Atlanta Regional Commission

Advisory Committee on Aging
Tuesday, August 25th, 2026
12:30-2:30PM
Meeting Minutes

Members Attendees:

LaWanda Folami, Vice Chair
Barbara Guillory
Deke Cateau
Dominique Louis
Gloria Stills
Gordon Rogers
Janet Payne
Jennifer Rewkowski
Jessica Klausner
Kim Smith
Lynne Riley
Mary Chase Mize
Robert Alexander
Sharifa Adde
Siddiqa Gibson
Kerry Thomas
Will Johnston
Xavier Kim

I. Welcome - LaWanda Folami, Vice-Chair
- Vice-Chair, LaWanda Folami, called the meeting to order.
- New Advisory Committee on Aging Members were welcomed and introduced: Janet Payne and Kerry Thomas, serving their first term from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.

II. Public Comment Period- LaWanda Folami, Vice-Chair
- Zabrina Horton with Music Memory Lane presented on Music Movement and More for Older Adults. Zabrina shared services that Music Memory Lane offers as well as upcoming events and funding opportunities.

III. Managers Update – Becky Kurtz, Senior Managing Director
- Shared a technology resource flyer. A former ARC intern created a technology resource guide to support older adults with navigating common technology challenges. The guide was developed using feedback from older adults and community members who provided technology support.
- Shared the "What We Do – Aging & Impendence Services (A&IS) FY2027" – Documents were in each folder given to each attendee. Documents share an overview of A&IS Department on the 4 P's= Planning, Provide Services, Partnering, and Policy.

ACA Members at the Georgia Gerontology Society conference and CO-AGE meeting – July 2026





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Georgia General Assembly

- State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 Funding:
  - Funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)
    - House and Senate: $1.3 Million
  - Funding for Behavioral Health Coaches in Affordable Housing
    - House and Senate: $0
  - Alzheimer's Caregiver Support: $2 Million
  - Georgia Memory Net: $3.3 Million

- Due to Governor's line-item vetoes. . . no state funding increases in SFY 2027



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Department of Justice Memo on Community Integration

- DOJ memorandum issued 6/18/26
  - Interprets federal law to not require states to integrate individuals with disabilities into the community.
  - Could reverse decades of national and state aging and disability policy based on Olmstead case (US Supreme Court,1999).
  - Federal government has required states to develop Home and Community-Based Services to integrate people with disabilities, including older persons, into the community instead of institutions.
  - Both Georgia Senators (Warnock and Ossoff) have signed letters of concern
- Risk to optional Medicaid HCBS waivers as states face cuts required by H.R. 1.
  - **Question:** how will this interpretation change impact Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program and other Georgia HCBS waivers?
  - **Answer**: It is up to Georgia General Assembly and state agencies

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FY 27 - Happy (Fiscal) New Year!



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- FY2027 started July 1st , 2026 and ends June 30th , 2027

Provide services directly

- Aging and Disability Resource Connection
- BRI* Care Consultation (for caregivers)
- Nursing Home Transition
- Behavioral health coaching (in affordable housing)
- Veteran's Directed Care
- Telephone reassurance (One2One)
- Wellness
  - Evidence-based wellness education classes
  - Senior farmers' markets coordination

*BRI = Benjamin Rose Institute

empowerline
WELL DESIGNED WELL BEING
POWERED BY ARC

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Services Provided through ARC Grants

- Case management
- Culturally Appropriate Information/Referral
- Homemaker
- Personal care
- Caregiver Services
- Home Delivered Meals
- Congregate meals
- Support options (consumer-direction)
- Evidence-based wellness education classes
- Senior Recreation
- Transportation
- Kinship Services
- Material Aid
- Assistive Technology
- Home Repair and Modification
- Elderly Legal Assistance Program

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- Skylark is a new provider, that offers Home, Memory, Veteran, and Dementia care and they also have a Day Center.

Questions & Answers

How do you become a provider?

- Providers must complete the comprehensive application process to be considered for participation in the provider network.

