the bus stop is over a mile from my house, and the ride into the city takes three to four times longer than driving. Even driving to the train station (Avondale) is half the distance from my house to downtown. If there was a train station in the Tucker/Clarkston area, or if a bus actually stopped on Brockett Road, I'd ride MARTA all the way to the city.
- We chose to live where we do because our whole life (work, play, shopping, friends) is in our small community. The community is engaged and active.
- Combination of these; no one is that much more important than the others. proximity to work, safety, property value and schools are all very important.
- People want to live in vibrant, walkable neighborhoods with transit access.
- Currently, the stability of my children attending the same middle and high schools until graduation in 2012, specifically in a small town location-by choice. After 2012, as empty-nesters, proximity to retail and healthcare services, including alternate transportation availability, would dominate our home location choice.
- Convenient location , which equates to not getting on expressways going or coming.
- I work in Atlanta, but live in Marietta. I do not want to live in Atlanta.
- Less traffic and noise
- Cost of housing, safety and proximity to shopping, etc. are all important
- A low density developed area was our first consideration; after that, we considered schools.
- Cost of housing and neighborhood safety. Obviously I want to live in a safe neighborhood but if I can't afford it I guess I won't be living there. Close to work? Are you kidding?? This would be important if it were an option. I have never been able to afford to live close to work in this region in a decent neighborhood with good PUBLIC schools.
- Walkable community with parks
- Walking distance to a MARTA rail station
- Government's primary role is public safety. Police, fire, etc. Then transportation – via roads, minimizing traffic lights, and electronic coordination of traffic lights. We choose where to live based on healthy community organizations (church, service orgs) good roads, and good police/fire protection.
- Our population is aging and we must start to address the need for homes that are designed for older people or we'll have a lot of empty houses sitting around where all you have are stairs going to another floor, doors too narrow for wheel chairs and bathrooms inaccessible for the elderly in walkers.
- Safety, convenience and affordability are the three honor words in that order.
- Next to cost, I would sum it up as quality of life.
- I was here before the area got so huge. I really don't like living here anymore but I don't intend to move.
- Walkability/Livability (incorporates a blend of all of the above)
- Schools. Both for education of children, but also housing value and appreciation potential. It drives the value of housing except in a few small areas of town – Morningside, Virginia-Highland, Decatur where it doesn't have an impact on housing values but in Cobb, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, etc. – it does.
- Transportation issues in the metro Atlanta area dominate our way of life. Changes are well overdue.

- Close to work is a close second because of mobility, given that Atlanta has not viable transportation alternatives. Sidewalks are a joke, so even if you live a few blocks from work or shopping, your first option is to go by care.
- Availability of water.
- Livable neighborhood – walk to shopping and other services, access to transit and bike networks.
- Urban pedestrian environment
- Most important is the vitality of the neighborhood – engaged residents, walkable amenities, in the heart of the city.
- I also consider the density and activity of the area to be important. If the neighborhood is not active or dense, then I don't consider it a good option
- Close measured in travel time rather than distance
- School Quality!!!!
- Close to all of the above
- Hard to answer question. There is not one most important, but a combination of several – distance to work, quality of schools (You don't have that listed), cost and availability of housing, and safety.

What is the most important action residents can take to ensure the metro Atlanta area has a sustainable future?

60% Reduce use of automobiles

16% Reduce water consumption

15% Other

5% Recycle more

4% Don't know/No opinion

- All of these are important. Atlanta really needs streamlined recycling and better streets/public transportation systems.
- Reduce energy consumption. A lot of our power comes from coal burning power plants which is even more of a reason to reduce consumption. The other three suggested options are also equally important. It's hard to decide. Air pollution in Atlanta is horrible, especially during summer months and near NPU-V and other neighborhoods along the downtown connector (thus reducing automobile use is a biggie). Water is another important issue since it was just mandated that Atlanta cannot use Lanier as a reservoir any longer.
- Reducing water consumption comes in at a very close second, with water collection being a lamentably neglected issue that could help alleviate the problems of drought, and prevent flash floods by retaining water...green roofs and cisterns are two options...
- Repair/replace sewer system, negotiate new water sharing agreement with neighboring states, &/or stymie growth to fit realistic water access. Worse than no-growth would be unsustainable growth.
- Safety of the city and schools.
- Again, you can't do this without a good rail system - one that you don't have to drive to or be bused to to begin your trip.

