



2026 APPLICATION GUIDEBOOK



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW



PROGRAM GOALS (Revised August 2025)

- **Healthy, Safe, Livable Communities:** Create multimodal developments that prioritize connectivity, public health, and safety for people of all ages and abilities.
- **A Competitive Economy:** Maximize the economic potential of downtowns and transit nodes with a diverse mix of housing, jobs, and community services.
- **Diverse Stakeholder Engagement:** Empower and engage all stakeholders through comprehensive and impactful community outreach.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Reimbursable grant program
- ARC pays up to 80% of the study amount
- Applicant must be a CID or local government
- Total federal funds available for 2026 grants - approximately \$1.8 M

CBO REQUIREMENT

- CBO must assist in application development
- May provide funding (or not)
- Must provide a letter of support
 - Explain how they assisted in application
- How do I find a CBO?
 - [2025 Metro Atlanta Cultural Assets Map](#)
 - Reach out to our Community Engagement & Culture Team - Roshani Thakore, RThakore@atlantaregional.org, or Antemil Jorkey, AJorkey@atlantaregional.org.

FULL STUDY MANAGEMENT

- Pilot program for 2026 targeted to help sponsors with limited staff capacity to fully manage all aspects of an LCI grant
- Indicate reason(s) for needing assistance on LCI application
- ARC will manage...
 - Consultant procurement
 - Selected consultant team
 - Study process
 - Invoicing
- Sponsor to provide Point of Contact
 - POC to serve on PMT, PAG, etc.
- MOA between ARC + Sponsor
- 7 ■ 20% match required **UP FRONT**





STUDY CHARACTERISTICS



STUDY TYPES

CATALYTIC

FOCUS ON VISIONS

Study funds may be used to create long term master plans or visioning plans for an LCI area.

TACTICAL

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

Study funds may be used to prepare detailed studies that foster specific LCI plan implementation for an LCI area that has a completed catalytic plan.

What is a Catalytic LCI Study?



- Creating a master plan for an existing or future planned transit node.
- Developing a vision for the growth of a community's downtown district.
- Envisioning a multimodal and multijurisdictional corridor with nodal development.
- Each Catalytic Study contains an implementation strategy, including a 100-day Action Plan, 5 Year Work Program, implementation partners, and funding sources.

What is a Tactical LCI Study?



- Undertaking a detailed feasibility study for a trail proposed in a Catalytic LCI study.
- Revising development regulations to incorporate changes proposed in the Catalytic LCI study.
- Creating detailed right-of-way design and cost estimates for a streetscape concept proposed in the Catalytic LCI study.
- Providing specific site-level design for transportation recommendations.

LCI FOCUS AREAS



MAIN STREETS & DOWNTOWNS

These areas are the region's traditional Main Street and downtown communities. These are identified in The Atlanta Region's Plan [Unified Growth Policy Map](#).



TRANSIT AREAS

These are areas that have a direct connection to the high-capacity regional transit system. These centers will have a fixed-guideway or bus rapid transit stop existing or planned within 1/4-mile of the LCI study area.



PROJECT EXAMPLES



Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study

"WALK WITH US" STORYTELLING VIDEO

The "Walk With Us" storytelling initiative was created to address the need to capture the diverse insights in Clarkston in a variety of methods, so residents could choose to engage in ways comfortable to them.

At the start of the project, community leaders emphasized the power of short videos that could be circulated on WhatsApp groups. The video storytelling began with a project introduction video and interview with Mayor Burks to offer people an alternative way to learn about and engage with the content. Throughout the project, the team captured footage of the public events and conducted video interviews with community members in different languages. Many residents volunteered to

share their thoughts on video, including teenagers from the Leaders of Tomorrow program and long-time resident. Short 30-second video clips featuring the Project Advisory Group members and the Ambassadors were released on the website to show residents what their neighbors thought of the project. At the final public event in June, the full video was presented to residents, portraying the unique planning process, the rich insights, the enthusiasm for the trail, and the community's commitment

to making Clarkston a better place for long-time residents and newcomers.

