

“It’s a fragile ecosystem we have here. There are so many components that bring people together here in Atlanta. How do you fix it all?”

- JOSHUA E.



“The last thing I want to do at the end of a work day is to get in the car and drive an hour back when I could potentially even leave a little bit earlier, get on a train and continue to work. That could be my work time. I can’t do that when I’m driving myself in a car.”

- EMILY L.

I love coming to downtown. It can be stressful, but if I had a live, work, entertainment community, that would be ideal for me. It would be nice to have hubs like that. I see that we’re headed more that way.

- BARRON M.



Source: Ryan Barrett Photography

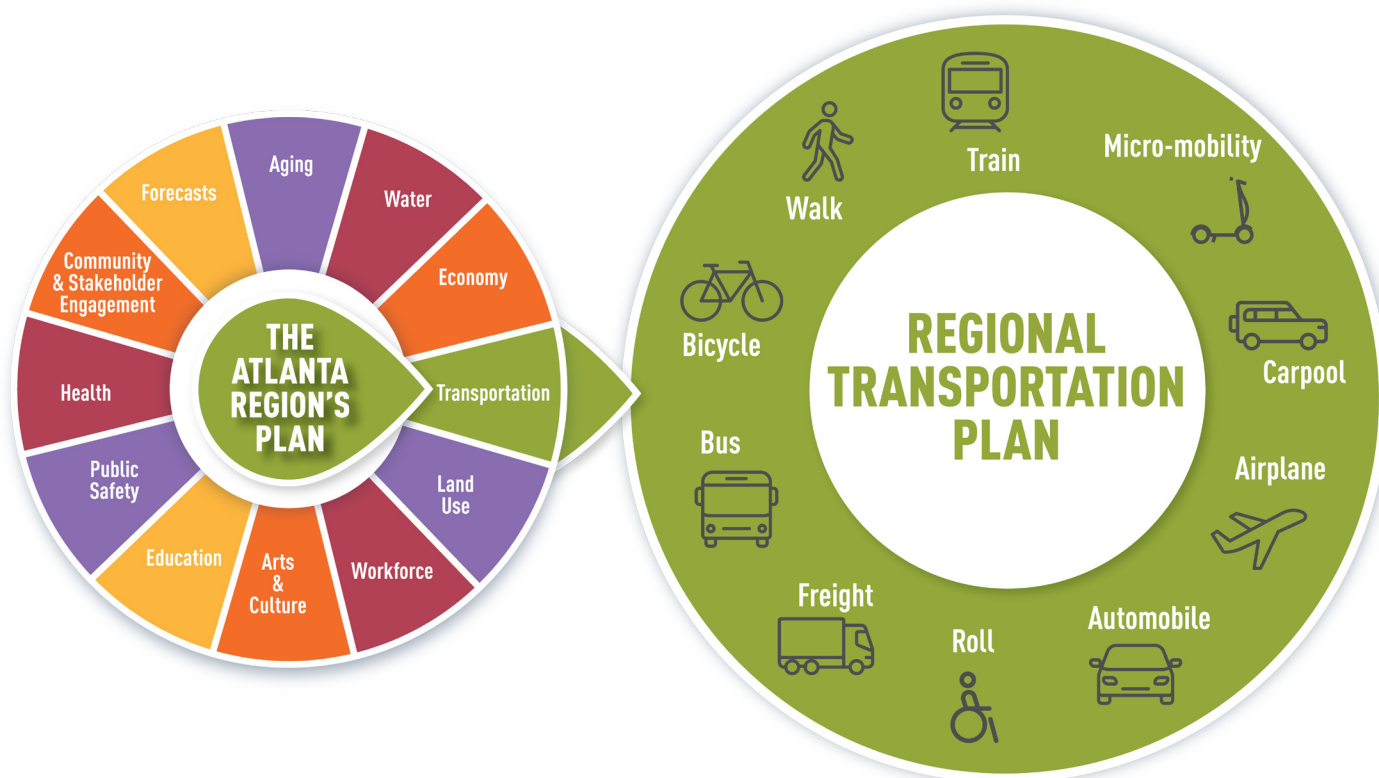
INTRODUCTION

The Atlanta region's economy and overall quality of life relies on the ability to travel to, from, and around our communities safely and efficiently. This capability is essential if we hope to Win the Future.