- Clearly Atlanta has a traffic problem. It is only going to get worse unless people have practical and affordable alternatives.
- Reduce energy use in our homes - they use more than our cars!
- Buy local and buy American!
- While we say, "get people out of their cars", there is no viable alternative. Bus service in Gwinnett is thin and slow, because the service is trying to depend on ridership to expand. Ridership will not increase until the rider can expect the next bus in only a few minutes, and it will go where they are going without fooling around. I can take a bus to Gwinnett Mall if I have time, but it will be a roundabout trip that will take an hour. Nobody gives up their car for that. Transit will need government support.
- To attract the very best companies and workers, Atlanta needs to create a solid, sustainable quality of life. Many of the goals of livable communities create the types of attractive environments that appeal to businesses and workers.
- Atlanta needs to address numerous transportation issues including having transportation options after exiting MARTA such as rental cars that people can pick up to get to places too far to walk. Transportation has to be reliable and run on schedule or I won't use it.
- This survey has SUCH an obvious bias to it. The most important action citizens can take is to VOTE in their local elections.
- I would rate reduction of automobiles first, but with few viable alternatives this is just a fantasy. I would never drive if I didn't have to (I came from a city 20 years ago with extensive mass transit) but if I didn't drive I couldn't get anywhere from the suburbs! Reducing water consumption and increasing recycling are also important.
- Reducing water and reducing travel will shrink our economy, lower our tax base, and destroy our city. You cannot shrink your way to success. When green and clean energy alternatives make economic sense, they will dominate. The most important action residents can take is to vote in small government politicians and keep out big spending, arrogant government-focused politicians.
- Stop development in new areas and rebuild slums and old degraded, industrial and commercial areas, after all their trees have already been but down and the land raped. Add NO MORE people. The huge population has outstripped the water supply so shrink the population.
- Most of the items listed are technology related. The real issue for ensuring Atlanta's future viability is the ability to create jobs. This has been true since 1837 and will remain true in the future. Ask Detroit which of these were the most important to them.
- Improve mass transit options. Reducing the use of automobiles is only part of the solution.
- You should not be asking for only one option. Water consumption will do us in, as well as overuse of automobiles. And recycling is also important. Why don't you allow more choices, or all of the above? Your allowing only one choice is just giving you an opportunity to dodge all of the important issues we face.
- Definitely take cars off the road! Provide options to just driving. Comprehensive transit and bike network.
- Atlanta residents need to learn to sacrifice and get out of their cars and use other forms of transportation.
- Water infrastructure is also very important, along with heavy investments in renewable energy sources.
- Alternative transportation services and more efficient land use – connectivity.
- Get a handle on crime and the perception of crime. Again, another category that you missed listing and so people will not think to include it.

What is the most important environmental issue in metro Atlanta today?

37%	Water availability
29%	Lane use
21%	Air quality
9%	Energy consumption
4%	Other
1%	Don't know/No opinion

