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.

CONNECTING THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITH REGIONAL GROWTH POLICIES

What is the Regional Strategic Transportation System (RSTS)?

During the development of metro Atlanta’s current transportation plan, Envision6, ARC identified a network of regionally significant roadways and transit routes. Called the Regional Strategic Transportation System (RSTS), this network includes key regional corridors as priorities for transportation investments.

This helps focus the use of the region’s limited federal transportation funding for increasing capacity by limiting it to facilities in the RSTS. The RSTS was identified through consultation with regional planning agencies and includes the following:

- Interstate freeways.
- Existing and future regional transit service, including MARTA rail and planned transit service.
- Principal roadways that provide inter-county mobility, ensure adequate spacing of major roads and connect commercial centers, town centers and/or freight corridors.

To be effective, the transportation system must coordinate with and support land development plans and growth policies across the metro area.

How does the RSTS connect with regional growth policies?

The Atlanta region has a Regional Development Plan that includes a Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) — a map identifying existing and desirable growth patterns that help achieve regional development goals. These goals include encouraging development and investments within principal transportation corridors and activity and town centers. The UGPM identifies urban redevelopment corridors, regional parks, freight areas, town centers, central cities, mega-corridors, urban or suburban neighborhoods and rural areas.

Together, the RSTS and UGPM are planning tools that provide a policy and implementation framework to guide future investment decisions for both transportation improvements and development decisions.

For example, a future transit corridor that coincides with a busy commercial district may be an appropriate area for transportation investment since many commuters utilize the area to access jobs. This type of area may be a candidate for transit-oriented development to support a future transit system.
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.