FY27 County Service Providers

Service	Cherokee	Clayton	Cobb	Dekalb	Douglas	Fayette	Fulton	Gwinnett	Henry	Rockdale
Caregiver - Group	X									
Case Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Congregate Meals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Home-Delivered Meals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Homemaker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kinship Care - Group					X					
Material Aid - Assistive Technology	X			X	X					
Material Aid - Home Mods/Repairs				X	X					
Material Aid - Other - Individual	X				X			X		
Personal Care		X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Respite Care In-Home		X		X		X	X	X		X
Respite Care In-Home - Voucher	X									
Respite Care Out-of-Home-Voucher					X					
Senior Recreation		X	X		X			X		
Support Options							X			
Transportation - Individual	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Transportation - Individual - Voucher	X					X				

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- Above is the matrix of FY27 county service providers of services where funding was requested/granted.

FY27 Nonprofit Service Providers

Service	Atlanta Legal Aid Society	Atlas Alliance	House Proud	Jewish Family & Career Services	Latin American Association	Peachtree Christian Health	Skylark Adult Day Health
Information and Assistance					X		
Case Management		X					
Community and Public Education		X					
Elder Legal Assistance	X						
Kinship Care - Group		X					
Material Aid - Home Mods/Repairs			X				
Material Aid - Other - Individual		X					
Personal Care - Voucher				X			
Respite Care In-Home - Voucher				X			
Respite Care Out-of-Home						X	X
Respite Care Out-of-Home-Voucher				X		X	
Transportation - Individual - Voucher						X	

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- Above is the matrix of FY27 nonprofit service providers of services where funding was requested/granted.



- Tickets are available for purchase for the State of the Region Event on November 4th. The event is from 7:00am to 10:00am.

IV. Action Items – LaWanda Folami, Vice Chair
- Minutes from May 26th, 2026
- Live Beyond Expectations 2026 to 2031
  - Motions approved
- Any discussion – No request for discussion
- No one opposed the motion

V. Presentations

A. Live Beyond Expectations 2026- Joy Dillard Appel

Atlanta Regional Commission

Live Beyond Expectations 2026

Presented to the Advisory Committee on Aging

August 25, 2026

Agenda: Live Beyond Expectations 2026

- Background and Live Beyond Expectations (LBE 2020-2025) Framework
- Implications and Recommendations for Partners
- Context for Expanding LBE
- Aims for LBE 26
- Research and Engagement Plan
- Request for Approval

Advisory Committee on Aging, LBE 26, August 10, 2026

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Framework: Life Expectancy Disparities in Metro Atlanta

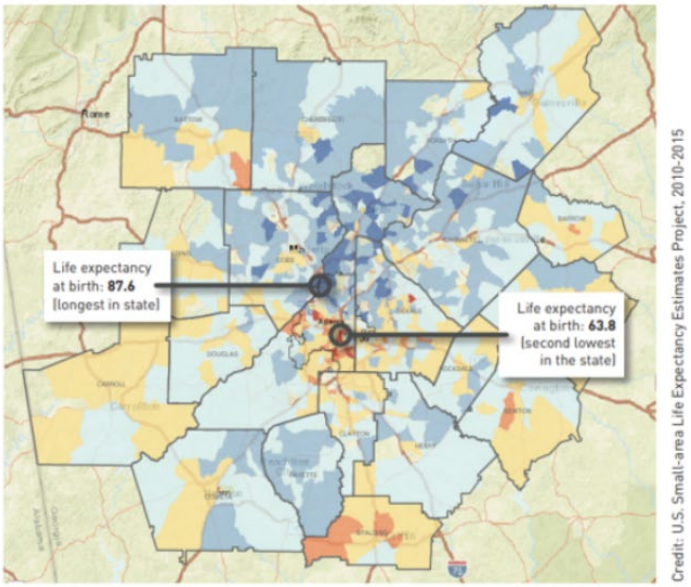

Figure 1: Varying Life Expectancies in the Atlanta Region

- Tthere is a 25 year difference for life exptancy, 10 miles apart.
- Goals include inventory key areas of focus, enhance existing partnerhsips and expand engagment with new partners, increase awareness of disparties in life expexantacy and the factor that them, marshalls resoruces to address disaprities.



- South Canton
- Mableton
- Uninc. Clayton County btwn. Morrow/Forest Park/Riverdale
- South Tucker/Uninc. DeKalb
- Norcross/Uninc. Gwinnett
- Bankhead/English Ave.
- Winston
- East Fayetteville
- North Stockbridge
- North Uninc. Rockdale

ARC

- Data from 2010 – 2015 from the U.S. Small area Life Expectantcy Estimates Project (USALEEP) data shares disparaties in life expectancy.