- Far too much is used for carspace: parking lots, 8-lane surface arteries, triple-left-turn-lanes...let's fix this.
- Land use has caused extreme urban sprawl that has a huge negative impact on our health and the environment.
- Now that it is raining no one cares and it seems the politicians do not have a clue on what to do
- The water shortage last year, the floods this year (poor land use) and the continuing transportation congestion are all about equal and must be dealt with immediately.
- All of the above.
- We are dying here, and there are people still burning garbage in their yard, driving diesel truck with visible soot emissions, and generally behaving ignorantly in relation to the air we are breathing. Putting traffic lights on the freeways should have had an environmental impact report done first, because stopping and starting so much traffic, then reaccelerating them in a shorter stretch, must cause tons of pollution. We are not thinking well on their subject, acting like we still live in rural Georgia.
- My grandson has trouble breathing, and poor air quality forces him indoors on days when children should be out playing. Water availability is also important, but the threat there is a manmade one, i.e. the allocation of water resources. The water is there, it's just a case of appropriate allocation.
- So many municipalities fail to adhere to their land use maps.
- Energy consumption and land use are also important. Too many strip malls (now with empty stores), too many parking decks, wasteful and not supporting density which supports mass transit. Keeps stores and other amenities far apart and forces people to drive.
- The population has outstripped the water supply and I hope Atlanta loses in its fight to steal water from other areas in Georgia. Until PPCPs can be easily and inexpensively removed from wastewater, drink highly treated sewage isn't a viable option.
- Damages from flooding is the most important at this time.
- Land use or actually poor use of land has driven our commuting miles, energy consumption higher and air quality lower. By more effectively using land, we can maximize the efficiencies of our transportation system and other infrastructures, minimize environmental impacts, and increase our quality of life.
- The cities with the brightest futures are those that are working to get ahead of the curve on energy issues. Atlanta (and GA) leaders need to start thinking outside the box and do more than just pray for change or rain or etc.
- Again, all of the above. You cannot separate energy consumption from air quality or water availability. More water is used to provide a household its electricity than is used directly by the household.
- Integrate land uses so that people don't have to drive.

- Land use and transportation affect everything else. Fixing these things will make the other environmental issues much easier to tackle.
- Air quality and energy consumption are closely related – also the issue of affordable/available transportation services
- Energy consumption affects air quality and land use decisions affect these also

If you were to choose a travel alternative to your car, what would be your first choice?

51%	Rail
17%	Bicycle
14%	Walking
9%	Sharing a ride
4%	Don't know/No opinion
3%	Other
2%	Bus
1%	Taxi

- I love walking, but some areas in downtown/midtown are sketchy and the sidewalks are bad to non-existent. I share rides all the time and I would gladly take the train if it went more places, there were more stations in midtown, and didn't take 15 minutes to get to the station.
- Today I would choose walking, but if rail were better...I'd totally be on that!
- For trips under 1 mile: walk. For trips 1-4 miles: bike. For trips >4 miles or heavy rain: MARTA.
- I would absolutely choose any alternative that does not utilize the highways or surface roads. Walk/bike would be my first choices with rail very close behind.
- Better bicycle paths would be nice too. I know a lot of people who would love to ride bikes to get around but are scared to ride on the roads, myself included. Amsterdam has designated bike lanes on the sides of most of their roads - that would be a nice feature, especially in the suburbs to reduce cars for short distance trips.
- Combination of rail and bus is essential- MARTA has not properly addressed this, and does not have the money to do so.
- I use rail/bus combination to get to work each day.
- Combined with "last mile" bus availability, but probably walking or bicycling most of the time.
- I have no other options, but would use rail if it served more places.
- Depends on the purpose of the trip. I bike to work regularly already. Would use rail or bus if it were more prevalent.
- A New York style taxi system would be a big improvement, where I would get off the train and find a taxi waiting or hail one as it passes empty
- WHY assume I am already using a car? Have an option for people not using cars currently!
- Bus schedules are too far apart, not interested. Also don't like the smell.

- I would never choose an alternative to my car. I like to walk and bike, but only for exercise. NOT as a means of transportation. Again, your survey bias is obvious. I DO NOT want commuter rail in my community!
- Actually I would rate rail and walking equally.
- I live 5 miles from work but there are no bike lanes so it's not safe to bike to work. I regularly bike 20-30 miles on the weekend for recreation.
- I've already made this decision. I haven't driven in metro Atlanta since 1986. I walk or take MARTA and enjoy doing it.
- Remember, there are many different forms of rail, light rail and electric buses on special routes.
- Longer distances (500 miles and over) must be airplane. Medium distances (50-500 miles) would be rail. Short distances (2-50 miles) should be subway. However, if fast trains (speed with over 200 miles/hour) were available I would take those up to 1000 miles.
- The whole area needs an efficient and effective transit system.
- Telecommute
- Develop a rapid rail system to Macon, Savannah and Jacksonville, Fla.
- Not as it currently exists, as mentioned before – MARTA sucks. The region needs to incorporate light rail and either force MARTA to upgrade to a respectable system or phase it out of existence.
- I already do. However, it is outrageous that Georgia law forces bicyclists to share the street with cars, buses and huge trucks, without bicycle lanes. And it is outrageous that the edges of streets are rough and dangerous for bicycles.
- I bike everywhere. However, many potential bikers are reluctant to try it because of the danger associated with streets built for vehicular speed – roads like Courtland, Piedmont, Spring, and Williams need to be two way and have bike lanes provided. Streets like Ponce, North, Moreland and Memorial need to have bike accommodations as well.
- I currently ride my bicycle to work. The biggest challenge is a lack of shower services near where I work making it virtually impossible to ride in the summer. At the same time, the summer is the time of year when it would benefit the environment the most to get more cars off the road. It would be great to figure out a program where there is access to showers for cycling commuters.
- I really, really wish I could live closer to a rail station
- On the condition that it had wider service.

