

Themes from Advocate Board Members PLAN 2040 meeting sponsored by Livable Communities Coalition

August 19, 2010

- Explore innovative plan implementation using willing NGOs where feasible for cross fertilization to actualize programs for ADA (including seniors), Complete Streets, Context Sensitive Design, and others.
- There is a challenge of reaching the general public and getting approval for a progressive, region-wide agenda, including infrastructure selection and design – getting the message out through the auspices of community health and educations may be a more suitable vehicle in today's world.
- There is a challenge that ARC Board members face in taking regional agreements back to their communities for endorsement and active support.
- Question: What lessons can Plan 2040 embrace from the success of the past 10 years, from successful large-scale societal campaigns such as anti-smoking efforts – progressive activism.
- Addressing the challenge of multiple authority centers (not just the AJC anymore)/dealing with perception that there are a growing number of interest groups which are not necessarily working off of one plan.
 - ARC and NGOs need to support alternative roadway standards that are contextual including the concept of Complete Streets.
 - Safe streets provide more choices for travel by bike and pedestrians. ARC and NGOs can be advocates for change including more funding of new pedestrian facilities at GDOT. We need a program to facilitate Complete Streets and do more to support the Safe Routes to Schools program in all counties.
 - Need to develop more political support for innovative development, alternative transportation modes, etc. in the suburban counties. When issues become difficult there still may be a tendency to follow the historical decisions and investments. Need to find more ways to build political support. What are the positive issues and actions that diverse communities can support?
 - LCI is the best approach and has had broad impact across the region. ARC should “ramp up” LCI to more places and support more implementation.

- ARC and NGOs need more ongoing advocacy, training and education for elected officials and citizens. Aging issues are important and Lifelong Communities approach is another good model.
- Can we “task” NGOs to undertake certain programs of action? How can NGOs and ARC create more resources to do the right things?