The "Walk With Us" video was not only a way to document the Clarkston Greenway Study process but also a resource that the City of Clarkston can use while pursuing grants for the project. Additionally, the video has been shared with community organizations and project partners and could serve as a resource for and community engagement.



"Walk with Us" Video Available Now!

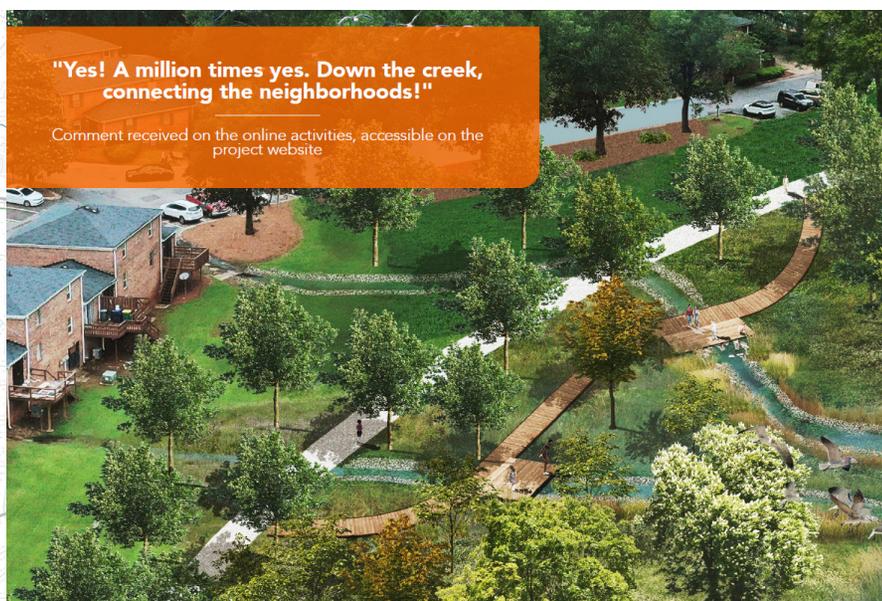
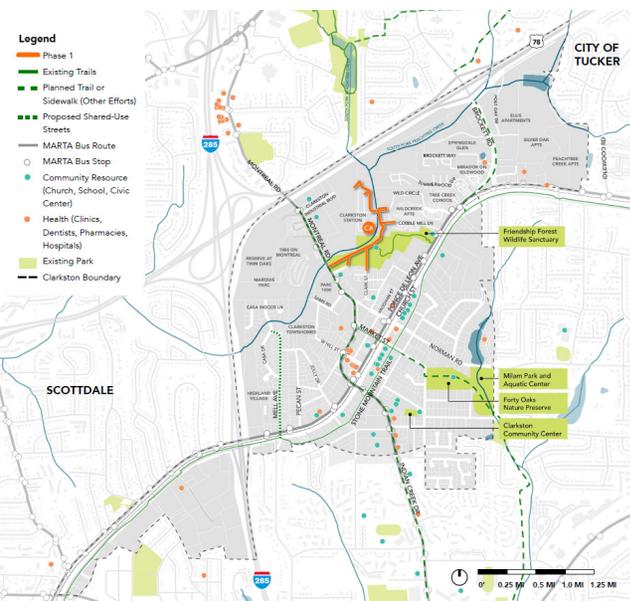
Right: The "Walk With Us" video as shown on the project website.

Middle, right: Mayor Burks in the Project Introduction Video.

Bottom: 30-second video clips from members of the community.



30-second videos from Ambassadors and Project Advisory Group members



"Yes! A million times yes. Down the creek, connecting the neighborhoods!"

Comment received on the online activities, accessible on the project website

Tactical Study

This study examines the feasibility of three proposed trail networks recommended in previous plans. Through extensive community engagement and a variety of metrics, the plan recommends a combination of the three original trail options.