Selection of LBE 2020-2025 Strategies and Achievements

- Facilitated a webinar for local elected officials
- Analyzed client data for aging services and incorporated findings into technical assistance and quality monitoring process
- Provided input to internal ARC departments and workgroups
- External education and non-monetary support for new and existing projects
- Hosted LBE Summit
- Launched mini grant program
- Collaboration between Age-Friendly and LBE

- LBE excerises from previous meetings, were used mutiple times to help shape recommendations.

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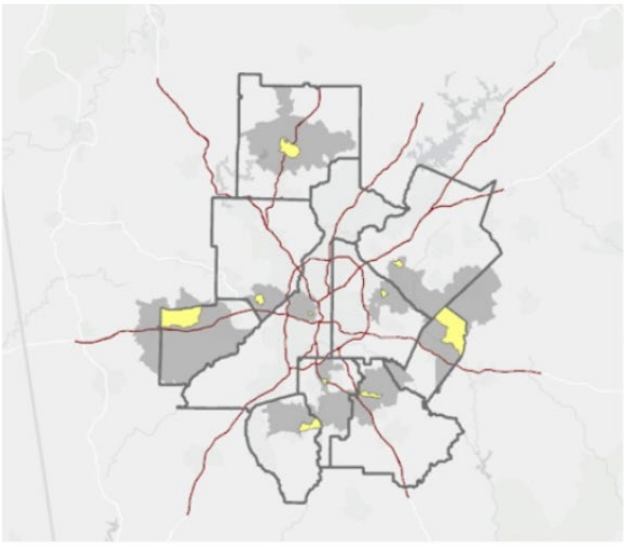
Mini Grant Awardees



- 18 mini grants up to $3000
- Foodwell Alliance: *"We addressed the need for long-term access to fresh produce by planting a new orchard…in a neighborhood identified by ARC as experiencing extreme health disparities…located within an EPA-IRA Disadvantaged Community. Once fruit begins producing…the orchard has the potential to provide 9,800 annual servings of fruits, nuts, and berries…Over a 20-year period, this equates to 212,281 servings, with an economic value exceeding $150,000."*

- Low Life Exceptancy in yellow. Areas served are in gray

Analysis: What We Learned

Affordable Housing	• Lower rents • More types of housing (e.g., accessory dwelling units) • Assistance for those on fixed incomes • Pathways to homeownership • Home repair assistance
Transportation	• Increased public transportation • Local transit options • Road maintenance • Increasing walkability
Community activities	• Activities for youth • Activities for older persons • Arts & culture events • Public gathering spaces

- Data gathered from communities during LBE 2020-2025 yielded three areas of focus: Housing, Transportation, and Community Supports.

- This information was reviewed with key stakeholders, including the Atlanta Regional Commission Board, the Advisory Committee on Aging, and the Lifelong Communities Steering Committee, and reviewed what other metros are trying and what policy experts and scholars recommend to address these issues.
- Synthesized into recommendations for municipal, county, and other policymakers and partners seeking to advance Live Beyond Expecations aims.



Create housing supports for older adults that can also benefit residents of all ages.

- Engage the community by including aging and disability communities in housing and zoning decisions and promoting creative options such as cooperative, multigenerational, and cohousing models.
- Encourage diverse housing options of various sizes and price points, including cohousing, multigenerational homes, secondary units, micro-units, and pocket neighborhoods near essential services.
- Support older adults remain in their homes by offering assistance for home modifications and property tax relief for low-income older adults.
- Increase affordable, accessible housing through development incentives, landlord education on housing vouchers, and requirements for affordable units in new developments.

