

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 | 1:00 PM

## Joint ARC Board & Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC) Meeting

ARC Conference Center | 229 Peachtree Street NE | Atlanta, GA 30303

The meeting agenda with all presentations and references can be found at:

[www.atlantaregional.org/board](http://www.atlantaregional.org/board)

- I. **Call Joint ARC Board & TAQC Meeting to Order** — *Andre Dickens*, Chair
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** — *Andre Dickens*, Chair
- III. **Public Comment for Joint Meeting**
- IV. **Chairman's Comments** — *Andre Dickens*, Chair
- V. **Consent Agenda** — *Andre Dickens*, Chair
  - A. March 11, 2026 Joint TAQC & ARC Board Meeting Summary
- VI. **Joint Discussion/Information Items** – *Andre Dickens*, Chair
  - A. Federal ITS4US  
*Joseph Hacker*, Principal, Transportation Technology & Operations, Transportation Planning  
  
**Summary:** This presentation provides a summary of the Federal ITS4US project in our region, summarizing the project need, deployment, and the G-MAP solution, with a recap of the Operational Capabilities Showcase the week before.
  - B. HB 297 Impact & Transition Considerations  
*Gwo-Wei Torng*, Senior Managing Director, Transportation Planning  
*John Bayalis*, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs  
  
**Summary:** The Georgia General Assembly passed HB 297 during the 2026 legislative session, dissolving GRTA and ATL and replacing them with the new Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority (GTEA). This change requires ARC to update its Bylaws, convert the Five-Party MOA to a Four-Party MOA, and meet a critical TIP amendment deadline. ARC staff are coordinating with GTEA, GDOT, and federal partners to ensure a smooth transition, with formal adoption of updated governance documents anticipated at a Board/TAQC joint meeting later this year.

**[Joint Meeting recess]**

The Joint meeting of the ARC Board and TAQC will recess, and the TAQC meeting will convene. TAQC is asked to approve four items listed below for action.

**[TAQC Convene]**

**VII. TAQC Action Items – Carlotta Harrell, Chair**

- A. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 6  
*Michael Haire, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning*

**Summary:** This is an overview of Amendment #6 to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment will add new projects that are considered exempt from air quality conformity analysis and make project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively. This amendment does not require the modeling of air quality to ensure the updated projects maintain conformity with the region's air quality standards, as all of these projects are non-capacity adding and considered exempt from air quality analysis. A 15-day public comment period began on April 1 and concluded on April 15, with approvals scheduled for the May committee and Board meetings.

**[TAQC adjourn]**

The TAQC meeting will adjourn, and the ARC Board meeting will convene.

**VIII. ARC Board Action Items – Andre Dickens, Chair**

- A. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 6  
*Michael Haire, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning*

**Summary:** This is an overview of Amendment #6 to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment will add new projects that are considered exempt from air quality conformity analysis and make project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively. This amendment does not require the modeling of air quality to ensure the updated projects maintain conformity with the region's air quality standards, as all of these projects are non-capacity adding and considered exempt from air quality analysis. A 15-day public comment period began on April 1 and concluded on April 15, with approvals scheduled for the May committee and Board meetings.

- B. HB 297 Resolution

- C. Age Friendly Regional Plan  
*Becky Kurtz, Senior Managing Director, Aging & Independence Services*

**Summary:** The ARC Board is being asked to review and approve the Age-Friendly Action Plan, developed by ARC staff with stakeholder input. The Action Plan provides specific initiatives implementing ARC's commitment to become a more Age-Friendly Region. If

approved, the Action Plan will be submitted to AARP as part of the Age-Friendly designation process.

D. Regional Development Plan (RDP)

- Public Hearing for the Regional Development Plan (RDP)

*Samyukth Shenbaga, Managing Director, Community Development*

**Summary:** The RDP is a high-level policy guide for Metro Atlanta local governments and other leaders in areas including land use, quality of life, infrastructure, economic development, natural resource management, and intergovernmental coordination. This segment is an informational update, first read, and public hearing to prepare the RDP for subsequent transmittal to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for state review.

**IX. ARC Board Discussion/Information Items – Andre Dickens, Chair**

A. World Cup Update

*Dan Corso, CEO, and Leanna Brown, Government Relations Lead, FIFA World Cup Host Committee*

B. Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) and Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Selection

*Lauren Blaszyk, Planning Administrator, Community Development*  
*Jillian Willis, Program Manager, Community Development*

**Summary:** Community Development staff will provide a brief presentation and overview of the five (5) studies selected for funding through the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Program, and five (5) studies or plans selected for funding, partnership, or technical assistance through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), from the 2026 Call for Projects. Community Development used a two-step process to evaluate the applications, which included review and evaluation by both an internal committee of ARC staff and an external committee of representatives from other regional agencies and partners. Prior to finalizing the list of awardees, staff provided a presentation and description of the recommended studies for selection to the Executive Director and COO.

C. Legislative Recap

*John Bayalis, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs*

**Summary:** A brief review of activity pertinent to the agency during the recently-concluded session of the Georgia General Assembly.

**X. CEO Report – Anna Roach, Executive Director & CEO**

**Y. Adjourn**

**Upcoming Meetings**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed: **August 12** (Energy and Resilience, BARS, UASI, ARWDB, Gov Com, ARC Board/TAQC)

## **Joint ARC Board and Transportation & Air Quality Meeting**

### **Meeting Summary**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**I. Call Joint ARC Board & TAQC Meeting to Order** — *Andre Dickens, Chair*

**II. Pledge of Allegiance** — *Andre Dickens, Chair*

**III. Chairman's Comments** — *Andre Dickens, Chair*

**IV. Oath of Office by New Board Members**

The oath of office was administered to:

- **Marvin Nesbitt Jr.**, ARC Citizen District 4
- **Liliana Bakhtiari**, Atlanta City Council

**V. ARC Board Action Item** — *Andre Dickens, Chair*

A. 2026 Committee Roster

*Adopted*

**[ARC Board Meeting recess]**

**[Joint Meeting convened]**

**VI. Call Joint ARC Board & TAQC Meeting to Order** — *Andre Dickens, Chair*

**VII. Public Comment for Joint Meeting**

*No public comments*

**VIII. Consent Agenda** — *Andre Dickens, Chair*

A. February 11, 2026 Joint TAQC & ARC Board Meeting Summary

*Adopted*

**IX. Joint Discussion/Information Items – Andre Dickens, Chair**

**A. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

*Amy Goodwin, Planning Administrator, Transportation Planning*

**Summary:** The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) provides the Region’s long-range transportation vision and details the investments that will be made over the next 25 years. The MTP is federally mandated to be updated every four years. The current MTP was approved in 2024, and so the next MTP will be adopted in 2028. ARC has been working on hiring a consultant and plans to formally kick off the 2-year long planning process in March 2026.

- The 2055 MTP will build off ARC’s Vision of One Great Region.
- Board priorities will be established to inform scenario planning, needs assessment, and MTP project selection criteria.
- Next steps include the following: continued engagement with public, stakeholders, state and federal partners, and Board and committees; a needs assessment built upon ARC’s modal and local plans; development and board adoption of MTP policy framework; development of automated fiscal constraint tool.

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)

**B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 6**

*Michael Haire, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning*

**Summary:** This is an overview of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 6. This amendment will add new projects that are considered exempt from air quality conformity analysis and make project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively. This amendment does not require the modeling of air quality to ensure the updated projects maintain conformity with the region’s air quality standards, as all of these projects are non-capacity adding and considered exempt from air quality analysis. A 15-day public comment period will run from April 1 through April 15, with approvals during the May committee and Board meetings

- Amendment 6 includes:

- 30 projects total (26 new, 4 existing)
- \$115.2M of new federal funds programmed through 2050 (including \$4.4M in state match and \$17.8M local match)
- Of the \$115.2 in new federal funds programmed, \$79M is contained in the TIP
- More than half the Amendment 6 projects are being awarded funding through GDOT's TAP/FLAP programs.
  - \$28.3M awarded to 16 projects (14 new, 2 existing)
  - All 16 projects are bicycle-pedestrian centric (13 multi-use paths, 1 pedestrian bridge, 2 sidewalk installations)

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- [TIP Amendment 6 Project List](#)
- [Resolution](#)

**[Joint Meeting recess]**

**[TAQC Convene]**

**X. TAQC Action Item – Carlotta Harrell, Chair**

**A. 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1**  
*David Haynes, Manager, Transportation Planning*

**Summary:** The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is ARC's annual statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within the Atlanta metropolitan planning area. The UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds. The 2026 UPWP was approved by TAQC and the ARC Board in November 2025. This amendment involves adding one federally funded initiative led by ARC: the "Origin-Destination Atlanta Region Travel On-Board Survey", a \$1.6 million initiative which will begin in the fall of this year and be completed in late 2027. It will involve the collection of data from transit passengers to be used for scheduling and operations planning, performance analysis, long-range planning, and regional travel demand modeling. The amendment also includes the addition of seven locally led planning studies recently funded from the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All competitive grant program, as well as six studies to be led by the ATL Authority using FTA 5307 grants. An informal public and agency partner review and comment period was

conducted from February 16-26, and no comments were received on the proposed changes.

*Adopted*

- [ARC Presentation](#)
- [Issue Summary & Resolution](#)
- [UPWP Plan Document](#)

**[TAQC adjourn]**

**[ARC Board Convene]**

## **XI. ARC Board Action Items – Andre Dickens, Chair**

- A. 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1  
*David Haynes, Manager, Transportation Planning*

**Summary:** The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is ARC’s annual statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within the Atlanta metropolitan planning area. The UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds. The 2026 UPWP was approved by TAQC and the ARC Board in November 2025.

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*Adopted*

- [ARC Presentation](#)
- [Issue Summary & Resolution](#)
- [UPWP Plan Document](#)

## **XII. ARC Board Discussion/Information Items – Andre Dickens, Chair**

### **A. Regional Housing Strategy Update**

*Kristin Allin, Principal Planner, Community Development*

**Summary:** Board review and update on the development of the Housing Strategy for the Atlanta Region. The consultant, HR&A, will propose scenarios for housing distribution at the regional level based on preferred policy outcomes.

The ARC Regional Housing Strategy will establish a shared vision, define actionable steps, and strengthen regional capacity to meet housing goals. The strategy development includes stakeholder input via a project advisory group, survey, focus groups and interviews, and a housing summit.

The strategy development analysis is being conducted to address the question: What types of homes are needed, and where, to accommodate forecasted growth over the next ten years. The focus of this presentation is on location (where growth is forecasted to occur, and where it should go, based on ARC’s goals) and income & tenure (what types of homes will be needed, based on what residents can afford).

ARC forecasts the 11-county region will grow by about 350,000 new households by 2035. The following policy objectives were identified in collaboration with the Project Advisory Group to guide the analysis and create ARC’s recommended regional growth scenario:

- Align Housing and job growth: What if new households could afford to live within a 30-minute commute of new jobs?
- Lower housing and transportation costs: What would the region look like if new households lived within a half mile of transit
- Increase equitable access to opportunity: What if new low-income households could find housing in high-opportunity neighborhoods?
- Promote climate resilience: What would the region look like in 2035 if growth was limited in areas with high climate risk?

Board discussion followed. The conversation covered the following issues:

- Aligning new housing development in areas with jobs and transit.
- Reducing home building costs to bring down prices.
- Ensuring that people who work in a community are able to afford to live in that community.

More information

- [ARC Presentation](#)

## B. Regional Development Plan (RDP)

Public Hearing for the RDP

*Andrew Smith*, Planning Coordinator, Community Development

**Summary:** The Regional Development Plan is a high-level policy guide for Metro Atlanta local governments and other leaders in areas including land use, quality of life, infrastructure, economic development, natural resource management, and intergovernmental coordination.

Community engagement surfaced four connected priorities pointing to the same challenge: uneven distribution of access to opportunity.

- Housing & Stability: People need homes near opportunity, but they're not finding them.
- Connectivity & Mobility: The region's #1 gap: Getting from where you are to where you want to be.
- Community Assets: Residents love what makes their communities unique, and fear losing it.
- Economic Mobility: Youth dream big. The region must build the infrastructure to match

A Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) will be created for the Atlanta region that will add new regional priority areas to target regional investment

## C. Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC) Class of 2026

*Antemil Jorkey*, Community Engagement and Culture Planner, Community Development

**Summary:** The purpose of this presentation is to provide a look back at the Model Atlanta Regional Commission's (MARC) 2025-2026 class and to highlight MARC students' perspectives. This youth leadership program has engaged over 1,000 students in experiential learning with the region's leaders and experts in transportation, natural resource sustainability, community development, and more.

D. Legislative Outlook/Federal Update

*John Bayalis, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs*

**Summary:** Monthly update on state and federal government affairs activity. Bayalis provided an update on the state budget process, transportation funding, aging-related legislation, and HB 638, a bill that impacts GRTA and the ATL.

**[Adjourn]**

## ARC BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE: March, 2026

Alsobrook, Connie	<b>Not Present</b>
Anderson, Alieka	<b>Present</b>
Armstrong, Kerry	<b>Present</b>
Bowers, John William	<b>Not Present</b>
Brooks, Jim	<b>Present</b>
Brumbalow, Troy	<b>Not Present</b>
Caldwell, Michael	<b>Present</b>
Cantrell, Greg	<b>Present</b>
Clark, Alison	<b>Present</b>
Clemons, Ollie	<b>Present</b>
Cochran-Johnson, Lorraine	<b>Not Present</b>
Cupid, Lisa	<b>Present</b>
Deutsch, Lynn	<b>Present</b>
Dickens, Andre	<b>Present</b>
Emerson, Archie	<b>Present</b>
Fluellyn, Marci	<b>Present</b>
Harrell, Carlotta	<b>Present</b>
Hearn, Lee	<b>Present</b>
Hendrickson, Nicole	<b>Present</b>
Harris, Megan	<b>Present</b>
Jackson Jones Romona	<b>Not Present</b>
John, Alfred	<b>Present</b>
Johnson, Ed	<b>Present</b>
Johnston, Harry	<b>Present</b>
Cooper Kelly, Michelle	<b>Not Present</b>
Le, Tung Q. "Tim"	<b>Present</b>
Levetan, Liane	<b>Present</b>
Mason, Mike	<b>Present</b>
Meinhart, Tom	<b>Not Present</b>
O'Dell Justin	<b>Present</b>
Paul, Rusty	<b>Present</b>
Pitts, Robb	<b>Present</b>
Ray, Sara	<b>Present</b>
Reeves, Bob	<b>Present</b>
Robinson, Rochelle	<b>Not Present</b>
Stancil, Steve	<b>Present</b>
Tarpley, Ann	<b>Present</b>
VanNess, JaNice	<b>Present</b>
Westmoreland Matt	<b>Present</b>
Williams, Vince	<b>Present</b>
Anna Roach - Executive Director	<i>Any questions? Contact: Charissa White-Fulks</i>

## TAQC BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE: March 11, 2026

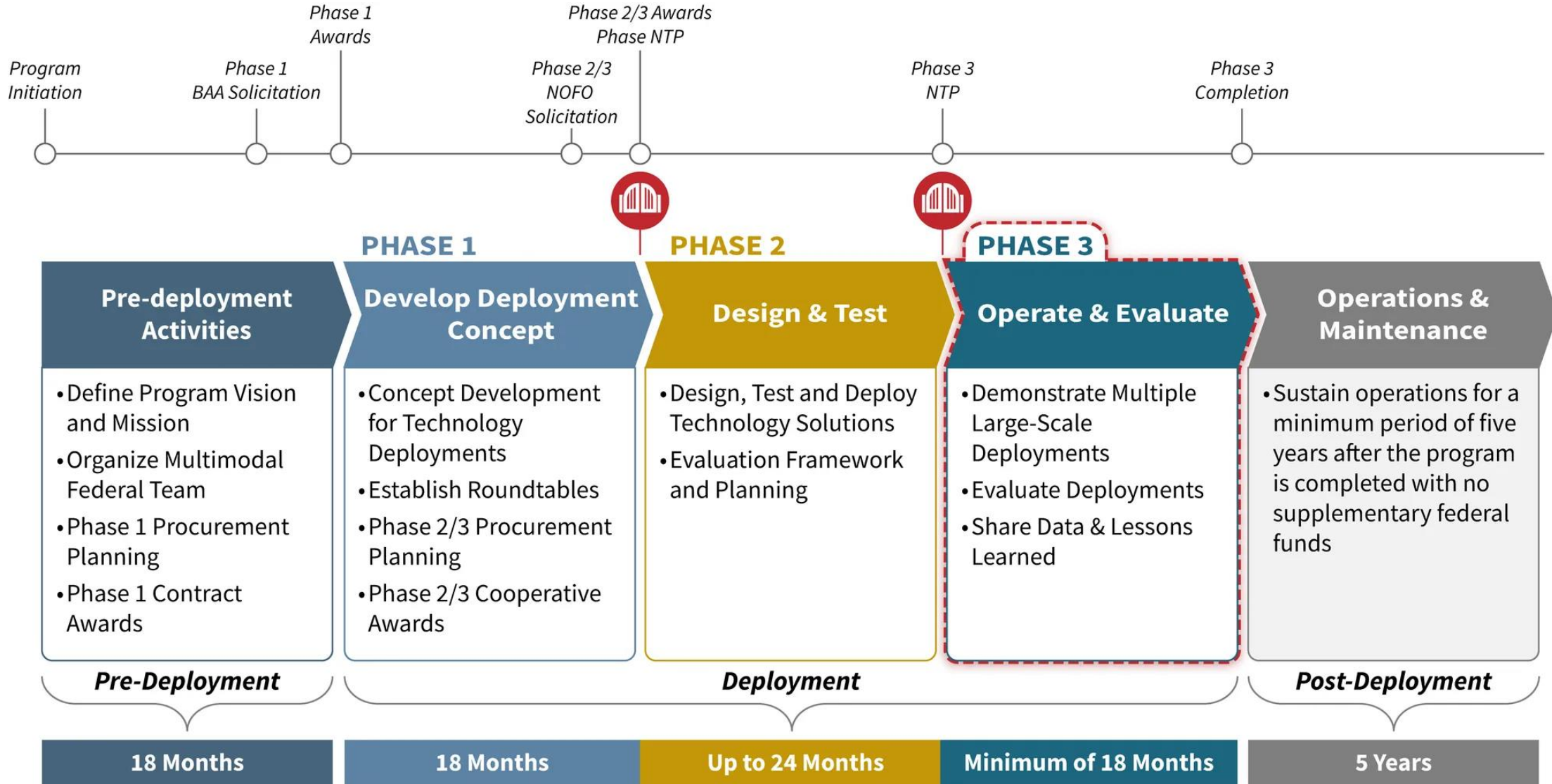
Armstrong, Kerry	Present
Caldwell, Michael	Present
Cupid, Lisa	Present
Davis, Clay	Not Present
Dickens, Andre	Present
Estes, Tim	Not Present
Fisher, Jeff	Not Present
Fjelstul, Kirk	Present
Graham, Pat	Not Present
Harrell, Carlotta	Present
Hayes, Tamara	Not Present
Hearn, Lee	Present
Hendrickson, Nicole	Present
Henry-Anderson, Alieka	Present
John, Alfred	Present
Johnson, Ed	Present
Johnson-Cochran , Lorraine	Present
Johnston Harry	Present
Jones-Jackson, Romona	Not Present
Lemon, Dana	Present
Le 'Tim" Q Tung	Present
Martin, Kelly	Present
Mason, Mike	Not Present
McKenzie, Bill	Not Present
Meinhart, Thomas	Present
Miller, Jannine	Present
Paul, Rusty	Present
Pitts, Robb	Present
Radford, Paul	Not Present
Stancil, Steve	Present
Thompson, David	Not Present
VanNess, JaNice	Present
Williams, Vince	Present
<b>Gwo-Wei Torng – Senior Managing Director</b>	<i>Any questions? Contact: Morgan Bray</i>



# ITS 4 US



# Deployment Phases

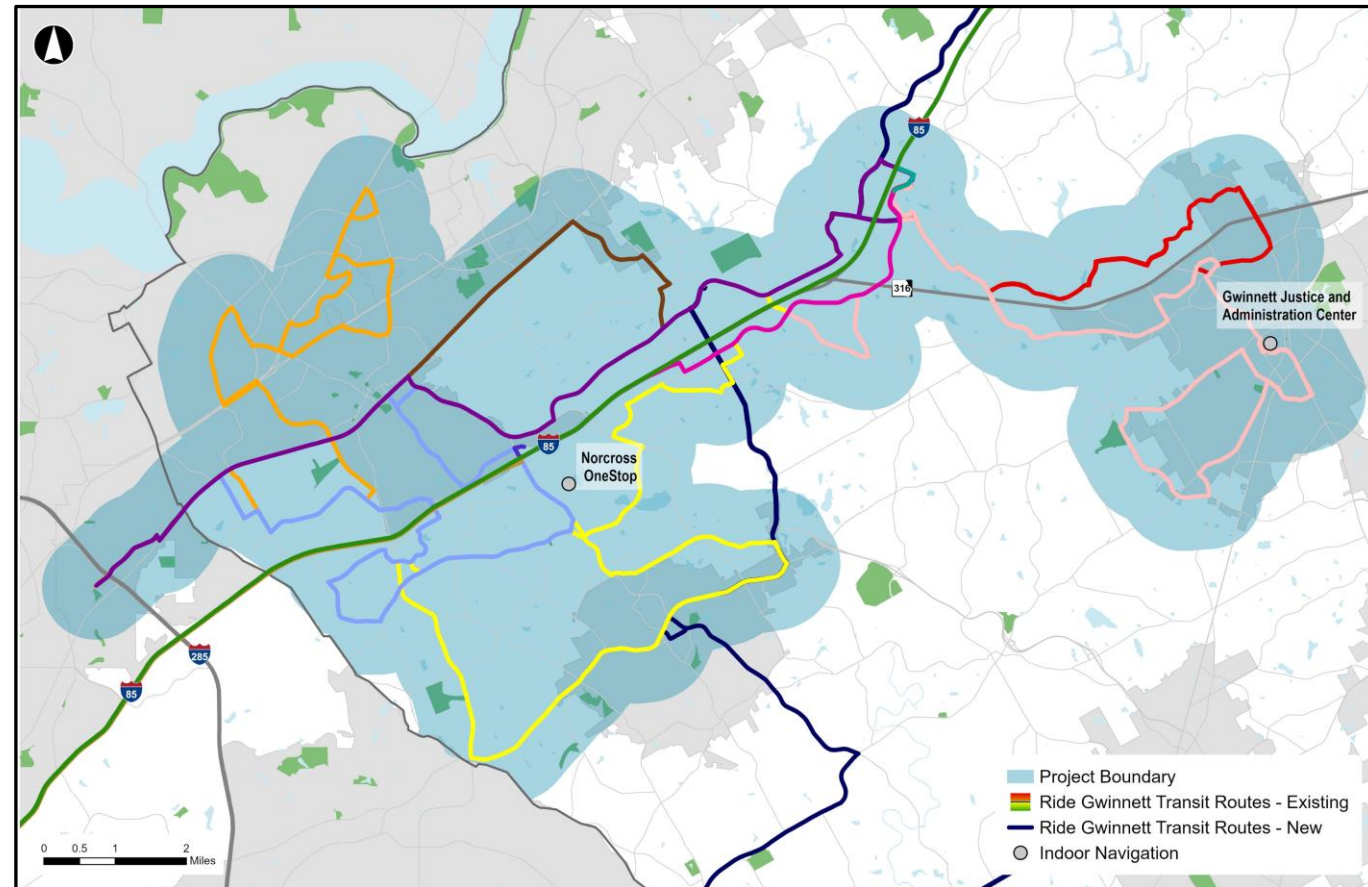


# Georgia Mobility and Access Planner (G-MAP)

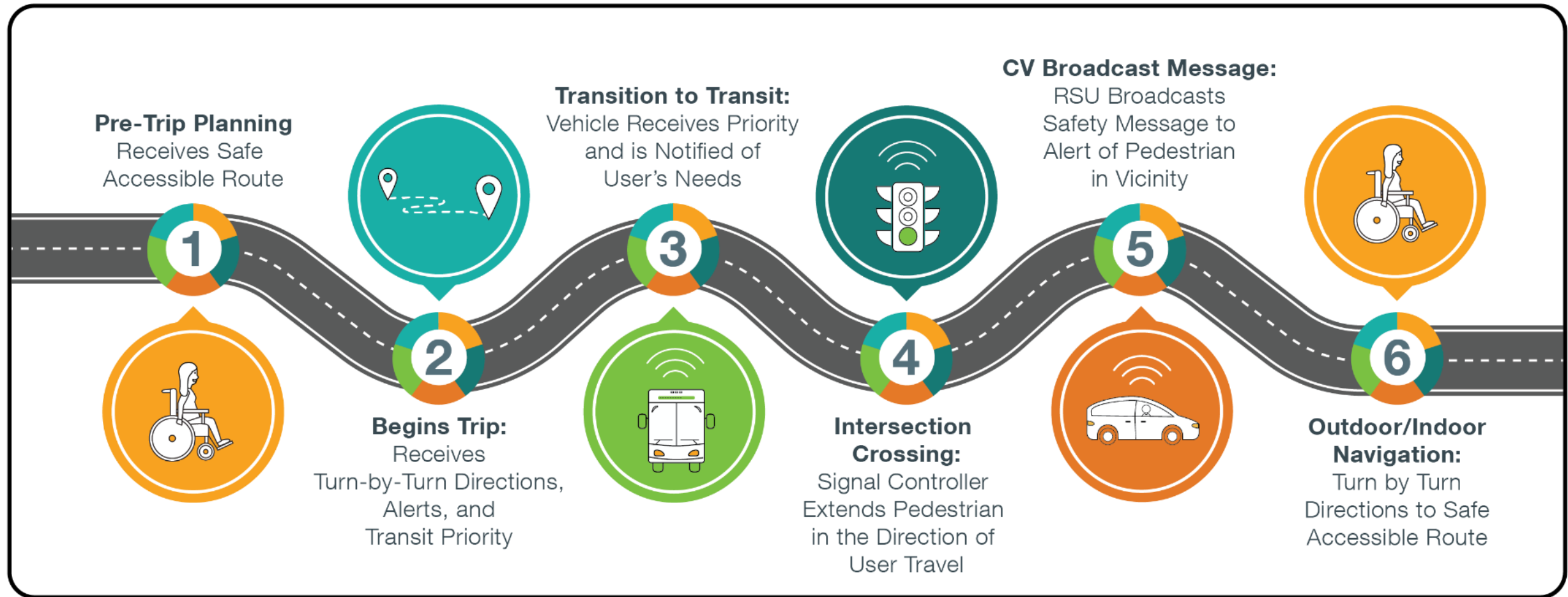
A trip planner focused on access with a personalized plan to navigate physical infrastructure, resolve unexpected obstacles, and ensure users' visibility throughout the trip.

## ST-CTN Project Site - Gwinnett County, GA

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



# Georgia Mobility and Access Planner (G-MAP)



# G-MAP Showcase

## May 7, 2026 Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GJAC)

### AGENDA

- 10:00 AM Welcome
- 10:05 AM Keynote Speakers
- 10:30 AM Ribbon Cutting
- 10:35 AM Community Event and Field Demonstrations
- 2:00 PM Event Ends

### Keynote Speakers

- Hon. Nicole Love Hendrickson – Commissioner, Gwinnett County
- Sabrina David – USDOT, Federal Highway Administration
- Meg Pirkle – Chief Engineer, Georgia Department of Transportation
- Anna Roach – Executive Director & CEO, Atlanta Regional Commission
- Jordan Hall – Project Champion, Statewide Independent Living Council

### Guided Field Demonstrations

- Create a profile and a personalized, accessible route.
- See notifications from the bus driver's perspective.
- Watch how G-MAP profiles can get extra time to cross the street.
- See notifications from a connected car's perspective.
- Check out the outdoor and indoor navigation features.

### Community Event

- Meet other members of the community
- Learn more about G-MAP
- Connect with advocacy groups
- Find out about more programs in your area

# Stay Connected and Download the App

**Joseph F. Hacker, Atlanta Regional Commission**

Co-Deployment Lead

[jhacker@atlantaregional.org](mailto:jhacker@atlantaregional.org)

**G-MAP Website and download the app:**

<https://georgia-map.com>

**ITS4US Program Website:**

<https://www.its.dot.gov/research-areas/ITS4US/>

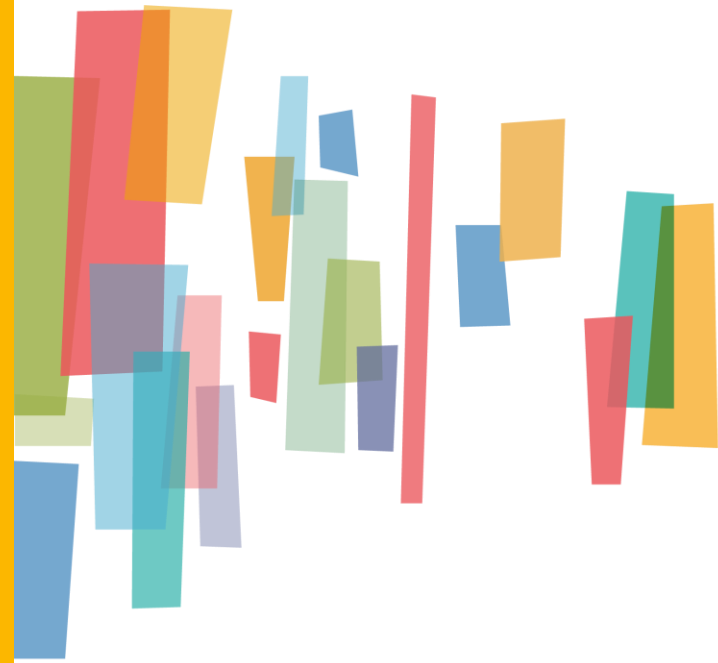




# HB 297

# HB 297 Impact & Transition Considerations

May 13, 2026



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# House Bill 297 (2026)

## HB 297 passed on the final night of the 2026 legislative session. Notable changes to structures and transportation governance:

- Dissolves GRTA & The ATL (5/12 deadline)
- Creates Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority (GTEA)
- GTEA governed by 13-member Board:
  - 8 Gubernatorial appointments (5 must come from 13-county compliance zone)
  - 2 Lieutenant Governor appointments (1)
  - 2 Speaker of House appointments (1)
  - 1 GDOT Commissioner appointment
- GTEA designated recipient of federal transit funds
- GTEA replaces GRTA for:
  - DRI reviews
  - TIP approvals
- ARC continues MPO-required transit planning in partnership with state and local stakeholders
- XPRESS Bus Service remains intact and operational, oversight by GTEA
- MARTA's taxing authority extended through 2067

# HB 297 – Impacts on ARC

## Bylaws

Several provisions reference GRTA or ATL by name. Articles IV and VIII must be updated to reflect GTEA as the successor entity.