Year Funded/Cost:
2022/\$340,000

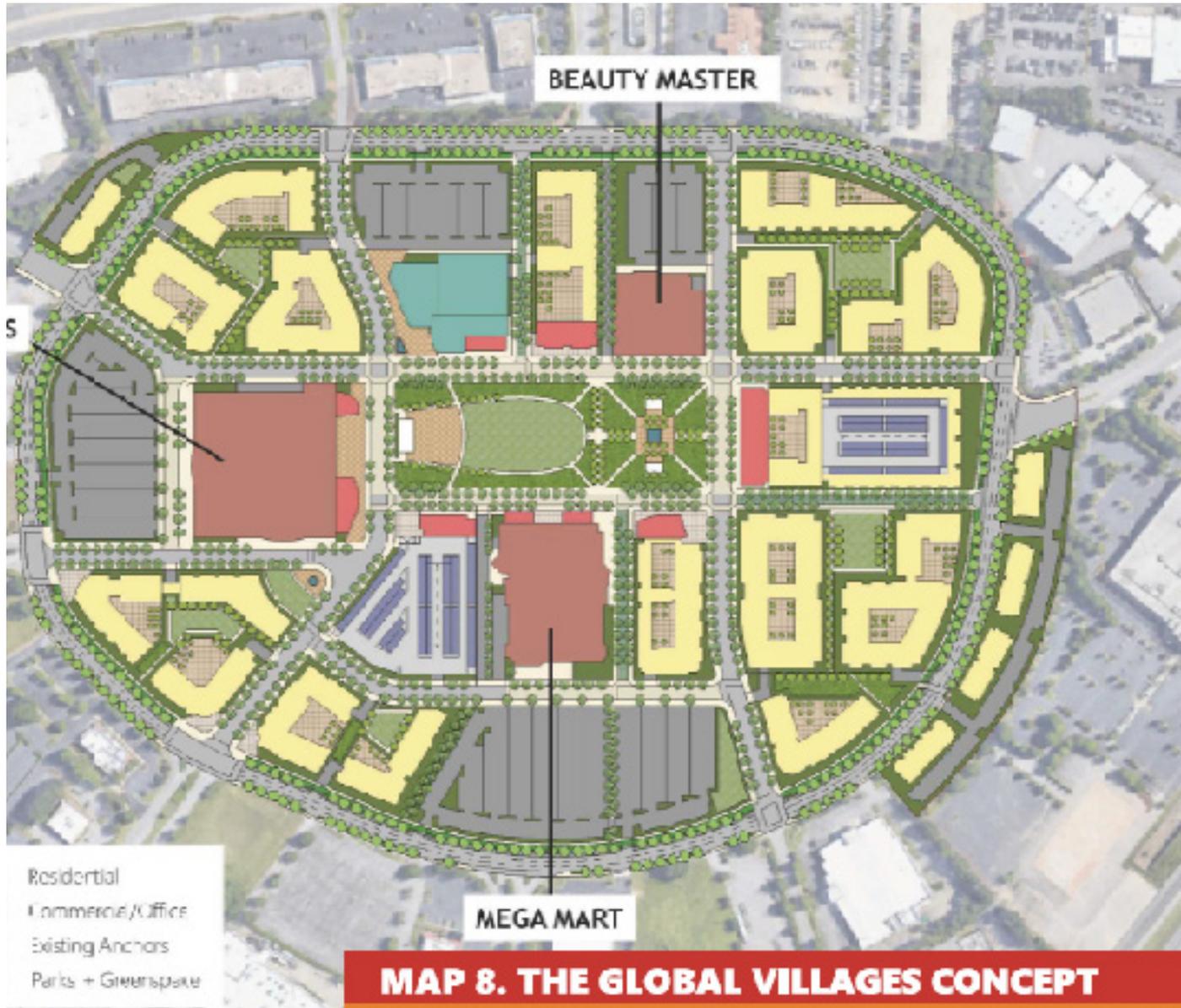
Sponsor:
City of Clarkston

Lead Consultant:
Perkins & Will

[View the Plan](#)

**2024 ARC Regional Excellence Award recipient, and 2025 Georgia Planning Association and American Planning Association award winner.*

Gwinnett Place Mall Revitalization Strategy



Tactical LCI Plan

An combined effort between the CID and Gwinnett County, this strategy incorporated extensive community engagement and provides an action plan for transforming the mall site into the Global Villages, an international arts and culture-filled neighborhood.