LBE 2026 Recommendations: Transportation

- **Engage community members**
  - Include disability and aging communities in planning
  - Work to understand transportation culture
- **Research and identify geographic areas of need**
  - Identify geographic areas where residents lack options to meet their needs
  - Work with community members to identify appropriate options
- **Expand and improve active transportation and transit infrastructure**
  - Support physical infrastructure improvements and social supports like discount fares
  - Leverage technology to support solutions
  - Participate in cross jurisdictional planning efforts and service coordination
- **Expand transportation options**
  - Consider creative solutions like volunteer driver programs
  - Invest in active transit like bike share systems with accessible and inclusive options
  - Increase funding for transportation options

LBE 2026 Recommendations: Community Supports

- **Engage community members**
  - Ensure a variety of perspectives are represented in decision-making processes
  - Leverage community advisory boards to share information
  - Encourage pre-retirement residents to plan for the future
- **Build and maintain physical infrastructure that incorporates healthy community design elements**
  - Include street pattern design and connectivity in planning
  - Support safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure
  - Expand public transit infrastructure and access
  - Modify zoning and land use policies to support lifelong communities
- **Create and sustain strong social infrastructure**
  - Bolster resident ties with one another and with and between social institutions
  - Host intergenerational events that include diverse experiences of history and culture
  - Formalize volunteer groups to provide structural and social supports

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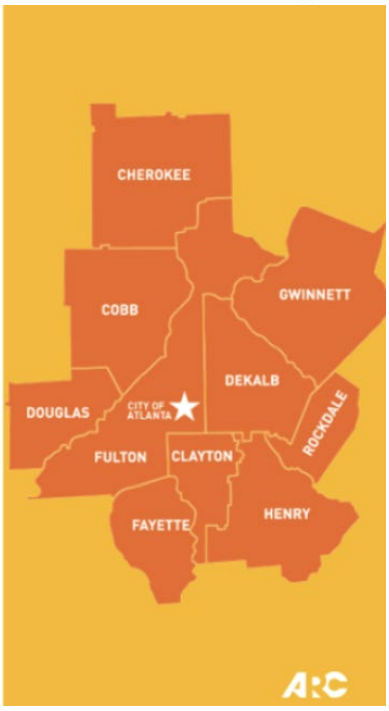
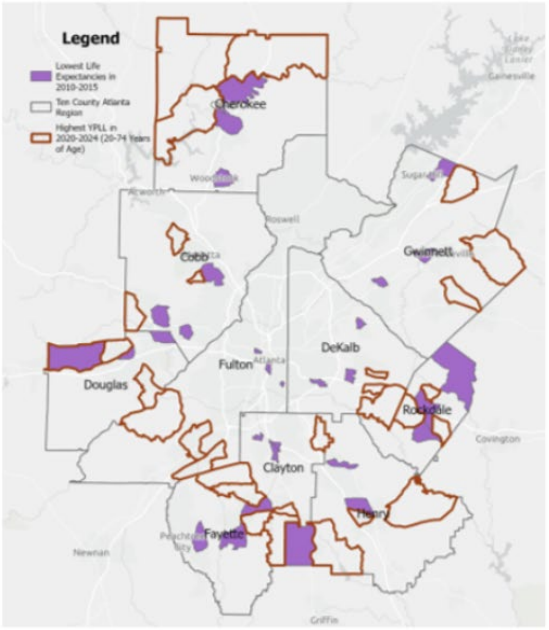
Tailor Recommendations throughout the Region

- One region with a wide variety of local circumstances
- Lifelong Communities team aims to understand different county, municipal, and neighborhood contexts
- Lifelong Communities team will continue interdepartmental communication and collaboration
- A&IS will continue its advocacy efforts and maintain stakeholder relationships



