



2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report



Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy (CEDS)
Annual Report and Resolution
October 14, 2026



Vision

ONE **great** REGION

Mission

Foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region through collaborative, data-informed planning and investments.

Values

Excellence | **Integrity** | **Equity**

Goals



Healthy, safe, livable communities in the Atlanta Metro area.



Strategic investments in people, infrastructure, mobility, and preserving natural resources.



Regional services delivered with **operational excellence** and **efficiency**.



Diverse stakeholders engage and take a regional approach to solve local issues.



A competitive economy that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

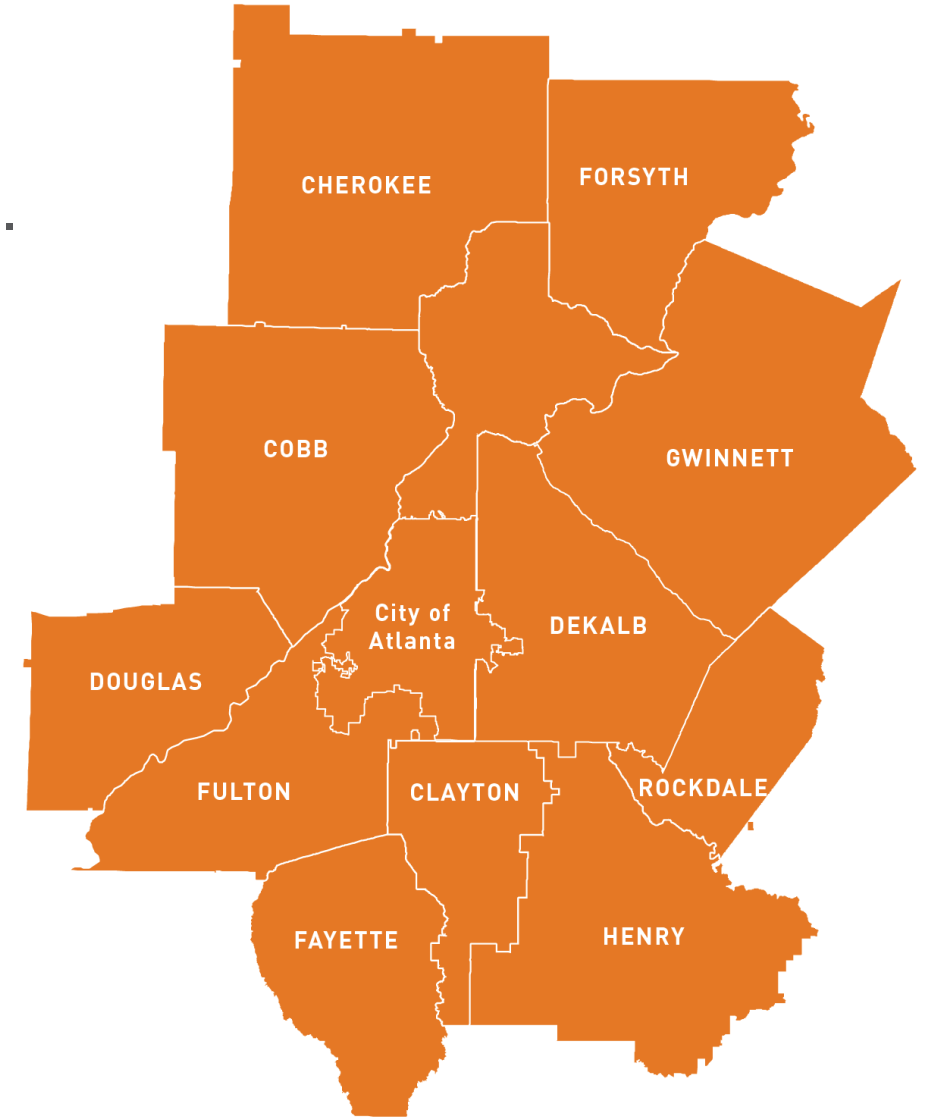
Purpose of the Presentation

- EDA required an annual update from ARC as the designated EDD. Its due to EDA in December.
- Board action requested: adopt the resolution to submit annual update to EDA.
- Highlight CEDS activities undertaken in 2026
- Preview CEDS activities planned for 2027