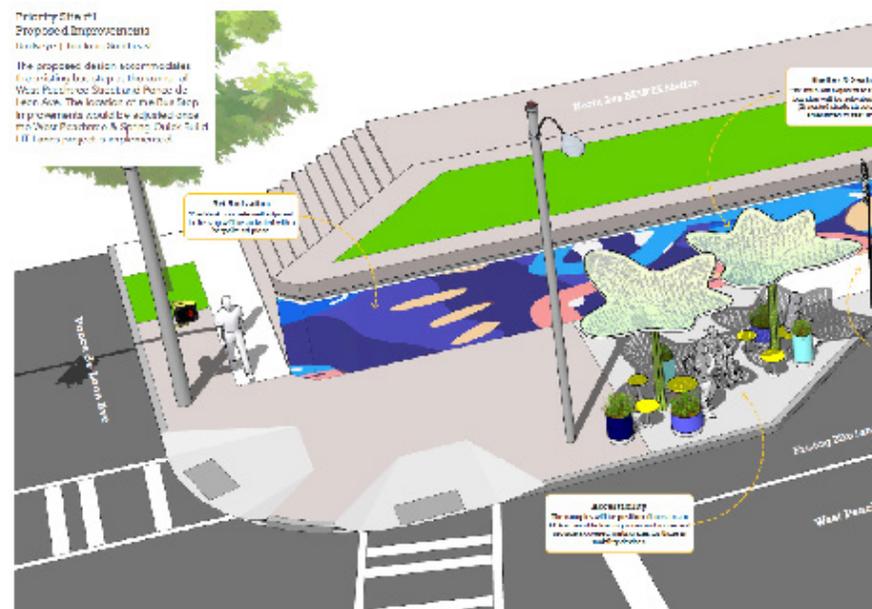
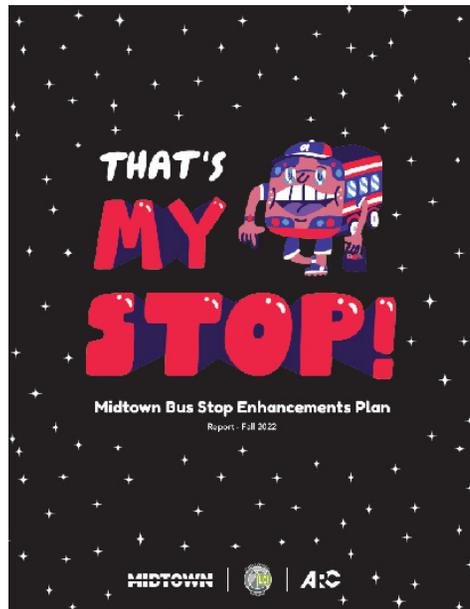
Year Funded/Cost:
2021/\$275,000

Sponsors:
Gwinnett Place CID,
Gwinnett County

Lead Consultant:
VHB

[View the Plan](#)

Midtown Bus Stops Enhancement Plan



Tactical LCI Plan

This study identified strategies for improving the comfort, convenience, character, and accessibility of bus stops in Midtown, along W. Peachtree and Spring Streets, between 17th St. and North Avenue.