What is the most lacking in the metro Atlanta area's transportation system?

- 68% Enough transit options, such as rail
- 14% Enough networks of bicycle paths and sidewalks
- 9% Enough alternative routes to take, instead of interstate highways
- 5% Other
- 3% Enough commuter options such as sharing a ride or vanpools
- 1% Don't know/No opinion

- If our pattern of development were changed, then bicycle paths and sidewalks would be useful...as it stands, everything is too far apart for that to be useful.
- It is unreasonable to me that no one walks, even when walking is an option. In my neighborhood I find this is often because there are not enough safe sidewalks and on major roads, cars ignore all signs at crosswalks asking them to stop for pedestrians. Friends with young children find this frightening so they often drive short distances given the lack of concern most drivers show pedestrians.
- As a large city, Atlanta should be embarrassed by the transit options offered. Cobb County especially should buy in to a more regional system, as so much growth is taking place there.
- The bus system of Marta sucks
- Need more rail and bike paths/sidewalks.
- Why name rail as the only transit option? I think we need more buses before we need more rail.
- I live in Cobb County and work in Midtown. I'd love to take rail to work instead of my car.
- Really all of the above. Atlanta is way behind in building alternative systems period.
- Networks of bicycle paths and sidewalks also, especially sidewalks
- All of the above!
- Would be much better here with more sidewalks plus the "networks of bicycle paths and sidewalks"
- Roads/auto are the most effective and efficient manner for transportation. Rail sounds green but its cost and effectiveness fail time after time. Every new rail project in the US in the last 20 years is a grotesque financial burden that will never be paid off. We cannot make this same mistake. Make traffic lights more "smart", promote staggered work/retail hours, and traffic will work itself out. Government restrictions cause the problems, not fix them.
- All the major metro counties like Cobb need to be part of MARTA subway.
- What is most lacking is an understanding by State officials that metro Atlanta is the engine that is driving Georgia. Putting developmental highways in outlying areas to the detriment of the transportation issues in Atlanta is asinine. Those industries are not going to Perry? They are going to go to Charlotte, Chattanooga, Nashville, etc.
- All proposed solutions increase travel time and inconvenience relative to the car. Either minimize the trips or reduce the traffic. Higher gas prices will do both. So over time, market forces, which allowed sprawl to thrive, will also curtail VMT, and lower the thresholds of the other alternatives.
- Bicycle infrastructure needs to be universal. Commuter rail and a more robust bus infrastructure will take care of all road congestion. The largest congestion issues are at commuting times.
- We need to get with the times and become competitive with other cities – we are the worst at planning and providing transportation alternatives and we've got a reputation for it. The city will not grow in a positive direction unless we smarten up and provide better alternatives to just driving.
- In Gwinnett a bus system that actually goes somewhere besides the mall and to Atlanta on a reliable schedule with bus stops that aren't just on the side of the road and a bus sign. Need more bus stop shelters with seats and we need sidewalks to get off and walk on. I'm not standing in the grass and mud along some of these busy roadways and especially in bad weather on a bus that may eventually get to the stop – I'll take my car.
- Get commuters off the interstate will also get them off secondary roads.
- The only thing that is not lacking is highways. We have too many highways and need to take some of the highway capacity we have.
- All of the above.

