



REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation — the ultimate goal

For a region to successfully achieve the transportation and land use goals and policies specified in its planning efforts, projects identified in these plans must be implemented and put into action. This means that everything must be in place — timing, funding, regulation, people, right of way as well as the support of elected leaders, policymakers, agency staff and the public.

Transportation projects identified as part of the regional plan are implemented through the programming of funds in the Transportation Improvement Program, **TIP**, by regional planning partners who sponsor and steer specific projects through planning and development, environmental review, design, and construction.

Regional growth and development policies work in concert with those of local governments, since development policies are implemented through localized procedures including development review, zoning ordinances, and land use policies.

Obstacles to regional plan implementation

Delays in implementation of much needed transportation projects result in increased congestion, decreased air quality and increased cost. Among the impacts to project implementation are the following:

- Funding availability from budgets at the federal, state, and local levels
- Fluctuations and changes in estimated costs
- Unforeseen construction issues that change a project's schedule and budget
- Public support and the dedication of public officials to see projects through to completion

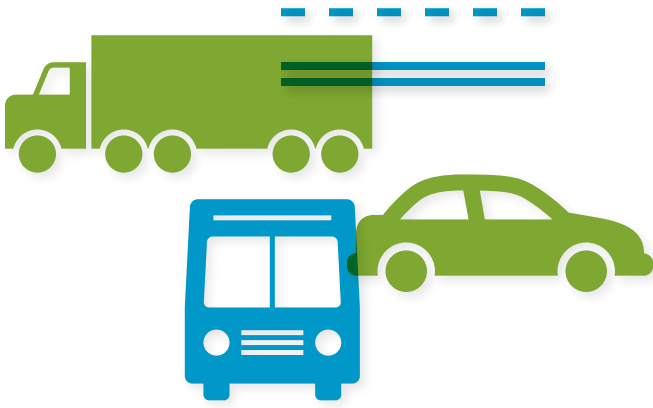
Generating momentum for a project in the community helps to raise the level of accountability among those responsible for completing a project. Since priorities often change due to economic and political realities, it is challenging to maintain community consensus and identify projects that public officials are willing to stand behind.

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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Overcoming the challenges to plan implementation

A transportation project may have several different stages of development — years of engineering, design and right of way acquisition before construction begins. How can planning agencies and project sponsors improve implementation?

- Establish realistic expectations regarding actual project implementation
- Develop an overall plan, set priorities, and not shift direction to other priorities
- Give financial commitment to a project only after it has gone through rigorous evaluation to ensure reasonable costs and schedules

ARC tracks the progress of metro Atlanta transportation projects through an annual **Breaking Ground** report. It includes a status report of each project in the latest **Transportation Improvement Program** along with a detailed analysis of the **Livable Centers Initiative** (LCI) program, advancement rates by project sponsor and funding source. Also included are projects delayed two or more years in a row, historical trends, and planning successes.

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 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
- Share ideas at ARC's group page on LENS on Atlanta at www.lensonatlanta.org
- Call ARC with comments or questions:
 - 404. 463. 3272
 - TTY number is 404. 463. 3272

Helpful links for more info

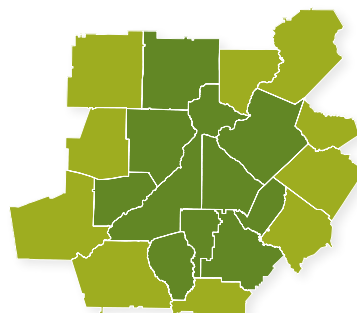
- [Summary of the 2008 ARC Breaking Ground Report](#)
- [Key Factors of Successful Project Implementation \(USDOT/FTA\)](#)

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



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

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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.