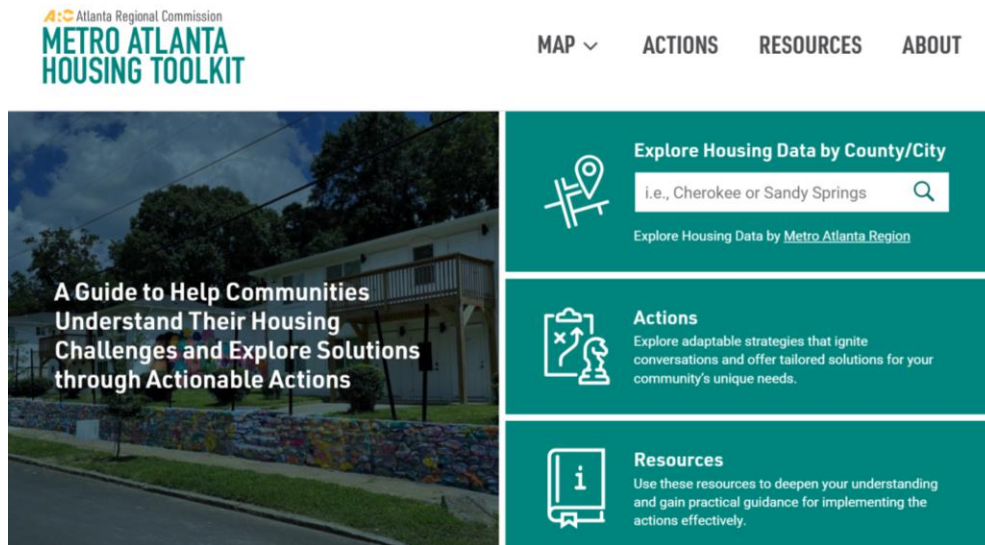
CEDS and ARC's Role

- ARC Board serves as EDD for 11-County region.
- CEDS is the region's five-year economic playbook.
- Provides local governments access to EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance funding
 - Beltline small business grant
 - Russell Center entrepreneurship and job creation grant
 - Small business grants to Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, Henry, and Douglas.



2026 In Action-Housing

- Housing Summit
- Completed the Regional Housing Strategy for the Atlanta Region
- Metro Atlanta Housing Toolkit Data and Website Update-Success Stories Regional Housing Successes - ARC



Gwinnett County

Gwinnett County deployed a \$21 million Affordable Housing Development Fund (AHDF) with \$19 million funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and \$2 million from the HOME Investment Partnership Program. The county has combined these federal resources with changes to their Unified Development Ordinance and Unified Plan to leverage funds for affordable housing. For an average investment of under \$20,000 per unit, over 1,100 units will be developed or preserved at affordability levels of 65% or 80% of area median income for at least 20 years.

Two projects funded through these resources include:

Ivy Ridge Apartments – This project received \$2.8 million in AHDF funding and produced 256 affordable units for households making up to 60% AMI.



Legacy at Walton Crossing – This is a two-phase project that received a total of \$1.1 million in AHDF funding. Phase I will be 65 affordable units for families, while Phase II will be 72 affordable units for seniors.



2026 In Action-Economic Development Forums

Participants: Regional Economic Development Practitioners and Partners

Purpose: Learn local priorities and needs, find programs worth expanding, identify where regional help is needed

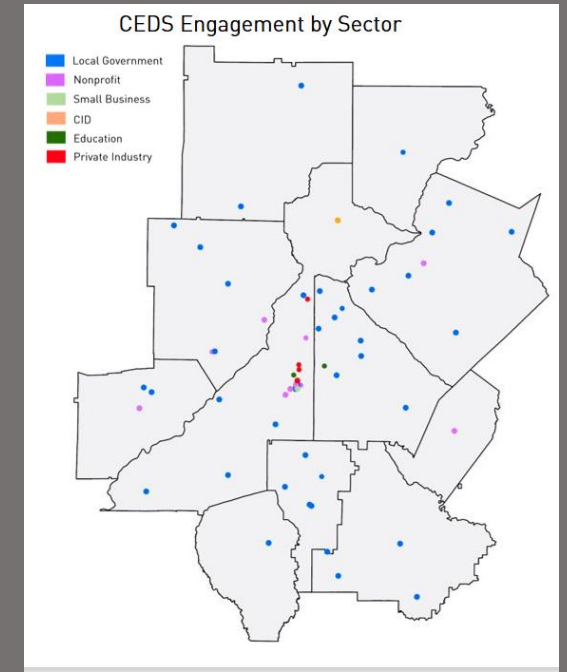
General Topics: Regional Catalytic Projects, Resources (Funding and Technical Assistance, Business Support, Workforce, Redevelopment)