What is your main concern with how government operates?

- 34% Lack of cooperation among state and local governments
- 19% Citizens' wishes are not represented
- 16% Government officials don't understand the critical issues
- 14% Other
- 12% Lack of clarity about how decisions are made
- 5% Don't know/No opinion

- Lack of efficiency and accountability
- ...and county governments. I am specifically thinking of Cobb's continuing refusal to extend MARTA into its borders.
- There is a lot of talk about critical issues, but little action taken to actually fix these issues.
- The state government should contribute more to transit in the Atlanta region, considering more than half of the state's population lives here.
- Governments are not run well and seem to be influenced by lobbyists and self interests.
- Government is self serving instead of citizen serving.
- State officials --especially the Gov. and the DOT are totally negligent of the Atlanta Metro area and its needs!
- Too much money being spent in rural areas that don't need, but are getting major road projects. Also too many agencies (GRTA, ARC GDOT, politicians) nothing gets done just studied.
- Balkanization of the Atlanta region by forming new cities all around will make building rail lines and water systems impossible.
- Elected officials respond to money and the opportunity to make personal gain from "public service"
- Bold initiatives are needed to meet the urban areas challenges. I don't see a lot of that.
- Again, all of the above are main concerns. Clearly there is a lack of foresight and leadership. We can't put all of the money into make just wider streets and bridges.
- Local governments are too susceptible to control by large corporations
- Politicians care about nothing but getting re-elected and raising money. They have zero integrity. Our smartest problem solvers are not drawn to government. Government needs to provide public safety and good roads. Then they need to do as little as possible else, and minimize their own expense.
- Governments only represent developer and money interests. Greed has rules supreme. They ignore critical issues such as water, stormwater issues and certainly the things they cannot control like drought and flood. The past few years swinging from drought to flood proves the failure of any effective planning. ARC is an expensive joke.
- Individually, our politicians are fine folks and very well meaning. Combined, they become unrefined and uncooperative. I don't understand.
- We need to insist that our elected government officials – city, county, state, and federal government – put term limits on the ballot. This would allow the citizens to vote on this issue. For until we the citizen take the corruption out of politics, we will never have the country our founders dreamed and fought for. We do not need career elected officials in the USA>

- Corruption, too many hidden agendas and catering to special interest groups. This region, especially the cities of Atlanta and Decatur need to get over the black – white issues and unify to make this an enjoyable place to live for all people no matter their race.
- Rather, government officials cater to the paving industry. If they do not understand, we are in real deep (expletive deleted).
- Government needs to get with the times and listen to its constituents. Public input strongly shows support for rail and other alternatives but politicians/bureaucrats only do what they want, and toe the party line. We need to move ahead in a positive, new direction, as other cities have realized.
- Campaign finance reform? No private money in public elections!!!!
- Georgia’s politicians are an embarrassment to the state. They accomplish nothing during the legislative session and don’t understand the value of an urban core to the larger region and state.
- We have too many local governments, and our State government is far too overbearing. Cities need to be empowered first. I would also like to see some consideration into a stronger regional government.
- State government ignores the needs and wants of Metro Atlanta relating to transit options. Urban areas should be able to raise and spend transportation dollars as they see fit and the state shouldn’t stand in the way.

How confident are you that the metro Atlanta area will have a sustainable economic future?

- 40% Somewhat confident
- 24% Not confident
- 22% Somewhat not confident
- 11% Very confident
- 3% Don’t know/No opinion

- This city has a very long way to go to ensure sustainability in the future. Atlanta needs to look at how cities like New York and Seattle operate. The city is walkable and recycling is mandatory and convenient. The public transportation systems make sense and people actually use them.
- Thank heavens we have an office of Sustainability.
- When I look around the city, I'm not convinced....but I'm hopeful because of all the talk in local government, from the Cumberland CID's initiatives, to the Atlanta BeltLine project.
- I think these issues are now gaining attention but it took a long time for things to devolve, so it will most likely take even longer for them to evolve. But hopefully Atlanta is committed to starting down that path.
- Atlanta must the excessive address urban sprawl.
- I think there are some good plans in place - the Beltline, multimodal transit station, etc - but these plans need to be implemented.
- I keep seeing us spend more money on expanding highways and pouring money into old ways of doing things. Very little political discussion on the pertinent issues and less commitment/concern from my peers.
- We are out of water and probably will have a development freeze. We are struggling to breathe. We have no viable transit system, and sending working people out to cross town today is needlessly expensive because they will waste a lot of time in traffic.

