



# WHAT IS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING?

## What is bicycle and pedestrian planning?

Communities designed to incorporate a variety of travel choices are very desirable. Imagine going to the store or movie theater without using your car. Or accessing work or recreation by sidewalks and bike paths. These options are good for the air we breathe and for our general health.

Planning for the construction of bicycle and pedestrian paths in the Atlanta region primarily addresses the safety and accessibility of sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes. It also helps provide more options to residents and visitors who seek alternatives to driving and traffic congestion.

Bicycling and walking are viable transportation options that can reduce the number of cars on the road, provide greater access to transit and improve personal health. This planning focuses resources on improving existing facilities, identifying new connections and ensuring that bicyclist and pedestrian needs are included as new infrastructure is developed.

## Why is bicycle and pedestrian planning important?

Consider the many types of trips made on sidewalks — on foot, pushing a baby carriage or by wheelchair. How long does it take to cross an intersection? How much time does the traffic signal give you? Now, consider making pedestrian trips if you are sight impaired, needing sound or sidewalk textures to guide you to and through intersections. If you bike, think about traveling in a dedicated bike lane or just alongside cars and trucks. Under Georgia law, bicycles are considered vehicles and have the same rights to the roads as all other vehicles. Even so, how safe would you feel sharing the road with larger, faster vehicles?

Many residents and visitors to the Atlanta region either cannot or choose not to drive. However, the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians have not always been considered when our transportation systems are being planned. While conditions are improving, bicyclists and pedestrians often face poorly maintained sidewalks and paths — when they exist at all. There are also conflicts with vehicles and a lack of safe crossings. These challenges underscore the need to plan well for pedestrian and bicycle travel in PLAN 2040 so that these options become safer and more convenient for people of all ages.

## WHAT IS PLAN 2040?

**PLAN 2040** is metro Atlanta's long-range planning process for land development and transportation needs through the year 2040. It will guide growth by addressing not only land use and transportation issues, but economic, environmental, housing and human services challenges, as well.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION



## How are bicycle and pedestrian plans created?

Like all transportation plans, bicycle and pedestrian plans are created at the local, regional and state levels. These plans, through stakeholder and public participation, assess the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians, set goals and make recommendations to help create a safer and more convenient bicycle and pedestrian network. These recommendations can become regional policy and guide long-range transportation planning efforts. Planning activities include:

- Regular meetings of a region-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
- Compilation of a regional bicycle facility inventory
- Adoption of the **2007 Atlanta Region Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways Plan**
- The federal **Safe Routes to School program** designed to increase the number of children safely biking and walking to school
- Georgia is designated a **Pedestrian Safety Focus State** and is assisting in developing a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan to help improve pedestrian safety statewide.

## How can someone participate in developing Plan 2040?

Metro Atlanta residents can participate in ARC's Plan 2040 activities in several ways:

- Regularly visit the Plan 2040 Web site at [www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040](http://www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040) for the latest information about the planning process. Check the "Get Involved" section of the site for discussions, meetings and other ways to share thoughts and ideas.
- Email comments to ARC at [plan2040@atlantaregional.com](mailto:plan2040@atlantaregional.com)
- Share ideas at ARC's group page on LENS on Atlanta at [www.lensonatlanta.org](http://www.lensonatlanta.org)
- Call ARC with comments or questions:
  - 404.463.3272
  - TTY number is 404.463.3272

## Helpful links for more info

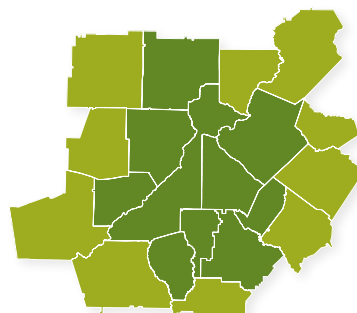
- **ARC bicycle and pedestrian planning**
- **GDOT bicycle and pedestrian planning programs**
- **Pedestrian and bicycle information center**
- **National Complete Streets Coalition**
- **Active Living Resource Center**
- **Rails to Trails Conservancy**

This document can be found on ARC's Web site at [www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040](http://www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040). For assistance in viewing this document, contact [plan2040@atlantaregional.com](mailto:plan2040@atlantaregional.com) or 404.463.3272.



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## WHAT IS THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION?

ARC is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency for the **10-county** metropolitan area. For transportation planning, ARC's area of responsibility includes all or parts of **20 counties** and the City of Atlanta.