Year Funded/Cost:
2021/\$100,000

Sponsor:
Midtown Alliance

Lead Consultant:
MKSK

[View the Plan](#)

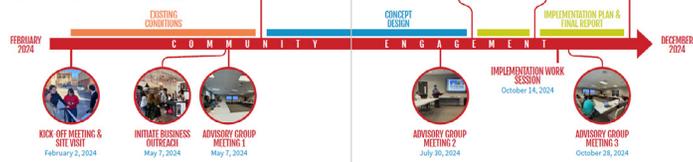
Lawrenceville Reimagine Honest Alley

Understanding Honest Alley's Property Ownership
 The approximately 16,900-square-foot space that makes up Honest Alley is not entirely owned by the City of Lawrenceville. While the City owns the central circulation space, a variety of private property owners control the space at the edges. This is more perceivable as you stand in the alleyway today but changing the line between City-owned and private property will be an important task in designing and constructing Honest Alley as a complete experience.



ENGAGEMENT IN DESIGN

People are passionate about public spaces. We all interact with and use them in our own unique way. That can make meeting everyone's expectations on a new design for an existing space an incredibly challenging task. The most beloved public spaces are those that are shaped by the thoughts and ideas of the people who are expected to use them the most. The study's process was designed to ensure that community engagement had a clear impact on the design of Honest Alley. That process is outlined here while the specific decisions and feedback that informed the design concept for Honest Alley are detailed on the following pages.



THE PROCESS

Community Engagement
 More than just looking for comments on an alleyway design, engagement is an opportunity to meet the people of Lawrenceville and gain their perspectives on the place in which they live. This work included meeting regularly with the Project Advisory Group and adjacent business and property owners. The larger community was engaged at three pop-up activities in a block-party celebration to get the final concepts off paper and onto Honest Alley for a brief time.

Existing Conditions
 This is where we did our homework on Honest Alley and Downtown Lawrenceville. This included review of a traffic study and a topographic utility survey of the alleyway already completed by the City of Lawrenceville. These items are critically important to the development of different designs to further enhance the alley into a vibrant public space.

Concept Design
 Based on feedback from early community engagement, the design team created four alternative design concepts for Honest Alley. All of those approached meeting the community's goals for the alleyway in different ways. The second pop-up activity and an online survey helped us select and refine a preferred design.

Implementation Plan & Final Report
 Findings from the analysis, input from the community, and the preferred design are documented in this final report. The report has been designed to maintain excitement and enthusiasm for the transformation of Honest Alley and contains vital information on the path forward. The included implementation plan was developed in close collaboration with multiple City departments and the Project Advisory Group.

HONEST ALLEY REIMAGINED

The design concept for Honest Alley considers the entire space of the alley: public property and private. Important details include how buildings front and access directly on the alleyway. The illustration plan on this page shows Honest Alley closed to traffic during a special event or other pedestrian-only times. During normal daytime operation this becomes a shared space for both pedestrians and vehicles to move between S Clayton Street and S Chestnut Street.



- ALLEYWAY SPACES**
- 1 Shared Space One-way Vehicular Circulation
 - 2 Parallel Parking Zone (Normal Daytime Operation)
 - 3 Pedestrian-only Plaza
 - 4 Warm Alleyway Entries
 - 5 Sidewalk & Street Crossing Improvements
 - 6 Pedestrian Passage to Parking Lot
 - 7 Relocated Dumpster & Pick-up Area
 - 8 Metal Barriers & Vertical Access

- ALLEYWAY ELEMENTS**
- Building City Awings
 - Removable Barriers (Occasional Closure)
 - Alley Entry Gateway (Public Art)
 - Potential Wall Mural Location (Public Art)
 - Suspended Overhead Lighting (Public Art)
 - Landscaping & Planting Areas
 - Event Tents (Temporary)

Tactical LCI Plan

Through an extensive community engagement process, this study identifies a preferred concept for Honest Alley's redesign as a public space for people.