## Five-Party MOA

Reduction to four parties, with GRTA and ATL consolidated into GTEA. TIP approval chain changes needed.

## TIP Deadline

ARC TIP amendment due to GTEA May 20. GTEA Board (or Governor) must approve as successor by statute.

## Technical Updates

As needed through the process, website/document updates and other communication

# ARC Bylaws: Key Changes Required \*

All references to GRTA and ATL must be updated to GTEA.

<b>Article IV-B</b> Metropolitan Planning Organization	Update TIP/STIP approval language. GTEA assumes the Governor's delegated authority to approve TIPs under § 50-39-14. Remove GRTA as designee.
<b>Article IV-D</b> Local Workforce Dev. Board	No direct change; confirm no GRTA/ATL cross-references remain in this section after edit.
<b>Article VIII-B-3(a)</b> TAQC Membership	Remove GRTA Board and ATL Board seats from TAQC. Add GTEA Board Chair or designee. Update Article VIII-B-3(d) terms of office accordingly.
<b>Article VIII-B-3(e)</b> TAQC Duties	Update 'develops consensus among ARC, MARTA, ATL, GDOT, GRTA' to 'ARC, MARTA, GTEA, GDOT.' All five-agency references become four-agency.
<b>Article IX-C-3(c)</b> Executive Director - Contracts	TIP amendment execution: remove GRTA countersignature role. Reference GTEA Board approval per § 50-39-14 as prerequisite before ARC/Board Chair execution.
<b>Article XI-B</b> Administrative Modifications	ED may use administrative modification authority (no Board vote required) for name-change substitutions (ATL→GTEA, GRTA→GTEA) that are non-substantive, with Board Chair approval.

\* Bylaw revisions may not require formal Board approval if the changes are simply "administrative modifications." According to ARC's bylaws, administrative modifications may be proposed by ARC's Executive Director and approved by the Board Chair. The ARC Board will either be asked to vote or be advised of the necessary changes.

# Five-Party MOA → Four-Party MOA

Current MOA effective in 2019 following ATL establishment in 2018

Provides framework for transportation planning coordination and cooperation in metro Atlanta

Five current signatories are ARC, ATL, GDOT, GRTA and MARTA

With HB 297 passed, GRTA and ATL sections consolidate into GTEA

## REMOVE FROM MOA

- Title Page: Remove “Five-Party”; rename to “Four-Party MOA”
- Section IV-B: ATL Roles & Responsibilities
- Section IV-D: GRTA Roles & Responsibilities
- Definitions: “ATL” and “GRTA” entries
- All references to GRTA as TIP/STIP approver
- ATL as designated recipient language
- Signature blocks for ATL Executive Director and GRTA Executive Director

## ADD TO MOA

- New Section IV-B: GTEA Roles & Responsibilities – merges ATL + GRTA duties
- Definition: “Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority (GTEA)” per HB 297 § 50-39-2
- TIP approval: GTEA Board majority vote replaces GRTA Exec. Director action (§ 50-39-14)
- Designated recipient: GTEA assumes ATL’s role for FTA urbanized area formula funds
- Public involvement: GTEA assumes ATL’s transit responsibilities
- STIP: GTEA as signatory party alongside GDOT for Governor delegation
- Signature block: GTEA Executive Director as fourth signatory

# Interim TIP Amendment Approval Chain Must be Confirmed

ARC has a TIP amendment due at GTEA on May 20, 2026.

## CURRENT FLOW (Before HB 297)

ARC/TAQC – MPO adopts amendment



**GRTA** – Governor designee approves



**GDOT** – Incorporates into STIP



**FHWA/FTA** – Federal concurrence

## NEW FLOW (After HB 297 – effective by 5/12)

ARC/TAQC – MPO adopts amendment



**GTEA Board** – Majority vote



**GDOT** – Incorporates into STIP



**FHWA/FTA** – Federal concurrence

## ARC ACTIONS THROUGH MAY 20, 2026

1. Coordinate with GRTA/GTEA leadership to confirm interim TIP approval protocol
2. Coordinate with GDOT and FHWA/FTA Atlanta offices to confirm federal acceptability of GTEA approval
3. Continue to document all communications and interim agreements; include in TIP administrative record

# Board Approval Path: 2026 ARC Calendar

May 13	Board Information & Resolution Adoption	<p><b>BOARD INFORMATION:</b> HB297 impacts on ARC governance and operations.</p> <p><b>BOARD RESOLUTION:</b> Recognition that during the transition period ARC will follow GA law while undertaking modifications to ARC's bylaws and other implementation requirements.</p>	<p>GC + ED</p> <p>Governance Committee + ARC Board</p>
May 20	Critical Deadline	<p>TIP amendment must receive GTEA Board (or Governor) approval.</p>	<p>Transportation Director + GC</p> <p>GRTA/GTEA Deadline</p>
Aug 12	Board Adoption	<p><b>TAQC VOTE:</b> TAQC votes on Four-Party MOA.</p> <p><b>BOARD VOTE:</b> ARC Board votes on Four-Party MOA and either receives first read of bylaw amendments or notice of bylaw administrative changes pursuant to ARC bylaws.</p>	<p>ARC Board + 4 Agencies</p> <p>TAQC + ARC Board</p>
Sep 9	Board Adoption & Contingency	<p>Fallback date if August vote delayed for any reason. Admin modifications published per Art. XI-B. If required, revised bylaws approved by the Board and posted publicly.</p>	<p>ARC Secretary</p> <p>Governance Committee + ARC Board</p>



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## For more information

**John Bayalis**

[jbayalis@atlantaregional.org](mailto:jbayalis@atlantaregional.org)

**Eric Johnson**

[ejohnson@atlantaregional.org](mailto:ejohnson@atlantaregional.org)

**Gwo-Wei Torng**

[gtorng@atlantaregional.org](mailto:gtorng@atlantaregional.org)



# 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 6

## 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**

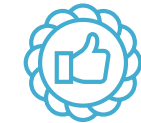
## Goals



**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.

# Amendment #6 Process Recap

- First read presentations occurred at the March TCC and ARC Board/TAQC meetings – no changes have occurred since then.
- Public Comment Period – April 1, 2026 through April 15, 2026**
  - No public comments were received.**
- Public Hearing occurred at Transportation Coordinating Committee on April 3
- Committee and Board Action
  - Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) – **May 1**
  - Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQC) – **May 13**
  - ARC Board – **May 13**
- Document Submittal Package to US DOT and US EPA – **May 13**
- Updated Project List Available – **Late May/Early June (latest)**



# Questions?

Amendment Website

[www.atlantaregional.org/amendment](http://www.atlantaregional.org/amendment)

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan / FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Amendment #6 FINAL - MAY 2026

NEW PROJECTS - EXCLUDING GDOT TAP AWARDS

Project Information							Location Information						Change Details				Financial Information											
ID	GDOT ID	Agency	Title	Type	Analysis	Network Year	County	From	To	Existing Lanes	Planned Lanes	Length	Change Reason	Narrative Description of Changes	Phasing Status	Transportation Bills	Fiscal Year	Phase	Federal Aid Funds Type(s)	Federal Aid Funds Description(s)	Federal Aid Amount	State Funds Type(s)	State Funds Description	State Amount	Local Funds Type(s)	Local Funds Description	Local Amount	Total
AT-393	0017401	GDOT	SR 42 (MORELAND AVENUE) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT - VRU	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	City of Atlanta		UNITED AVENUE AND SKYHAVEN ROAD	N/A	N/A	0.13	New Project	Original funded under the lump sum program but now has been programmed with CMAQ funds for the Intersection Improvement	Authorized	FAST	2021	PE	ZS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 351,000	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 39,000	-	-	-	\$ 390,000
															Authorized	IIJA	2025	ROW	YS70	VULNR USERS SAFETY SPECIAL RULE IIJA	\$ 2,880,000	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 320,000	-	-	-	\$ 3,200,000
																IIJA	2026	CST	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 2,322,878	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 580,719	-	-	-	\$ 2,903,597
																IIJA	2026	UTL	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 699,021	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 174,755	-	-	-	\$ 873,776
AT-394	0017402	GDOT	I-75 NB RAMPS ROUNDABOUTS	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)		City of Atlanta	MOORES MILL ROAD	N/A	N/A	0.8	New Project	Construct a hybrid single-lane roundabout	Authorized	IIJA	2021	PE	Z001	National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)	\$ 568,560	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 142,140	-	-	-	\$ 710,700	
															IIJA	2026	ROW	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 1,160,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,160,000		
															IIJA	2028	UTL	Y001	National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)	\$ 259,506	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 64,876	-	-	-	\$ 324,382	
															IIJA	2028	CST	Y001	National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)	\$ 1,984,129	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 496,032	-	-	-	\$ 2,480,161	
BA-187	0018331	GDOT	SR 81 (LOGANVILLE HIGHWAY) ROUNDABOUT	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)		Barrow	TOM MILLER ROAD	2	2	0.30	New Project	New project added - construction of a single lane roundabout.	Authorized	FAST	2022	PE	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 600,000	
															IIJA	2026	ROW	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 496,944	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 124,236	-	-	-	\$ 621,180	
															IIJA	2028	UTL	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 800,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 800,000	
															IIJA	2028	CST	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 4,006,744	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 4,006,744	
CA-015	0016466	GDOT	SR 8 ROUNDABOUTS	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Carroll	CS 919/ROCKY BRANCH ROAD & SR 61/INDUSTRIAL BLVD	2	2	0.7	New Project	CMAQ funds added to ROW. Project to be added to TIP	Authorized	FAST	2023	PE	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 1,100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,100,000	
															IIJA	2026	ROW	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 2,200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 2,200,000	
															IIJA	2028	CST	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 8,211,563	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 8,211,563	
															IIJA	2028	UTL	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 900,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 900,000	
CO-516		Cobb County	CUMBERLAND AV CIRCULATOR PILOT PROGRAM	Other	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Cobb					New Project	New project - FTA Low or No Emission Grant Program FY25 5339(c) funding for project.	IIJA	2026	ALL	5339(c)	Low or No Emission Vehicle Program	\$ 6,632,101	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 1,658,026	\$ 8,290,127		

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DK-489	0017399	City of Tucker	SR 410 AT MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	DeKalb	SR 410	Mountain Industrial Boulevard	N/A	N/A	0.80	New Project	Initially not programmed into the TIP	Authorized	FAST	2021	PE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 912,000	\$ 912,000
															Authorized	FAST	2021	PE	Z530	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 13,500	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 1,500	-	-	-	\$ 15,000	
															Authorized	IIJA	2025	ROW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
																IIJA	2026	CST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 1,998,185	\$ 1,998,185
																IIJA	2026	CST	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 6,000,000	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 1,500,000	-	-	-	\$ 7,500,000	
FS-359	0017398	GDOT	SR 92 (CAMPBELLTON FAIRBURN RD) ROUNDABOUTS	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	South Fulton	CR515/JONES ROAD & 485/DEMOONEY ROAD	N/A	N/A	0.76	New Project	Construct two hybrid roundabouts	Authorized	FAST	2021	PE	Z530	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 810,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 810,000	
															IIJA	2026	ROW	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 3,335,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 3,335,400		
																2029-2030	CST	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 8,754,301	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 8,754,301		
																2029-2030	UTL	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 102,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 102,700		
FS-360	0019841	GDOT	SR 138 (JONESBORO ROAD) ROUNDABOUT	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	South Fulton	CR 581/BETHSAIDA ROAD	N/A	N/A	0.3	New Project	Construct a multi-lane roundabout	Authorized		2023	PE	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 700,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 700,000		
																2026	ROW	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 510,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 510,000			
																2028	CST	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 4,112,811	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 4,112,811			
																2028	UTL	YS30	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 280,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 280,000			
FT-338	0020610	Forsyth County	SHADY GROVE ROAD AND SHADBURN FERRY ROAD MULTI-USE PATH	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Forsyth	BROWNS BRIDGE ROAD	SHADY GROVE CAMPGROUND	N/A	N/A	3.38	New Project	New project added.		IIJA	2026	PE	Y210	Federal Land Access Program	\$ 580,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 580,000	
																IIJA	2028	CST	Y210	Federal Land Access Program	\$ 3,920,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 3,920,000		
																	2028	CST	-	-	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 2,644,125	\$ 2,644,125	
																IIJA	2028	UTL	Y210	Federal Land Access Program	\$ 500,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 500,000		
GW-453	0017405	GDOT	SR 124 (BRASELTON HIGHWAY) OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Gwinnett	HAMILTON MILL ROAD/HAMILTON CREEK PARKWAY	N/A	N/A	0.20	New Project	Add turn lanes	Authorized	FAST	2021	PE	Z001	National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)	\$ 200,000	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	
														Authorized	IIJA	2025	ROW	Y240	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Flexible	\$ 248,000	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 62,000	\$ 310,000	
																2026	UTL	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 184,000	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 46,000	-	-	\$ 230,000			
																2026	CST	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 1,917,375	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 479,344	-	-	\$ 2,396,719			

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NEW PROJECTS - EXCLUDING GDOT TAP AWARDS

Project Information							Location Information						Change Details				Financial Information											
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GW-456		Gwinnett County	GWINNETT COUNTY RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION STUDY	Operations & Safety		TBD	Gwinnett						New Project	Adding a FRA funded grant for a scoping study to eliminate three at-grade railroad crossings.	Authorized	IJJA	2026	SCP	RCE	Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program	\$ 888,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 222,000	\$ 1,110,000
M-AR-462		MARTA	MARTA SECURING RAIL AND BUS FACILITIES	Transit Facilities Capital	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Clayton, Dekalb, South Fulton						New Project	The MARTA transit system is undergoing a multitude of upgrades across the Authority. The prevention of terrorism remains a critical priority for ensuring public safety and security. In order to detect, prevent and mitigate potential threats, the MARTA Police Department has identified potential security threats and has proposed the Security Rail & Bus Facilities Projects to mitigate safety risks and terrorism attacks.			2026	PE	FTA TIG (CPF) - GA13	Transit Infrastructure Grants - Community Project Funding (GA13)	\$ 40,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 10,000	\$ 50,000
																	2026	CST	FTA TIG (CPF) - GA13	Transit Infrastructure Grants - Community Project Funding (GA13)	\$ 360,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 90,000	\$ 450,000
																	2026	PE	FTA TIG (CPF) - GA05	Transit Infrastructure Grants - Community Project Funding (GA05)	\$ 25,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 6,250	\$ 31,250
																	2026	CST	FTA TIG (CPF) - GA05	Transit Infrastructure Grants - Community Project Funding (GA05)	\$ 225,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 56,250	\$ 281,250
NE-118	0019706	GDOT	SR 12 (HWY 278) ROUNDABOUT	Operations & Safety	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Newton		SR 142 (JOHN R. WILLIAMS HWY)			0.40	New Project	Construct a multi-lane roundabout	Authorized	IJJA	2024	PE	Y240	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Flexible	\$ 480,000	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 120,000	-	-	-	\$ 600,000
																IJJA	2026	PE	Y400	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	\$ 615,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 615,000	
																	2028	CST	Y240	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Flexible	\$ 1,984,000	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 496,000	-	-	-	\$ 2,480,000
																	2028	UTL	Y240	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Flexible	\$ 10,400	STATE	State of Georgia	\$ 2,600	-	-	-	\$ 13,000

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 GDOT TAP AWARDS - NEW/EXISTING PROJECTS

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BA-188	0021599	City of Winder	JACKSON STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE	Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Barrow	SR 8	NORTH JACKSON STREET	SOUTH JACKSON STREET	N/A	N/A	0.2	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total of \$1,650,000 (\$1,320,000 - federal and \$330,000 - local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y306	Transportation Alternatives (TA) - Areas with Population 50K to 100K	\$ 1,320,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 330,000	\$ 1,650,000	
CH-356	0021588	Cherokee County	TOWNE LAKE PARKWAY PHASE II	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Cherokee	TOWN LAKE PARKWAY	EAGLE WATCH DRIVE	TOWNE LAKE HILLS	N/A	N/A	1.01	New Project	New project added.		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 400,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	
CO-474	0017806	Cobb County	CUMBERLAND SWEEP - SEGMENT C	Sidepaths and Trails	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Cobb	INTERSECTION OF GALLERIA DRIVE AND AKERS MILL ROAD	INTERSECTION OF GALLERIA DRIVE AND I-285 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE	N/A	N/A	0.47	Project Changed	GDOT awarded TA funds for a new ROW phase with \$6,396,000 (\$5,116,800 - federal and \$1,279,200 - local) The updated ROW estimate (\$8,700,000 total) and new federal funding with local match (\$6,396,000) reduces the local overmatch from \$6,576,000 to \$2,304,000.	Authorized	TEA-21	2025	ROW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 2,304,000	\$ 2,304,000	
															Authorized	IIJA	2026	ROW	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 5,116,800	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 1,279,200	\$ 6,396,000	
CO-514	0020108	Cobb County	POWDER SPRINGS ROAD MULTI-USE PATH	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Cobb	SR 360	CHEATHAM HILL ROAD	COUNTY SERVICES PARKWAY	N/A	N/A	1	New Project	New ROW phase awarded with TA funds from GDOT. ROW phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$1,423,000 (\$1,138,400 - federal and \$284,600 - local)		IIJA	2026	ROW	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 1,138,400	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 284,600	\$ 1,423,000	
																	IIJA	2024	PE	-	-	-	40304	STATE	\$ 40,000	-	-	-	\$ 40,000	
																	IIJAI	2028	UTL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 115,000	\$ 115,000
																	IIJA	2028	CST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 2,990,875	\$ 2,990,875
CW-356	0021597	City of Newnan	LINC MULTI-USE PATH	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Coweta	NEWMAN CROSSING BOULEVARD	SR 34/LOWER FAYETTEVILLE ROAD	BIG POPLAR ROAD	N/A	N/A	3.07	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$981,300 (\$785,064 - federal and \$196,266 - local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 785,064	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 196,266	\$ 981,330	
DK-381	0016053	City of Brookhaven	PEACHTREE CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL FROM ATLANTA TO N. DRUID HILLS ROAD - PHASE II	Sidepaths and Trails	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	DeKalb	CITY OF ATLANTA	NORTH DRUID HILLS ROAD	N/A	N/A	1	Project Changed	Adding Y300 TAP Award - \$8,000,000 Federal, \$2,000,000 Local Increase Y230 funds for CST in FY 2027 to \$5,593,489 with 20% local match.		IIJA	2027	CST	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 8,000,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 10,000,000		
																IIJA	2027	CST	Y230	Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program - Urban (>200K) (ARC)	\$ 5,593,489	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 1,398,372	\$ 6,991,861		
DK-488	0021589	City of Avondale Estates	DOWNTOWN AVONDALE SHARED STREETS PROJECT	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	DeKalb	OAK STREET	FRANKLIN STREET	N/A	N/A	0.47	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$500,000 (\$400,000 - federal and \$100,000 - local)			2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 400,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000		

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DK-490	0021596	City of Dunwoody	NORTH PEACHTREE ROAD SHARED USE PATH	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Dekalb	NORTH PEACHTREE ROAD	DUNWOOD Y CROSSING	BARCLAY DRIVE	N/A	N/A	0.76	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$2,106,444 (\$1,685,157 - federal and \$421,289 - local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 1,685,157	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 421,289	\$ 2,106,446
FA-359	0021593	Fayette County	SANDY CREEK ROAD MULTI-USE PATH TRAIL	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Fayette	SANDY CREEK ROAD	EASTIN ROAD	TILLMAN ROAD/VETERANS PARKWAY	N/A	N/A	1.15	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$1,250,000 (\$1,000,000 - federal and \$250,000 - local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 1,000,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,250,000
FA-360	0021591	City of Fayetteville	WOODLAND LINK MULTI-USE PATH	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Fayette	WOODLAND LINK	CITY CENTER LINK	GINGER CAKE CREEK	N/A	N/A	1.8	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$800,000 (\$640,000 - federal and \$160,000 - local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 640,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 160,000	\$ 800,000
FA-361	0021592	Fayette County	KENWOOD ROAD MULTI-USE PATH TRAIL	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Fayette	KENWOOD ROAD	ASHLEY DRIVE	LONGVIEW ROAD	N/A	N/A	1.16	New Project	New project awarded TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$1,250,000 (\$1,000,000 - federal and \$250,000 - local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 1,000,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,250,000
FN-360	0021594	City of Johns Creek	SR 141/MEDLOCK BRIDGE ROAD MULTI-USE TRAIL	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	North Fulton	SR 141 / MEDLOCK BRIDGE ROAD	SOUTH OF CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER BRIDGE	BOBBY JONES DRIVE	N/A	N/A	0.73	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$500,000 (\$400,000 - federal and \$100,000 local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 400,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000
GW-454	0021595	City of Peachtree Corners	SR 141 SIDEWALKS PROJECTS	Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Gwinnett	SR 141/Peachtree Parkway	ENGINEERING DRIVE AND TRIANGLE DRIVE	SCIENTIFIC DRIVE AND SOUTH OF PEACHTREE CORNERS CIRCLE	N/A	N/A	0.71	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total of \$500,000 (\$400,000 - federal and \$100,000 local)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 400,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000
GW-455	0021590	City of Duluth	SR 120 MULTI-USE PATHS	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Gwinnett	SR 120	ABBOTTS BRIDGE ROAD	IRVINGDALE ROAD	N/A	N/A	1	New Project	New project awarded with TA funds from GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with \$860,000 (\$688,000 - federal and \$172,000 - local).		IIJA	2026	PE	Y300	Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside - Flexible	\$ 688,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 172,000	\$ 860,000
WA-038		City of Social Circle	NORTH CHEROKEE ROAD SIDEWALKS	Pedestrian Facility	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Walton	NORTH CHEROKEE ROAD	SOCIAL CIRCLE NURSING AND REHAB CENTER	PARTEE DRIVE	N/A	N/A	0.89	New Project	This project has been awarded TA funds by GDOT. PE phase in FY26 with a total amount of \$500,000 (\$400,000 - federal and local - \$100,000)		IIJA	2026	PE	Y308	Transportation Alternatives – Areas with Population less than 5K	\$ 400,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan / FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Amendment #6 FINAL - MAY 2026

FUNDING CHANGES - EXISTING PROJECTS - EXCLUDING GDOT TAP AWARDS

Project Information							Location Information						Change Details				Financial Information											
ID	GDOT ID	Agency	Title	Type	Analysis	Network Year	County	From	To	Existing Lanes	Planned Lanes	Length	Change Reason	Narrative Description of Changes	Phasing Status	Transportation Bills	Fiscal Year	Phase	Federal Aid Funds Type(s)	Federal Aid Funds Description(s)	Federal Aid Amount	State Funds Type(s)	State Funds Descriptio	State Amount	Local Funds Type(s)	Local Funds Descriptio	Local Amount	Total
M-AR-274B2	0015137	MARTA	MARTA CLEAN BUS PROCUREMENT	Bus Capital	Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)	N/A	Regional			N/A	N/A	N/A	Project Changed	Programming award from Low or No Emission Grant Program - Federal amount awarded - \$20,735,040.		IJJA	2026	CST	5339(c)	Low or No Emission Grant Program	\$ 20,735,040	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 5,183,760	\$ 25,918,800
PA-036B	0013700	Paulding County	CEDARCREST ROAD WIDENING	General Purpose Capacity	In the Region's Air Quality Conformity Analysis	2030	Paulding	HARMONY GROVE CHURCH ROAD	COBB COUNTY LINE	2	4	2.7	Project Changed	Adding \$100,000 (\$80,000 Y230, \$20,000 LOC) to PE in FY 2026 for Value Engineering Study.		IJJA	2026	PE	Y230	Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program - Urban (>200K) (ARC)	\$ 80,000	-	-	-	LOCAL	Local Jurisdiction /Municipality Funds	\$ 20,000	\$ 100,000

# **ARC FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program and 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Amendment #6 Public Review**

**April 1, 2026 to April 15, 2026**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the mechanism by which federal, state and local funds are approved for all significant surface transportation projects and programs in the region. The FY 2024-2027 TIP comprises the first four years of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the Atlanta region, both of which were adopted in February 2024. As the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the 19-county region, ARC is responsible for developing and amending/updating the TIP and MTP to meet federal planning requirements and address local needs.

The purpose of amendment #6 to the FY 2024-2027 TIP and 2050 MTP is to facilitate the following:

- Addition of new projects that are either considered exempt from air quality conformity analysis
- Project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively.

An amendment to the TIP and MTP requires a public comment and review period. An email was sent to ARC's interested parties distribution list indicating that the TIP/MTP amendment was open for public review. Details regarding the amendment project list, process, and timeline were posted on ARC's website and advertised within the South Fulton Neighbor publication. Presentations on the amendment were delivered at ARC's Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC), Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC) and Board meetings.

The public comment period opened on April 1, 2026 and closed on April 15, 2026, with a public hearing scheduled before the TCC meeting at ARC on April 3, 2026.

No written comments were submitted via the PublicInput portal during the public comment period. No verbal comments were submitted at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing.

This document is being shared with TCC and TAQC members as well as all appropriate regional planning partners. Additionally, this document will be posted at the ARC amendment webpage, found at [www.atlantaregional.org/amendment](http://www.atlantaregional.org/amendment).



# TIP/MTP Amendment 6

## Executive Summary



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the mechanism by which federal, state and local funds are approved for all significant surface transportation projects and programs in the region. The FY 2024-2027 TIP comprises the first four years of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the Atlanta region. As the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for a 19-county region, ARC is responsible for developing and amending/updating the TIP and MTP to meet federal planning requirements and address local transportation needs.

ARC coordinates closely and continuously with its planning partners to make revisions to the TIP and MTP. Common revisions include increases to cost, shifts in schedule and changes to transportation project scope. Minor revisions may be handled administratively by ARC staff, while major revisions must be handled via an amendment. Amendments entail significant coordination with ARC's local, state and federal partners, require a formal public comment process, and are presented to the ARC Board for approval.

### Amendment 6 Project Summary

Amendment 6 to the ARC FY 2024-2027 TIP and MTP proposes changes to 30 new and existing projects for the following purposes:

## Highlights

30

Projects impacted by amendment 6

26

New projects added by amendment 6

\$115M

Federal funds added through 2050

\$79M

Federal funds added in the Transportation Improvement Program years (FY 2024-2027)

- **New Transportation Alternative (TA) and Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) Awards**

In 2025, GDOT and FHWA each held a Call For Projects (CFP), which resulted in the award of TA and FLAP funding to 16 projects, 14 of which are new projects being added to the Transportation Improvement Program. The 16 projects awarded funds from this project call include 13 multi-use paths, 2 sidewalk installations, and 1 pedestrian bridge. In total, \$28.3M was added to the TIP from these 2 federal sources.

- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Awards**

9 additional new projects have been added to the Transportation Improvement Program due to them receiving Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. This CMAQ funding is supplemented by funds from the Highway Safety Improvement Program, Surface Transportation Block Grant (Statewide), National Highway Performance Program, and Vulnerable Road Users Program. All of these projects are operational and safety improvements.