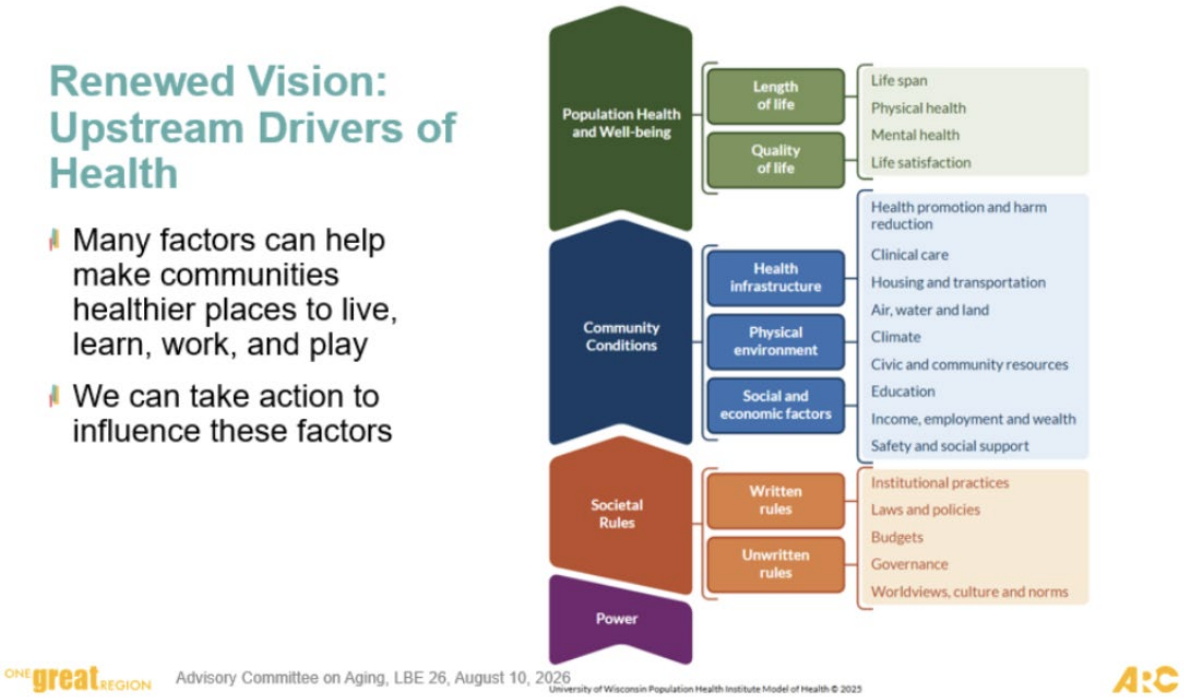
Expanding LBE: Context for Continuation

- Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) can deepen the framework
- Upstream drivers of health align with drivers of economic mobility
- Tracts with high climate risk tend to have lower life expectancy
- Geographic approach illuminates neighborhoods with highest socioeconomic need



- A literature review confirmed that tract-level analysis continues to be used to understand upstream drivers of health and economic security. It has been identified that Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) is a useful addition to the Live Beyond Expectations framework. Unlike life expectancy, YPLL reflects recent outcomes by measuring premature mortality (deaths before age 75) and can highlight differences across neighborhoods. YPLL is influenced by many of the same structural conditions as life expectancy,

including socioeconomic status, environmental exposures, racial segregation, chronic disease, and access to health care. These factors also overlap with key drivers of economic mobility, such as school quality, family structure, and social capital. Adding YPLL will provide a clearer picture of neighborhood-level health disparities and vulnerabilities and strengthen the Live Beyond Expectations framework's ability to identify where services and supports are most needed.



LBE 26 Aims

- Communicate recommendations from LBE 2020-2025 broadly throughout the region
- Develop new metrics for understanding health impacts throughout the region
- Describe and record the conditions in each focus tract and more broadly where possible
- Identify which LBE 2020-2025 objectives should continue
- Identify and work to solve obstacles to completing LBE 20 objectives
- Determine new objectives shaped by communities
- Identify an accountability framework
- Prioritize ARC objectives using data, expertise, and community input

Research and Engagement Plan



- Joy Dillard Appel: In addition to existing tools that use census data and other public sources, such as OASIS, we will incorporate ARC-specific data, such as MAS, and complement it with qualitative data and community feedback.



Questions?

Joy Dillard Appel, jappel@atlantaregional.org

- Transportation Efforts: Questions were raised about transportation efforts. Transportation efforts are aiming to improve access not only within counties and local neighborhoods, but also to expand initiatives across county lines. An example, supporting residents who have medical appointments or need other essential services in a different county from where they live. Members also shared the importance of thinking about how our communities are built, particularly the proximity and quantity of services and establishments to where residents live.

Presentations

B. CHST Plan & G-MAP Updates 2026- Joesph Hacker

Atlanta Regional Commission

CHST Plan & G-MAP Updates

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

25 August 2026

Joseph F. Hacker, PhD, AICP

Atlanta Regional Commission

Vision

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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.

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Why a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan?