Year Funded/Cost:
 2023/\$100,000

Sponsor:
 City of Lawrenceville

Lead Consultant:
 Toole Design

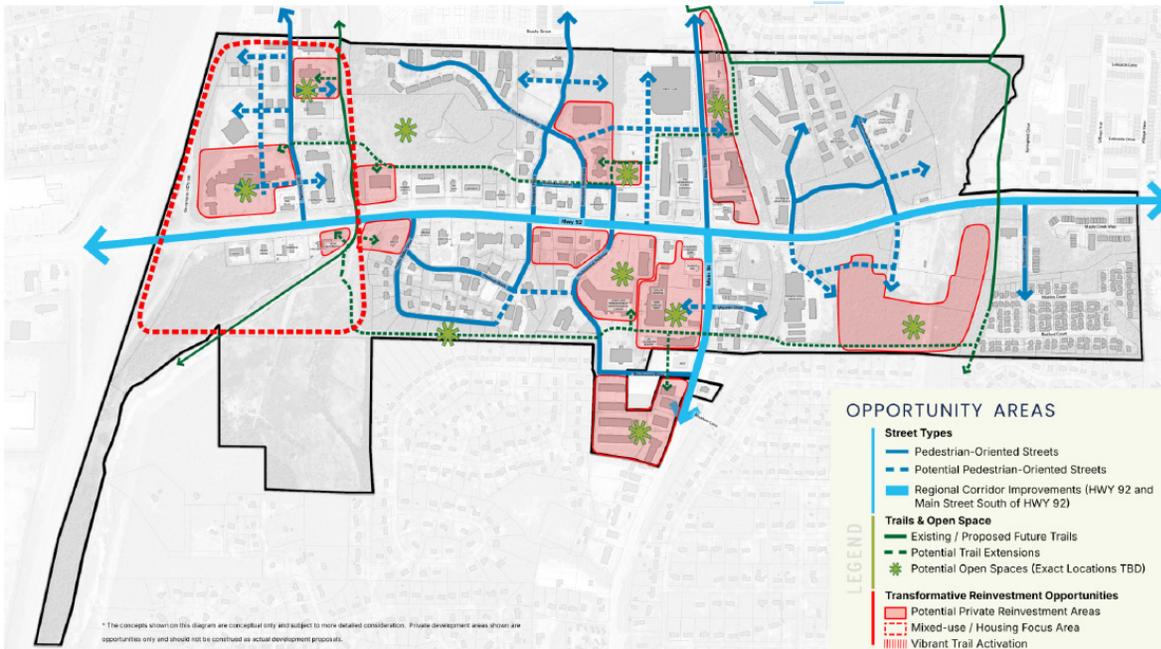
[View the Plan](#)



Woodstock Reimagining Hwy 92 Plan

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

-  A desire for additional greenspace / open spaces for social gatherings and community events
 -  A desire to expand the trail system, both Noondy Creek and Rubes Creek and connections between the two
 -  A desire for infrastructure that supports alternative mobility, including extension of the golf cart district, bike lanes, etc.
 -  A desire to see a more visually cohesive corridor that reflects the aesthetics of Downtown
 -  A desire to see improved connectivity in the study area including ways to move through and between destinations without having to use Highway 92
- See Appendix for a complete summary of community engagement activities and results



Tactical LCI Plan

This study recommends changes to the City's regulatory framework that will achieve the community's preferred vision for Hwy. 92 south of Downtown Woodstock. It includes a housing & market analysis to ensure realistic redevelopment concepts.