- **New Grant-Funded Projects**

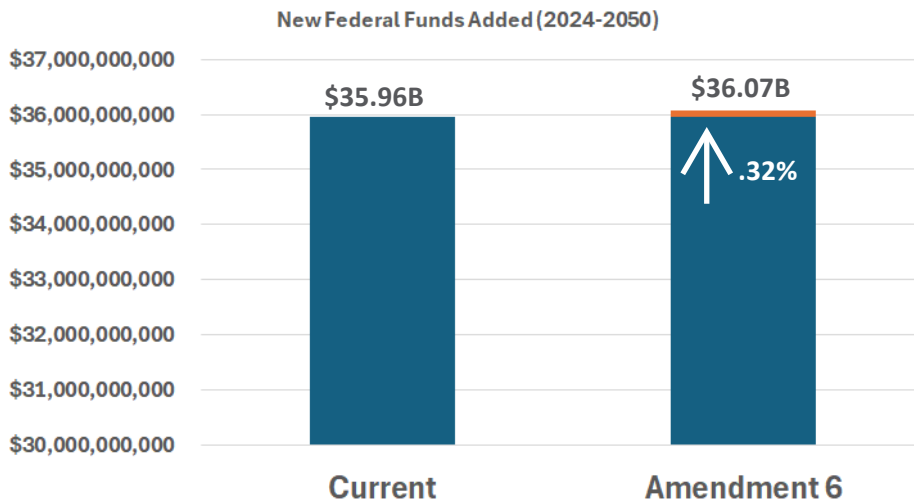
3 new projects have been added to the Transportation Improvement Program after receiving awards from federal discretionary grant programs:

- Gwinnett County Railroad Crossing Elimination Study: \$888,000 in Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) funding
- MARTA Securing Rail and Bus Facilities: \$650,000 in Transit Infrastructure Grants
- Cumberland AV Circulator Pilot Program: \$6.6M in Low or No Emission Vehicle Program funds

• **Existing Projects**

Two existing TIP projects are receiving additional funds:

- MARTA Clean Bus Procurement: \$20.7M in Low or No Emission Vehicle Program funds
- Cedarcrest Road Widening: \$80,000 in additional STBG funding from ARC for a Value Engineering Study

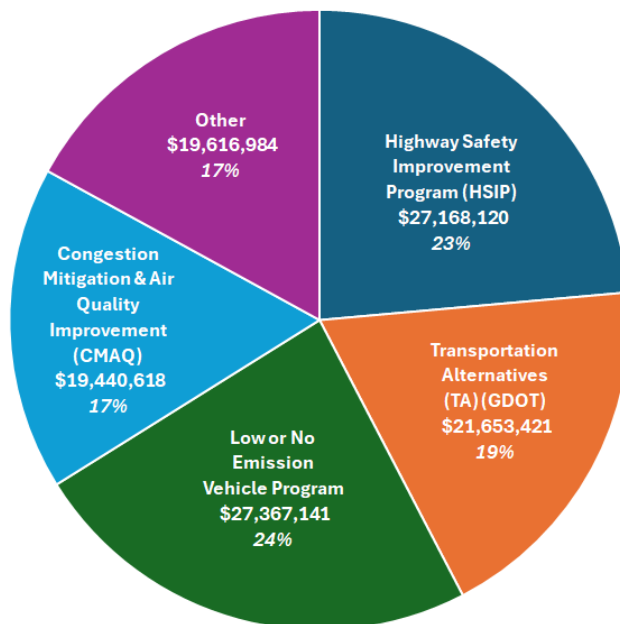


## Amendment 6 Financial Summary

Amendment 6 adds a significant amount of funding to the TIP program years, and much of that is due to the updated cost estimates for MMIP projects. \$115M in federal funds are being added to the MTP program years of 2024-2050, while \$79M is being added to the TIP program years of FY 2024-2027. While these funds come from a wide variety of sources, 83% of the funding being added to the TIP comes from the 4 funding programs shown in the chart below.

## Amendment 6 Major Milestones

- Public Review and Comment Period – **April 1 through April 15**
- Public Hearing – **April 3** (ARC Transportation & Air Quality Committee meeting)
- Committee and Board Actions:
  - Transportation Coordinating Committee action -- **May 1**
  - Transportation & Air Quality Committee action -- **May 13**
  - ARC Board action – **May 13**
  - GRTA Board action – **May 20**
- Conformity Determination Expected from US DOT -- **Late April/Early June**
- Amendment officially incorporated into TIP/MTP -- **Late April/Early June**



## For More Information

Full amendment 6 documentation, including project lists and fact sheets, may be found at [atlantaregional.org/amendment](http://atlantaregional.org/amendment)





DATE: May 13, 2026

**ISSUE SUMMARY:      2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #6**

**FROM:**            Carlotta Harrell, Transportation & Air Quality Committee Chair

**IMPORTANCE:**

Amendment #6 was developed to incorporate the following: 1) addition of new projects that are considered exempt from air quality conformity analysis, 2) project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively.

Additional information regarding the amendment can be found at:  
[www.atlantaregional.org/amendment](http://www.atlantaregional.org/amendment)

Regarding the required conformity determination for the TIP amendment:

1.    ARC determined that the changes reflected in Amendment #6 do not require a new technical evaluation for conformity.
2.    ARC coordinated this information with the adjacent Cartersville-Bartow MPO and Gainesville-Hall MPO.
3.    Prior to the formal public comment period, ARC received concurrence as required through the Interagency Consultation process that the conformity determination for Amendment #6 does not necessitate a new regional emissions analysis.

Pursuant to the ARC Community Engagement Plan, a fifteen (15) day public comment period was conducted from April 1, 2026 to April 15, 2026. Comments received, and responses to those comments, were provided to TCC, TAQC and the ARC Board prior to action being taken.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Adoption of the 2050 MTP and FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment #6.



**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING:**

**2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY 2024-2027  
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #6**

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is a Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission created pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-80, et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 50-8-93 designates such a commission to be the planning agency for comprehensive transportation planning under the administrative requirements of the United States Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Atlanta Metropolitan Transportation Planning Area which includes all or parts of nineteen (19) counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 and the Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1990 require the MPO to develop and adopt a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that conforms with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, a conformity determination was made on the 2050 MTP and FY 2024-2027 TIP on February 27, 2024, by the US Department of Transportation in consultation with the US Environmental Protection Agency, which determined based on the 2050 MTP Conformity Determination Report, that the 2050 MTP and FY 2024-2027 TIP conform to the requirements of the Clean Air Act under 40 CFR Part 93 for the 8 hour ozone 2015 standard (7 county maintenance area), 2008 standard (15 county maintenance area) and 1997 standard (20 county partial maintenance area); and

**WHEREAS**, ARC did not perform a technical evaluation as no changes to the scope or schedule of any non-exempt status project was proposed in Amendment #6; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC did notify the Cartersville-Bartow MPO and the Gainesville-Hall MPO that such a technical evaluation would not be performed for the entire Atlanta Maintenance Area; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to releasing the amendment for a formal public comment period, ARC received concurrence through the Interagency Consultation process that Amendment #6 consists of changes that did not require a new technical evaluation for conformity; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment #6 to the 2050 MTP and FY 2024-2027 TIP was developed consistently with the requirements of 23 CFR 450.316 and in adherence with the participation processes and guidelines outlined in the ARC Community Engagement Plan as follows:

*For approval by TCC on 5/1/26; TAQC and ARC Board on 5/13/26*

- Notice of such an amendment was published in the legal organ for a fifteen (15)- day public comment period from April 1, 2026 to April 15, 2026.
- Interested parties were provided the opportunity to comment on the amendment through the ARC website.
- Results of this public comment period were provided to the Transportation Coordinating Committee, the Transportation & Air Quality Committee and the ARC Board for consideration.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the 2050 MTP and FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment #6 including the Final Project Change List and the Public Comment Report, as attached.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Atlanta Regional Commission authorizes staff, with approval of the Chair, to make non-substantive technical corrections to the final documents as necessary.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Atlanta Regional Commission directs staff to continue regular reporting on the management and implementation of the 2050 MTP.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on May 13, 2026.

---

Charissa White-Fulks, Manager of Board Affairs and Legal Clerk



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

**ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE  
BILL 297 AND CONFORMING GOVERNANCE ACTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Regional Commission (“ARC”) is a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency established under Georgia law and serves, among other roles, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Atlanta region;

**WHEREAS**, during the 2026 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 297 (“HB 297”), which modifies certain state transportation governance structures affecting ARC’s transportation planning and approval processes;

**WHEREAS**, HB 297 provides for the consolidation, dissolution, renaming, or reallocation of certain functions previously associated with the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (“GRTA”) and the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (“The ATL”), and establishes the Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority (“GTEA”) as successor for certain purposes under Georgia law;

**WHEREAS**, ARC’s current bylaws and related governance documents include references to GRTA, The ATL, and related transportation approval processes that may require conforming revisions to reflect HB 297 and its implementation;

**WHEREAS**, ARC is also party to an existing multi-party memorandum of agreement with transportation partners, and HB 297 is expected to require revisions to that agreement to reflect the consolidation of GRTA and The ATL into GTEA and to update associated transportation coordination and approval processes;

**WHEREAS**, ARC staff have identified certain immediate operational and governance considerations arising from HB 297, including potential modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (“TIP”) approval process, modification to the review process associated with Development of Regional Impact (“DRI”) reviews, and related coordination with GTEA, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and federal transportation partners;

**WHEREAS**, ARC’s bylaws establish procedures for formal bylaw amendments and also allow for administrative modifications under appropriate circumstances;

**WHEREAS**, the full scope and implementation details of HB 297 are still being evaluated for potential impact to the ARC bylaw and the existing multi-party memorandum of agreement, thereby creating a transition period;

**WHEREAS**, during this transition period, ARC intends to comply fully with the laws of the State of Georgia and to administer its governance documents, transportation processes, and intergovernmental agreements in a manner consistent with applicable state law;

**WHEREAS**, to the extent any provision of ARC’s bylaws, committee provisions, agreements, procedures, or related documents temporarily reference a prior statutory



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

structure or prior agency name that has been superseded by HB 297, ARC recognizes that applicable Georgia law controls;

**WHEREAS**, ARC intends to return to the Board, as appropriate, with conforming bylaw revisions, administrative modification notices, proposed memorandum of agreement revisions, or other implementation actions consistent with ARC's bylaws and Georgia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of the Atlanta Regional Commission recognizes HB 297 as applicable Georgia law and affirms that ARC shall comply with Georgia law while undertaking conforming modifications to ARC's bylaws, agreements, procedures, and transportation approval processes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, during the transition period before conforming revisions are completed, ARC shall interpret and apply references in its bylaws, committee provisions, agreements, procedures, and related documents to GRTA, The ATL, or related predecessor approval roles in a manner consistent with HB 297 and applicable Georgia law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ARC staff are authorized to prepare conforming revisions to the applicable multi-party memorandum of agreement, including revisions reducing the agreement from five parties to four parties, substituting GTEA for GRTA and The ATL as appropriate, and updating approval-chain language and related responsibilities consistent with HB 297.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ARC shall determine, in consultation with the Executive Director and Board Chair, whether any bylaw revisions required by HB 297 may be considered administrative modifications under ARC's bylaws or instead be presented to the Board through the formal bylaw amendment process.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as finally approving any specific bylaw amendment or memorandum of agreement amendment, except to the extent necessary to recognize that ARC will comply with applicable Georgia law pending completion of the appropriate conforming actions.

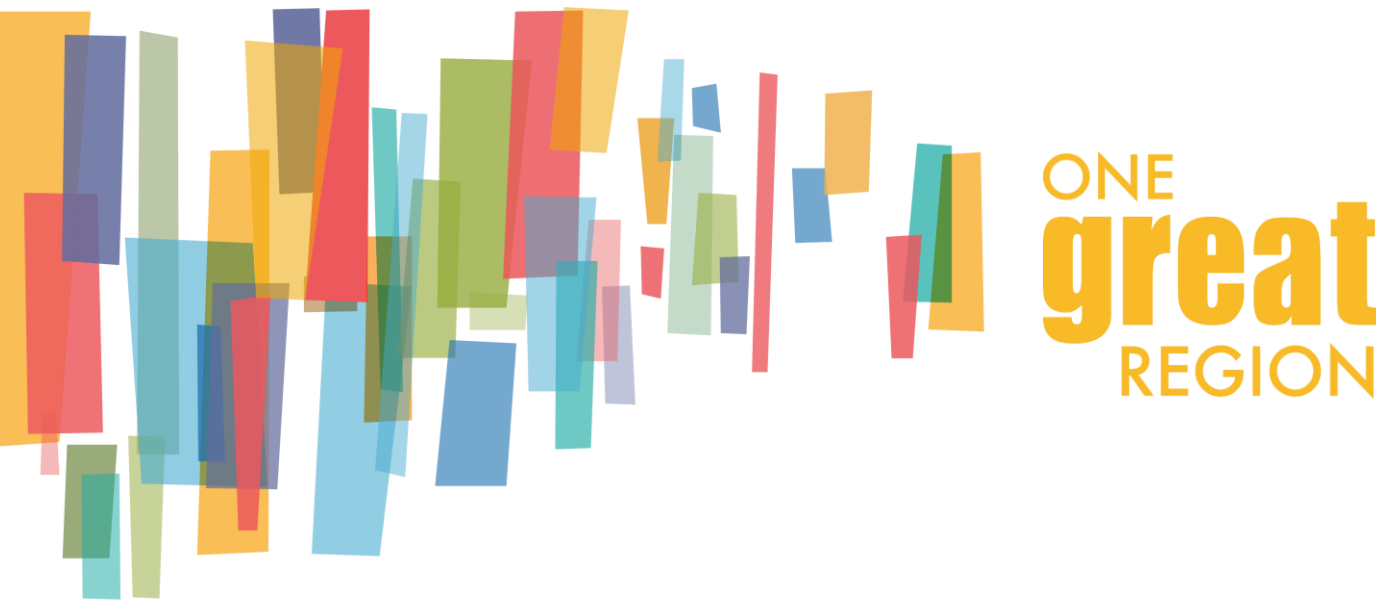
I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on May 13, 2026.

---

Charissa White-Fulks, Manager of Board Affairs and Legal Clerk



# Age Friendly Regional Plan



# Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan

# CHAMPION YOUR HEALTH

OLDER  
AMERICANS  
MONTH  
MAY 2026



#OlderAmericansMonth | [acl.gov/oam](https://acl.gov/oam)

## 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.

# 2024: Atlanta Region designated as an Age-Friendly Region



**Today: opportunity to approve the Age-Friendly Action Plan**

# An Age-Friendly Community is...

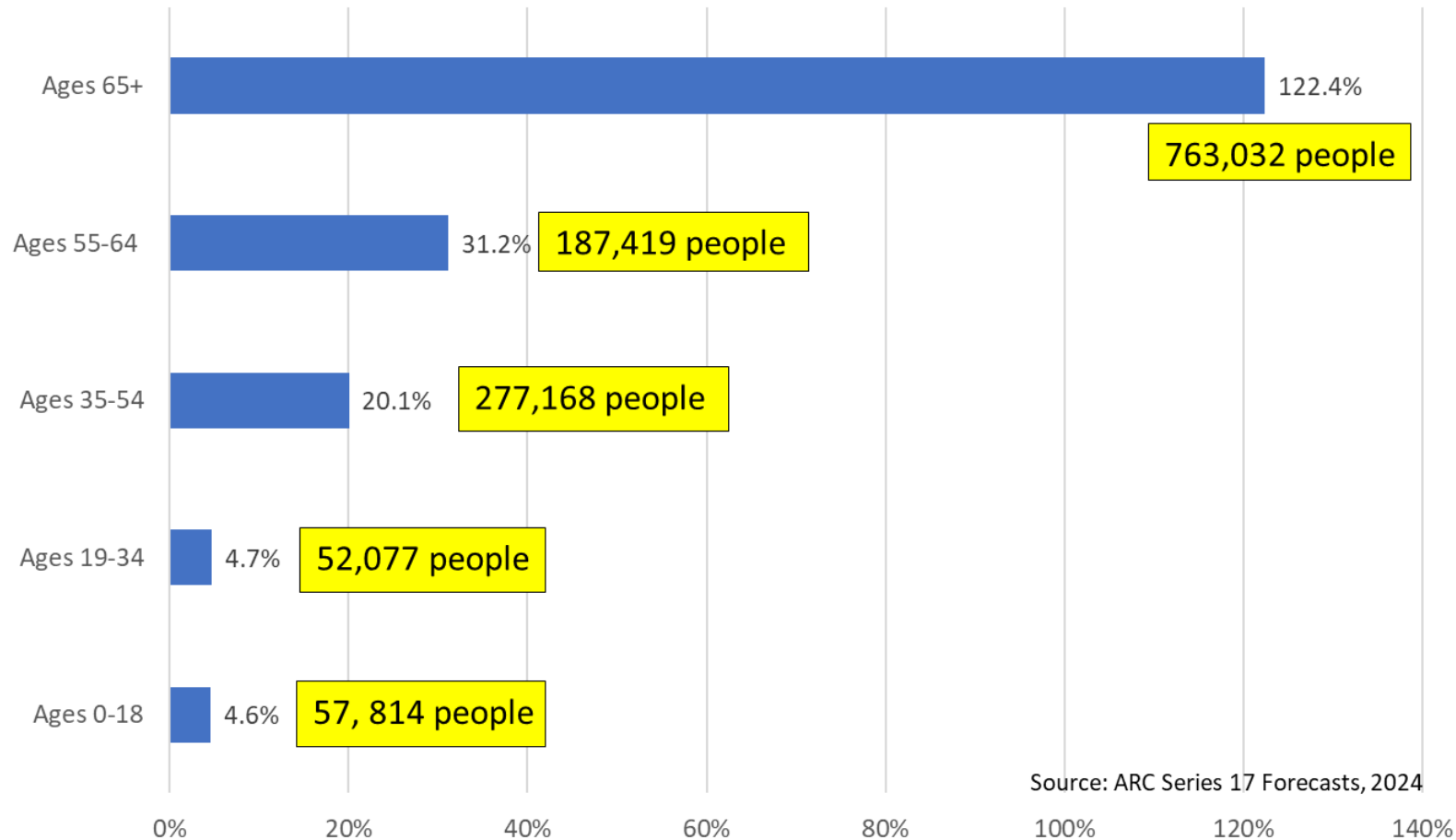


...one where a community's elected leadership has made a commitment to actively work with residents and local advocates to make their town, city, or county an age-friendly place to live through enrollment in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities



# Why does ARC need an Age-Friendly Action Plan?

Forecast Increases 2020-2050 by Age Group, 11-County ARC Region

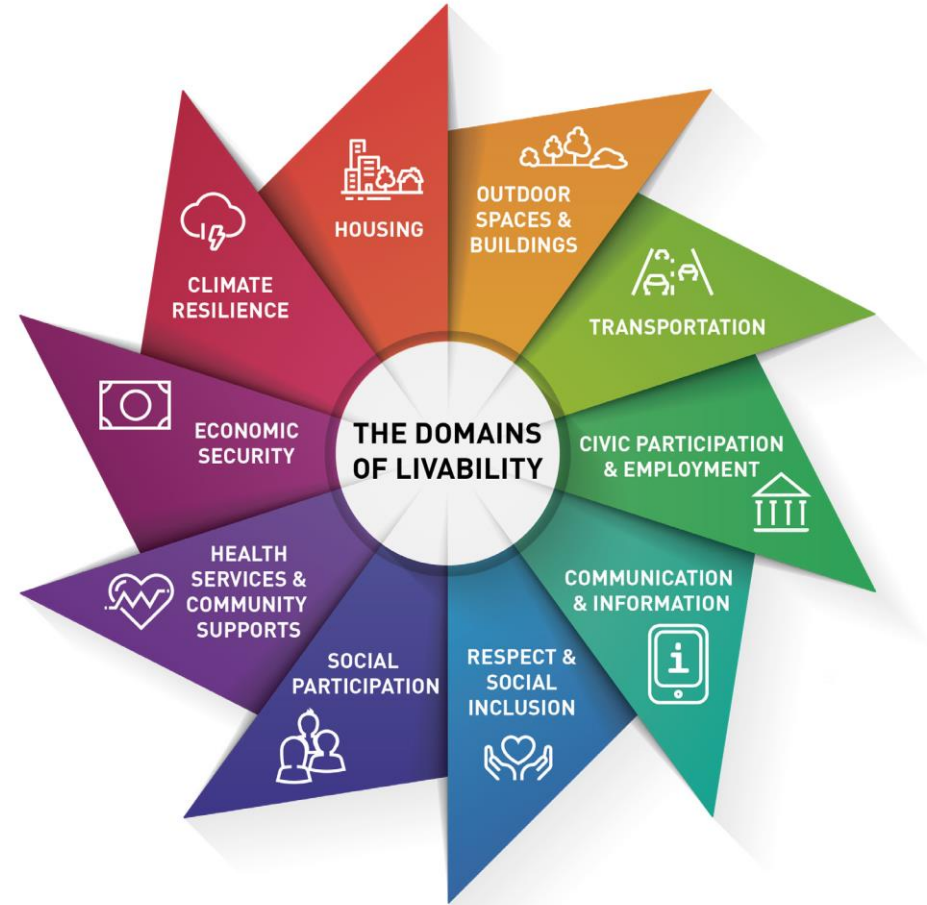
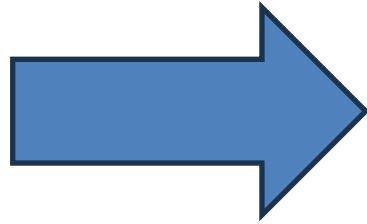
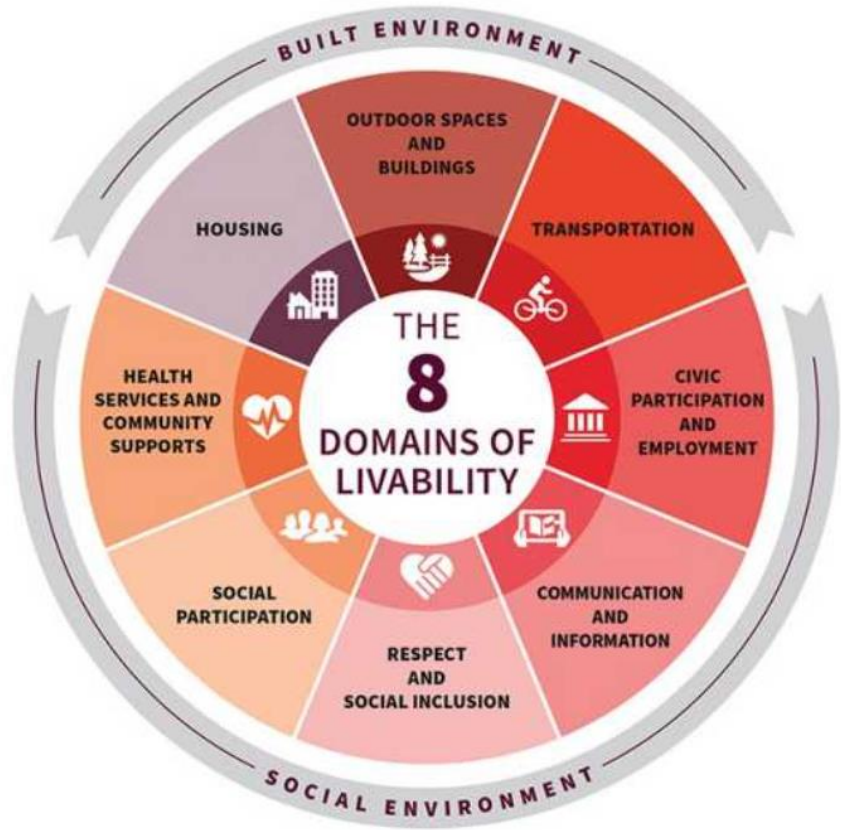


- Most of our region's population growth is 65+.
- The 65+ population is the fastest growing age group in EVERY county of the region.
- Living in a "healthy, safe, and livable community" can mean different things as we age.
- Our planning today determines future success.

# Since 2024, ARC staff have:

- ▮ **Researched:** identifying ways to be more age-friendly
  - including through stakeholder and community engagement
- ▮ **Reviewed existing municipal Age-Friendly Plans in the region:** for alignment and initiative ideas
  - Atlanta
  - College Park
  - Union City
  - Tucker
  - East Point
  - Clarkston
  - Norcross
  - Decatur
- ▮ **Collaborated across ARC departments:** to develop actionable, interdisciplinary initiatives

# Age-Friendly Domains of Livability



Propose adding 2 domains:

- Economic Security
- Climate Resilience

# Age-Friendly Atlanta Region: 10 Initiative Priority Areas

- Age-Friendly Leadership
- Community Voice and Insight
- Economic Security and Mobility
- Intergenerational Learning and Research
- Mobility and Transportation Access
- Housing Stability and Aging in Place
- Technology, Work and Opportunity
- Belonging and Communication
- Health, Wellness, and Caregiving
- Age-Friendly Neighborhoods

# Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan Process

▮ Advisory Committee on Aging Approved – March 2026

▮ ARC Board Approval – May 2026



▮ Submit to AARP – June 2026

▮ Annual Progress Reports to AARP – beginning June 2027



Help us shape Georgia's next  
**State Plan on Aging** by joining us for a

# Community Conversation

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026 (11 AM - 1 PM)**

**Hunter Hills First Baptist Church**

166 Edwards Street, NW | Atlanta, Georgia 30314



Scan to attend the  
Community Conversation



Scan to take  
the survey



# Questions?



MAY 2026

# AGE-FRIENDLY ATLANTA REGION ACTION PLAN



# Atlanta Regional Commission Strategic Framework

## 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.



# AGE-FRIENDLY ATLANTA REGION ACTION PLAN

MAY 2026



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## Executive Summary

The Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan sets forth a shared vision for a region where all people can live well, age well, and belong. As the regional planning and inter-governmental coordination agency for the Metro Atlanta area, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) recognizes that designing for aging is designing for everyone. Working through data-informed planning and collaborative investments to foster thriving, equitable communities for all residents, the agency supports a variety of designations that serve different, overlapping geographic jurisdictions. These include federal designation as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Area Agency on Aging, and state designation as the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and Regional Commission. This Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan aligns with the 11-county region defined as the Atlanta Regional Commission, where the population is growing older and more diverse. This plan builds on decades of regional leadership in planning, health equity, and community engagement. It advances ARC's multiple regional roles, integrating policy, data, and direct service to make aging well an intentional, coordinated regional priority. Grounded in ARC's Live Beyond Expectations strategic plan, this work centers equity, acknowledging that place, race, and economic status continue to shape who has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life in metro Atlanta.

The plan reflects research, analysis, and community collaboration. Quantitative data on demographics, transportation, housing, and health outcomes were paired with qualitative insights from listening sessions and partner engagement across the region. The research cycle developed by the Lifelong Communities staff who created this plan follows a simple rhythm: listen, learn, and act. Listening helps identify local priorities and lived experiences related to aging; learning involves synthesizing data across systems; and acting means identifying clear, achievable initiatives that partners can advance together. Through this process, ARC supports a shared framework for action that connects local knowledge and innovation with regional policy and practice.

AARP identifies 8 Domains of Livability: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Work and Civic Engagement; Communication and Information; and Community and Health Services. The Action Plan framework follows ten domains of livability: AARP's eight, plus two added priorities: Economic Security and Climate Resilience. Drawing upon these domains, the Plan names ten key initiatives that define ARC's vision for Age-Friendly Communities throughout the Atlanta region. These key initiatives are: Age-Friendly Leadership; Community Voice and Insight; Economic Security and Opportunity; Intergenerational Learning and Research; Mobility and Transportation Access; Housing Stability and Aging in Place; Technology, Work, and Opportunity; Belonging and Communication; Health, Wellness, and Caregiving; and Age-Friendly Neighborhoods. Together, these initiatives create a connected vision for healthy longevity throughout metro Atlanta. Each initiative is meant to be measurable, replicable, and responsive to community input.

The work ahead is collaborative. ARC will continue convening local governments, advocates, health systems, and residents to turn these initiatives into results. Live Beyond Expectations will guide implementation and evaluation, ensuring that the plan remains both aspirational and accountable. Becoming an Age-Friendly region is not a single project. It is a shared, iterative process to make metro Atlanta a place where people of every generation can thrive.



## Introduction

In June 2024, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) approved a resolution to join AARP's Age-Friendly Communities Network, the eleventh region in the state to do so.<sup>1</sup> In July 2024, AARP designated ARC as an Age-Friendly Region. Demonstrated by [ARC's Lifelong Communities Partnership](#) program and [Livable Centers Initiative](#), ARC has long supported efforts to develop healthy environments where opportunities for business excellence and community connections intersect, promoting high quality of life and standards that help all metro Atlantans thrive. Joining the Age-Friendly Communities program further demonstrates the region's ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of residents across the life course, and the initiative has been adopted as a priority for implementation in 2026. Participation in the program provides ARC with opportunities to share experiences and insights with other Age-Friendly Communities, broadening its impact in promoting consistently positive outcomes and reducing obstacles to thriving across social and geographic groups while striving to ensure the vital conditions for health are met for all people. Finally, the program includes access to AARP's extensive library of Age-Friendly resources, monthly live online educational events, and networking with other Age-Friendly Communities throughout AARP's service area through a variety of methods, including the members-only online discussion board.

This Plan includes an overview of ARC's recent efforts to promote livable lifelong communities, including the [Live Beyond Expectations](#) aging services strategic framework, and a description of the Atlanta Region's existing alignment with AARP's [Age-Friendly Communities](#) program. The Eight Domains of Livability are defined, and examples of the Region's current initiatives in each domain are provided. The document also includes the region's five-year plan for participation in the Age-Friendly Communities Network.

<sup>1</sup> Atlanta Regional Commission Becomes 11th Age-Friendly Region in Georgia. 2024. <https://states.aarp.org/georgia/atlanta-regional-commission-becomes-11th-age-friendly-region-in-georgia>.



