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South Fulton CID Sustainable Freight Cluster Plan

Freight Advisory Task Force Update





presented to

Atlanta Regional Commission Freight Advisory Task Force

presented by

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Agenda

- Background and Project Overview
- Draft Vision, Goals, and Objectives
- Task Updates
- Next Steps

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Background and Project Overview

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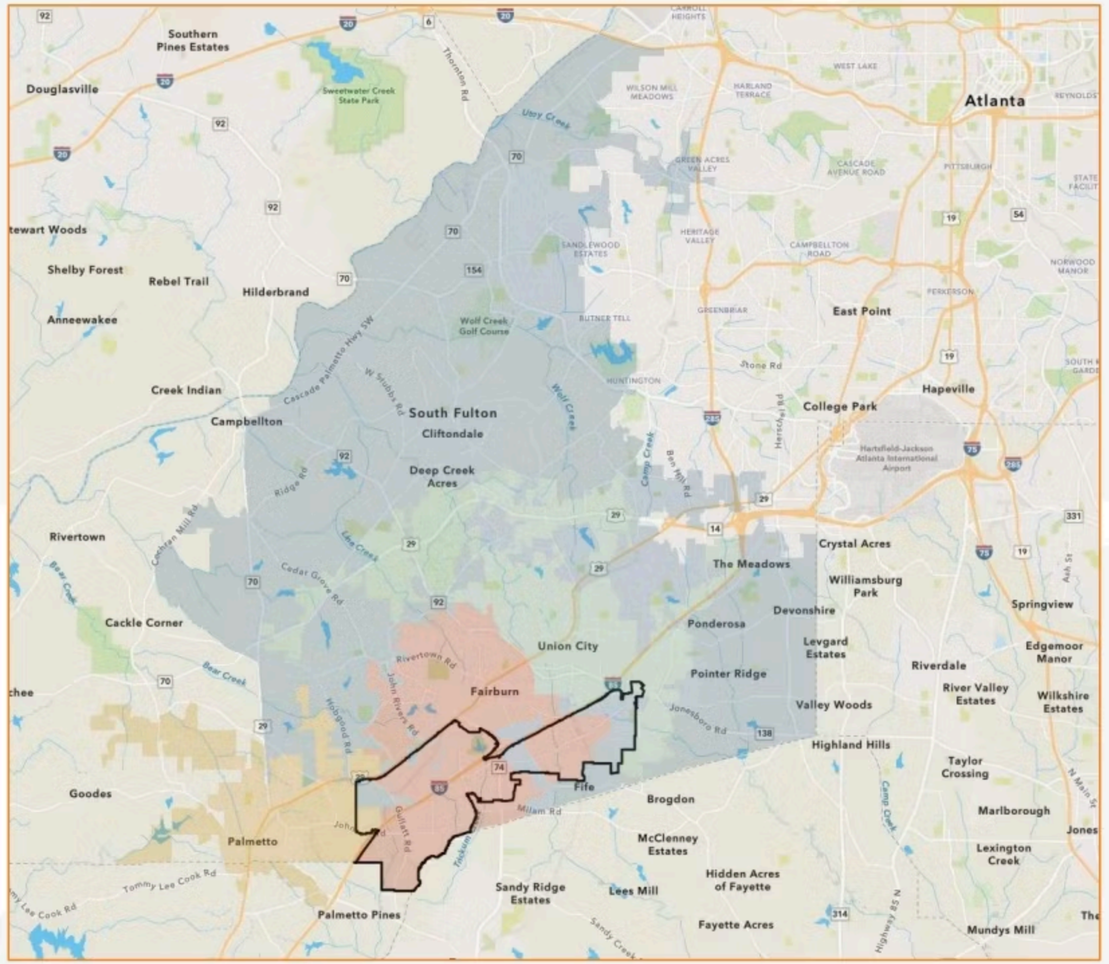
South Fulton Community Improvement District

- The South Fulton CID is a self-taxing group of property owners advancing business and community development in partnership with local governments.
- For over two decades, its property owners have led a multi-prong strategy directing transportation mobility and accessibility investments to the district.
- It acts as an economic anchor for south Metro Atlanta, home to major employers including:

CSX	US Foods
Nestle-Purina	Clorox
Owens Corning	DHL
Amazon	Toto USA
Proctor & Gamble	Duracell

…among others



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South Fulton CID Study Area





- The CID study area is primarily located along the I-85, Oakley Industrial Boulevard, and US 29/Roosevelt Highway corridors.
- It spans more than 6,600 acres and includes portions of the cities of Fairburn, Palmetto, South Fulton, and Union City.
- At the core of the district is the CSX Fairburn Intermodal Terminal, which was a catalyst for much of today's development.
- The Terminal handles an estimated 420,000 container lifts annually and provides connectivity to Port of Savannah, as well as access to west coast ports via BNSF.[1]