Locations: The Stitch and National Association of Development Organization (NADO)



2026 In Action-Economic Development Professionals Workshop

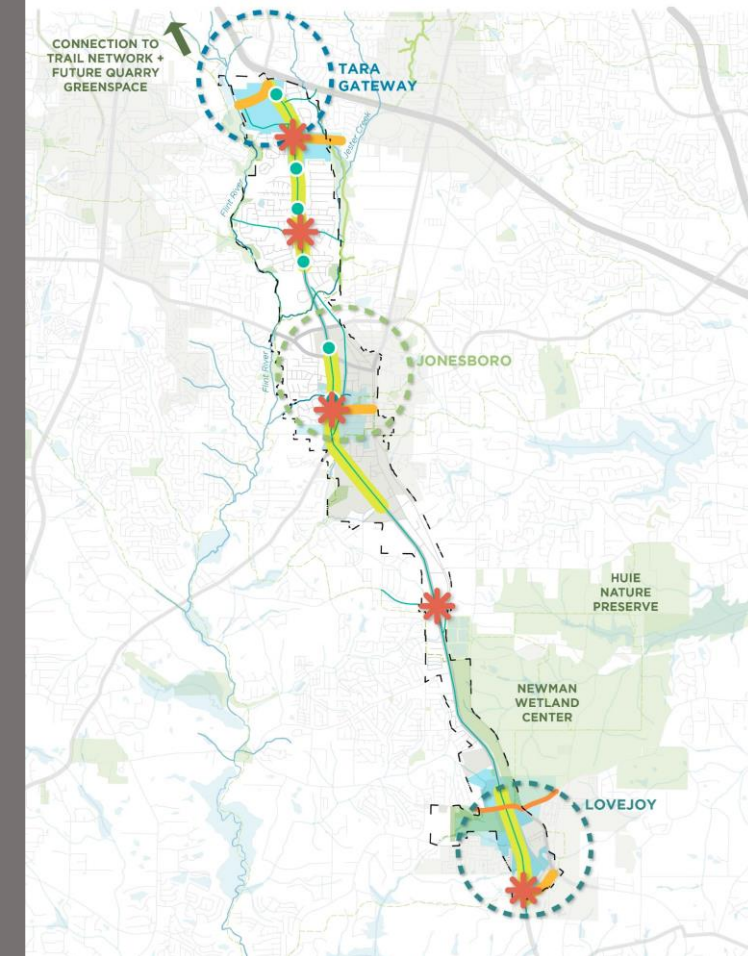
- **Date:** September 14, 2026
- **Participants:** Regional Economic Development Professionals
- **Intent:** Identify local economic development priorities that require multi-jurisdictional and multi-sector solutions.
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - Housing and workforce programs are core economic infrastructure, and both need closer alignment with employers and educators.
 - The ability to be development-ready varies widely across the region.
 - Downtowns, corridors and adaptive reuse are major regional opportunities.
 - Water, sewer, transportation and utility capacity can make or break projects.



2026 Grants and Technical Assistance

Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)-Tara Boulevard (2024)

- Corridor Study (11-Miles)-Focus on Tara Boulevard as a “Main Street” with transit connections such as BRT
- 2025 Regional Excellence Award Visionary Planning Winner
- Collaborative Process-Clayton County, Lovejoy, Jonesboro
- Formation of the Tara Boulevard Task Force
- Bi-monthly Meetings
- Focus: Cohesive Corridor Design-Signage and Zoning



Looking Ahead to 2027

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update: December 2027
- Economic Development Forums (2)
- Housing:
 - Regional Housing Strategy (Agency-Wide) Implementation
 - Housing Leadership Academy Cohort #5
 - Local Housing Assessments (CDAP)
- Support Local Jurisdictions/Organizations
 - Letters of Support
 - Grants and Technical Assistance



CEDS Board Champions

Clayton County: Chairwoman,
Dr. Alieka Anderson-Henry



Forsyth County: Chairman,
Alfred John





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Link to CEDS: [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\) - Atlanta Regional Commission](#)