# Age-Friendly Atlanta Region

## Overview of the Atlanta Regional Commission

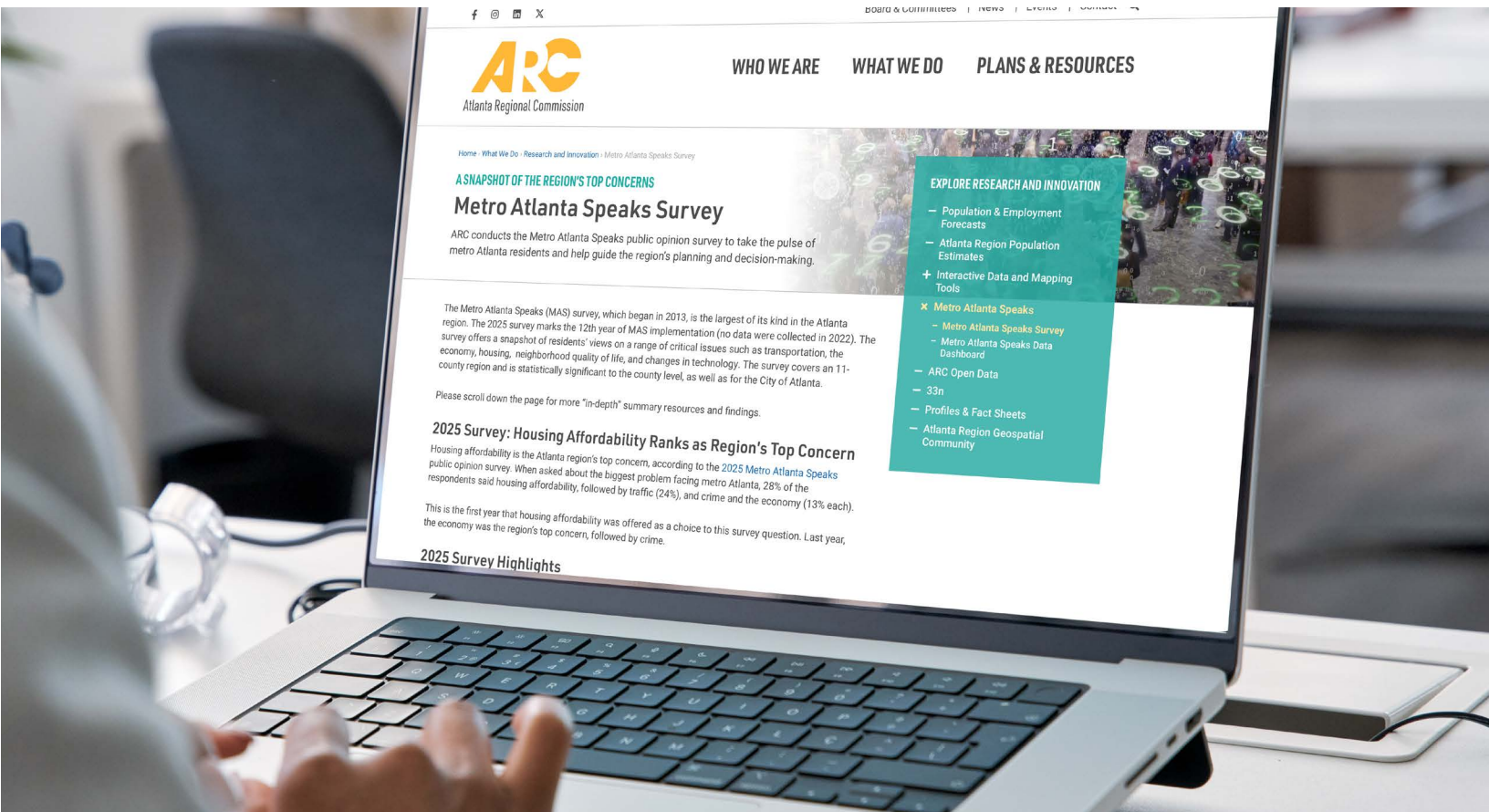
The Atlanta Regional Commission comprises a variety of functions within one single organization with a mission to foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region. Under the laws of the State of Georgia, ARC is designated as a Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission as well as a Regional Commission. Thus, it is a federally and state-funded and regulated quasi-governmental agency. The organization operates under rules promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and fulfills several policy-mandated functions. These include ARC's designation as the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for developing a transportation plan that meets all federal transportation and Clean Air Act planning requirements, providing planning staff to the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, serving as the administrative agency for the Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board, and acting as the local administrative agency for the Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative. As described below, ARC also serves as the state-designated Area Agency on Aging pursuant to the federal Older Americans Act, providing services (directly and through grantees) and policy guidance to improve the quality of life of older adults throughout the region.

The ARC Board provides strategic direction and oversight for the agency's regional planning and service delivery functions, ensuring alignment with its mission and approving major policies and plans that shape the region's growth and quality of life. The Advisory Committee on Aging serves as a consultative body to ARC's Aging and Independence Services Department, offering expertise and community engagement on aging-related issues. The ACA reviews program priorities, advises on strategies to improve services for older adults, and helps ensure that regional initiatives reflect the needs and perspectives of aging residents. These entities support ARC's capacity to deliver responsive, equitable programs across the Atlanta region.<sup>2</sup>

ARC's statutory and program designations cover distinct, but overlapping, geographies, reflecting the different ways regional services are organized and funded. As the Regional Commission under the Georgia Planning Act, ARC's governance and core planning role spans the 11-county Atlanta region. As the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), ARC administers aging and independence services across a 10-county service area, prioritizing residents with the greatest social and economic need and connecting them to services through [Empowerline](#). ARC also serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), covering the federally defined metropolitan transportation planning area, coordinating with MARTA, ATL, GDOT, and local governments to develop and maintain the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and related multimodal programs. In addition, the organization supports the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District by providing planning staff assistance across the district's multi-county footprint, aligning natural resource, stormwater, and watershed policy guidance with local and regional partners. Finally, ARC also serves as the Administrative Agency for the Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board, coordinating training, career pathways, and employer engagement to strengthen a resilient, age-inclusive workforce.

Different ARC functions align to geographies defined by federal or state program requirements and intergovernmental agreements. These geographic alignments enable ARC to integrate regional planning with direct service delivery, ensuring that strategies adopted by the Regional Commission and the ARC Board are implemented through program geographies (AAA, MPO, workforce, water) that best match service needs and funding structures.

<sup>2</sup> See the Atlanta Regional Commission AAA Area Plan: <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/arc-aaa-sfy-2025-area-plan-3-1-2024-final.pdf>.



In addition to these legislated functions, ARC provides data and expertise on regional planning and governance. The Research and Data Analytics department maintains an open-access data portal, a research blog, and leads projects such as the annual [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) survey, in which residents of the region provide their feedback on a variety of issues affecting the metro. ARC conducts community engagement and listening sessions, focus groups, and attends educational and community resource events. The agency gathers feedback from constituents from all groups, seeking in particular to reach residents traditional methods have failed to reach. Not only do ARC teams work to gather thorough and illuminating feedback, but they also share findings and resources broadly, improving the quality of life for all people living and working in the region. The agency's mission is to *foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region through collaborative, data-informed planning and investments*, and it aims to accomplish this mission working toward five goals:

1. Healthy, safe, livable communities in the Atlanta metro area.
2. Strategic investments in people, infrastructure, mobility, and preserving natural resources.
3. Regional services delivered with operational excellence and efficiency.
4. Diverse stakeholders engage and take a regional approach to solve local issues.
5. A competitive economy that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

ARC's commitment to being an Age-Friendly region reflects its mission and goals (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. ARC's Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals Statement

**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.

The Atlanta region offers both a representative and a unique urban context. As the largest metropolitan area in the Southeast United States, it offers an example for practitioners in other urban environments, where climate concerns, transportation, housing, and other components of Age-Friendly programming are common considerations. Yet Atlanta also offers specific characteristics: the city's historic and social context have led to unique opportunities around its racial, ethnic, and socio-economic diversity, its sprawling metro, and its long history of fostering leadership partnerships across sectors and groups. The cooperation between disparate groups throughout the metro stands as a testament to the resilience and strength of the city's local coalitions. ARC exemplifies the functional outcomes of this spirit of cooperation and the related culture of growth and prosperity inherent to metropolitan Atlanta.

ARC population forecasts estimate that by the year 2050, twenty-two percent of the region's residents will be sixty-five or older; nearly 1.4 million people living in the Atlanta metro will fit into this group.<sup>3</sup> While people who attain old age are increasingly thriving, and old age does not necessarily result in specific needs, research demonstrates that as people age, they are more likely to experience health conditions requiring support, including conditions related to mobility, cognitive function, and activities of daily living.<sup>4</sup> The region will see a higher proportion of residents than ever before with needs related to social support, infrastructure, and home modifications. As this segment of the population also experiences social inequalities like poverty, isolation, and reduced access to resources like health care at higher levels than other groups<sup>5</sup>, ARC is planning for population shifts accordingly, innovating social, economic, and physical conditions to meet the needs of this growing segment of metro Atlanta's population.

<sup>3</sup> ARC Series 17 Forecast. 2024. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/arcsearchanalytics/viz/ARCSeries17Forecast/Introduction>.

<sup>4</sup> 12 Common Chronic Conditions Among Adults. July 10, 2025. <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/Xnwl9/1/>.

<sup>5</sup> Committee on the Health and Medical Dimensions of Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, Health and Medicine Division, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, and National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2020. *Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.

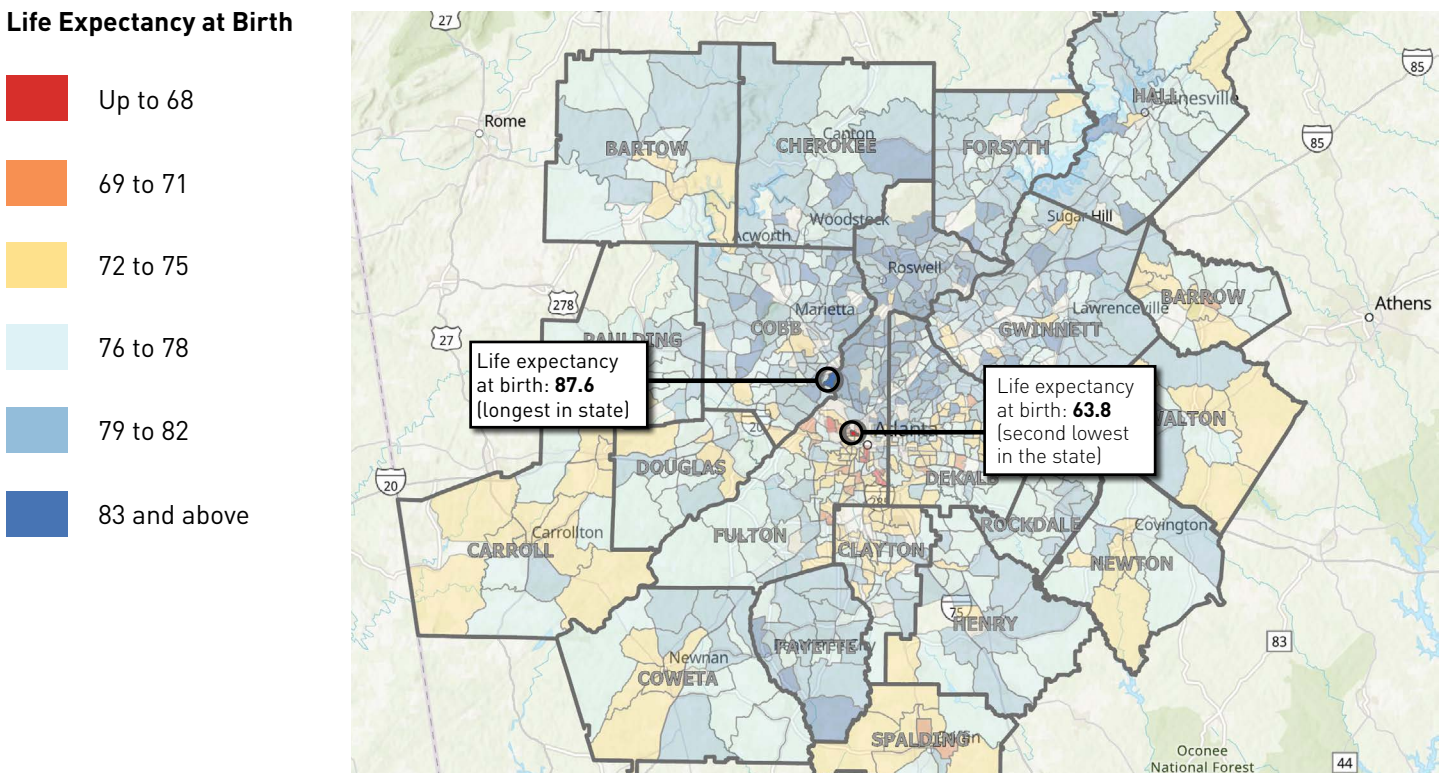


# Live Beyond Expectations

As described above, in addition to its designation as one of the twelve Regional Commissions in the State of Georgia, ARC also serves as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). In this capacity, ARC provides services (directly and through grantees) to support aging residents, people living with disabilities, and care partners throughout the ten-county metropolitan Atlanta region. ARC works to develop long-range plans to accommodate the region's rapidly growing population of older adults. The agency offers and administers services designed to maximize the independence, health, and well-being of older persons, individuals with disabilities, and their care partners. Finally, AAA staff participate in agency review of all jurisdictional partners' comprehensive plans and plans for developments of regional impact for Age-Friendly appropriateness.

Under the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) oversees and supports the state's AAA's to assist older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities, and their families and caregivers to achieve safe, healthy, independent and self-reliant lives. In its role as AAA, ARC meets five basic functions for this population: administration, advocacy, coordination, outreach and program development. ARC offers many services to older adults and their families, including case management, in-home services, respite, transportation, home-delivered meals, congregate meals, senior recreation, legal services, and more. This work supports individuals in need of services throughout the region, while the AAA's Strategic Planning Unit builds upon knowledge gained from these operations to offer recommendations and insights for other departments within ARC.

Fig. 2. U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, 2010-2015



Source: U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, 2010-2015



Because of the unique historic and social context of Atlanta described above, ARC has implemented creative solutions to the realities of intersecting drivers of inequality at play in the region, and its [Live Beyond Expectations](#) (LBE) 2020-2025 aging services strategic plan aligns with the ethos of AARP's Age-Friendly Communities. LBE aims to address disparities in life expectancy by focusing on vital conditions for health throughout the region (see Figure 2). LBE activities include community-engaged research, public education and resource-sharing events, and direct support such as mini-grants and technical assistance.

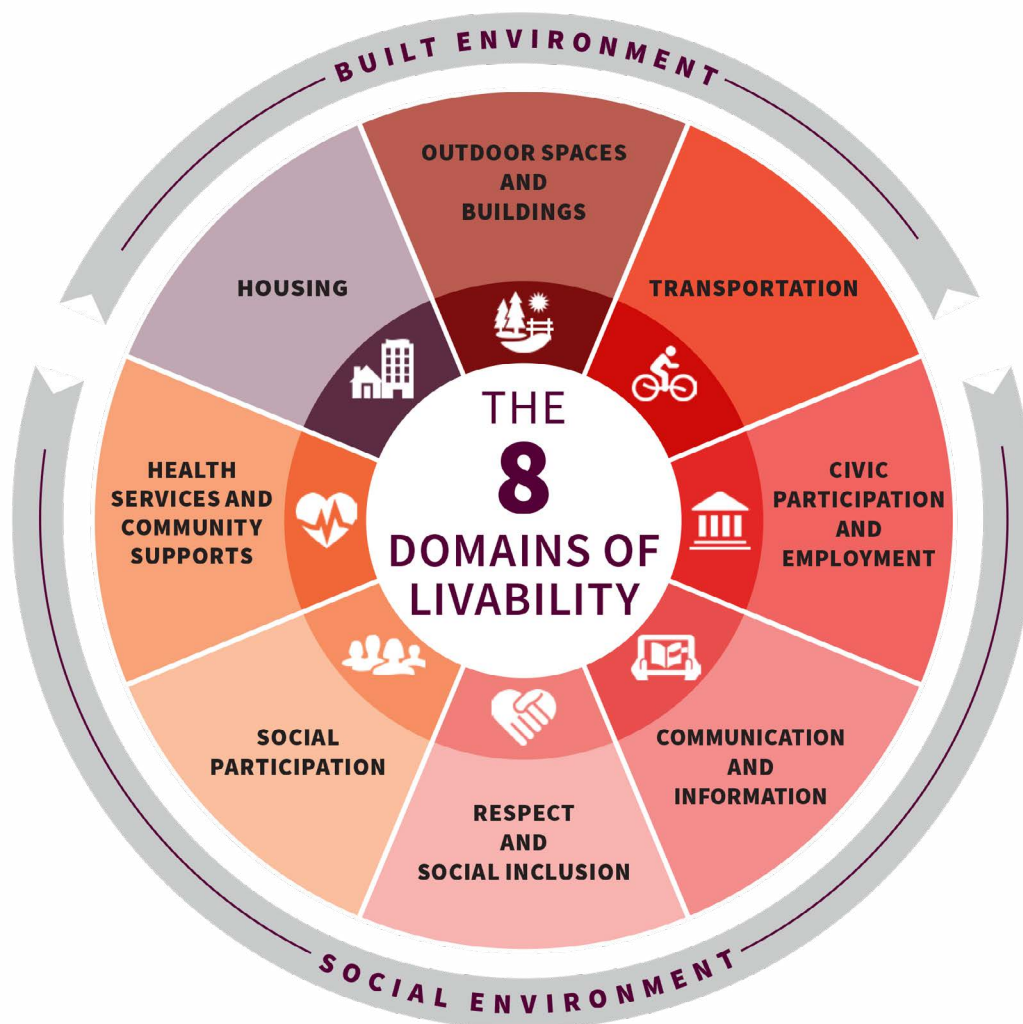
# Age-Friendly Communities: The Eight Domains of Livability

The framework AARP provides for its Age-Friendly Communities program relies upon [Eight Domains of Livability](#) (see Figure 3):

- ◆ Outdoor spaces and buildings
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Civic participation and employment
- ◆ Communication and information
- ◆ Respect and social inclusion
- ◆ Social participation
- ◆ Health services and community supports
- ◆ Housing

Prioritizing access to high quality conditions within these domains improves the quality of life for all residents of a community, including those who are aging. AARP encourages increasing the availability of resources along these domains to improve the well-being of all community members.

Figure 3. AARP's 8 Domains of Livability



## Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

As the Atlanta region grows and ages, ensuring that public spaces remain safe, connected, and welcoming is essential. **By 2050, over 900,000 metro Atlanta residents will be over the age of 75<sup>6</sup>** — a group that consistently reports a desire to stay active, engaged, and connected to their communities.<sup>7</sup> Accessible sidewalks, shaded seating, and thoughtfully designed public buildings help make that possible, enabling people of all ages and abilities to gather, socialize, and maintain independence.

ARC supports local governments in advancing these goals through planning initiatives that prioritize accessibility and high-quality design in the built environment. The [Green Communities Program](#) encourages sustainable development practices that improve community health and comfort, while regional trail and greenway investments such as the [Flint River Gateway Trails](#) and [Chattahoochee RiverLands](#) expand opportunities for people to experience nature, exercise safely, and connect with nearby destinations. These projects place a strong emphasis on ADA-compliant design, connectivity across neighborhoods, and improvements in areas lacking transit or safe pedestrian routes. Components of these plans align across domains, for example, mitigating heat risk. The Regional Development Plan, [Growing Together for 2050](#), demonstrates ARC's commitment to linking projects like these in one comprehensive regional framework, serving as a convener and resource hub for residents and leaders.



*Arts Center East in City of Roswell was submitted to ARC's Green Communities as a Greyfield Site that renovated a residential home into an art gallery and facilities for cooking, painting and clay, wheel, and pottery classes.*

As the AAA, ARC also works to ensure older residents can enjoy these spaces through programs that enhance access to outdoor environments and safe community buildings. Senior Centers, supported by the AAA, provide garden access, group outings, and recreational programming. ARC's Aging & Independence Services Quality Team monitors facilities and transportation vehicles for compliance with grant requirements, including to ensure seniors can move confidently and safely between indoor and outdoor spaces. Even small modifications such as adding shade structures or improving seating significantly enhance comfort and usability for people with mobility challenges, while decreasing risks associated with heat exposure.

ARC will continue to make recommendations and provide technical assistance to local governments to expand access to well-designed parks, sidewalks, and public buildings that support active living and social connection.

<sup>6</sup> ARC Series 17 Forecast. 2024. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/arcresearchanalytics/viz/ARCSeries17Forecast/Introduction>.

<sup>7</sup> AARP. 2018. "AARP Survey: 75 Percent of Retirees Want to Stay Put." <https://www.aarp.org/money/retirement/retirees-age-in-place-aarp-study/>.

Investments that link recreation areas with transit and neighborhood centers will be especially critical to helping residents age well in the communities they love.

## Transportation

Mobility is foundational to healthy aging. Being able to get to work, medical care, grocery stores, social activities, and loved ones keeps people connected and independent. Yet transportation remains one of the top concerns older adults raise in ARC’s community engagement, particularly in parts of the region where walking is unsafe and transit options are limited. As metro Atlanta’s population ages, ensuring that people can safely and affordably move around their communities is essential.

As both the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Area Agency on Aging for the region, ARC is uniquely positioned to advance transportation systems that meet the needs of older adults. The agency leads the region’s coordinated planning efforts, working closely with MARTA, the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and local governments. Through initiatives such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, *Walk. Bike. Thrive!*, and the Atlanta Regional TDM Program, ARC promotes a multimodal network that includes fixed-route transit, demand-response paratransit, micro-transit, and multi-use trails. A strong focus on safety, including a regional goal of zero traffic deaths, directs investments toward pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, especially in communities with higher crash risks. ARC recently published its most recent [Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update](#), demonstrating the agency’s role in ensuring safe, reliable access to transportation throughout the region.

Affordability also presents a major barrier to mobility and aging in place. The Housing and Transportation (H+T) Affordability Index shows that “Regional Moderate” households in metro Atlanta spend an average of **51% of their income on housing and transportation combined**, significantly higher than the national standard of around 45.<sup>8</sup> The gap worsens when affordable housing is located far from transit—forcing many lower-income and older residents into car dependence and rising transportation costs. Addressing this spatial mismatch is essential to ensuring older adults have real choices in how they travel.

ARC’s role as the AAA ensures that individuals receive transportation services information from the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and its [Empowerline](#) website and resource directory, and Additionally, the AAA funds transportation services to support individuals with the greatest access essential trips for social connection, groceries, healthcare, and errands. ARC’s plans emphasize the need for alternative booking arrangements for older adults or those without smartphones, as well as ensuring vehicles with lifts are matched with wheelchair users for these services. According to the 2024 Metro Atlanta Speaks survey, nearly nine in ten older adults believe improved transit is important to the region’s future, affirming strong public demand for Age-Friendly mobility.

ARC and its partners will continue building a transportation system that supports active and engaged aging. Investments that improve first- and last-mile access to transit, expand trail and sidewalk networks, and reduce cost burdens for older adults will be key to helping residents age well in the communities they call home.

<sup>8</sup> H+T Affordability Index. 2025 Update. [https://htaindex.cnt.org/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://htaindex.cnt.org/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).



## Housing

Stable, affordable housing is one of the strongest foundations for healthy aging. Results from the 2025 Metro Atlanta Speaks show affordable housing is the number one concern for residents of the Atlanta region. The survey indicates that most older adults in the Atlanta region want to remain in the communities they know, yet rising housing costs and limited accessible options make that increasingly difficult. Both residents who own and who rent their homes face challenges related to housing affordability and maintenance. By supporting county-based and non-profit providers, ARC helps ensure residents receive support in their homes and close to home. Through Empowerline, ARC helps residents stay in the communities where they want to live. These services include home modifications, community housing transition for individuals living in nursing homes, and preventing the loss of existing housing.

### Home ownership

Nationwide, people over the age of 65 are far more likely to own their homes outright than younger groups; 54% of the nation's 35 million mortgage-free homeowners are age 65 or older.<sup>9</sup> While more than half of the region's adults aged 65+ live in homes without a mortgage, many still face significant financial pressures due to escalating property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs, shown in Figure 4.<sup>10</sup> In the Atlanta region, almost 30,000 owners who do not have a mortgage are cost burdened, spending more than 30% of household income on housing costs.<sup>11</sup> The sharp rise in median home sale price shown in Figure 4, more than 58% between 2018 and 2023, is

<sup>9</sup> Meghan Malas. (2024). *The share of mortgage-free U.S. homeowners just hit a new high—Here's why.* <https://www.resiclubanalytics.com/p/share-mortgagefree-us-homeowners-just-hit-new-alltime-highheres>

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (2022), Table DP04; Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies. *Housing America's Older Adults 2023.* Retrieved from <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). *American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: Homeownership rate for Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area.* Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>

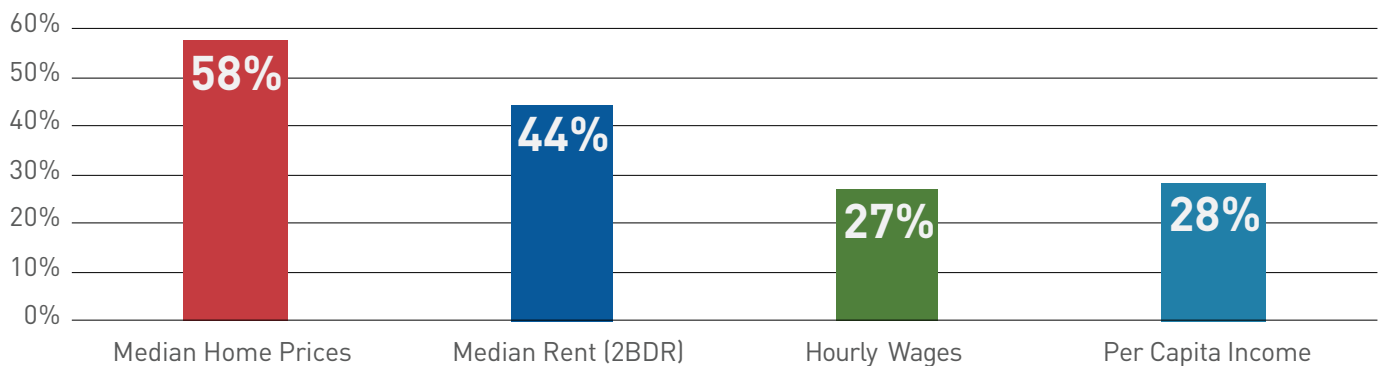
a major factor behind this challenge, making it difficult for many older adults to downsize or relocate within their neighborhoods.<sup>12</sup> The national upward shift in the median age of repeat home buyers, from around 42 in 1991 to 61 in 2024, further underscores how **housing dynamics are changing for aging households**.

While owning a home includes economic advantages, it also comes with increased responsibilities. The region continues to see an increase in homes built, but there is also a significant aging housing stock in the metro. According to the 2023 Census (5-year ACS) almost one quarter (24.4%) of owner-occupied homes were built prior to 1980. Such housing requires maintenance and sometimes repairs. As the Area Agency on Aging, ARC funds home repairs and modifications through [Empowerline](#). This support can be critical for residents who experience changing accessibility needs.

## Home rental

Residents who rent their homes also face cost burdens. From 2018 to 2023, metro Atlanta lost over 178,000 rental units priced between \$1,000 and \$1,499 and more than 54,000 units under \$800, reducing the availability of homes older adults on fixed incomes can afford. As the Area Agency on Aging, ARC provides direct assistance to older adults experiencing housing instability through its [Empowerline](#) resources. These resources support residents maintaining their homes both directly, such as supporting home modifications, or indirectly, by providing resources that decrease household economic burden. ARC also partners with affordable housing communities to deliver coaching to individuals with unmanaged behavioral health needs to prevent evictions.

Figure 4. Rising Housing Costs vs. Income Growth (2018-2023).



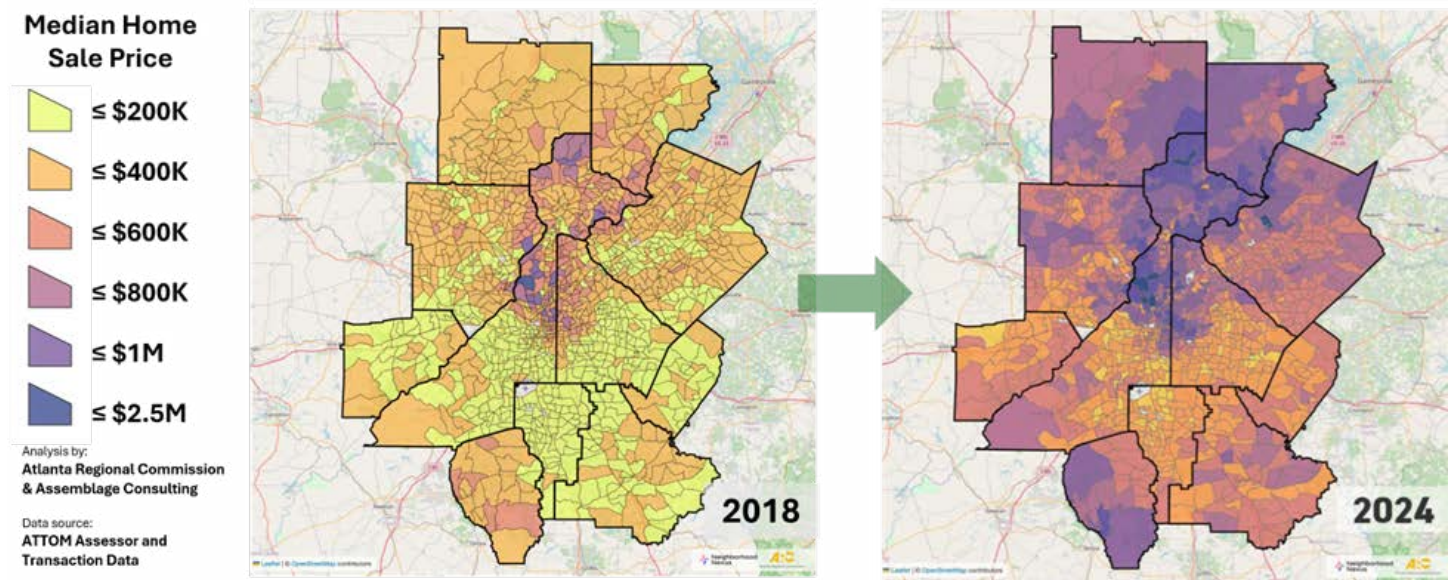
Source: Atlanta Regional Commission analysis of U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018–2023), Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies (2023), and Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (SCF 2019 & 2022)

ARC supports communities across the region in expanding and preserving a variety of housing options that enable aging in place. Through the [Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy Toolkit](#), the Housing Leadership Academy, and the Community Planning Academy, the agency equips local leaders with data tools and policy strategies to address **affordability, displacement, and equity**. These efforts reflect a regional environment where housing consistently ranks among residents' top three concerns, not only on the [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) survey across recent years, but also in community engagement events such as those conducted as part of [Live Beyond Expectations](#).<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> National Association of Realtors: 2024 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers

<sup>13</sup> Live Beyond Expectations Regional Strategic Plan Wrap Up Report. (2025). Atlanta Regional Commission. <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/live-beyond-expectations-120925-final.pdf?>

Figure 5. Shift in median home sale prices in metro Atlanta from 2018 to 2024



ARC's [Livable Centers Initiative \(LCI\)](#) and [Community Development Assistance Program \(CDAP\)](#) help communities plan for age-inclusive growth by integrating housing into broader mobility and land use strategies. These programs support housing assessments, neighborhood revitalization, and mixed-income development, elements critical to ensuring older residents can live near services, transit, and social opportunities. [ARC's Community-Centered Design](#) program also partners with community-based organizations and local artists to bring resident voices into decisions shaping neighborhood identity and housing access. The Regional Development Plan, [Growing Together for 2050](#), recognizes regional issues like housing and aims to offer supports to local leaders through an overarching regional strategy.