- Important planning is underway and there is a growing recognition of the types of challenges the region faces. Some political leaders are looking toward the future, which makes me somewhat confident that Atlanta will continue to prosper.
- Atlanta has a nice climate and a lower cost of living that should attract some economic growth.
- The lack of adequate water supply may well do us in.
- Our taxes, horrible school management (huge layers of ineffective bureaucracy, ridiculous pensions that will choke budgets), and reliance on foolish/incompetent/corrupt/lazy politicians and government will ultimately diminish the city. Atlanta is becoming a statist shell of welfare-dependent, lazy, stupid citizens who want nothing but government handouts. The reverse racism is atrocious and supported by the Atlanta Journal newspaper – just read Cynthia Tucker. This is a failing equation. As long as reverse racism and big government dominates Atlanta, it will deteriorate. The strongest, smartest citizens will want to live elsewhere.
- It's in the right location
- The sustainable economic future comes back to the regions ability to create jobs. Unfortunately, global forces and rapidly evolving technology (and global competition) are moving much faster than we (the Metro area) can change and adapt. Eventually, we (as a region) can't keep up and we become a late great community. Again, look at Buffalo, Detroit, Cleveland, etc. Even Silicon Valley and Boston are starting to lag behind. And we never caught up in the first place. Economic Darwinism does exist. And most of our recent job creation was based on other job creation of the past. Just look at the impact the downtown in development and construction has had on the local economy and the entire state.
- No real identity to Atlanta or GA for that matter. We really don't produce anything of noteworthy. We're not a good tourist location, there just isn't anything remarkable. Just another business center and it won't be long before corporations will be flocking to the next bright place to locate their headquarters, like Charlotte.
- Georgia's version of democracy will never improve until more people note with something between their ears and with a moral sense of the common good. And when people elected inherit the same, something between their ears and a moral sense of the common good.
- We are so backwards. We've been removing bike lanes (Highland Ave, Jackson St.) There is strong public opinion focusing on transportation alternatives, but our "leadership" will not act. We need the Brain Train! We need options for commuters, for visitors, and residents, and we need to have started yesterday! We need leadership that actually listens and acts in citizens' best interests, not their own and the lobbies that fund them.
- There are some incredible new developments in Atlanta from the Center for Civil and Human Rights to the Peachtree Corridor work, but that is simply not enough.
- The alternative is that the Atlanta region goes through a gradual slowdown of economic activity. As we edge closer to that reality, I believe more people will work toward a sustainable future.
- If and only if politicians display the vision that has been lacking so far.---
- I think there is a lot of energy at the local level, but state leaders are stuck in the 1950s and seem determined to punish Atlanta. Until that changes, little that metro Atlanta aspires to accomplish will occur.

Which of the following issues do you most want regional business and political leaders to work on?

63%	Transportation
12%	Environment
10%	Education
10%	The economy
4%	Other
1%	Health Care
0%	Don't know/No opinion