- Federal transit law requires Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program projects be "included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan"



- CHST plan identifies needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and the disadvantaged, and transportation mobility gaps
- CHST plan prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation



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Regional Stakeholder Surveys and Outreach

The CHST Plan shall "include[s] participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation - human services providers and other members of the public"

- 387 Participants
- 6,653 Responses
- 1,209 Comments



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marta

RIDE Gwinnett

ATL ATLANTA-REGION TRANSIT LINK AUTHORITY

COBB LINC

CONNECT DOUGLAS

HENRY CONNECT HENRY COUNTY TRANSIT

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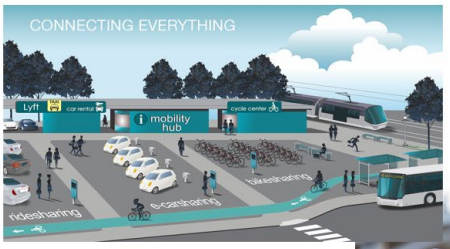
Regional Consensus Recommendations

- Regional Mobility Hubs (GTEA study upcoming)
- Regional Trip Planner and Mobile Application (ATL Rides, Marta Trip Planner, Dekalb Aging Database (DAD))
- Regional Fare Instrument (Marta AFC 2.0)











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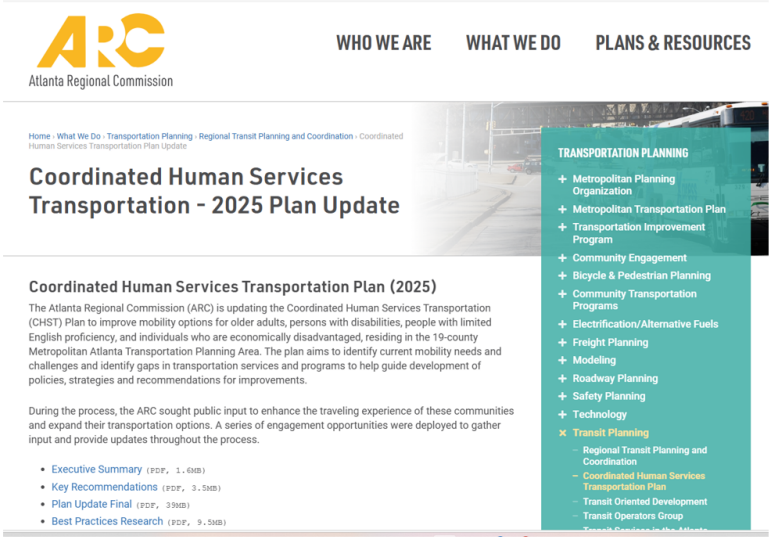
Where is the CHST Plan Online?



https://atlantaregional.org/what-we-do/transportation-planning/regional-transit-planning-coordination/coordinated-human-services-transportation-plan/

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ITS4US Deployment
Georgia Mobility and Access Planner
G-MAP

February 2026

G-MAP Project Overview

- ITS4US is multimodal initiative led by USDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office with four project sites in the United States.
- Safe Trips in a Connected Transportation Network (ST-CTN) is Geogia DOT's successful project entry, and the G-MAP mobile application is it's defining deliverable.
- G-MAP is a collaboration between ARC, GDOT, and Gwinnett County focused on personalized transit access planning, incorporating a trusted companion, resolving time and travel obstacles, and ensuring users' visibility throughout the trip.