Ensuring that housing remains attainable and accessible for older adults is central to ARC's long-term mission. As the region continues to grow, maintaining affordability, expanding Age-Friendly housing design, and preserving connections to transit and services remains essential for helping people remain rooted in the communities they value.

## Social Participation

Social connection is essential to healthy aging.<sup>14</sup> Opportunities to gather with others, such as for meals, recreation, or community events, help reduce isolation, maintain physical and cognitive health, and strengthen neighborhood ties.<sup>15</sup> In engagement across the region, older residents consistently express a desire for more places to participate in community life, especially close to home and without needing to drive long distances.

<sup>14</sup> Social isolation, loneliness in older people pose health risks. 2019. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/social-isolation-loneliness-older-people-pose-health-risks>.

<sup>15</sup> Skufca, Laura, and AARP Research. July 10, 2024. "Social Connections Are a Key to Happiness." <https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/social-leisure/relationships/happiness-drivers-older-adults/>.



*CobbLinc #45 Bus on Vaughn Road in Town Center*

ARC supports social participation both through community-based planning and direct services. The [Livable Centers Initiative \(LCI\)](#) and [Community Development Assistance Program \(CDAP\)](#) help communities design walkable, mixed-use environments where people of all ages can live, work, and socialize. Each planning effort emphasizes equitable engagement, including hosting events where older adults already gather and ensuring that residents aging in place are represented in decision-making. Projects such as the [Town Center CID Sidewalk Network and Walkability Assessment](#), the [Cascade Heights Greenway Network Feasibility Study](#), and the [City of South Fulton Housing Assessment](#) exemplify how **improved mobility and public spaces expand opportunities for social interaction.**

As the Area Agency on Aging, ARC directly invests in reducing isolation and expanding access to community life. Senior Centers provide congregate meals, outings, and regular programming for older adults. [Empowerline](#), the region's centralized information and referral hub, connects residents and caregivers with social programs, volunteer opportunities, and community events. ARC and its partners also offer virtual and telephone-based outreach for those experiencing limited mobility or living alone, ensuring they remain engaged and supported.

Looking ahead, ARC will continue strengthening environments where older adults can build relationships and stay active in community life. This includes expanding walkable destinations, investing in places where people naturally gather, and continuing to center the experiences of aging residents in local planning efforts.

## Respect and Social Inclusion

A respectful and inclusive community enables people to feel valued and to participate fully as they age. **By 2050, nearly 62% of residents of the Atlanta region are projected to identify with racial or ethnic minority groups.**<sup>16</sup> The diversity in culture, language, age, and lived experience in the region presents both a responsibility and an opportunity: planning and engagement must reflect the voices and needs of all residents, including those who have historically been excluded.

<sup>16</sup> ARC Series 17 Forecast. 2024. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/arcresearchanalytics/viz/ARCSeries17Forecast/Introduction>.



*ARC Staff at a Community Engagement Event*

ARC strengthens respect and inclusion by embedding these values into everyday planning practice. Programs like [Community-Centered Design](#) empower community-based organizations to shape arts and cultural projects that reflect local identity. The [2025 Public Participation Plan](#) provides guidance for outreach that centers lived experience and ensures that older adults, caregivers, and people with disabilities can meaningfully influence decisions.

ARC also leverages its regional role to expand organizational capacity and foster collaboration. Through gatherings such as the [Community Planning Academy](#), Transportation Forum, [Land Use Coordinating Committee \(LUCC\)](#), [Transportation Coordinating Committee \(TCC\)](#), and the State of the Region, ARC brings together leaders from across jurisdictions and disciplines to learn from community voices and one another. These efforts help shift engagement from a transactional “check-the-box” activity to a more relational, trust-based, and accountable approach.

As the Area Agency on Aging, ARC prioritizes connection to communities with the greatest need. [Empowerline](#), the region’s information and resource hub, ensures that culturally and linguistically relevant resources reach older adults and caregivers. For example, ARC partners with the Latin American Association (LAA) to provide culturally appropriate information and referral/assistance, strengthening the capacity to serve older adults and people with disabilities who may otherwise have difficulty accessing services due to language and cultural barriers. Outreach at Pride events, multilingual health fairs, and dementia-friendly workshops strengthens access to services while celebrating the full spectrum of identities and experiences within the region.

ARC will continue deepening relationships across sectors to ensure residents of every background are welcomed and represented in the region’s future. Respect and inclusion are cornerstones of healthy aging and key to building One Great Region that values every stage of life.

## Work and Civic Engagement

Older adults contribute meaningfully to the economic strength and social fabric of the Atlanta region. Many continue working full-time or part-time, while others engage through volunteering, caregiving, and community leadership. AARP emphasizes that opportunities for both employment and civic participation support individual well-being, strengthen communities, and enhance regional resilience.

ARC plays a key role in ensuring that work opportunities remain accessible as residents age. As the regional workforce development convener, ARC supports local workforce areas in delivering training and career pathways aligned with employer needs, including for workers who are aging or living with a disability. These efforts help address labor shortages and support regional competitiveness. Rising labor force participation among older adults in the metro Atlanta region underscores this importance: since 2010, the labor force participation of people 65 and older has increased so that as of 2023, **nearly one in four older adults still actively participated in the labor force.**<sup>17</sup> Older workers today are healthier, many jobs are less physically demanding than in past generations, and a longer lifespan often necessitates extended income. Employers are also increasingly recognizing the value of retaining experienced workers.<sup>18</sup>

Volunteerism and civic involvement represent additional pathways for engagement. ARC supports programs in which older adults serve as volunteers who provide outreach and support, not just as recipients of services. These roles build community connections and expand the reach of social support systems. In its AAA role, ARC coordinates with local stakeholders to understand and support transportation, nutrition, and Senior Services programming and needs, including convening a Regional Senior Hunger Coalition. ARC boosts connection between its provider/grantee agencies, publishing a weekly newsletter, hosting bimonthly meetings, and organizing training retreats. [Empowerline](#) also connects residents and caregivers with volunteer positions and civic opportunities that align with their interests and availability.

ARC will continue supporting initiatives that help aging residents remain active contributors to civic and economic life. Expanding employment supports, enhancing age-inclusive workplace practices, and growing volunteer and mentorship opportunities are essential to ensuring that older adults can continue to use their skills, experience, and voices to strengthen their communities.

## Communication and Information

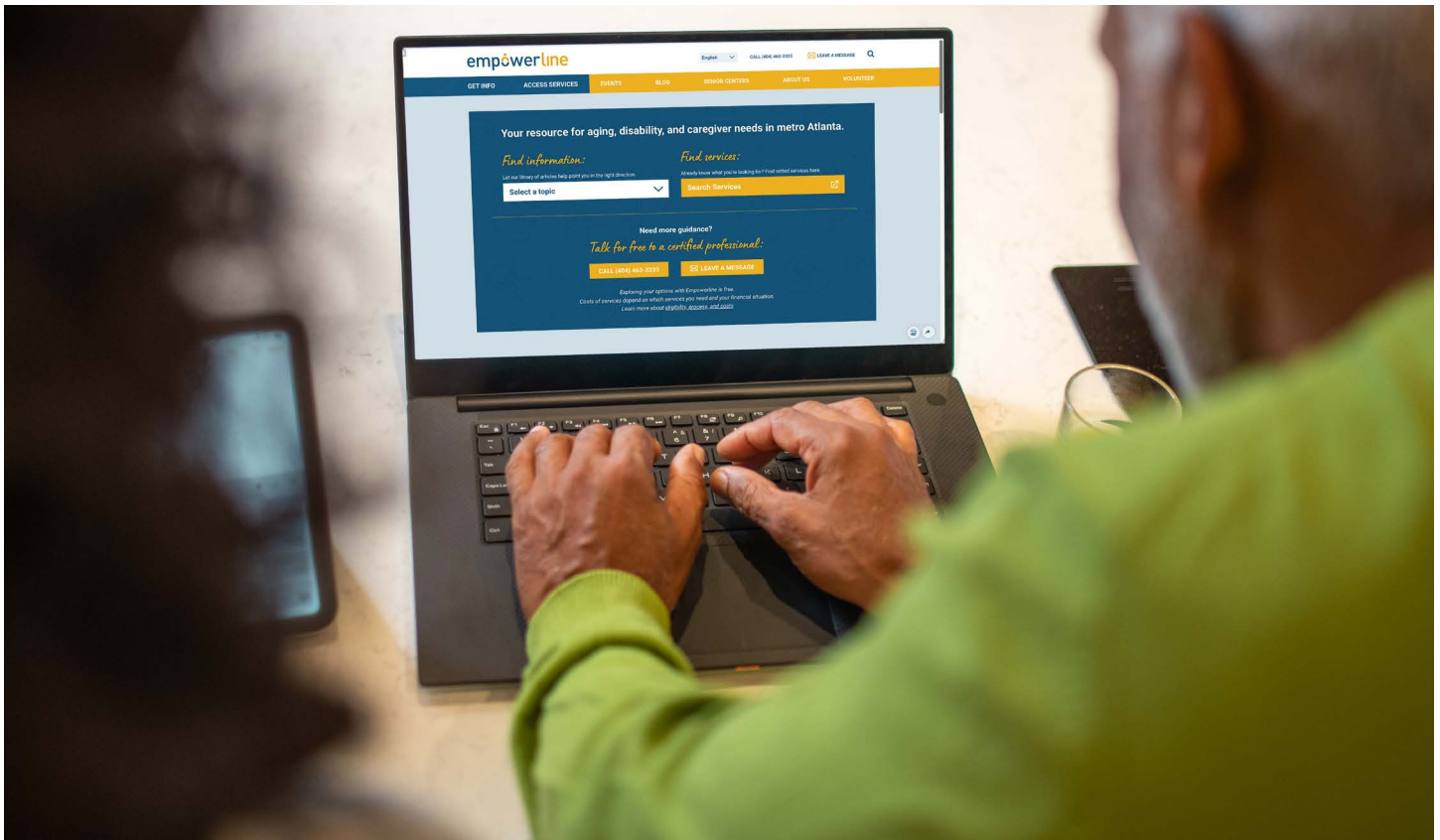
Clear, accessible information is essential to helping older adults make informed decisions about their health, mobility, and community life. As communication channels evolve, becoming increasingly digital, yet still reliant on traditional media for many residents, agencies must ensure that information reaches people in formats they trust and can easily use. [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) data illustrates this well: **65% of adults aged 65+ rely on television for local news**, while only **29% regularly use social media**. Just **57% feel well-informed about services available to them, revealing a significant gap in awareness.**

<sup>17</sup> In 2010, the rate was 18%. Source: Sotnikova, Maria. 2025. "Regional Snapshot: Flipping the Script on Aging with Data and Statistics." <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/regional-snapshot/regional-snapshot-flipping-the-script-on-aging-with-data-and-statistics>.

<sup>18</sup> Choi-Allum, Lona, and AARP Research. 2022. "Workers Learning New Skills to Meet Demand for Skilled Workers." <https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/work-finances-retirement/employers-workforce/reskilling-workforce-trends-older-adults/>.

ARC works to close this information gap by using a broad mix of communication strategies throughout the organization. The Office of External Affairs develops messaging for digital and print channels, public meetings, and community events. Functional tools such as brochures, mailed flyers, and large-print educational materials remain critical for reaching residents who lack reliable internet access. Data from ARC’s research and analytics tools, such as [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#), as well as its robust community engagement strategy with targeted frameworks such as [Live Beyond Expectations](#), helps the agency target outreach in neighborhoods where residents are most disconnected from available resources.

As the Area Agency on Aging, ARC maintains [Empowerline](#), the region’s centralized information and referral hub for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Empowerline connects thousands of residents each year with services that support independent living, including in-home services, home modifications, caregiving supports, and transportation assistance. ARC also works across departments to ensure that Age-Friendly priorities are consistently reflected in messaging and outreach, from housing and transportation initiatives to workforce and engagement opportunities.



*Empowerline is the region’s centralized information hub for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers*

Accessibility remains a core value woven into ARC’s communication practices. Staff prioritize the use of plain language, closed captioning, alt text, high-contrast design, and multilingual translation to meet the needs of visually, cognitively, and linguistically diverse populations. Outreach through trusted community partners like libraries, faith communities, and Senior Centers ensures that information reaches residents in familiar and convenient locations.

ARC will continue adapting to evolving communication preferences while maintaining inclusive, human-centered outreach practices. By meeting residents where they are - both geographically and in how they receive information - ARC ensures that people of all ages have equitable access to the knowledge and resources they need to thrive.

## Community and Health Services

Access to reliable health and social supports is critical to aging well in place. Community services can have a tremendous impact on health: according to the County Health Rankings model, clinical care accounts for 20% of health outcomes, compared with 30% for health behaviors, 40% for social and economic factors, and 10% for the physical environment.<sup>19</sup> This model demonstrates that health outcomes are shaped more by social and environmental conditions than by clinical care alone. Many older adults want to remain in their homes and communities as they age, but doing so may require help with daily tasks, nutrition, chronic disease management, and navigating a complex network of care providers. Ensuring that these supports are coordinated and accessible - particularly for those with the greatest need - is central to maintaining dignity, independence, and quality of life.

As the Area Agency on Aging for the region, ARC is federally mandated under the Older Americans Act to prioritize services for older adults with the greatest social and economic need.<sup>20</sup> ARC provides and coordinates a wide variety of offerings, including falls prevention education, **chronic illness management workshops, dementia-friendly programming, and nutrition supports** such as congregate meals, farmers market access, and in-home services. Volunteers play a key role in addressing isolation by regularly connecting with residents who live alone or have limited mobility.

[Empowerline](#), ARC's information and referral platform, serves as the primary gateway to these services. By helping residents and caregivers understand eligibility, costs, and available options, Empowerline ensures that people can make informed decisions about their care and supports overall access to independent living.

At the systems level, ARC strengthens partnerships among Senior Services, community-based organizations, health providers, and other stakeholder organizations. Quality monitoring and compliance processes help ensure services are delivered safely, consistently, and with respect. Initiatives like [Live Beyond Expectations](#) and collaboration with [ARCHI](#) (ARC was a founder and serves on the ARCHI Steering Committee) reinforce a broader commitment to **addressing the social conditions that influence health, especially in communities facing inequities**.

ARC and its partners will continue expanding programs that promote health, connection, and independence for older adults across the region. Increased integration between clinical care and community supports combined with targeted investment in underserved areas will remain key to advancing a more equitable and Age-Friendly health system.

<sup>19</sup> "Is the County" Health Rankings Model Right or Wrong? *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 29, 2025, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/findings-and-insights/blog/is-the-county-health-rankings-model-right-or-wrong>

<sup>20</sup> Older Americans Act | ACL Administration for Community Living. <http://acl.gov/about-acl/authorizing-statutes/older-americans-act>.



# Above And Beyond: Two Additional Domains for the Atlanta Region

## Economic Security

In addition to the Eight Domains of Livability recognized in AARP's Lifelong Communities, the Administration for Community Living recognizes the importance of economic stability as a goal for thriving throughout the life course.<sup>21</sup> Economic security allows people to make choices about their lives and age with dignity. Justice in Aging states that almost half of the aging adults in the country who live alone struggle to pay rent, buy food and medicine, and pay for their utilities.<sup>22</sup> On the 2025 [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) survey, **43% of respondents 65 and older indicated they did not have cash on hand to manage a \$400 emergency.**<sup>23</sup> Poverty rates are decreasing for people throughout the region, but this varies widely by geography and social group. Racial wealth gaps, for example, are closing, but remain, and the percentage of older people living in poverty has declined less quickly than that of the general population.<sup>24</sup>

ARC addresses these challenges through programs and partnerships that strengthen the region's economic foundation. As a regional planning agency, ARC works with local governments, community development organizations, and business leaders to promote equitable growth and opportunity. Initiatives such as [Live Beyond Expectations](#) and the [Community Development Assistance Program](#) help communities identify and address economic barriers at the neighborhood level. These efforts align with ARC's broader goal of supporting regional prosperity while ensuring that all residents share in that progress. As the Area Agency on Aging, ARC focuses on individuals in greatest social and economic need. Through [Empowerline](#), older adults and caregivers can access information and resources to support economic stability.

ARC aims to deepen its collaboration across planning, housing, and aging services to advance long-term economic mobility for families and stability for older adults. Expanding access to financial education, increasing participation in assistance programs, and integrating economic indicators into regional planning decisions will help ensure that aging Atlantans can thrive in their home communities.

## Climate Resilience

Finally, ARC recognizes the need to prepare for climate uncertainties. A resilient region supports residents in withstanding and adapting to changing conditions, including extreme heat, flooding, and more frequent severe weather. For older adults, who may have limited mobility, health vulnerabilities, or reliance on home-based services, the effects of climate change can pose disproportionate risks. Building resilience is therefore both an environmental and an age-friendly imperative.

<sup>21</sup> Administration for Community Living. 2024. *Aging in the United States: A Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging*. <https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/ICC-Aging/StrategicFramework-NationalPlanOnAging-2024.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> Goldberg, Jennifer, and Denny Chan. 2024. *Aging with Dignity and Justice: Opportunities to Meet the Needs of All of Us through a National Plan on Aging Justice in Aging*. <https://justiceinaging.org/aging-with-dignity-and-justice/>.

<sup>23</sup> Metro Atlanta Speaks Demographic Breakdown Dashboard. 2025. [https://mas2025dashboard.streamlit.app/Demographic\\_Breakdown](https://mas2025dashboard.streamlit.app/Demographic_Breakdown).

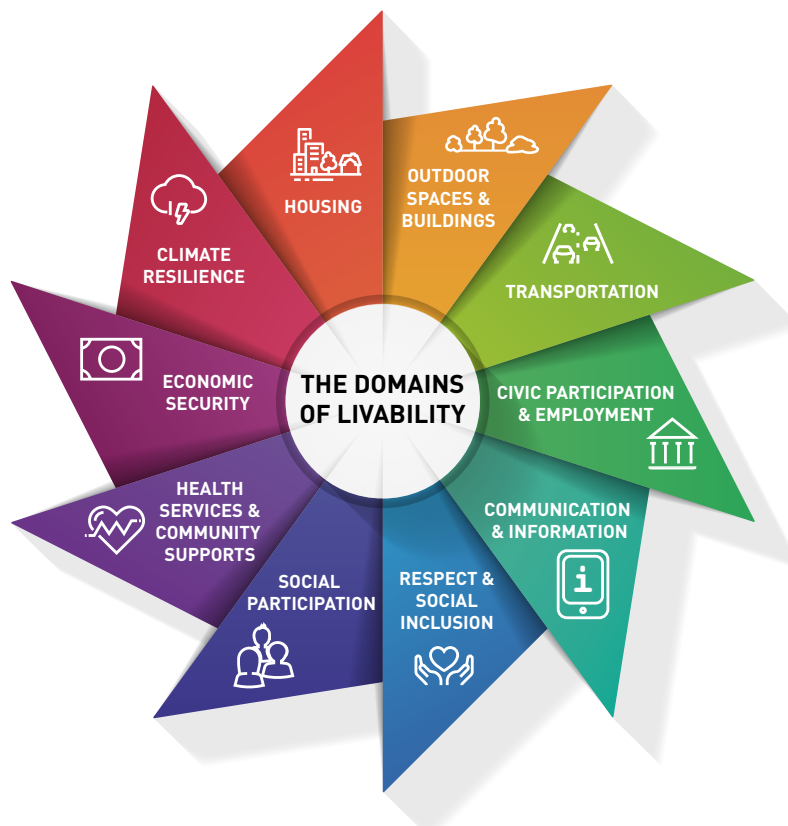
<sup>24</sup> Skinner, Jim. 2023. "Poverty and Wealth." [https://33n.atlantaregional.com/economy/poverty-and-wealth-a-look-at-the-landscape-of-inequality-and-u.s.-census-bureau.-\[2010-and-2023\].-american-community-survey-5-year-estimates,-table-s0102:-population-60-years-and-over-in-the-united-states](https://33n.atlantaregional.com/economy/poverty-and-wealth-a-look-at-the-landscape-of-inequality-and-u.s.-census-bureau.-[2010-and-2023].-american-community-survey-5-year-estimates,-table-s0102:-population-60-years-and-over-in-the-united-states). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>.

ARC integrates climate preparedness into many aspects of its regional planning work. Through transportation, housing, and natural resource programs, the agency supports policies and infrastructure that reduce emissions, manage stormwater, and protect green spaces. ARC’s role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization ensures that regional transportation projects also account for emergency response, heat mitigation, and community safety during disruptions. Innovations such as the Smart City Digital Twin Pilot Project, a cutting-edge initiative to improve data models and provide real-time information to residents, exemplify ARC’s commitment to resilience. These strategies link directly to Age-Friendly principles: walkable, shaded streets, energy-efficient housing, and accessible public buildings all contribute to safer environments for aging residents.

The Area Agency on Aging complements these planning efforts by helping individuals prepare for and respond to environmental risks. [Empowerline](#) connects residents and caregivers with information on emergency preparedness, cooling centers, and health supports during extreme weather. Aging services providers/grantees and volunteer networks also check in with vulnerable residents during storms or power outages, ensuring their safety and access to resources.

ARC aims to further align climate resilience and Age-Friendly aims to strengthen community preparedness and adaptability. Expanding tree canopy coverage, improving neighborhood drainage, and investing in energy-efficient retrofits are strategies that will benefit residents across all ages while safeguarding those most at risk. Explicitly integrating climate resilience and Age-Friendly aims will help ARC create more complete and robust plans for all residents to thrive and age in the region.<sup>25</sup>

10 Domains of Livability



<sup>25</sup> Dabelko-Schoeny, Holly, Geoffrey D. Dabelko, Smitha Rao, Melissa Damico, Fiona C. Doherty, Anthony C. Traver, and Marisa Sheldon. 2024. "Age-Friendly and Climate Resilient Communities: A Grey-Green Alliance." *The Gerontologist* 64(3):gnad137. doi:[10.1093/geront/gnad137](https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnad137).

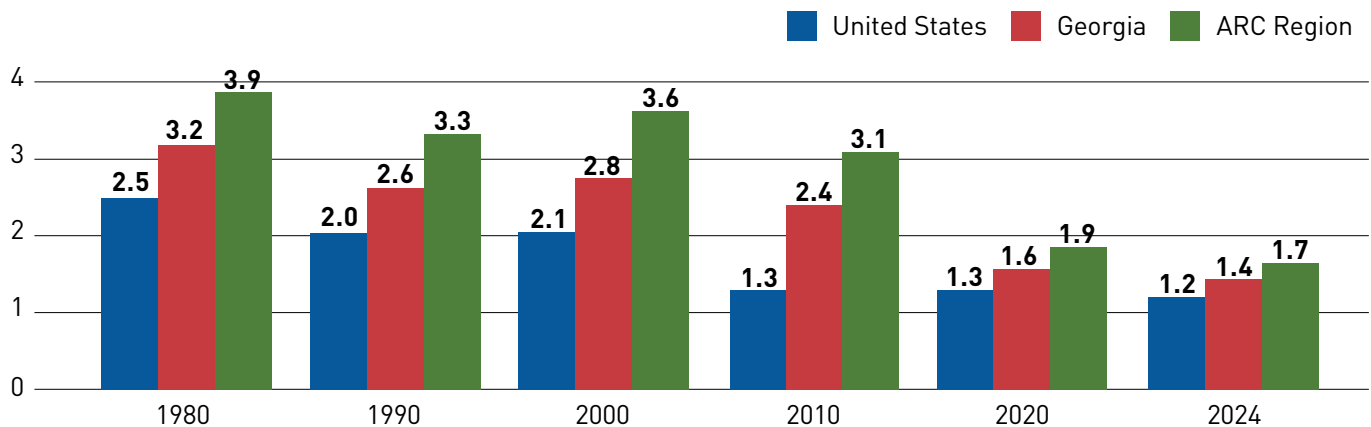
## Key Challenges

ARC anticipates future challenges both global and specific to the region and aims to address these challenges with the Age-Friendly initiatives outlined in this plan. Stakeholder engagement aligns with 2025 [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) results to validate the key challenges residents expect to face in the next several years.<sup>26</sup>

## Population Change

Like urban centers globally, the Atlanta Region anticipates an aging population. By 2050, ARC predicts the region will be home to more than 1.3 million people aged 65 or older, an increase of 122 percent from 2020 population estimates.<sup>27</sup> People 65 and older are predicted to continue to be the fastest growing cohort in the region. At the same time, the growth in the population of children in the region is slowing, indicating an increased ratio of aging residents to younger cohorts, shown in Figure 6.<sup>28</sup> This shift in population also coincides with the region's ongoing growth trajectory: metropolitan Atlanta continues to grow overall.<sup>29</sup> Thus, ARC recognizes the urgent necessity of implementing Age-Friendly programs and plans, embracing the intergenerational social, economic, and environmental structures to support long, thriving lives for the region's residents.

Figure 6. Number of Children per Resident 65+, 1980-2024



Data Source: Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1980-2020 and Annual Estimates, 2024 Vintage

## Economic Shifts

While ARC continues to predict strong job growth for the region, the agency also recognizes the concerns residents have regarding economic stability.<sup>30</sup> Recent research suggests the metropolitan area has limited opportunities for economic mobility, and that this trend has worsened throughout the last decade.<sup>31</sup> The 2025 [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) survey showed that increasingly, large numbers of people living in the region feel pessimistic about the

<sup>26</sup> Huang, Bill. 2025. "Metro Atlanta Speaks 2025 Survey Results Released!" <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/metro-atlanta-speaks/metro-atlanta-speaks-2025-survey-results-released>.

<sup>27</sup> ARC. National Aging Trends and the Atlanta region. May 2024. <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/RS-Aging-Snapshot-May-2024.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Haspel, Moshe. 2025. "Georgia's Generational Shift: Where Seniors Surpass Youth." <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/data-diversions/seniors-surpass-youth>.

<sup>29</sup> Skinner, Jim. 2025. "Regional Snapshot: Population Estimates for 2025: Gradual Growth." <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/regional-snapshot/population-estimates-2025>

<sup>30</sup> ARC Series 17 Forecast. 2024. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/arcresearchanalytics/viz/ARCSeries17Forecast/Introduction>.

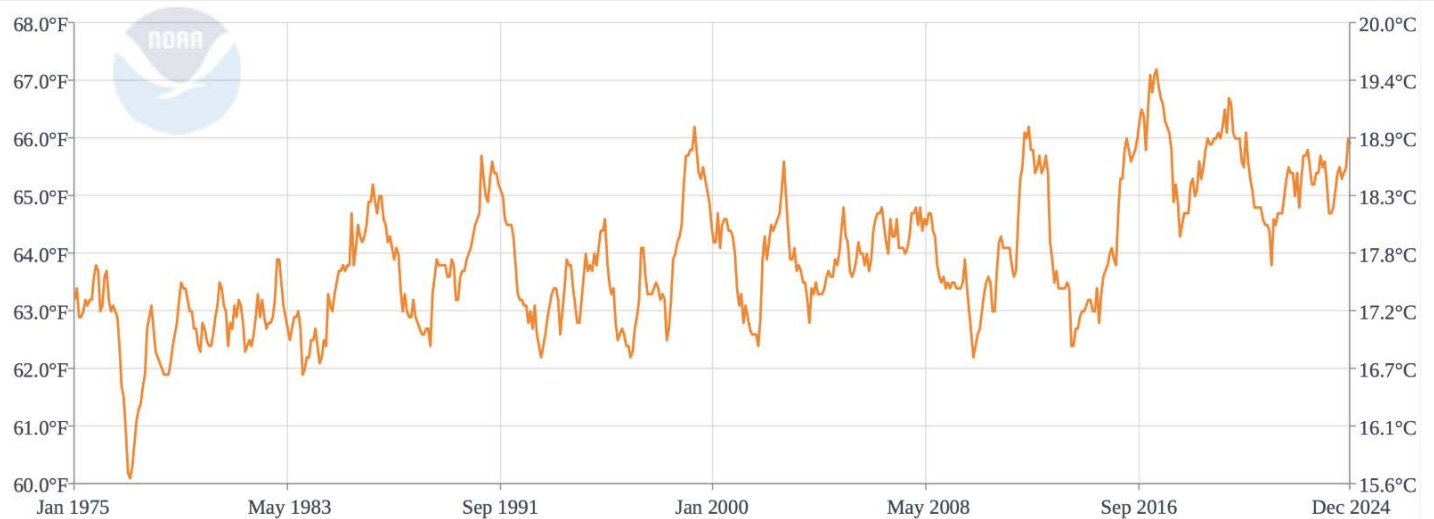
<sup>31</sup> Chetty, R., Dobbie, W., Goldman, B., Porter, S. R., & Yang, C. S. (2026). "Changing Opportunity: Sociological Mechanisms Underlying Growing Class Gaps and Shrinking Race Gaps in Economic Mobility." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjaf057>

future, with many indicating they would like to move outside of the region. Attainable housing has long been recognized as a need for residents of the region and continues to be the primary concern of respondents in community engagement sessions and the [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) survey. Economic needs for seniors may present differently, as many are retired from work, and also may complicate challenges like housing, where affordability becomes less accessible due to design choices that may make it difficult to safely age in place. ARC seeks to promote plans and programs that anticipate aging Atlantan’s economic needs, allowing people of all ages and abilities to thrive throughout the region.

