



# WHAT IS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLANNING?

## What is transportation safety planning?

Providing for increased safety in our transportation system is crucial to the well-being of our community. One of the ways this can be done is through proactively planning the integration of safety improvements on our roadway and transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian pathways and trucking and freight rail systems.

In 2008, there were 481 fatal crashes, 59,094 injury crashes and 173,120 total crashes in the metro Atlanta area. Crashes are devastating to the victims and their families physically, financially and emotionally. They also tie up traffic, impacting many more travelers trying to reach their respective destinations.

Safety planning considers all aspects of transportation safety — engineering, education, enforcement and emergency medical response. It focuses on helping travelers, organizations and government agencies prevent crashes through better design of streets and highways, improved traveler behavior and more effective law enforcement.

## Why is transportation safety planning important?

Transportation safety planning can reduce crash rates by implementing preventive measures.

### Design of streets and highways

Data on crashes accumulated from law enforcement records is used to prioritize locations with high vehicle, pedestrian and/or bicycle crash rates. The data help determine changes that might reduce future incidents. Such improvements could include **access management**, medians, traffic signals, **geometric design**, lighting, visibility, pavement markings and maintenance.

### Traveler behavior

Training and awareness for the road user include targeting age groups (youth and seniors), promoting safety belt usage and addressing the following: aggressive or impaired driving, traveling in work zones, using handheld devices while driving and sharing the road with pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles.

Safety planners collaborate with law enforcement officials while helping lawmakers pass legislation that enforces safe behavior.

## 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 do planners track safety information?

The State of Georgia utilizes Critical Analysis Reporting Environment (CARE) software, a data analysis package that helps planning agencies such as ARC determine where and how crashes occur. It produces a slate of useful crash statistics throughout the state that helps citizens, planners and decision-makers understand the nature of safety issues in metro Atlanta and in individual communities. These statistics are used during transportation-related studies and analyses that support the identification of projects that are included in regional plans, including PLAN 2040.

## Regional planning working with state planning

As the regional planning agency, ARC works with the State of Georgia to integrate the **State's Strategic Highway Safety Plans (SHSP)** into PLAN 2040. The purpose of an SHSP is to identify the State's key safety needs and guide investment decisions to achieve reductions in highway fatalities and injuries on Georgia's roads.

## 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

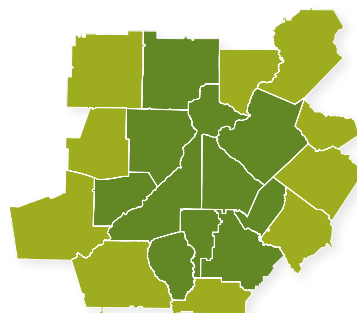
- ARC's activities and planning initiatives, visit [www.atlantaregional.com](http://www.atlantaregional.com)
- **Transportation Safety Planning Working Group**
- **Federal Highway Administration Transportation Safety Planning:**
- **Georgia Strategic Highway Safety Plan**
- **CARE Research and Development Laboratory**

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.