HOW THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FITS IN TO THE ATLANTA REGION'S PLAN

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is one piece of The Atlanta Region's Plan (TARP). Both plans establish long-term visions and detail the policies and programs that will bring those visions to fruition. As its title may suggest, the RTP focuses on current transportation conditions, expected trends that will impact the transportation network, and documents the strategies and investments necessary to meet the multi-modal transportation needs of all residents and visitors of the Atlanta region through 2050.

To learn how TARP and the RTP are implemented, see the Process Chapter.



WINNING THE FUTURE

First adopted in August 2015 and reconfirmed in 2019, the Policy Framework articulates a common vision for the future across all documents related to The Atlanta Region's Plan. The framework focuses on a threefold vision of providing world-class infrastructure, building a competitive economy, and ensuring the region is comprised of healthy and livable communities. While transportation clearly underpins the world-class infrastructure element, it also plays a critical role across the other elements of the vision and their respective goals. The figure below illustrates the six goals outlined in the Policy Framework.

These six goals are inextricably linked, contingent on the success of the others. This Plan incorporates those linkages and explores the goals of a comprehensive transportation network and walkable, vibrant centers in detail.

ARC alone cannot achieve this vision of *Winning the Future*. Success will require coordinated efforts of our government partners at all levels, private and nonprofit organizations, and community support to make this vision a reality.

GOALS

Building the region as a globally recognized hub of innovation and prosperity

Developing a highly educated workforce, able to meet the needs of 21st Century employers



GOALS

Ensuring a comprehensive transportation network, incorporating regional transit and 21st Century technology

Secured, long-term water supply

GOALS

Developing additional walkable, vibrant centers that support people of all ages and abilities

Promoting health, arts and other aspects of a high quality of life

A LIVING DOCUMENT

Federal law requires an update to regional transportation plans every four years. Prior to the most recent comprehensive update in February 2020, the previous quadrennial update to ARC's RTP was completed in 2016.

Between 2016 and 2019, the RTP went through a series of amendments and modifications in order to reflect new and evolving transportation efforts ARC pursued, keeping it fresh and relevant. The same will be true of this plan, with incremental changes being made at regular intervals prior to the next required update that is due in 2024.

In this way, the RTP is not a fly in amber after adoption, but rather a living document that is gradually adjusted and augmented between quadrennial updates.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS PLAN

There are several spheres of transportation planning that ARC has continued to strengthen and emphasize since the 2016 update, including:

- Equity and equitable outcomes
- Transportation infrastructure resilience
- Livable center and transit-oriented investments
- Safety and working towards zero deaths
- Planning for limited federal funding
- Multimodal freight planning
- Performance-based planning and target setting

There are also emerging practices and concepts ARC has worked to understand and harness, including:

- Rapid technological advancements in automated, connected, and electric vehicles
- The proliferation of new mobility services like bike share, scooters, ride-hailing services
- The data management strategies behind them all.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The Regional Transportation Plan is divided into the following seven chapters, plus technical appendices and an executive summary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary highlights the most significant and relevant information to create a brief synopsis of the entire RTP.

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter creates the link between the RTP and TARP. It recalls the vision and goals outlined in the Policy Framework and touches on significant changes in the transportation industry.

ASSESSMENT

The Assessment Chapter sets the stage for readers to understand our changing population, employment, and demographic landscape and the transportation implications. It also details the challenges the Atlanta region is likely to face in the future, as well as the assets we have available to overcome those challenges and even improve as a region.

PROCESS

This Chapter describes how ARC collaborates with partners and stakeholders to create a plan that is reflective of the Policy Framework, as well as the practice used to identify projects that are the best use of available funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Recommendations Chapter highlights the myriad programs, policies, plans, and funding efforts ARC champions in order to improve the lives of Atlanta region residents and visitors, no matter what mode by which they travel.

FINANCES

This Chapter explores the state of funding at the federal, regional, and local scale. It also describes regional expenditures and revenues, meeting the fiscally constrained requirement.

PERFORMANCE

The Performance Chapter communicates what impacts that everyday resident and visitor will feel as a result of investing in the RTP project list or foregoing building the RTP project list.

FUTURE

This Chapter lays out the ongoing transportation planning efforts at ARC. It also discusses advancements and disruptors likely to impact transportation, and how those might play out through scenario planning.

TECHNICAL APPENDICES

The Technical Appendices (A through N) house all of the methodologies and analytic components used to create this Plan, as well as the RTP project list.

Snapshot of Public Involvement

6 WERE HELD
ACROSS
OPEN THE REGION
HOUSES TO ENGAGE
THE PUBLIC
ABOUT TARP

THE SIX POP-UP
OPEN HOUSES ENGAGED:

300 PEOPLE