## Climate Events

Finally, increasing climate events pose challenges specific to the region’s growing and aging population. The World Meteorological Organization confirmed that 2024 was the warmest year on record,<sup>32</sup> and the state of Georgia has experienced increasing numbers of climate-related disasters in recent years – more in the last five years than in the previous two decades.<sup>33</sup> Figure 7 shows the increase in average temperatures in the state in the last fifty years. Emergency and social supports for residents of the region who are aging or living with a disability are critical to prepare for and respond to such events, and ARC supports efforts to plan for regional disasters. Finally, ARC has long been recognized for its cutting-edge approach to transportation issues, an area deeply tied to climate resilience. For example, this year, the ARC launched the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan, an initiative designed to evaluate vulnerabilities to present and future extreme weather events (including severe storms and extreme temperatures) with the aim of identifying short-and long-range planning activities and investments for surface transportation infrastructure resilience, such as nature-based solutions. The 2025 [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#) survey shows that people living in the region continue to seek transit options to address increasingly challenging traffic; doing so will also improve climate outcomes.

Figure 7. Average temperatures in Georgia, January 1975-December 2024<sup>34</sup>



<sup>32</sup> WMO confirms 2024 as warmest year on record at about 1.55°C above pre-industrial level. 2025. <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/wmo-confirms-2024-warmest-year-record-about-155degc-above-pre-industrial-level>.

<sup>33</sup> University of Georgia Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems. 2025. *Georgia Statewide Resilience Assessment: Hazards, Challenges, and Opportunities*. Athens, GA. <https://nowhabersham.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/GAResilienceAssessment-compressed.pdf>.

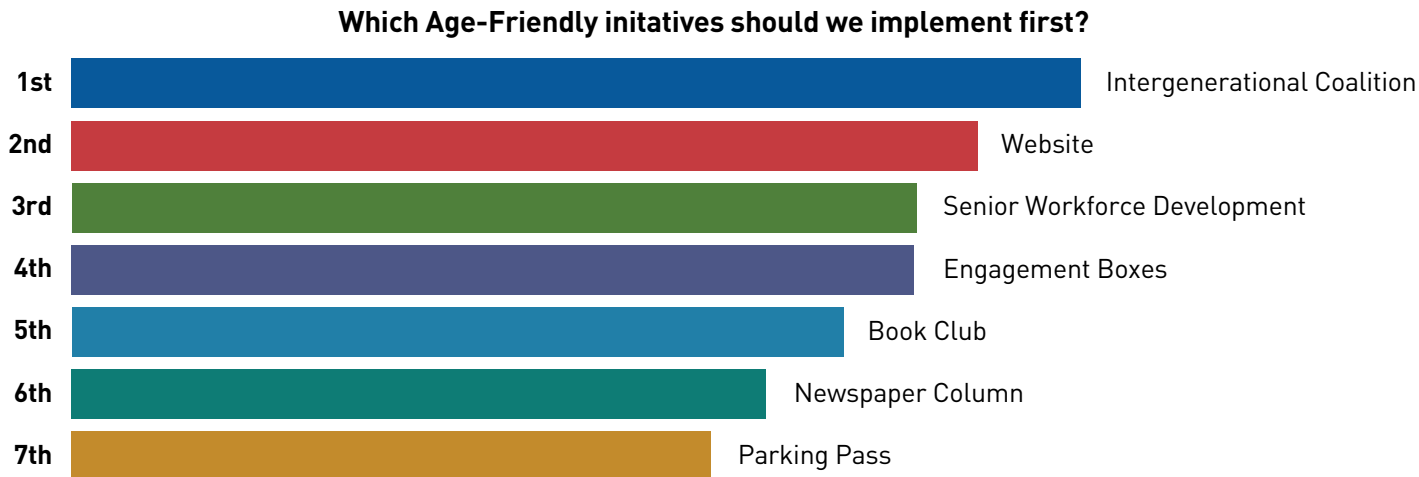
<sup>34</sup> *Climate at a Glance | National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)*, from <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/statewide/time-series>

## Current Age-Friendly Initiatives

In the time since ARC adopted AARP's Age-Friendly Communities program, the agency's work has expanded beyond the existing supports for the 8 Domains of Livability described above. Having long had a Steering Committee for the [Live Beyond Expectations](#) Plan, in 2025, ARC transitioned this committee, adding representatives from within the agency and outside participants, to create a broader Lifelong Communities Steering Committee. This group guides the Region's community-level [Live Beyond Expectations](#) initiatives within the broader regional Age-Friendly context, supporting both the Strategic and Age-Friendly Action Plans. Figure 12 shows results from a feedback exercise conducted during a Steering Committee meeting. Members range from planners and engineers to gerontologists and public health scholars to community members and caregivers. ARC refreshed its commitment to lifelong communities, demonstrated in the [Lifelong Communities Toolkit](#), with the changes to the committee, and looks forward to expanding its Lifelong Communities work in the next few years.

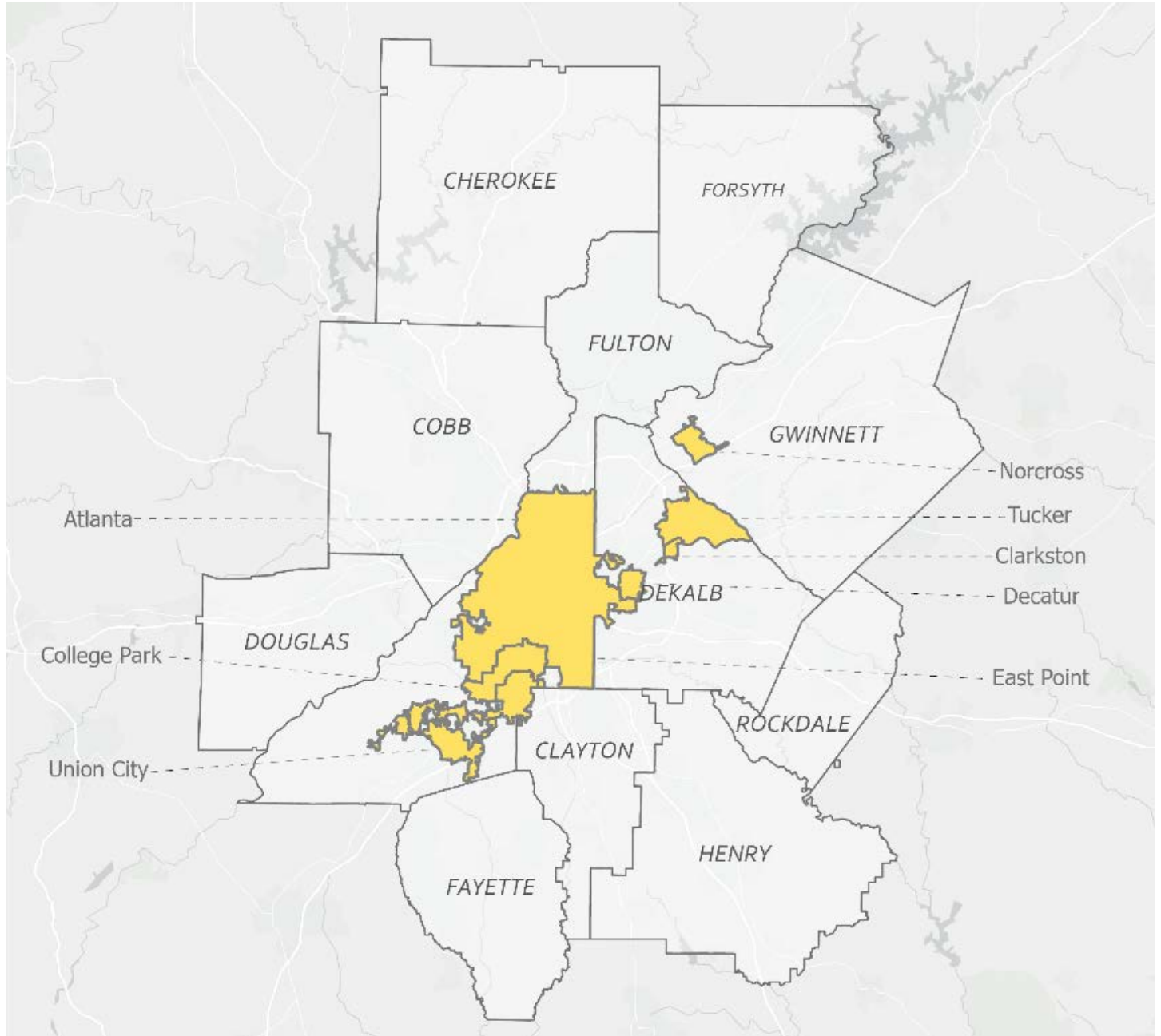
Drawing on expertise from this group supplemented by evidence from both publicly available and ARC-led sources like community research, ARC has identified two projects that will kick off in calendar year 2026: development of an Intergenerational Age-Friendly Coalition, and an Age-Friendly Atlanta Region webpage, to be housed within the existing ARC website. Additional initiatives will emerge as the agency continues its iterative research processes to determine the programs most appropriate and impactful for the communities we support.

Figure 8. Mentimeter Results taken during a Lifelong Communities Steering Committee meeting



In addition to these Region-specific initiatives, ARC will also follow the guidelines established by the Age-Friendly Communities program, and engage in continued assessment of community needs throughout the region. ARC's primary objective is to understand the landscape of Age-Friendly philosophy by geography and social group throughout the region to inform development of ongoing specific aims. Relying on its strength as a regional convener, ARC will activate its relationships with stakeholders in Age-Friendly communities throughout the Atlanta region, highlighted in Figure 9. Their action plans served as resources in the development of this document.

Figure 9. Age-Friendly Communities in the 11-County Atlanta Region



# Key Action Plan Initiatives

Given its role as a regional agency, ARC acts as a convener and supporter for constituents ranging from individuals to county governments, coordinating one regional vision in a variety of sectors. ARC offers resources, serves as a hub of communication, and works to meet a variety of legislated functions with its county and municipal partners. Finally, ARC operates at a micro level, delivering direct services to individuals and resources to support community-serving organizations throughout the region. This action plan includes 10 initiatives that support the mission to foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region.

## Age-Friendly Leadership

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Provide coordination and leadership to support the Atlanta Region's participation in AARP's Age-Friendly Communities initiative.

### Strategy

Strengthen organizational capacity and regional collaboration by formalizing leadership structures, embedding Age-Friendly priorities across ARC departments, and encouraging adoption among local county and municipal partners, learning from those who are already designated Age-Friendly communities.

### Tactics

- ◆ Establish and convene the **Lifelong Communities Steering Committee** (quarterly) with ARC staff, partners, scholars, elected officials, and community champions to provide program oversight.
- ◆ Form a **cross-department ARC staff workgroup** to champion Age-Friendly approaches and integrate livability priorities into transportation, housing, workforce, safety, and regional planning.
- ◆ Increase awareness and participation among county and municipal leaders, supporting **new and existing AARP Age-Friendly communities** through outreach, technical assistance, and model resources.

## Community Voice and Insight

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Ensure Age-Friendly priorities reflect the lived experiences, needs, and aspirations of older adults across the Atlanta region.

### Strategy

Conduct iterative research and community engagement that centers residents' voices, particularly in Low Life-Expectancy census tracts, and share findings to guide planning and regional assistance.

### Tactics

Conduct **annual surveys** to track experiences, priorities, and perceptions of aging across the region.

- ◆ Complete **thematic analysis of comprehensive plans and development documents** to identify shared priorities, policy gaps, and alignment opportunities.
- ◆ Implement **community-based research activities** such as focus groups, interviews, and engagement events, with intentional outreach to marginalized and underrepresented communities.

## Economic Security and Mobility ---

Endorse the economic mobility of families, promoting the vital conditions that support thriving and offering caregiver supports to increase opportunities for wealth generation.

### Strategy

Collaborate with employers and workforce boards to strengthen flexibility for caregivers and age-inclusive hiring and retention, support caregivers through [Empowerline](#), and increase access to income-building opportunities for people of all ages in the region.

### Tactics

- ◆ Encourage **family caregiving supports**, offering access to nutrition programs, transportation assistance, and respite care, which help caregivers maintain well-being and income stability
- ◆ **Strengthen kinship care**, recognizing kinship caregivers as a priority population and offering connections to resources such as housing assistance, behavioral health supports, and emergency resources.
- ◆ Promote **incentives for accessibility upgrades**, such as those offered through the [Livable Centers Initiative](#) and [Community Development Assistance Program](#).

## Intergenerational Learning and Research ---

Strengthen partnerships with higher education institutions to expand research, intergenerational learning, and Age-Friendly knowledge development.

### Strategy

Develop collaborative university relationships that generate applied research, expand student involvement, and cultivate an Age-Friendly workforce through training, internships, and experiential learning programs.

### Tactics

- ◆ Host **applied learning partnerships** with universities in the region.
- ◆ Expand **internship and volunteer pathways** connecting students with Age-Friendly programs.
- ◆ Partner with **technical schools and community colleges** to train an Age-Friendly regional workforce.
- ◆ Mobility and Transportation Access

Improve transportation safety, access, and travel experience for aging residents and people living with disabilities across the Atlanta region.

## Mobility and Transportation Access

Improve transportation safety, access, and travel experience for aging residents and people living with disabilities across the Atlanta region.

### Strategy

Advance multimodal solutions that prioritize safety, accessibility, and ease of use, including pedestrian improvements, paratransit coordination, driver safety efforts, and programs that elevate older adult travel experiences.

### Tactics

- ◆ Promote the goals outlined in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan: **mobility hubs, a regional trip planner and mobile application, and a regional fare instrument.**
- ◆ Support participation in Age-Friendly mobility events and programs such as **Biketober**,<sup>35</sup> **Atlanta's E-Bike Rebate Program**,<sup>36</sup> **Week Without Driving**,<sup>37</sup> and **Bus Buddies**<sup>38</sup> with a focus on older and disabled riders.
- ◆ Continue improving **pedestrian and transit access** through walk audits, safe driving courses, enhanced signal timing, wayfinding, curb ramp improvements, and rider-centered upgrades.

## Housing Stability and Aging in Place

Expand access to safe, affordable, and age-inclusive housing options that support aging in place.

### Strategy

Collaborate with housing partners to reduce regulatory barriers, support home modification, and promote diverse living arrangements that meet the needs of residents at all stages of life in alignment with the [Housing Strategy for the Atlanta region](#).

### Tactics

- ◆ Promote **multigenerational housing models** such as co-housing, home-sharing, and eco-villages, supporting family economic mobility.
- ◆ Coordinate with housing agencies to **reduce affordability barriers**, encourage zoning reforms, and advocate for expanded subsidy pathways.
- ◆ Support **aging in place programming**, including in-home supports, home modifications, repairs, and behavioral health coaching, partnering with affordable housing providers to support tenants to sustain housing and avoid evictions.

<sup>35</sup> Merritt, S. (2025, October 22). Georgia Commute Options Receives Biketober Proclamation from the City of Atlanta. ARC. <https://atlantaregional.org/news/atlanta-regional-commission/georgia-commute-options-receives-biketober-proclamation-from-the-city-of-atlanta/>

<sup>36</sup> Atlanta E-Bike Rebate Program. ARC. <https://atlantaregional.org/what-we-do/mobility-services/atlanta-e-bike-rebate-program/>

<sup>37</sup> *Introducing the first-ever National Week Without Driving*. Living Streets Alliance. <https://www.livingstreetsalliance.org/news/introducing-national-week-without-driving>

<sup>38</sup> *Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Action Plan 2022-2025*. (2022). [https://www.agefriendlypgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AgeFriendlyPGH\\_ActionPlan22-25.pdf](https://www.agefriendlypgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AgeFriendlyPGH_ActionPlan22-25.pdf)

## Technology, Work, and Opportunity

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Increase digital access, literacy, and comfort for older adults across the region, including skills training to support workplace inclusion for older adults, recognizing the value of experienced workers and age-diverse workforces, and digital safety and confidence for aging residents.

### Strategy

Reduce digital and skills inequities by expanding training opportunities, creating supportive tech environments, and equipping trusted messengers to assist residents with technology use.

### Tactics

- ◆ Offer **Age-Friendly workplace workshops and skills training** for older workers and employers.
- ◆ Explore development of **tech hubs and “how-to” guides** for everyday digital tasks, available in libraries and public spaces.
- ◆ Share models and case studies with partners, such as Houston’s **Gatekeeper Program** that trains frontline workers (mail carriers, utility staff, etc.) to check in on isolated residents and assist with basic technology skills.<sup>39</sup>

## Belonging and Communication

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Focus on opportunities for engagement, strengthening social connection, intergenerational gathering, and accessible communication across the region.

### Strategy

Promote environments that foster belonging, enhance public space accessibility, and ensure information is available in formats and languages useful to all residents.

### Tactics

- ◆ Support **intergenerational gatherings and storytelling opportunities**, including **urban agriculture and gardening programs** to increase food access and social connection.
- ◆ Encourage partners to upgrade **public spaces** with benches, shade, restrooms, and lighting to promote sociability
- ◆ Collaborate with partners to **spread public information** through blogs, amenity maps, resource guides, and multilingual content, becoming fully trained on Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Title II digital accessibility requirements to integrate the accessibility standards agency-wide

<sup>39</sup> Harris County Area Agency on Aging. 2016. *Aging Agenda: Progress Report for Houston and Harris County*. <https://www.houstonhealth.org/media/2701/download>.

## Health, Wellness, and Caregiving

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Advance community-based health, wellness, nutrition, and caregiving supports that enable families, including older adults and people living with dementia and other chronic conditions, to thrive.

### Strategy

Strengthen community health capacity through care coordination, food access initiatives, inclusive preparedness planning, and partnerships that support well-being, independence, and family economic mobility.

### Tactics

- ◆ Participate in the creation of a metro Atlanta **community care hub** to enable healthcare payers to support social care needs.
- ◆ Advance **community-based health, wellness, nutrition, and caregiving** supports that enable older adults to manage their chronic conditions and enable families to thrive.
- ◆ Encourage **inclusive emergency preparedness planning** incorporating older adults and people with disabilities.

## Age-Friendly Neighborhoods

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Activate neighborhoods as places where residents of all ages can access supportive infrastructure, social connection, and community resources close to home.

### Strategy

Partner with local communities to seed grassroots projects, build leadership capacity, and scale neighborhood-level Age-Friendly improvements.

### Tactics

- ◆ Update the [Live Beyond Expectations](#) strategic plan and implement related initiatives to support thriving communities for all in the Atlanta region.
  - Support **resident-led projects** to identify and address local challenges and assets.
  - Share neighborhood learnings through **presentations to the Advisory Committee on Aging and regional partners**, building a network of Age-Friendly practitioners.

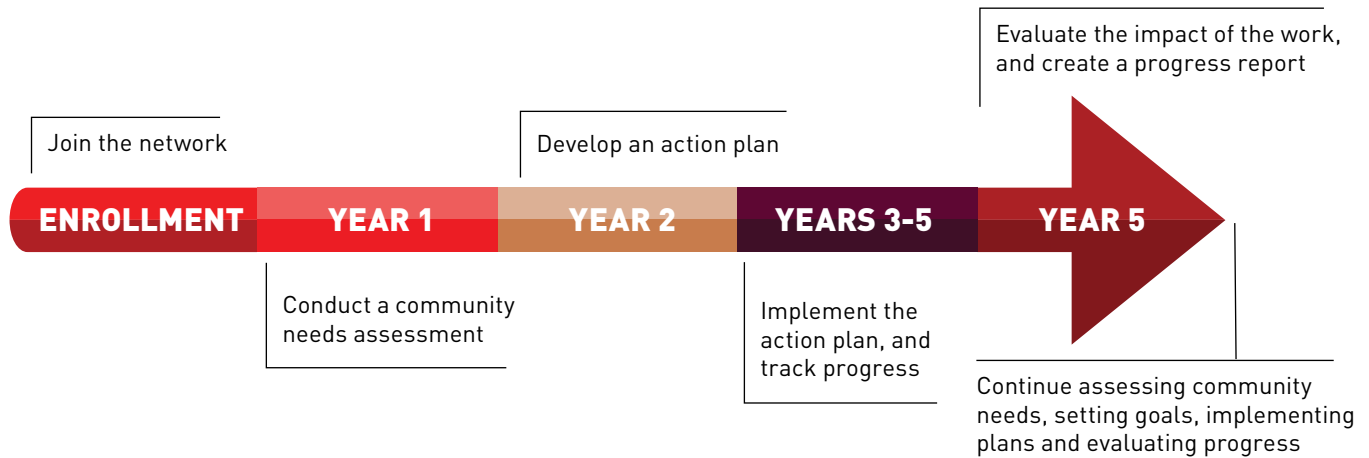


# FIVE YEAR PLAN

## Five-Year Plan

AARP describes a five-year Age-Friendly Program Process (see Figure 14). This section describes ARC's actions for each step of the process.

Figure 10. AARP's Age-Friendly Program Process



### Enrollment

ARC has long been engaged in collaborative planning, governance, and community-building efforts that meet the AARP Age-Friendly criteria. The organization is structurally complex, and these efforts reflect that complexity. For example, the [Livable Centers Initiative](#) involves multiple departments within ARC, and the project reflects Age-Friendly objectives explicit throughout levels ranging from the overarching description (participating centers “must accessible by people of all ages, abilities, and income levels”) to the individuals chosen to review applications (from departments, such as Housing, that parallel the 8 Domains of Livability) to the award recipients (who often plan community engagement sessions at youth and senior centers). ARC's departments and units align closely with the 8 Domains of Livability, and each work group recognizes the importance of intergenerational considerations in all planning efforts. Its status as the Area Agency on Aging for the ten-county metropolitan Atlanta region further solidifies ARC's philosophical commitment to promote lifelong communities. Thus, enrollment in AARP's Age-Friendly Communities affirmed the agency's existing culture and deepened its standing collective commitment.

During this ramp-up period, ARC identified members of the team responsible for the Age-Friendly program rollout, convened an internal workgroup who access Age-Friendly resources and implement Age-Friendly standards in their regular work, and nominated members to serve on a Steering Committee made up of internal stakeholders and community partners. The workgroup began to receive bimonthly updates, as well as ad-hoc relevant announcements. The Steering Committee met quarterly to provide feedback and advise ARC staff on programming. All these stakeholders, as well as members of ARC's Provider Network (community partners) and Advisory Committee on Aging, were invited to create accounts on the AARP Age-Friendly portal, enabling them to access resources and participate in the discussion board and engage with other opportunities the program provides.

## Years 1-2: Community Needs Assessment and Development of Action Plan

ARC regularly collects feedback from communities in the region, including annual public hearings and surveys conducted by the AAA and activities such as [Metro Atlanta Speaks](#). In this phase of the Plan, ARC staff continued to gather feedback from communities using focus groups, interviews, and informal conversations during community engagement sessions. In addition, the team embarked upon an ongoing project to use the multiple databases available to ARC, ranging from census data to deep community engagement, to investigate the landscape of conditions throughout the region, resulting in a robust regional guide outlined in the [Regional Development Plan](#). Finally, stakeholders continued to engage in critical reflexivity, a practice that will continue throughout every stage of the Age-Friendly process to ensure actions and plans are necessary, sufficient, and sustainable. Aligning Age-Friendly and [Live Beyond Expectations](#) research processes, the Lifelong Communities Team plans to use an annual cycle of engagement throughout the life of the Action Plan, shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11. ARC Lifelong Communities Annual Research Cycle



This cycle will continue annually throughout the life of the plan. Research aims include:

- ◆ Conducting Age-Friendly inventories throughout the Region, beginning in [Live Beyond Expectations](#) focus tracts
- ◆ Identify and plan Age-Friendly projects
- ◆ Illuminate existing tensions or obstacles to Age-Friendly planning and design

- ◆ Solicit each community's Best Age-Friendly Story
- ◆ Name each community's Biggest Age-Friendly Challenge

Research methods will remain exploratory and open. The loose framework will support broad understanding of Age-Friendly Action throughout the region, allowing for flexible tailoring to specific communities.

This Age-Friendly Regional Plan was written by ARC staff during this phase with support from the Lifelong Communities Steering Committee.

## Years 3-5: Implementation and Tracking

Once ARC has delivered this Action Plan to AARP, the organization will work with partners throughout the region to implement plan initiatives. In addition, ARC will track and report on the efficacy of the actions undertaken. Because of quarterly Steering Committee meetings and regular Age-Friendly workgroup communications, opportunities for feedback in real time will abound, and the organization will have access to a robust system for improvement. ARC will provide annual Status Updates to AARP in addition to its ongoing performance indicators, resulting in timely response to critical metrics. Because the agency is experienced in responsiveness, ARC will rely on its expertise to pivot when necessary, enabling the organization to both remain focused on plan aims and respond with flexibility when changes need to occur.

## Year 5: Evaluation and Reporting

During the final year of the Program, ARC will engage in a thorough review process, re-evaluating the progress of the first years of the Age-Friendly program. ARC will turn its investigative lens from its outward view on communities inward to focus on objectives and processes. Once data has been analyzed, ARC will revise its plan for the next 5-year Age-Friendly Program phase, continuing to expand and deepen the agency's work to promote thriving communities for all residents of the Atlanta metro.



## Conclusion

ARC affirms its commitment to supporting lifelong thriving communities with this Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan. The Plan represents both a continuation and an evolution of ARC's long-standing commitment to creating thriving communities for all. ARC bridges planning and human services to address the needs of residents across the life course. The plan's framework, rooted in the Eight Domains of Livability and expanded to include Economic Security and Climate Resilience, reflects a holistic understanding that the conditions enabling older adults to thrive also create stronger, more equitable communities for everyone.

This first five-year phase marks the beginning of a sustained, collaborative effort. ARC will continue to listen deeply to community voices, align regional planning with lived experience, and invest in the systems that shape daily life—housing, transportation, health, and social connection. Through [Empowerline](#), direct services, and partnerships with local governments and organizations, the agency will ensure that programs reach those with the greatest need while inviting all residents to help shape an Age-Friendly future.

The work of becoming an Age-Friendly Region is not a single initiative but a shared commitment to dignity, connection, and opportunity at every age. By fostering collaboration across sectors, generations, and geographies, ARC aims to ensure that metro Atlanta remains not only a place where people can grow up, but also one where they can grow older, safely, actively, and with purpose.



Atlanta Regional Commission

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ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
ADOPTION OF  
THE AGE-FRIENDLY ATLANTA REGION ACTION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Regional Commission ("ARC") is a regional commission created pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-30, et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 50-8-34 authorizes the council of each regional commission to establish policy and direction for the regional commission; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC approved a resolution to apply to AARP's Age-Friendly Communities Network in June 2024, and AARP designated the 11-county Atlanta Region as an Age-Friendly Region in July 2024;

**WHEREAS**, ARC's mission is to "foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region;" and

**WHEREAS**, ARC has adopted the goal of "fostering healthy, safe, livable communities throughout the Atlanta region," including "places that work for people of all ages and abilities, so residents can 'age in place' in their own communities;" and

**WHEREAS**, the 65+ population is the fastest growing demographic in the Atlanta region; and

**WHEREAS**, planning processes of ARC -- including transportation, community development, natural resources, and aging services plans -- consider the needs of all people in the region, regardless of age or abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan provides for actionable initiatives to be implemented from 2026-2029 to enable residents to "age in place" in their own communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in adopting the Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan, the 11 county government entities within the Atlanta region have access to a national and global network of communities committed to giving older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive, and safe lives; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC's Advisory Committee on Aging reviewed and recommended approval of the Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan on March 24, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that ARC hereby adopts the Age-Friendly Atlanta Region Action Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes staff to submit the Age-Friendly Atlanta Regional Action Plan to AARP; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes staff to take steps to implement the initiatives, strategies, and tactics described in the Age-Friendly Atlanta Regional Action Plan through 2029.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of the Atlanta Regional Commission on May 13, 2026.