- Again education is a close tie with transportation
- Yet another difficult question. If I had to rank these, Education and Transportation would be right at the same level close behind Environment.
- All of these are interrelated, especially Environment, Transportation, and Economy.
- Atlanta safety.
- Solve the transportation issue in Atlanta, and it will help out every other problem we have.
- Everything
- Toll new lanes, but not existing ones, including HOV lanes. Raise gas taxes, get state to help with MARTA like other states.
- Transportation and the environment are key to good quality of life.
- Public safety. The government solutions will always be the least efficient, least effective, and most expensive. ARC is making a serious mistake by looking to government solutions vs private ones.
- 1. Fix the water; 2. Fix the transportation
- Sustainability of humans, with clean air, clean water and trees instead of barren landscapes that are really toxic to humans eventually. The direction now is crash and burn. There are too many people.
- Without it, we don't have a future to worry about the other items.
- The poor transportation situation here really makes this a difficult place to live. However, I believe that the highly prosperous years have passed and we've lost our best chance to improve the area. Declining population will be the next thing that helps the transportation issues in Atlanta.
- A major investment in alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle.
- Transportation and education.
- Land use and transportation affect everything else. Fixing these things will make the other issues much easier to tackle.
- Again, there are many and not one is most important. Environment (Water), transportation, jobs, health care, and taxes. Too great a tax burden and we won't have the resources to come up with solutions.

Do you plan to live in the metro Atlanta area for the foreseeable future?

67%	Yes
9%	No

24% Not sure

- No, when I graduate from Tech, I intend to move to a more sustainable city.
- We are from here, our families live here, and we're not going anywhere. If we ever do move, it will be closer into the city.
- Absolutely. We would like to set an example that urban living in the metro area can be done affordably and sustainably.
- I have a permanent job in Atlanta.
- I want clean air
- Only until my middle and high school kids are out of school. Then we will move to a less congested area. It's too hard to get around here.
- I am growing tired of the traffic situation here in Atlanta. MARTA was a good idea, just needs expansion to at least the five core counties to be efficient and useful. Express buses are ok, but they sit in traffic as well because of inadequate express lanes (HOV). I am presently considering moving to the inner city of Atlanta. If I get another job offer to DC, I may consider it.
- Due to family. But Atlanta is much weaker in the 20 years we've lived here.
- If not full time, probably part time.
- I'm too old to move and there are the same problems everywhere because humans have animal memories. Metro Atlanta has good health care facilities.
- It is still a great place to live and the people are friendly. Plus the electric rates are reasonable and the electric service is highly reliable!
- Looking for the opportunity to leave now.
- Sometimes I get really discouraged with the direction the city is taking. For example, we have GREAT weather for biking but we refuse to take advantage. We could be a huge biking city, but the lack of support for such is depressing.
- Only because of my employment. As soon as I can get out and retire I will do so. Taxes, crime, transportation and general economy is a mess.

Do you have further thoughts to share?

- I am encouraged by the thought given to sustainable initiative, and I hope it continues and projects are completed that are truly effective, not just political candy to be used come election time.
- I wish the ARC was not influenced as much by the political system in power as it seems to be, but it is not a perfect world. Also it would be nice to see the ARC promoting green alternatives for solutions then they are.
- Next time, please have more complete choices for the answers and don't make such basic assumptions about people.
- We need more sidewalks and bike lanes and less investment in roads. In addition MRTA is very inconvenient – the only time I ever use it is when I'm going to the airport for personal travel. It would be great to have public transportation like they have in New York or DC.
- The mayor of Holly Springs has some good thoughts and ideas for you.
- It is incredible that federal authorities, like the Transportation Secretary, has to come here and lay down the law for something to happen. Shame on all egos and non-cooperative officials! That is not what taxpayers pay taxes for!

- So far, most regional agencies have shown an interest in talking, but politics, and the narrow self interest of local politicians, prevents anything from happening. I suspect that things need to get worse before they get better. My solution to alternative transportation is to double the gas tax and make those funds available only for alternative transportation, which should be free. The people who drive single occupancy vehicles will benefit. The roads will not be so congested because of all the people using the alternatives. Everyone using alternatives, as in rail and buses, already pay the price of inconvenience. In addition, all of the spokes of rail corridors to downtown Atlanta should be taken over by eminent domain for alternative people movers, and the rail companies should be compensated by creating a large outer ring of rail around Atlanta for moving the things rail companies move. That ring could intersect with the trucking yards south of 285 south of Atlanta.
- I would like our region's leaders to speak more clearly with one voice. It is time for the suburbs to grow up and realize that we're all in this together. Let's work together toward a regional rail system and get our State government on the right track.
- I think you should have a better survey with better questions. These were not thought through and were not broad enough.