



# WHAT IS THE LIFELONG COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE?

## What is the Lifelong Communities initiative?

The Atlanta region is experiencing a dramatic demographic shift in the older adult population. By 2030 one out of every five residents will be over the age of 60, a doubling of the current 60+ population. The **Lifelong Communities Initiative** is a comprehensive effort that involves designing physical environments, the arrangement of land use patterns, buildings and infrastructure, that support both individual activities and the programs, policies and funding that allow all people to remain in their homes and communities as long as they desire.

Over the past three years, ARC has facilitated aging-in-place discussions in 10 counties in the metro Atlanta area, and connected partners to implement innovative approaches to meeting the challenges and opportunities of this demographic shift. In 2009, ARC sponsored a **Lifelong Communities Charrette** to explore ideas, challenge assumptions and create consensus around a community vision and plan.

## Why is the Lifelong Communities initiative important?

A Lifelong Community is a community that provides a high quality of life for all, no matter their age or ability. This includes housing choices that are affordable, accessible and located near services, along with mobility options that ensure that individuals can access basic services and remain independent as they age.

The Lifelong Communities Charrette brought together design, architecture, planning, aging and health experts to craft six master plans for sites in Cobb, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties and the cities of Atlanta, Conyers and Fayetteville to serve as models for what makes a community “lifelong”.

The charrette resulted in seven core principles:

- Connectivity
- Pedestrian access and transit
- Neighborhood retail and services
- Social interaction
- Mix of dwelling types
- Healthy living
- Consideration for existing residents

## 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 can a community be a Lifelong Community?

Lifelong community principles offer a set of planning principles and a strategic approach that should become a greater focus in many aspects of community planning undertaken by ARC and the region's local governments. Design of new development and more importantly the impact that new development can have on surrounding communities is a critical aspect of this approach to accommodate the needs of older adults.

ARC's planning process, including PLAN 2040 and programs such as the **Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)** offer opportunities and resources for planning, related implementation assistance and transportation projects in specific areas. Lifelong community principles relate to the design of new development or retrofits to existing communities. They also provide a new element to planning which specifically addresses the anticipated problems of older adults. Integration of these principles into the regional planning process will lead to systemic change in meeting the needs of older adults throughout the metro Atlanta area.

## 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

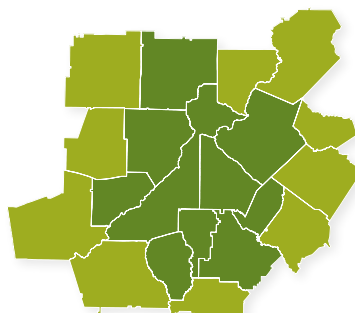
- **Demographic Data on Older Adults**
- **Aging Workforce Dynamics**
- **The Longevity Revolution**
- **The Green House Model**
- **Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ)** Lifelong Communities Charrette partner

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.