1. Source: GDOT. Georgia State Rail Plan: Final Report, 2021.

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Purpose of the Sustainable Freight Cluster Plan

- In 2017, the South Fulton CID's Multimodal Transportation Plan set a long-term blueprint for transportation investments in mobility, accessibility, safety, and workforce development.
- The Sustainable Freight Cluster Plan builds on that work, focusing on sustainable transportation and supply chain practices.
- It will create a districtwide strategy that:

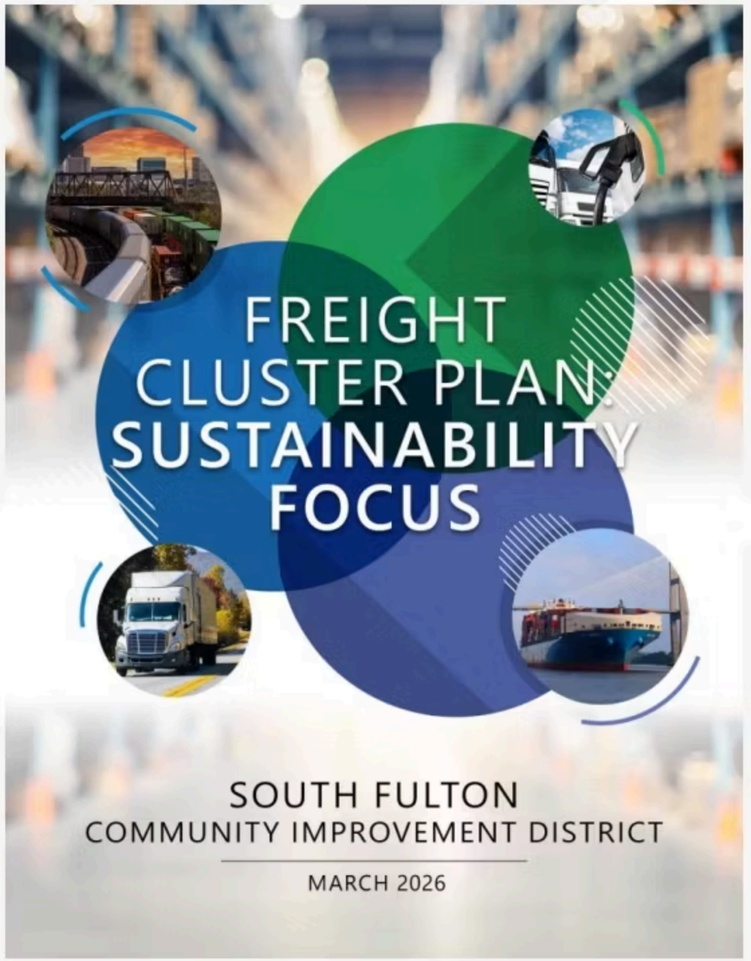
Improves workforce quality of life

Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

Improves freight efficiency

Enhances supply chain resilience

Supports sustainable transportation practices



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Overview of Key Tasks



- The Sustainable Freight Cluster Plan is comprised of 4 key technical tasks:
  - Best Practices Review
  - Inventory and Assessment
  - Develop Recommendations
  - Develop Documentation
- Engagement with stakeholders – e.g., local government, employers, workers, etc. – is integrated throughout the project.

