

Strategic Regional Thoroughfare Plan

Fact Sheet

Spring 2010



Introduction

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), in partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), is currently developing the **Strategic Regional Thoroughfare Plan (SRTP)**. The plan will identify existing thoroughfares in the Metro Atlanta region, and use those as the foundation for assembling a Regional Thoroughfare System.

A **thoroughfare** is a **transportation corridor** that serves multiple ways of traveling, including walking, bicycling, driving, and riding transit. It connects **people and goods** to **important places** in Metropolitan Atlanta. It is managed by applying special traffic control strategies and suitable land development guidelines in order to maintain **travel efficiency, reliability, and safety** for all thoroughfare users. In light of this special function, the thoroughfare network receives priority consideration for infrastructure investment in the Metro Atlanta region.

Upon establishing the Regional Thoroughfare System, this planning process will shift to developing strategies and guidelines for maximizing the effectiveness of the system as a whole rather than its individual segments.

Why Complete a Strategic Regional Thoroughfare Plan?

Most people are familiar with the freeways in Atlanta. We know how they function and what type of travel patterns they are designed to facilitate. When using MARTA Rail, passengers are familiar with the standard wait times, standard travel times, and how to transfer from one service to another. Travelers have developed a unique set of expectations for each of these types of transportation infrastructure. There is no doubt that these expectations are a direct result of system-oriented planning, management, and operations. Instead of isolating the freeway system segment by segment, the freeways were planned and built as a whole. Similarly, the MARTA rail lines were also planned, built, and now managed daily as one unified system. Put more simply, a system as a whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Unfortunately, as in many other U.S. cities, most of the major arterial roads in the Atlanta region were not genuinely planned or built in the same manner. Instead, they were developed over time in a piecemeal fashion without much regard to how they connect or interact with other arterials and other systems (i.e., highways, transit, and truck routes). It has also been very challenging to reduce congestion on arterials while allowing for new development along them. Many of the Metro-Atlanta arterials serve multiple functions, and this can lead to congestion and safety conflicts. ARC initiated the Thoroughfare Plan to help establish expectations for system performance and management for major arterials that are ultimately designated as thoroughfares.





What Defines a Roadway as a Thoroughfare?

Several criteria can be used to define a thoroughfare system. The primary criteria to be considered are:

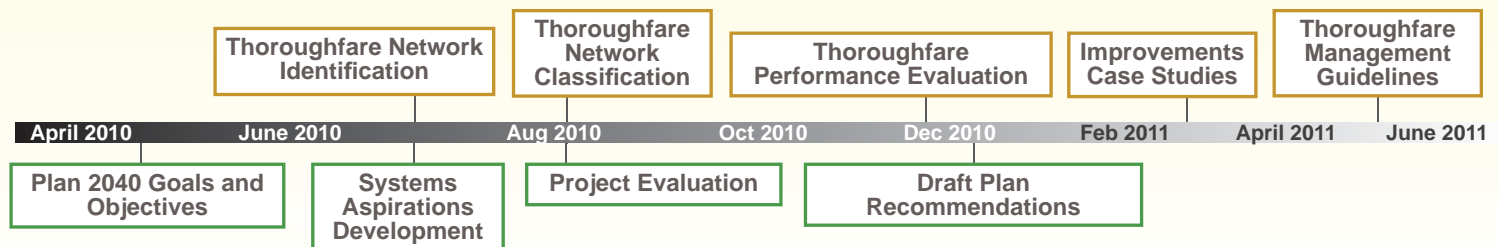
- Connectivity to major employment and residential areas
- Ability to accommodate the most people or users
- Significance to the State of Georgia in addition to Metro-Atlanta
- Capability of supporting emergency evacuation and response
- Existing or planned future accommodations for transit and truck travel
- Identification of roads that are parallel to freeways to improve system redundancy by serving as primary alternative routes

Only a few corridors throughout the region will be identified as a thoroughfare. The vast majority of streets will not be included on the thoroughfare system. If the road does not help serve a regional function, such as those listed above, then it will most likely not be identified as a thoroughfare. One example of a non-thoroughfare would be a neighborhood or subdivision street, or a rural street.

How is the SRTP related to the PLAN 2040 Update?

The Thoroughfare System will be a new component of the updated 2006 Regional Strategic Transportation System (RSTS), and will be included in evaluating projects for transportation funds in the new long-range plan, PLAN 2040. Therefore, the timing of the SRTP activities has been scheduled to align with the critical PLAN 2040 milestones shown below.

SRTP Activities



PLAN 2040 Activities

Contact us!

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<http://www.atlantaregional.com/srtp>

In partnership:

