ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Atlanta Regional Commission is the regional planning and inter-governmental coordination agency for the 10-county Atlanta region. ARC helps the region’s leadership focus attention, collaboration, and resources on critical issues affecting our collective future.

We’re here to make the region work for everyone – regardless of age, ethnicity, income, education, background, or ability. On any given day, ARC works with local jurisdictions and various regional partners to:

- Plan new transportation and mobility options
- Wisely manage water resources
- Encourage the development of vibrant, livable communities
- Provide services for older and disabled residents
- Help businesses recruit and retain workers and provide services for job seekers
- Analyze data to inform leaders and decision-makers
- Cultivate regional leaders to meet the region’s challenges
- Serve as a regional convener to address complex, regional issues
- Coordinate with local first responders in preparing for a secure region

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

ARC is governed by a 39-member board consisting of both elected officials and citizen members:

- 10 County Commission Chairs
- 11 Mayors
- 15 Citizen Members
- Mayor of Atlanta

Kerry Armstrong, Board Chair | Doug Hooker, Executive Director

Department of Community Affairs Representative | Atlanta City Council Representative

ARC SERVICE AREAS

- Area Agency on Aging (10 counties)
- Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (15 counties)
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (20 counties)
- Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) (5 counties)

REGIONAL PLANNING TO ‘WIN THE FUTURE’

Regional planning has helped metro Atlanta become one of the nation’s largest, most dynamic regions.

ARC is responsible for developing and updating the Atlanta Region’s Plan, a long-range blueprint that details investments needed to ensure metro Atlanta’s future success and improve the region’s quality of life. The 25-year plan, developed with ARC’s community partners and with robust public input, aims to “Win the Future” by providing world-class infrastructure, building a competitive economy, and ensuring the region is composed of healthy, livable communities.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Regional Transit – Provided subject matter expertise and data to lawmakers working on legislation that created the Atlanta region Transit Link Authority, or The ATL
- Aging & Independence Services – Launched empowerline, a platform to better serve older persons and individuals with disabilities by connecting them to resources they need to thrive
- Housing Affordability – Partnering with organizations across sectors to develop a Regional Housing Strategy to help local governments better understand their housing challenges and begin to address them using actionable and innovative strategies
- Transportation – Worked with planning partners to develop a Transportation Improvement Program that allocates $293 million in new federal funds to improve regional mobility
- What’s Next ATL – Launched What’s Next ATL, a community resource that explores how metro Atlanta is growing and changing and offers new opportunities for community engagement
- Water Resources – The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, staffed by ARC, launched the ‘My Drop Counts’ business water conservation pledge to encourage local organizations to reduce water use and ensure a sustainable future for the region
- Future of Mobility – Organized second ConnectATL summit to help the region prepare for the fast-paced changes in transportation technology, like autonomous vehicles and connected cars

Learn more about ARC’s work in the Atlanta region ➔
ARC works with its regional partners to develop and maintain world-class infrastructure. This includes a sustainable supply of clean water, and a transportation network that improves mobility and provides all residents with access to jobs and services.

Improving Mobility in the Atlanta Region

ARC works with state and local transportation agencies and local governments to develop and manage a long-range Regional Transportation Plan.

Highlights include:
- Building a network of Express Lanes that offer faster, more reliable trips
- Expanding transit service to better connect major employment centers
- Widening major thoroughfares and improving highway interchanges
- Developing a regional bike-ped trail network
- Encouraging the growth of alternative commute options

Securing a sustainable future for metro Atlanta

As metro Atlanta’s population continues to grow, protecting our natural environment is increasingly important to securing a healthy and sustainable future.

Key Efforts:
- Providing planning staff for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, which develops and implements an integrated, long-term, comprehensive water management program for the 15-county Atlanta region
- Improving water conservation in the region through coordinated efforts such as a toilet rebate program and leak detection
- Securing an abundant supply of clean water by providing technical expertise in the tri-state water wars litigation
- Monitoring the region’s air quality and developing transportation and land use plans designed to reduce air pollution

A strong economy is essential to our region’s success. ARC works with its regional partners to ensure our economy remains thriving and competitive, with improved opportunities for social and economic mobility.

Workforce Solutions: Connecting talent with opportunity

ARC manages WorkSource Atlanta Regional to develop a highly educated and skilled workforce that meets the needs of today’s employers in Cherokee, Clayton, Douglas, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties.

Our focus:
- Providing services for businesses, such as employee recruitment assistance and data tools that provide labor market insights
- Providing services for job seekers, including career assessment testing, job readiness training, and job search assistance

CATLYST: Developing a regional economic competitiveness strategy

CATLYST is a regional effort, coordinated by ARC, to ensure our region has a steady supply of good jobs, a well-trained workforce, and the collaboration needed to catalyze economic growth.

Priorities include:
- Amplifying the region’s identity as a global economy
- Improving education outcomes throughout metro Atlanta
- Increasing availability of affordable, quality housing
- Fostering a climate that encourages robust civic participation

Cultivating leaders to meet the region’s challenges

Informed and committed leaders serve as catalysts to transform challenges into opportunities and help move the Atlanta region forward.

- Leadership Involvement Networking Knowledge (LINK™) takes influential leaders on an information trip to another region
- Regional Leadership Institute (RLI) prepares local leaders to work collaboratively in addressing regional issues
- Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA) teaches leaders about opportunities and challenges facing the arts and culture community
- Model Atlanta Regional Commission brings together high school students to study and debate regional issues

The Atlanta region is becoming more diverse, with a rapidly growing population of older adults. ARC works to foster vibrant, walkable communities, greater access to parks and greenspace, and better housing options.

Improving quality of life for residents of all ages and abilities

ARC supports healthy living and aging by offering a range of services for older adults and people with disabilities, such as transportation and in-home personal care.

Our goal: enabling people to remain and thrive in their homes and communities as their needs change, rather than move into costly institutional settings.

Our focus:
- Providing daily support services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers through our local provider network
- Promoting overall health through broad initiatives such as lifelong community planning, senior volunteer programs, and wellness programs

Making the Atlanta region an even better place to live, work, and play

Bustling town centers. Shady green spaces. Wide sidewalks and bike lanes. Affordable housing. These are just some of the qualities that make up a great community.

ARC has developed a range of programs and initiatives designed to help the Atlanta region maintain a high quality of life.

Key Efforts:
- Livable Centers Initiative – Incentivizes local jurisdictions to re-envision their communities as vibrant, walkable places
- Community Visioning – Assists local governments in preparing for key issues, such as population growth and redevelopment
- Regional Arts & Culture – Encourages growth of the region’s arts and culture community
- ARC as Regional Convener – Brings diverse stakeholders to the table to discuss important issues facing metro Atlanta

Improving the Atlanta region’s identity as a global economy

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