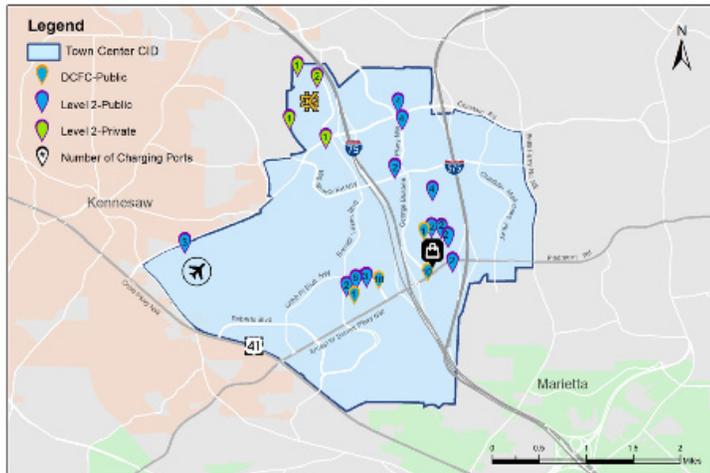
Year Funded/Cost:
2023/\$220,000

Sponsor:
City of Woodstock

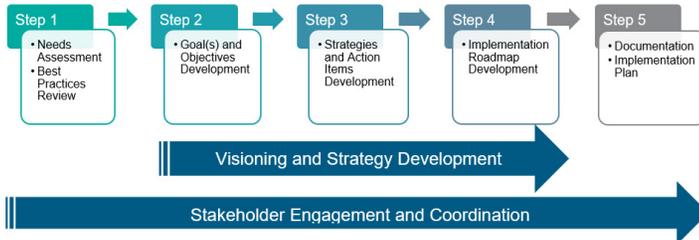
Lead Consultant:
Lord Aeck Sargent

[View the Plan](#)

TCCID Electrification Study



<p>Objective 1: Improve connectivity and quality of life by promoting equitable access to EVCI</p> <p>Implementation Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1A. Install EVCI at high-demand areas and low coverage areas 1B. Promote expanded EVCI at or near transportation hubs and activity centers 1C. Promote EVCI at multi-family dwellings 1D. Conduct marketing and public outreach to improve equitable access to EVCI 1E. Promote collaboration with micro-mobility companies (Uber and Lyft) to establish micro-mobility hubs at EV charging stations
<p>Objective 2: Identify funding support for EVCI expansion in the TCCID</p> <p>Implementation Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2A. Identify funding opportunities for TCCID 2B. Identify funding opportunities for individual businesses within the TCCID 2C. Identify public-private partnerships with the intention of steering resources/funding toward TCCID EVCI expansion 2D. Conduct marketing and public outreach to identify funding support for EVCI 2E. Utilize carbon reduction program funding from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for deploying zero-emission delivery zones
<p>Objective 3: Maximize coordination with government agencies to clearly identify policies that support EVCI implementation</p> <p>Implementation Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3A. Work with Cobb County and other permitting authorities to streamline permitting processes, policies, and guidelines for expansion of EVCI 3B. Maximize alignment with state and regional priorities 3C. Encourage government agencies to maximize electric fleet adoption 3D. Promote greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and EVCI in partnership with Cobb County
<p>Objective 4: Define opportunities to leverage EVCI to promote TCCID's economic development</p> <p>Implementation Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4A. Promote discussions of EV incentives for public-private partnerships 4B. Understand and coordinate with existing and contemplated economic development initiatives/policies of Cobb County 4C. Conduct public outreach and education to inform the public of EVCI opportunities 4D. Streamline utility interconnection for charging stations to leverage developer investments into the TCCID



Tactical LCI Plan

This study determined the Town Center CID's readiness and priority actions needed to support the development of a regional and national Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) network.

Year Funded/Cost:
2022/\$150,000

Sponsor:
Town Center CID

Lead Consultant:
AtkinsRealis

[View the Plan](#)





SCHEDULE FOR SELECTION



2026 LCI SCHEDULE





SELECTION CRITERIA



SELECTION CRITERIA

- **LCI Focus Areas**

Does the proposed study directly support a Town Center/Downtown/Main Street, Transit Area(s), and/or an existing or planned high-capacity transit mode, like Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

- **Multimodal Transportation**

Does the proposed study directly promote bicycle, pedestrian, and/or transit use, non-SOV trips, street connectivity, etc.?

- **Program Goals**

Does the proposed study directly address **ALL** of the LCI goals listed on page 4 of this manual?

- **Community Need**

Does the proposed study address a specific need identified by the community in a previous planning effort?

- **Innovation**

Is the proposed study innovative in its deliverables and approach?

- **Equity and Resiliency**

Does the proposal address social equity and/or community resiliency?