---

Charissa White, ARC Manager of Board Affairs and Legal Clerk

# Regional Development Plan (RDP)



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# Growing Together for 2050

METRO ATL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

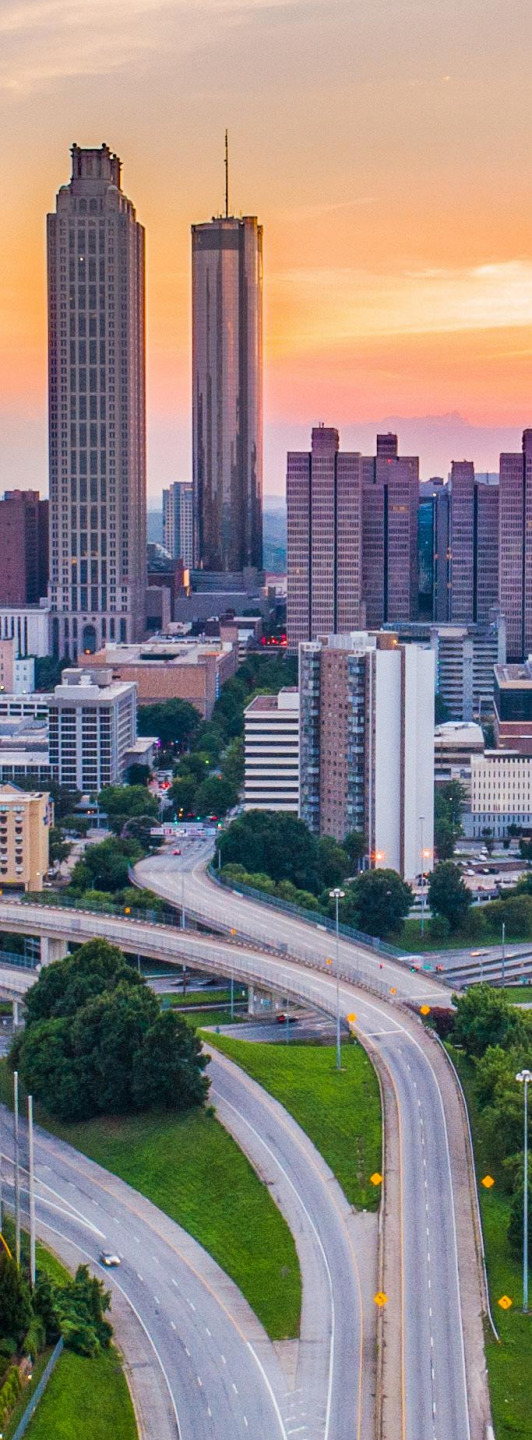
Board Approval to Transmit to DCA  
ARC Board Meeting | May 2026



# GROWING TOGETHER

## METRO ATL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

**ARC** 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.*

## 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.

## Values

**Excellence** – A commitment to doing our best and going above and beyond in every facet of our work allowing for innovative practices and actions to be created while ensuring our agency’s and our colleague’s success.

**Integrity** – In our conduct, communication, and collaboration with each other and the region’s residents, we will act with consistency, honesty, transparency, fairness and accountability within and across each of our responsibilities and functions.

**Equity** – We represent a belief that there are some things which people should have, that there are basic needs that should be fulfilled, that burdens and rewards should not be spread too divergently across the community, and that policy should be directed with impartiality, fairness and justice towards these ends.

# How the 2026 RDP advances the 2021 cycle



## First plan built on One Great Region

Fully aligned with ARC's current strategic vision, adopted after our 2021 plan.



## Fully revised UGPM

All 8 area types updated with 11 county planning departments via the LUCG process. Input from 45+ local govts.



## Deepest RDP engagement historically

1000+ web inputs; 5 Board engagements; 11 county outreach sessions; working with CBOs, surveys.



## Five plans synthesized into one

CEDS, MTP, WRMP, Climate Action Plan, and Live Beyond Expectations — unified into one policy framework.



## Climate & environment elevated

Tree canopy, greenspace, and climate action are core plan goals for the first time.



## Economic mobility as a driving priority

Atlanta ranks last among 50 metros for mobility. This plan makes closing that gap a named priority.

# Public Hearing and Board approval to transmit the 2026 RDP to DCA

## The Request

- Open and Close Public Hearing
- Approve transmittal of the 2026 Regional Development Plan to DCA for formal review
- DCA review period: approximately 45 days
- Final Board adoption scheduled: August 2026
- Annual implementation reports required after adoption

## What the Plan Contains

- Ch. 1 Introduction — Vision & Purpose
- Ch. 2 Community Engagement
- Ch. 3 Regional Growth Vision
- Ch. 4 Regional Goals & Policies
- Ch. 5 5-Year Work Program

# The Region Spoke. We Listened.

4,000+

Residents surveyed, Metro Atlanta Speaks

125+

Elected officials at Regional Assembly

11

County outreach sessions with planning staff and community members

4

ARC Board touchpoints, 2025–2026

1,000+

Unique visits to project website

## Four Themes Emerged

Residents across all 11 counties identified the same challenges

*Engagement included: county and municipal forums, two regional convenings, the Metro Atlanta Speaks public survey, an online project portal, the Advisory Committees, and a formal public hearing per DCA requirements.*



### Housing & Stability

Affordable homes near opportunity. Anti-displacement. Housing options for all ages.



### Connectivity & Mobility

Transit expansion, pedestrian safety, and first/last mile access to jobs.



### Economic Mobility

Career pathways. Youth opportunity. Investment in underserved communities.



### Community Assets

Protecting downtowns, parks, trails, cultural institutions, and rural character.

# Strengths to Build On, Challenges to Address

## ▲ REGIONAL ASSETS



### Global Economic Engine

15+ Fortune 500 HQs; world's busiest airport; \$168B in planned transportation investment



### A Richly Diverse Region

Most racially and ethnically diverse metro in the Southeast; a genuine competitive advantage



### Urban Reinvestment Momentum

130+ LCI plans; Atlanta BeltLine; TOD around MARTA stations — all accelerating



### Natural & Water Resources

Rich landscape and tree canopy; six river basin headwaters; robust regional water planning framework

## ▼ KEY CHALLENGES



### Housing Affordability Crisis

45% of renters cost-burdened; median home price over \$400K; several barriers to supply and preservation



### Transportation Access Gap

Only 2 of 11 counties served by heavy rail; half of workers commute across county lines; bike-ped infrastructure and safety remains a concerns



### Disparate Economic Outcomes

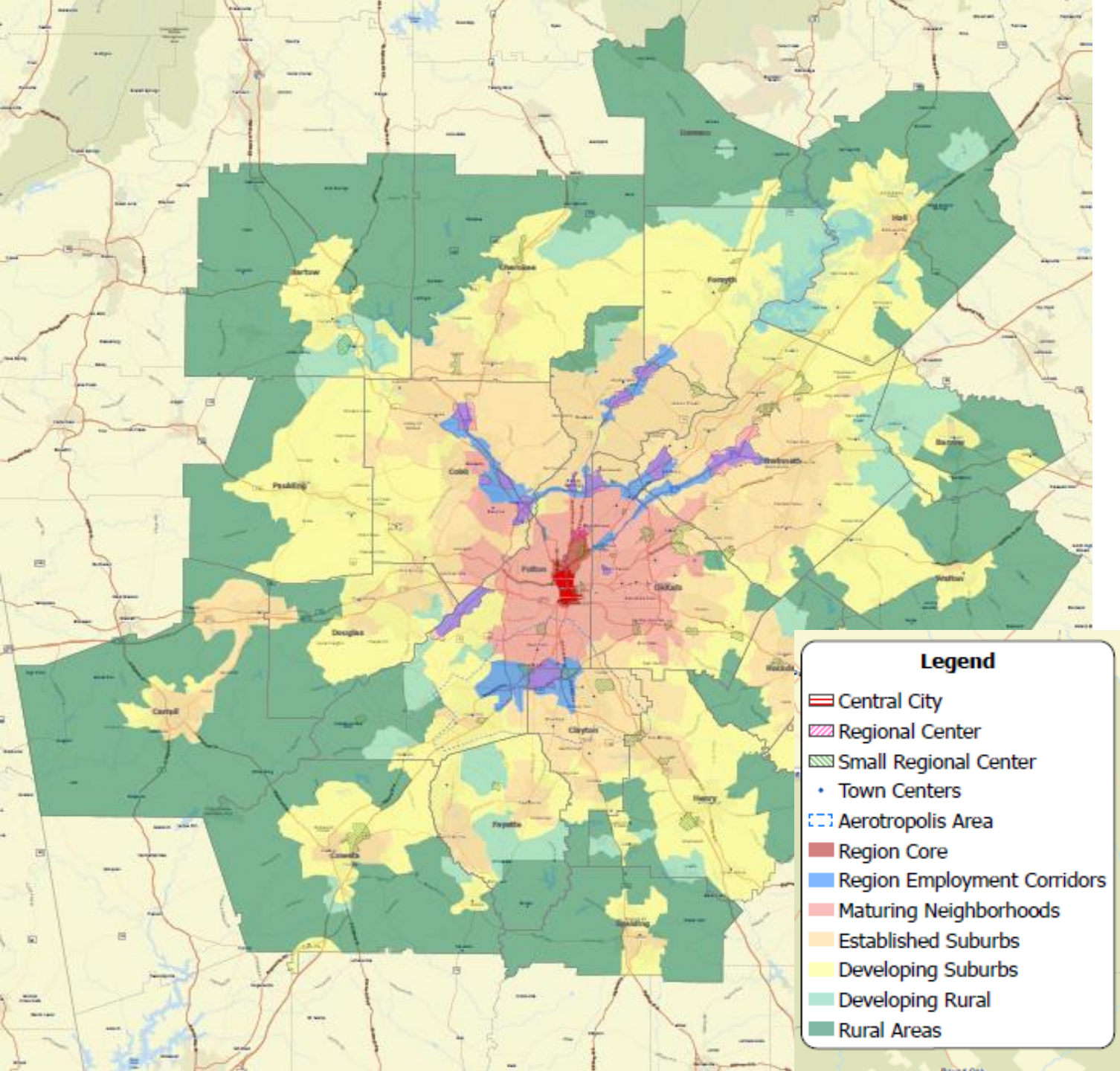
187K youth in poverty; bottom-ranked metro for economic mobility; spatial mismatch between workers and jobs



### Development Pressure & Energy Demand

Rapid suburban expansion threatening tree canopy; data centers driving rising water and energy demands

# The 2026 Unified Growth Policy Map



- Input received from all 11 counties
- 255 total comments received
- ARC staff working with local governments to address changes
- To serve as input for the MTP update

# Seven Plan Elements with Goals and Policies



## Economy & Workforce

Top global metro for prosperity and talent. Economic mobility as agency priority. Innovation hubs in every county.



## Water Resources

Protect Chattahoochee headwaters. Conservation programs. Manage growing data center water demands.



## Transportation & Mobility

Multimodal and transit expansion. Technology-enabled mobility and autonomous vehicle readiness.



## Housing & Community

Regional Housing Strategy. creating local goals and strategies, addressing homelessness.



## Land Use & Development

UGPM-guided growth. Compact centers. Creation of vibrant downtown, transit nodes, and employment corridors.



## Environment & Natural Sys.

Urban tree canopy protection. Parks and greenspace access. Resilience to heat, flooding, and drought.



## Regional Resilience

Close the 25-year life expectancy gap across ZIP codes. Economic mobility as a regional imperative with a focus on building resilient communities.

# What ARC Will Do: 2026–2030

Key actions organized by ARC's Strategic Framework goals

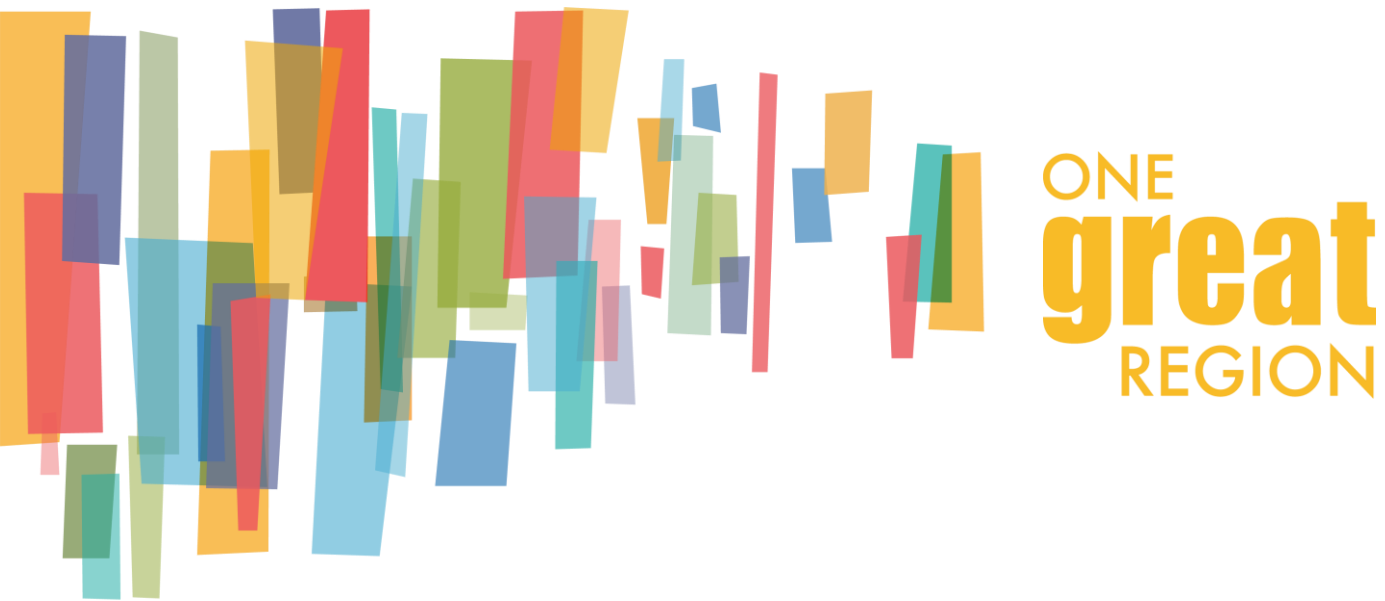
 <b>Livable Communities</b>	 <b>Strategic Investments</b>	 <b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	 <b>Competitive Economy</b>	 <b>Operational Excellence</b>
Regional Housing Strategy adoption (2026)	MTP Update (adopt 2028)	Regional Assembly (annual)	CEDS Update 2026–2027	2027–2031 Strategic Plan
Regional Housing Strategy Implementation	TIP Updates and Amendments	2030 Census Coordination	Building Georgia Initiative	AI Data Readiness
Regional Homelessness Strategy	Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP)	Metro ATL Speaks (annual)	Economic Mobility Strategy	Federal Policy Monitoring
LCI Grants and CDAP Technical Assistance	Chattahoochee RiverLands	ConnectATL Summit (bi-annual)	Wetropolis Area investments	IT Disaster Recovery

# What Happens After Today

Board approval to transmit to DCA for review and final adoption by ARC Board in August



After adoption: annual implementation reports to DCA documenting Five-Year Work Program progress and local government compliance — required by DCA Ch. 110-12-6.



# **MOTION: Approve transmittal of the 2026 Regional Development Plan to DCA**

**[atlantaregional.org/regional-development-plan](https://atlantaregional.org/regional-development-plan)**  
**[sshenbaga@atlantaregional.org](mailto:sshenbaga@atlantaregional.org)**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
APPROVING,  
TRANSMITTAL OF THE 2026 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
UPDATE**

WHEREAS, since 1952 the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has developed and advanced regional plans for the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, these plans include the Regional Development Plan (RDP) for the eleven-county area, as well as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the nineteen-county area; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Development Plan must be prepared pursuant to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and in accordance with the minimum standards established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA); and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Georgia DCA adopted revisions to Chapter 110-12-6, Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning (“Regional Planning Requirements”); and

WHEREAS, ARC has prepared the 2026 Regional Development Plan Update as part of its ongoing unified regional planning and strategic vision to guide sustainable economic and population growth over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 RDP Update seeks to support the region’s long-term prosperity by promoting healthy, safe, livable communities; strategic investments in people, infrastructure, mobility and preserving natural resources; and a competitive economy; and

WHEREAS, the plan reflects ARC’s commitment to conserving and protecting critical environmental and historic resources, greenspace, water and air quality, and other essential natural assets while managing growth responsibly; and

WHEREAS, ARC has incorporated regional and local growth policies consistent with Local Government Comprehensive Plans as required by state rules; and

WHEREAS, ARC has prepared the 2026 Regional Development Plan Update—including the Regional Resource Plan, Regional Work Program, and Local Government Implementation components—for submission pursuant to DCA’s Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, the ARC Board has conducted all required public hearings and has reviewed the draft 2026 RDP Update for consistency with state standards and regional priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission board approves the transmittal of the 2026 Regional Development Plan Update to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for its required regional review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC staff are authorized to submit all necessary documentation to DCA and to make non-substantive technical corrections to the final document as needed, with approval of the Chair of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission directs staff to report regularly on the status of the review and any follow-up actions needed to advance the implementation of the 2026 Regional Development Plan Update.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on May 13, 2026.

Charissa White, Manager of Board Affairs and Legal Clerk



# **Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) and Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Selection**

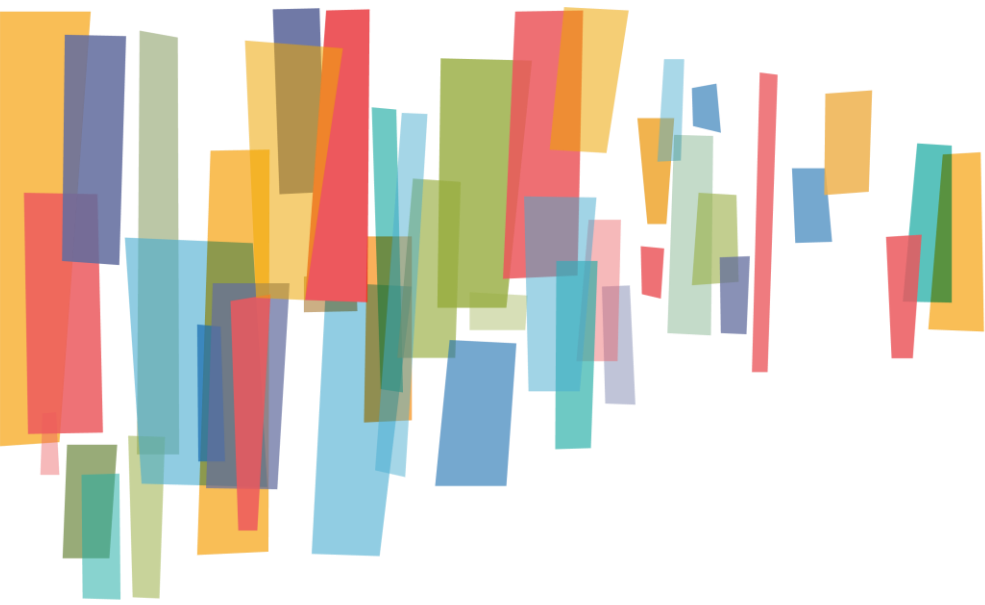


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# 2026 LCI & CDAP Selections

Joint ARC Board & TAQC Meeting | May 13, 2026





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# LCI Overview

# What Is the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Program?



- Reimbursable grant program (80/20 split)
- Applicant must be a CID or local government
- Approximately \$1.8 million in funding available annually
- Studies focus on “Main Streets” and Downtowns/Town Centers or Transit Nodes
- Tactical or Catalytic Studies

# How Do the LCI Program's Revised Goals Address ARC's Strategic Framework?

## **Healthy, Safe, Livable Communities**

- Create multimodal developments that prioritize connectivity, public health, and safety for people of all ages.

## **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.

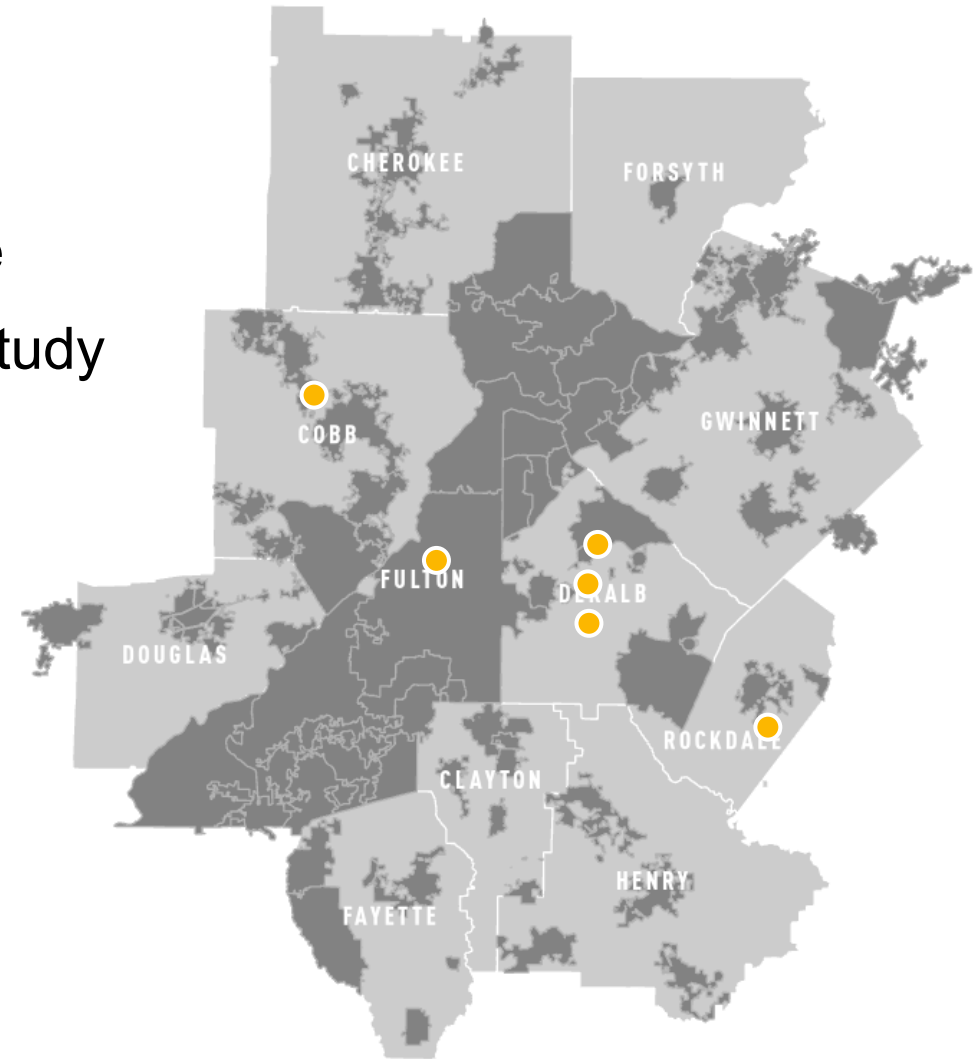
# Selection Process & Timeline

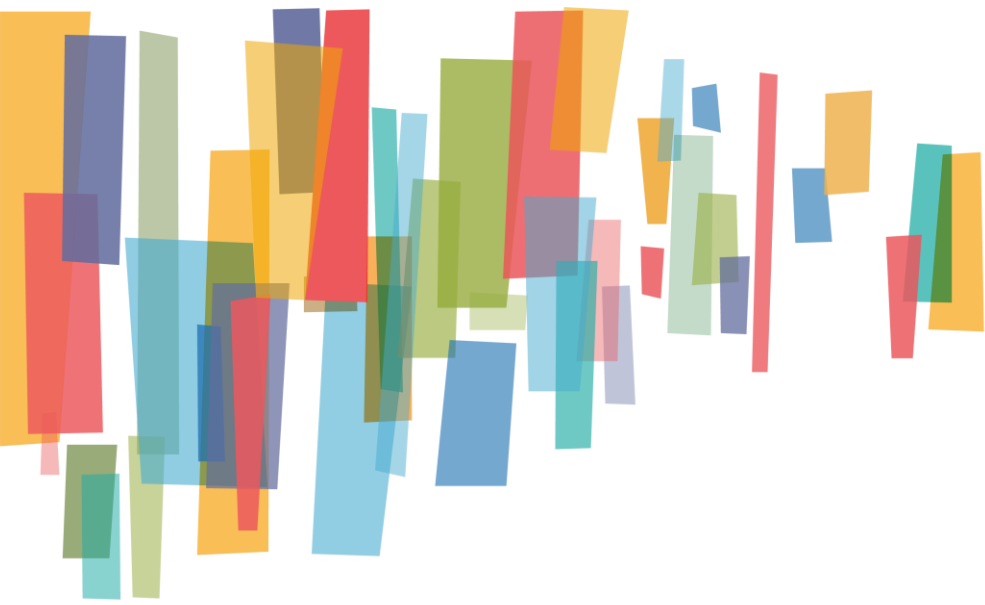


- December 3, 2025 – Call for Ideas
- January 14, 2026 – Application Open
- February 27, 2026 – Application Deadline
- March + April 2026 – Application Review
- May 13, 2026 – Awards Announced

# What Are the Current (2025) Studies?

- Atlanta Ashby MARTA Station Connectivity Study
- Avondale Estates Downtown Master Plan Update
- DeKalb County Kensington Area Master Plan Update
- Kennesaw Cobb Parkway Gateway & Connectivity Study
- Olde Town Conyers Master Plan Update
- Tucker-Northlake CID One Northlake Plan



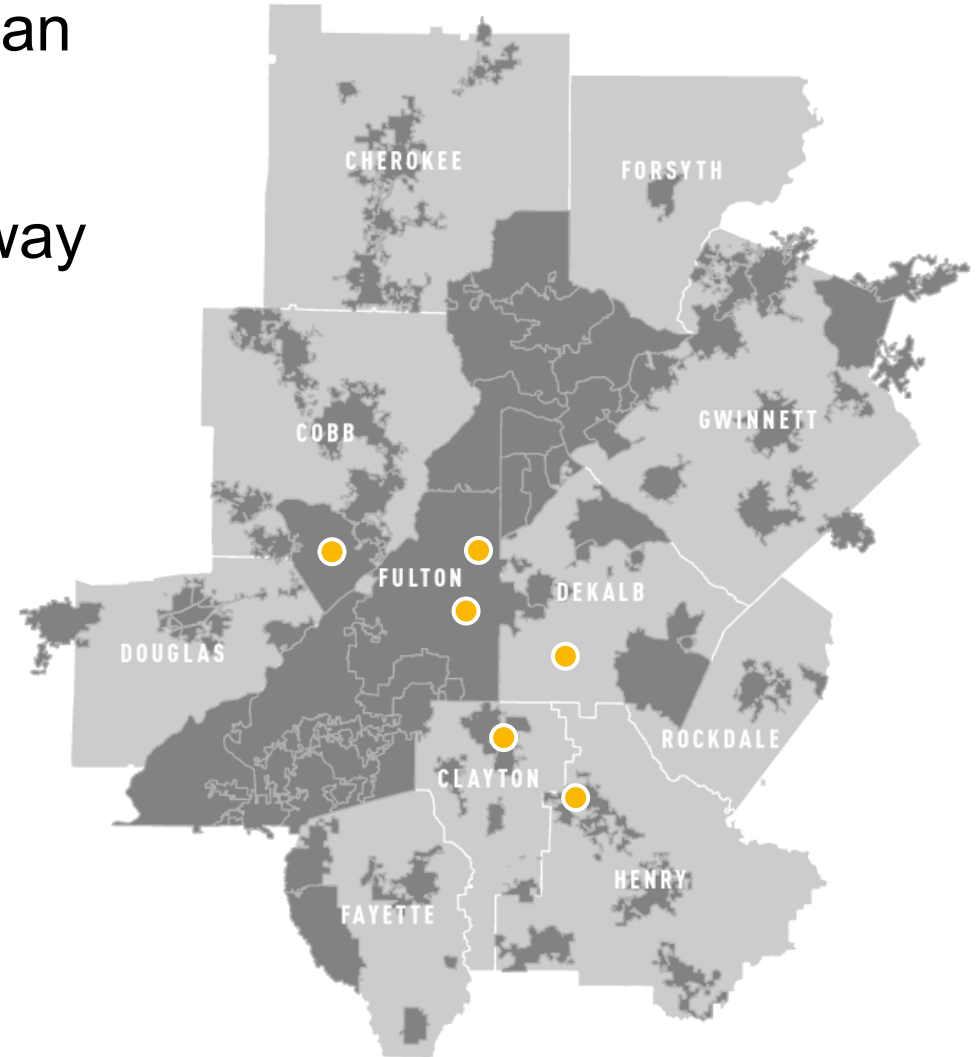


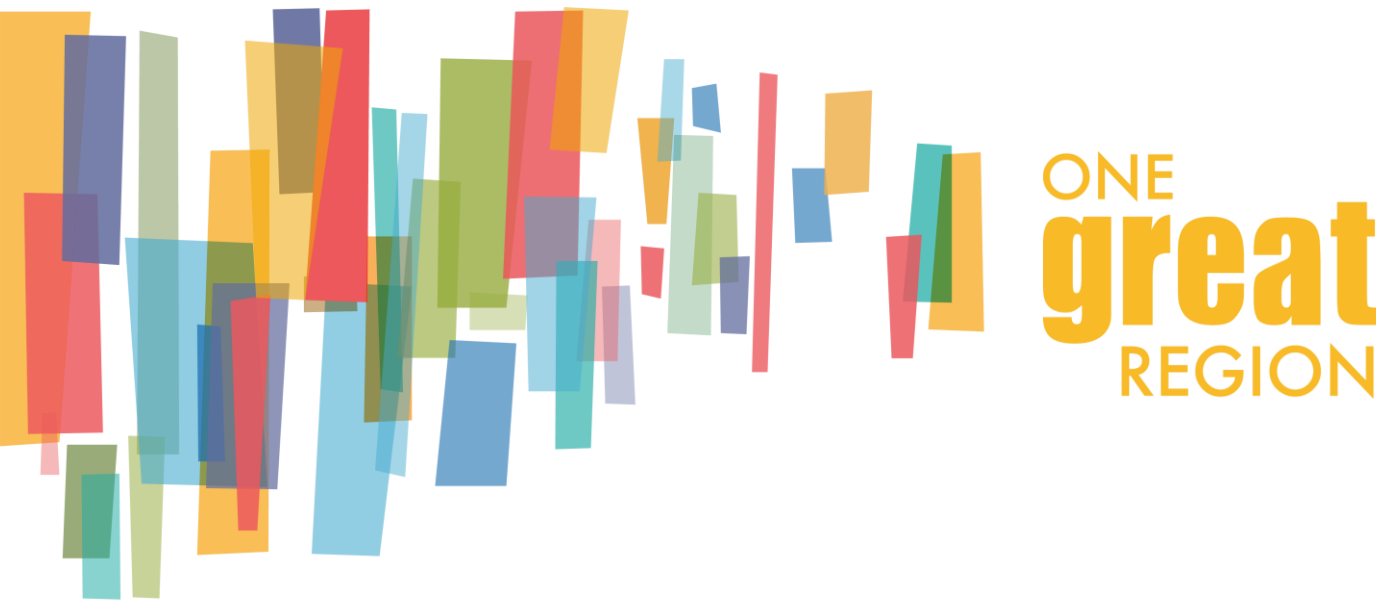
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# 2026 LCI Study Selections

