



# WHAT IS REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNING?

## What is Transit Planning?

We see buses and MARTA trains as we go about our day. What we don't see is the diversity of transit options we could have. "Transit" refers to a variety of services that help people meet everyday needs without relying on a private vehicle. Determining the types of services needed and putting them in the best locations requires planning. This includes coordination of various rail and bus services, vanpools and paratransit (a service for residents unable to use the fixed-route system due to disabilities or other predefined limitations).

## Why is Transit Planning important?

In addition to providing an important transportation option for residents, transit contributes to healthier communities by reducing pollution from cars, conserving fuel and encouraging more walkable, sustainable development patterns.

Focusing on transit planning helps the Atlanta region balance the need for transit investment with other types of transportation improvements. One of the goals of PLAN 2040 is to provide more transportation options and improved quality of life for people in the region. Transit planning helps to address this goal.

## What transit services are available in the Atlanta region?

Metro Atlanta is primarily served by six transit operators:

- 1) **MARTA**: Rail service in metro Atlanta and bus and paratransit service for Fulton and DeKalb counties, including the City of Atlanta
- 2) **GRTA Xpress**: Express bus service between suburban counties and major employment centers
- 3) **Cobb Community Transit (CCT)**: Local bus service and express bus service to major employment centers
- 4) **Gwinnett County Transit**: Local bus service and express bus service to Atlanta
- 5) **Clayton County Transit (C-TRAN)**: Local bus service, including routes to Hartsfield-Jackson airport
- 6) **Cherokee Area Transportation System (CATS)**: Local bus service in Canton and partners with GRTA to provide express service to Fulton County

In addition to these, there are vanpools, local circulator shuttles and other transit options available.

## 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.



## How can we have a regional transit network?

The Transit Planning Board, a partnership of local officials and key transit-related agencies, was established in 2006 to develop a regional transit plan for metro Atlanta. This plan, called **Concept 3**, was officially adopted in August, 2008. It calls for a regional transit network and coordination of respective transit services across multiple jurisdictions and organizations. To accomplish the plan, the Transit Implementation Board is currently working with state and regional planning agencies, transit service providers and other key stakeholders to advance and implement the regional transit network, while developing an organizational plan to guide and manage operations of a regional transit system.

Concept 3 includes:

- MARTA Rail Extensions
- Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Streetcar lines
- Commuter Rail Services
- High Capacity (freeway) Bus Rapid Transit Lines
- Arterial Bus Rapid Transit
- Express and Intercity Regional Bus Service
- Expanded Local and Activity Center Bus Service

## 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

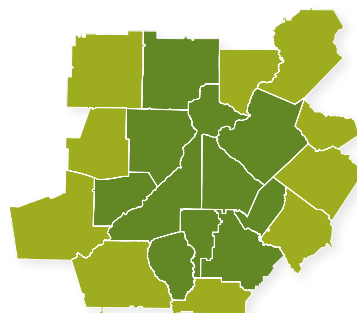
- [Atlanta Regional Commission — Regional Transit](#)
- [Atlanta Regional Commission — Regional Transit Institutional Analysis](#)
- [Transit Implementation Board and Concept 3](#)
- [Final Concept 3 Map](#)

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.