SELECTION CRITERIA CONTINUED

- **Inclusive Engagement & Community Based Organizations**

Does the proposed study process commit to an inclusive and equitable community engagement approach? Does the sponsor identify a Community Based Organization, and demonstrate its active involvement in development of the LCI application?

- **Commitment and Community Support**

Does the proposal have commitments of support from all required party(ies) and the broader community?

- **LCI Plan Implementation**

Has the sponsor demonstrated commitment, willingness, and ability to implement past LCI study recommendations?*

*A Report of Accomplishments showing the status of **each item** in the previous LCI plan's Action Plan must be submitted as part of the LCI application. Please contact Lauren Blaszyk, LCI Program Manager, if you have a question about which previous plan's Action Plan to reference.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM ARC'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT. OUTSIDE THE CALL FOR PROJECTS?

A

Yes, ARC is still a resource for local governments at all times of the year. The annual Call for Projects is the primary way to source technical assistance from the Community Development Department. However, communities should reach out to ARC with questions or ideas anytime. Staff capacity and resources will determine the ability to respond to any specific request.

Q

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A LETTER OF COMMITMENT FROM MY CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL. IS A LETTER STILL REQUIRED?

A

A letter of commitment from your chief elected official is a requirement. The letter must also acknowledge a commitment of funding from your local government. If a resolution is required by your local procedures, you may submit the application and then submit the resolution once approved, but before the award announcement. Please state the meeting date on which action will be taken on the application and contact ARC Staff to make us aware of the pending resolution.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q

I AM A CID, DO I NEED A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

A

Yes, a letter of support from the local government is still required to ensure that your project is not in conflict with any local government actions and will be supported by the local government once completed.

Q

IF I WANT TO UPDATE OUR COMMUNITY'S LCI PLAN, DO I NEED TO ADDRESS ALL THE GOALS IN MY SCOPE OF WORK?

A

Yes, every LCI project and study needs to further all three goals listed on page 4.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q

MY QUALIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT STATUS HAS LAPSED, AND WE HAVE NOT COMPLETED OUR NEEDED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OR CIE UPDATE. ARE WE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDS?

A

No, unless you have already submitted your update to ARC to be reviewed and approved by DCA.

Q

MY LCI AREA DOES NOT HAVE PLANNED TRANSIT NOR IS IT A TOWN CENTER. ARE WE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR LCI FUNDS?

A

Unfortunately, not at this time. However, CDAP can provide assistance at the same levels as LCI, or your community can apply for general TIP funds in a future cycle to conduct a transportation study.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q

HOW MANY PROJECTS WILL BE SELECTED?

A

There is no set number of projects that will be selected. Once all requests have been received, application strength, funding resources, and grant amounts will determine the final list of projects.

Q

WE ALREADY HAVE A CONSULTANT UNDER CONTRACT TO DO PLANNING, CAN WE USE THEM?

A

Maybe, depending on the method of procurement. It may be possible, but prior approval from ARC is needed in writing. However, ARC cannot pay for any work undertaken before entering into a contract with ARC. Consultants who prepare applications or RFPs for selected studies are precluded for bidding on that selected study.



APPLICATION CHECKLIST



APPLICATION CHECKLIST*

- Completed Application
- Letter of Support from host local government, if applicable (CIDs)
- Letter from Chief Elected Official or CID Board Chair/Director and Funding Resolution**
- Letter(s) of Support CBO, local businesses, stakeholder groups, civic organizations, etc.
- If entities other than the applicant are providing matching funds, you must include letters of commitment to the matching amount from those funders, which includes when those funds will be available
- Report of Accomplishments for the Action Plan from your most recent catalytic LCI study or plan update, to illustrate implementation efforts to date

***Applicants will receive notification from ARC within 1 - 2 business days if they are missing required information or documentation from their application. Applicants will have one week from the date of notification to submit the missing information to ARC or their application will be eliminated from consideration for LCI funding.**

****A funding resolution is only needed IF your jurisdiction requires it to commit to funding the project.**



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT

LAUREN BLASZYK, AICP
LBlaszyk@atlantaregional.org

ARC