# What Studies Did We Select for 2026?

- ADID Sweet Auburn Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
- Buckhead Master Plan
- DeKalb County Candler Road/Flat Shoals Parkway Area Plan Update
- Mableton Town Center Master Plan
- Morrow Trail Extension and I-75 Overpass Feasibility Study
- Stockbridge Downtown Master Plan Update





# CDAP Overview

# What is the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP)?



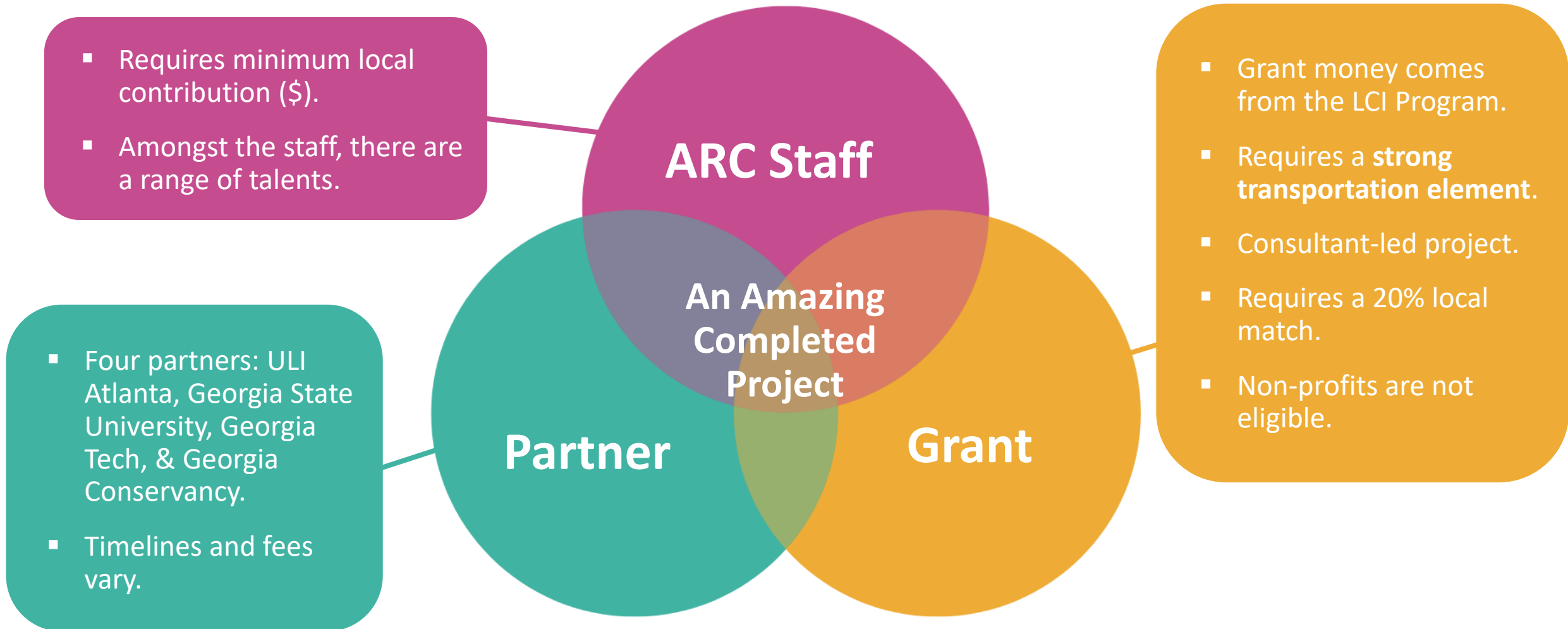
## Healthy, Safe, Livable Communities

- Implement ARC's regional planning initiatives across the region
- Advance socially equitable planning processes & outcomes
- Promote community resiliency to safeguard against future shocks & stressors

## Diverse Stakeholder Engagement

- Foster comprehensive, inclusive, & meaningful community engagement

# What Types of Assistance Does CDAP Provide?



# What Are CDAP's Priority Issue Areas?



# CDAP Housing Support Over Eight Years

## ARC Staff Led

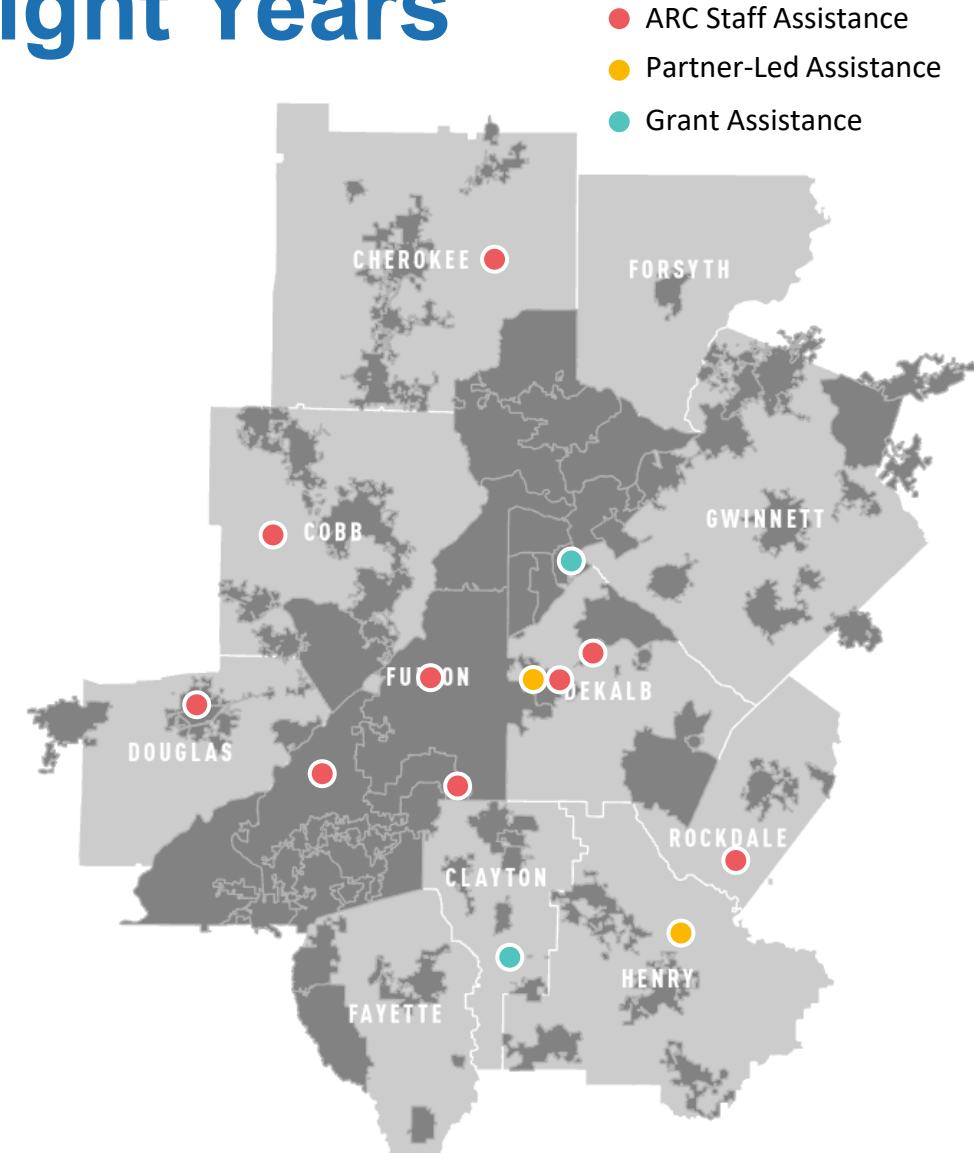
- Grove Park Visioning and Housing Assessment
- Hapeville Housing Profile
- Cherokee County Housing Outreach and Engagement
- Douglasville Housing Assessment
- Decatur Housing Rehabilitation Program Strategy
- Cobb County Housing Assessment
- South Fulton Housing Assessment
- Clarkston Housing Summit
- Rockdale County Housing Assessment

## Partner Led

- Henry County Addressing Hidden Homelessness (GA Tech)
- Decatur Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing Strategy (GA Conservancy)

## Grant Supported

- Chamblee Housing Study
- Clayton County Housing Assessment and Strategy



# What Are the Current (2025) Projects?

## ARC Staff Assistance

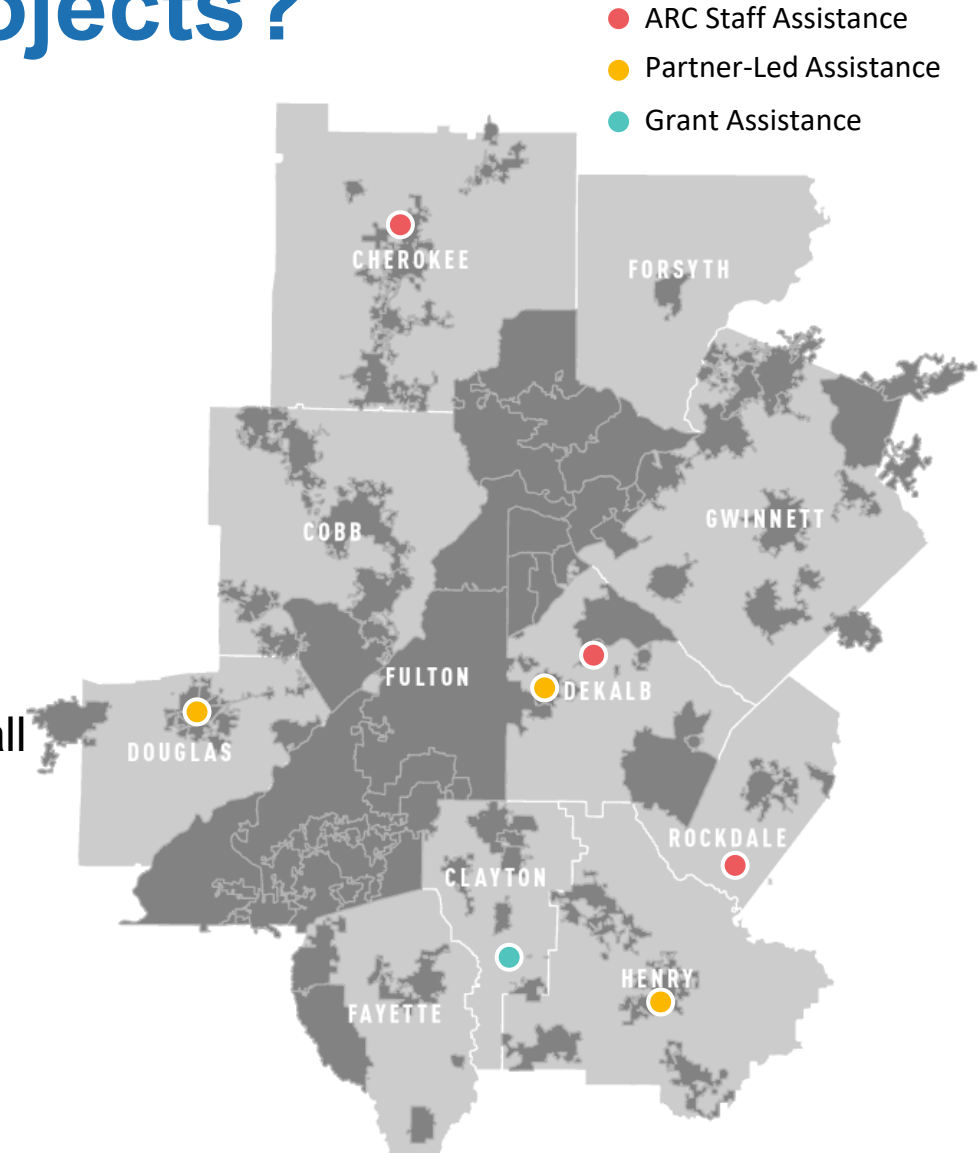
- Clarkston Housing Summit
- Rockdale County Housing Assessment
- Cherokee County Pearidge Small Area Plan

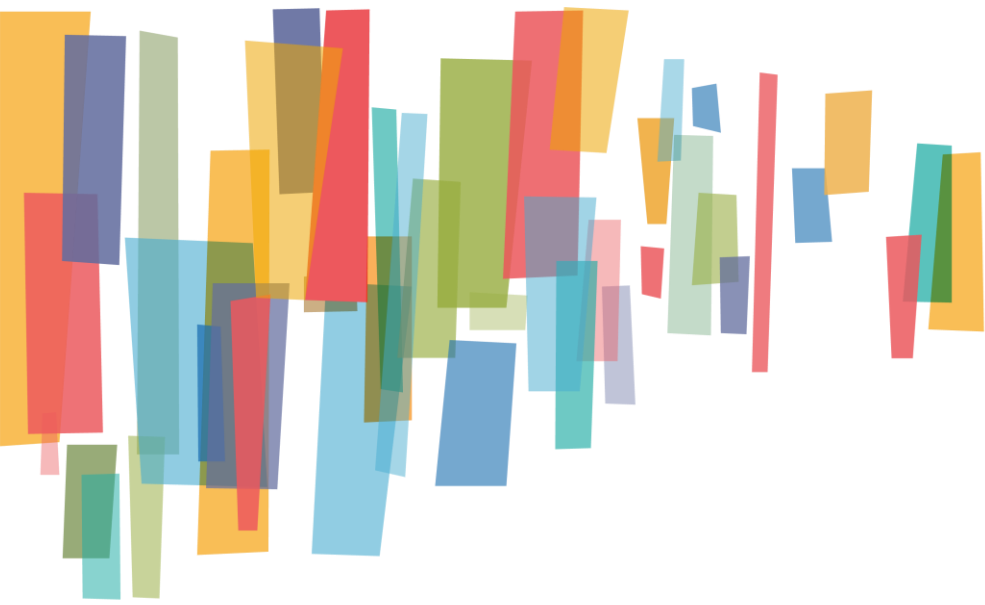
## Partner-Led Assistance

- Georgia Conservancy
  - McDonough Blacksville Small Area Plan
- Georgia Tech
  - Douglasville Economic Envisioning Plan for Arbor Place Mall
- Georgia State University
  - Decatur Heat Mitigation Strategy

## Grant Assistance

- Clayton County and Cities Housing Assessment and Strategy





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# 2026 CDAP Project Selections

# What Projects Did We Select in 2026?

## ARC Staff Assistance

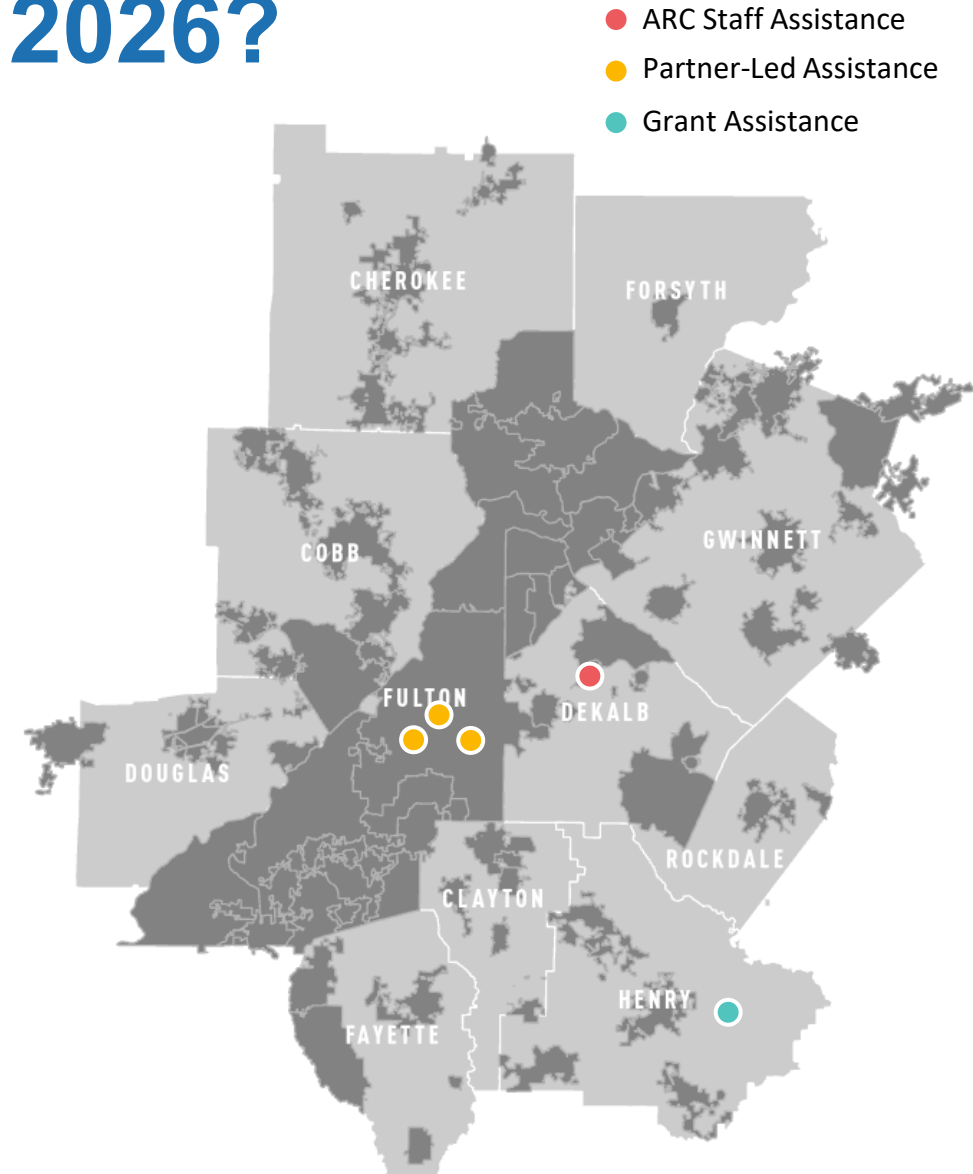
- Clarkston Housing Assessment

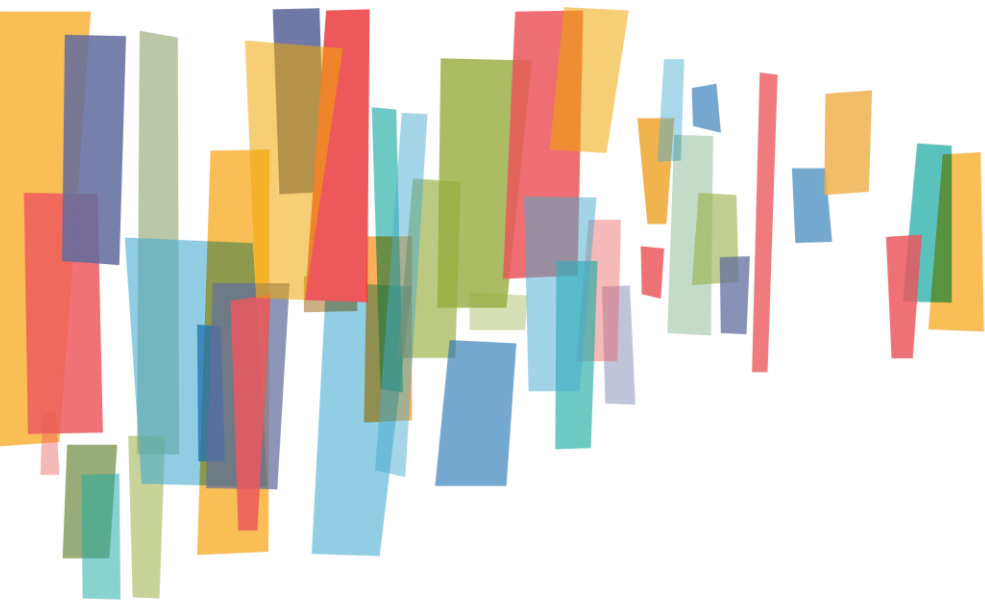
## Partner-Led Assistance

- Georgia Tech
  - Sweet Auburn Small Area Plan
  - City of Atlanta Senior Engagement Toolkit
- Georgia State University
  - East Atlanta The Village Core Commercial Current State Assessment

## Grant Assistance

- Henry County and Cities Housing Study





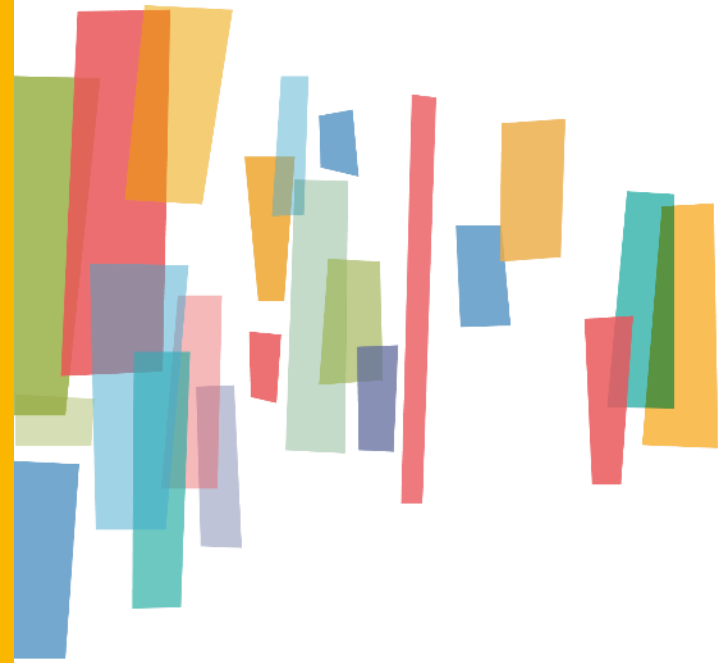
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**Thank you!**

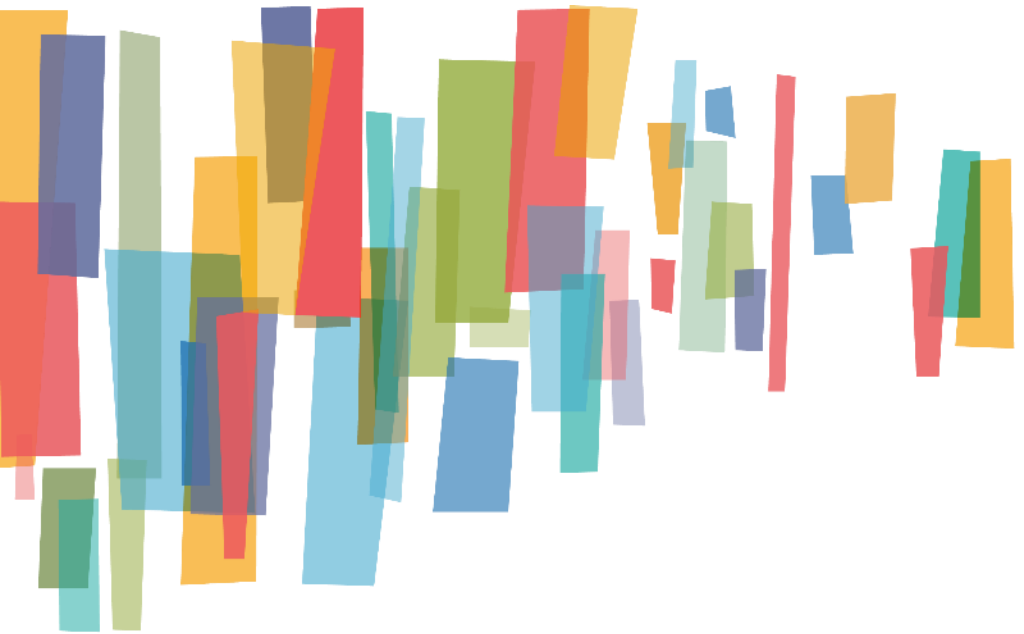
# CEO Report

May 13, 2026

**Anna Roach**  
Executive Director & CEO



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# Contents

- Financial Update
- Operational Snapshot
- Employee Satisfaction
- ARC in the Region



# Financial Update

# Financial Highlights Update

## Budget vs Actual 2026 - March

<i>In Millions (\$)</i>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Amended</b>	<b>Run/</b>	<b>2025 Run</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Rate %</b>
<b>Operations</b>				<b>A</b>
Research & Innovation	\$ 0.63	\$ 4.10	15%	16%
Community Development	0.75	6.22	12%	10%
Natural Resources	0.73	4.82	15%	13%
Workforce Solutions	0.76	11.50	7%	9%
Mobility Services	1.71	15.03	11%	10%
Transportation Planning	1.51	19.10	8%	7%
Aging & Independence Services	4.40	32.55	14%	14%
Homeland Security & Recovery	0.69	5.58	12%	9%
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$ 11.18</b>	<b>\$ 98.91</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Administration and Other ARC Programs</b>				
Executive Director and CEO	\$ 0.29	\$ 1.33	22%	23%
External Affairs	0.49	3.02	16%	15%
General Counsel and Procurement	0.20	0.97	20%	19%
Finance Department	0.35	2.64	13%	16%
General Services	0.22	0.74	30%	15%
Information Technology	0.63	2.80	23%	29%
Human Resources	0.28	1.47	19%	18%
Chief Operating Officer	0.19	0.75	25%	20%
<b>Total Administration and Other ARC Programs</b>	<b>\$ 2.64</b>	<b>\$ 13.71</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Indirect Allocation to Operations and Recovery	(2.23)	(10.6)		
<b>Unallocated Administrative and Other Programs</b>	<b>\$ 0.41</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 11.59</b>	<b>102.03</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>

## Expense vs Budget

Expense rate as of March 2026 (11%) is the same level as in 2025

## Items to note

Transportation Department expense trend in 2026 is slightly higher than 2025

The longest partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in U.S. history ended after 76 days. Congress passed a funding bill in late April 2026 that allowed most of the DHS, including TSA, FEMA, and the Secret Service, to resume normal operations.

## Cash Position

The agency's cash position remains strong, with approximately two (2) months of cash on hand to cover expenditures.

# 2025 Financial and Single Audit Highlights

## Taking Place in 2026

Audit	Complete by	Result
Financial	6.30.2026	On Track
Single Audit (Federal Financial Assistance )	6.30.2026	On Track
Agreed Upon Procedures (Travel and Expense )	6.30.2026	On Track

### Other Comments

No findings on the Financial and Single Audits over the past three years



# Operational Snapshot

# Operational Snapshot

## Healthy, Safe, Livable Communities

- Kicked off Emergency Healthcare Transportation Access Study.
- Regional Trails & Bicycle Facility Network Planning Program will kick-off in early May.
- Atlanta Regional Mass Casualty Incident Framework completed, improving medical and resource coordination.

## Competitive Economy

- Metro Water District released its 2026 Resilient Water Utilities Report.
- Workforce launched the Building Georgia website and began recruiting first class.
- Approved by Google to enroll students into Google Credential training programs to introduce them to IT Career Pathways

## Operational Efficiency

- Maintained homeland security support, coordination, and regional engagement despite the longest DHS partial funding hold in U.S. history.
- Research & Innovation launched Metro Atlanta Eviction Tracker.
- Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant program is underway.

## Engaged Stakeholders

- Atlanta UASI held seminar to align senior leaders on shared threats and coordinated response actions for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- Held first workshop for Regional Clean Electricity Plan for local governments in Rockdale County in March.
- Engaged employers and local technical colleges to launch Registered Apprenticeship Programs under the SAEF grant, resulting in the first partnership with Southern Crescent Technical College.
- First Regional Housing Summit held April 30th, convening more than 200 regional and housing leaders from across the region.

## Strategic Investments

- Developed a unified, multi-jurisdictional evacuation strategy for major emergencies across the Atlanta region.
- May implementation planned for new telephone platform for the Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC).
- GCO is delivering technical assistance to Georgia Power for the development of a commute options program.



# Employee Satisfaction

# Employee Experience & Total Rewards

**ARC has advanced three key initiatives to strengthen employee engagement, transparency, and overall value proposition.**

## **Total Rewards Statements**

Personalized statements were issued giving each employee a comprehensive view of their full compensation — salary, retirement, health benefits, and more. Early feedback shows improved awareness and appreciation, supporting retention and engagement.

## **Pulse Survey**

An organization-wide survey was deployed to capture timely insights on employee sentiment and workplace experience. The survey achieved a 93.3% response rate. Results are being compiled and will be shared with the Board in August.

## **ARC Benefits Hub**

A centralized, user-friendly platform was launched to give employees easy access to benefits information, tools, and resources. Growing traffic and usage confirm employees are relying on the Hub as their go-to benefits resource.

## **Overall Impact**

Collectively, these initiatives enhance transparency, improve communication, and empower employees to make informed decisions about their benefits. They also provide leadership with actionable data to continuously refine ARC's employee value proposition.



# ARC in the Region

# ARC in the Region

# 282

## Engagements

February 1 – May 1

