



# WHAT IS THE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS?

## What is the Congestion Management Process?

Traffic congestion is one of the biggest issues faced by the traveling public in any metro area. How do transportation planners identify appropriate solutions to roadway congestion? They use a Congestion Management Process (CMP) designed to do just that. The CMP is a process intended to identify congested roadways within a metropolitan area, and in turn, to identify strategies to relieve traffic congestion. Through the CMP process, specific performance measures are applied to identify and monitor congestion on an ongoing basis.

In order to identify and monitor congestion, planners collect data such as travel times along roadways, and apply forecasting tools such as a regional travel demand model. This combination of real-world data and forecasting tools is applied to quantify the level of congestion on a roadway.

## Why is the Congestion Management Process important?

The CMP helps Atlanta's transportation decision makers identify locations that may require improvement. Congestion in the Atlanta region is defined and quantified based on three dimensions:

**Intensity:** The amount of delay experienced by the average commuter.

**Duration:** The number of hours during the day a particular roadway experiences congestion.

**Extent:** The number of people impacted by congestion on a particular facility.

These dimensions are used to rank and prioritize a list of congested facilities to target for potential congestion relief projects in the future. The dimensions also help policy makers decide what types of strategies will best address the congestion in a particular location. Congestion relief is an important factor in determining which transportation projects in the region receive federal funding.

## 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.



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## How is the CMP incorporated into future plans?

A variety of congestion relief strategies are considered as part of the CMP to enhance mobility on identified facilities. These can include:

- Transit improvements
- Interchange upgrades and expansions to address bottlenecks
- Travel Demand Management strategies such as carpooling, teleworking and vanpooling
- Operational improvements such as coordinating traffic signals and improving incident clearance times
- Capacity projects such as adding managed lanes or general use roadway lanes.

The Atlanta region's CMP has explored travel time improvements through optimizing travel in activity centers, relief of bottlenecks and incident response as a means to addressing congestion on area roadways. Strategies identified by CMP efforts are integrated into the **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** and **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** to help the region enhance overall mobility and accessibility.

## 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

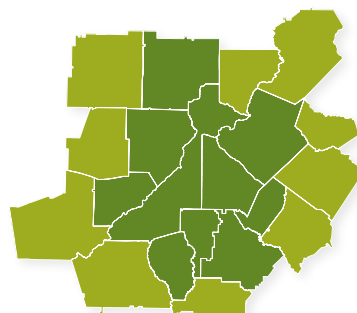
- [ARC Congestion Management Process](#)
- [FHWA Congestion Management Process](#)
- [US DOT Congestion Management Process Planning](#)
- [CMP Guidebook](#)

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.