

Composite of Public Responses to the Guiding Principles Outreach in June-July, 2010

Policy & Leadership

- The Atlanta metro area is composed of so many counties and cities. How do we integrate everyone?
- The transit and transportation agencies need to cooperate more instead of working against each other.
- Is state policy promoting or hindering transportation principles?
- Where are the incentives or regulations to enforce these guidelines?
- Lifelong communities should be part of the guiding principles because it ties directly into housing and transit options.
- This plan should be focused on meeting the needs of the majority of the population.
- Water needs to be addressed directly in the guiding principles for PLAN 2040.
- Job creation should be a top priority.
- Local policymakers must sign on with these principles and communicate them regularly to their constituents.
- The public needs to know that just as services are not free, neither is infrastructure. Anti-taxation, anti-user and anti-revenue legislation is only tying our hands.
- A penny sales tax to fund transit in the five core counties through MARTA, paired with the regional T-SPLOST.
- We need more grassroots and local organizations involved.
- The region's future job growth needs to be a good balance of white collar and blue collar jobs.
- The outcomes are healthy people, access to jobs, a thriving economy and a good quality of life. Never forget that transportation investments, land use policies and environmental preservation are our means to that end.

Environment (Air, Energy, Greenspace, Water)

- We must conserve all resources now for future generations.
- We need better land use control and coordination to conserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- A comprehensive greenspace plan is needed.
- Enforce and uphold all environmental protection laws and ordinances and legislate significant fines for violation.
- Increase the use of renewable and easily available resources instead of nonrenewable.
- Increase the use of green houses and energy efficient buildings and public transportation.
- Education on conservation and how to change wasteful habits is needed.
- More water needs to be recycled.
- Implement energy efficiency policies into development codes (LEED).

- Conservation and green infrastructure should not be emphasized in an optional way.
- Bad air quality is leading many to develop respiratory problems.
- Population explosion is leading to diminishing resources, fewer jobs and a polluted environment.
- Greenspace should be protected in all environmentally sensitive areas, particularly in floodplains.

Development (Housing & Community)

- Encourage more “walkable” communities, which include sidewalks and bike lanes.
- People are more interested in mixed-use development; working and living closer together.
- More high-rise apartments and multi-family dwellings needed.
- People are growing more concerned with crime and safety in their neighborhoods.
- Stronger zoning requirements can limit growth in undeveloped areas.
- Create vibrant, dense and walkable communities and job centers – connect them with multiple forms of transportation.
- Housing density needs to be coordinated with transit.
- Encourage developer incentives for sustainable and energy-efficient development.
- Focus investments in denser portions of existing communities – jobs and housing ratio should be the key.
- Our communities should be distinct, wired and green.
- Creating a strong urban core will help the region as a whole.

Transportation

- Most believe the current transit system is limited and inconvenient.
- Increase taxes to fund transportation investments.
- Focus on creating a unified transit system instead of connecting individual systems.
- Start a campaign to educate the public on supporting more taxes for investments.
- Increase parking fines and use funds for transit.
- People want trains that will take them across the region and to surrounding cities like Athens, Macon, Rome and Columbus.
- Sidewalks and bike lanes are desperately needed in some areas.
- Create serious incentives for people to live near their jobs or to take mass transit.
- Emphasize enhanced rail capacity for freight as well as people movement.
- Ensure that the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are placed alongside, not behind, those of motorists.
- Charge tolls on roads to discourage driving, encourage carpooling, raise revenue and reduce pollution.
- Spend money on arterials and collectors which carry a lot of cross regional trips.
- Commit adequate funds to adding pedestrian safety improvements around MARTA stations and near heavily used bus stops.