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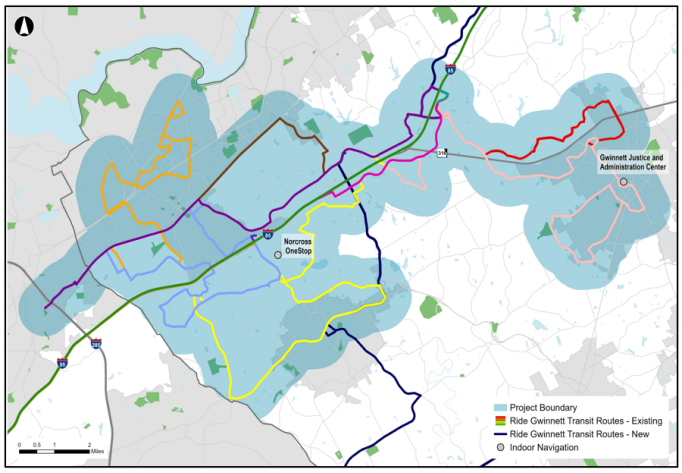
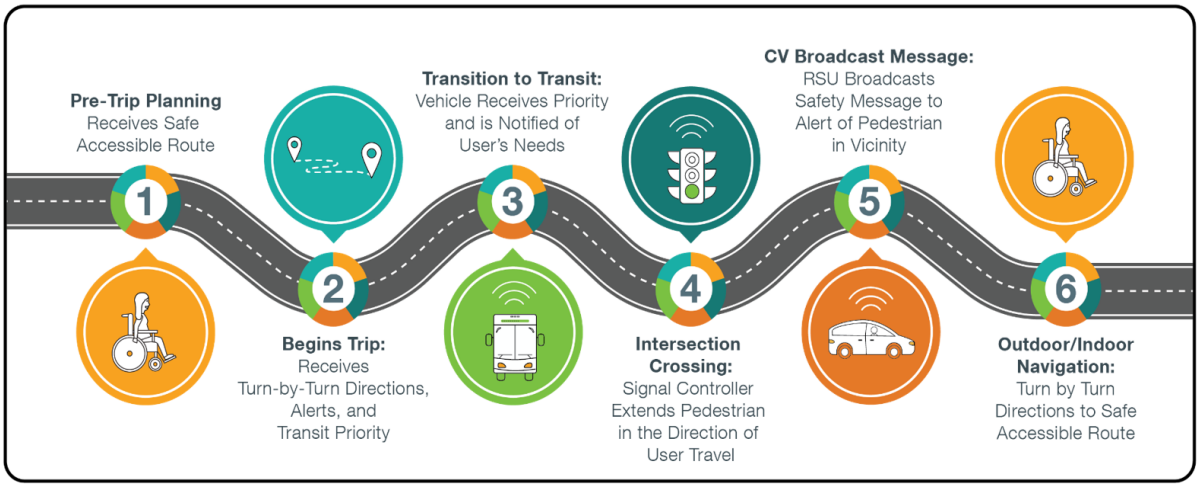
ST-CTN Project Area: Gwinnett County, GA

- Suburban study area of ~315,000
  - Seniors ~33,778, 10% of pop
  - Disabled ~17,000, 15% of HH
- Aligns w major para/transit routes
- Wide and high-speed roadways
- Inconsistent pedestrian infrastructure



Georgia Mobility and Access Planner (G-MAP)



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Regional Partner Outreach & Engagement

Advocacy Partners

- ARC Aging & Independence Services
- Georgia Tech Office of Disability Services
- Gwinnett Place CID
- GA Department of Education
- Verida (formerly Southeastrans)
- Vocational Rehab Gwinnett County Schools
- Bobby Dodd Institute
- GA Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Creative Enterprises
- GA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- The Exceptional Foundation of Atlanta
- Spectrum Autism Support Group
- Bennett's Place
- The Arc Georgia

Training Partners

- Tools for Life
- disABILITY Link
- GA Vocational Rehab
- GA Department of Health

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What is Next for G-MAP?

- Operational Capability Showcase - 7 May 2026, certified a fully operational project and Operation and Evaluation phase through May 2027
- Ongoing Outreach: G-MAP Website, Social Media, Public Meetings, Local community outreach with Pop-up tables at grocery stores, libraries, Park N' Rides, festivals, shopping centers, community centers
- Required Operation and Maintenance phase of the project for five years: June 2027 – June 2032



Photo of Showcase speakers cutting ribbon
Photo Credit: Gwinnett County

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Jordan Hall, Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia
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Daniel Tongson, Gwinnett County Department of Transportation
IT Project Coordinator
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Project Website
georgia-map.com

ITS4US Program Website
its.dot.gov/research-areas/ITS4US/

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Conflict of Interest Policy
Sharise Thurman Byrd

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Announcements

Next ACA Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – focus on housing issues

VI. Announcements by LaWanda Folami, Vice- Chair
   A. Next ACA Meeting – October 20, 2026
   B. ACA meeting time: From1:00pm to 2:30pm

VII. Adjournment
   Meeting was adjourned.