



# 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 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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## Connecting land development and transportation — an essential tool

PLAN 2040 is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses both land use and transportation issues in the Atlanta region. The RSTS and UGPM are essential tools for identifying where investments have the biggest impact in achieving the long-term goals of the region. Based on forecast population and employment growth, these investments provide the most impact on traffic congestion levels, development densities, commercial and retail viability and other future growth trends.

ARC encourages local governments to integrate transportation and land use in planning initiatives through ongoing programs including:

- **County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Program**
- **Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Program**
- **Lifelong Communities**

## 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

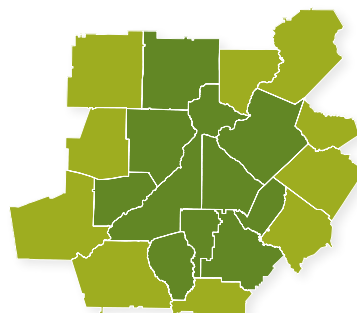
- **U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration**
- **Georgia Tech Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development**
- **Livable Communities Coalition**
- **Smart Growth America**

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.