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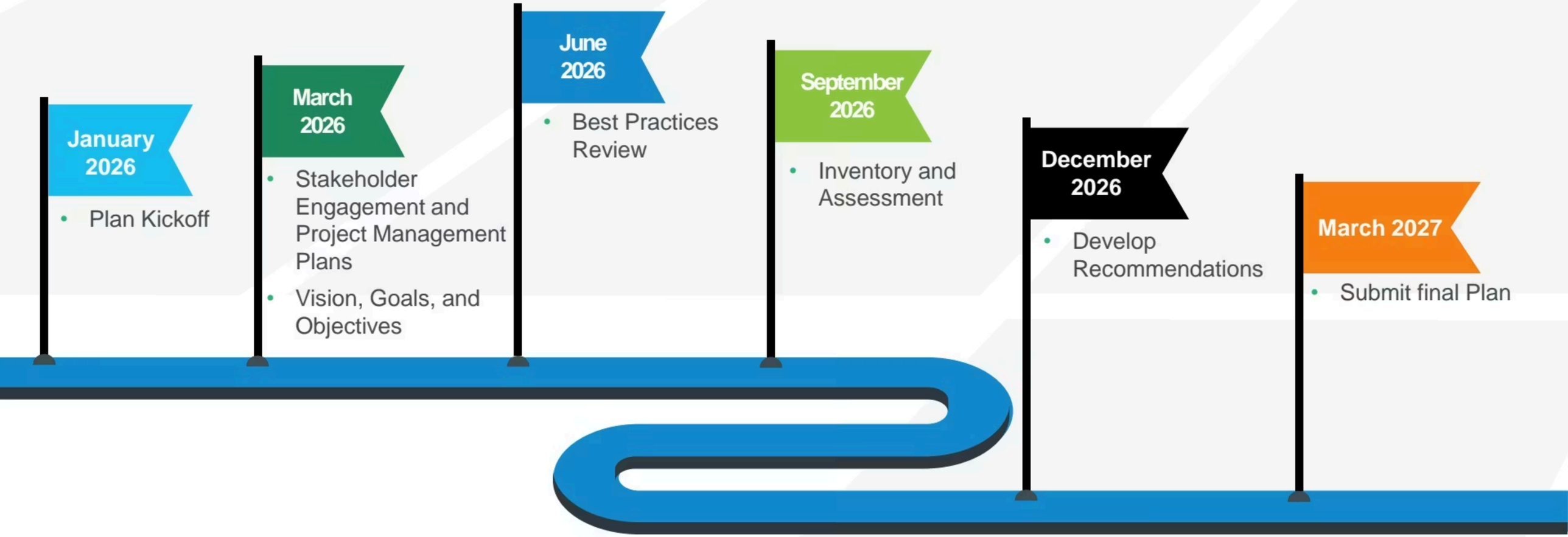
Plan Milestones



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Draft Vision, Goals, and Objectives

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Vision Statement

The South Fulton CID's Sustainable Freight Cluster Plan envisions a logistics corridor where freight moves sustainably, efficiently, and competitively by advancing sustainable transportation modes and practices and strengthening the region's supply chain, while improving quality of life for those who live and work here. Through data-driven investment and regional collaboration, the Plan will reduce freight's environmental footprint, expand sustainable mobility options, optimize freight travel to reduce idling and emissions, and solidify the South Fulton CID's position as a future-ready economic hub connecting metro Atlanta to the world.

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Goals and Objectives

Strategic Goals	Objectives
Invest in Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure. Supports infrastructure investments that improve air quality, reduce environmental impacts, sustainably improve freight travel efficiency, and enhance resilience to extreme weather events.	• **Collaborate with the private sector** to reduce freight-related emissions and air quality impacts by advancing clean vehicle adoption, idle reduction programs, and truck staging areas within the South Fulton CID area. • **Integrate green infrastructure** — such as permeable surfaces and stormwater management features — into transportation corridor improvements to mitigate impacts from extreme weather events.
Advance Safe, Multimodal Transportation Solutions for Workers. Strengthen physical and operational connections between modes so workers can move seamlessly and sustainably across the South Fulton CID area.	• **Increase the number of employers and employees** participating in the Georgia Commute Options (GCO) Program. • **Expand and enhance sidewalks, bike lanes, and other active transportation facilities** to improve first- and last-mile connectivity between trip generators, such as transit stops, lunchtime destinations, nearby amenities and an employee's worksite

Strategic Goals	Objectives
Foster Collaborative, Inclusive Regional Partnerships. Engage a broad set of public and private stakeholders, regional and statewide, to develop solutions to the South Fulton CID's sustainable transportation challenges.	• **Encourage the South Fulton CID's stakeholders to participate actively in the ARC Freight Advisory Task Force** and other regional initiatives focused on sustainable transportation for people and freight. • **Identify private and public partners and funding opportunities** to implement sustainability-focused pilot projects, programs, and other investments that enhance sustainability.
Enhance Economic Competitiveness Through Sustainable Transportation Investments. Promote and implement sustainable transportation solutions that support workforce retention, improve supply chain resiliency, and strengthen the South Fulton CID area's economic position.	• **Support employee retention through worksite sustainability features** such as trails, pocket parks, and/or covered solar parking. • **Demonstrate the economic benefits of sustainable freight practices** and investments that advance the South Fulton CID area's competitive position.

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Task Updates

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Task Updates



Task 2 – Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder interviews, intercept surveys, and engagement activities with the South Fulton CID Board



Task 3 – Best Practices Review

High level review of notable practices to inform analysis and recommendations



Task 4 – Inventory and Assessment

Assessment of current sustainable transportation practices, policies, infrastructure, and opportunities

South Fulton CID Board Engagement Activities (Task 2)

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- The South Fulton CID Board took part in a Visioning Workshop in January 2026. Input was used to develop the draft vision statement, goals, and objectives.



Upcoming Board Feedback Opportunities:

- Best Practices (Aug. 2026)
- Inventory and Assessment Findings (Sep. 2026)
- Recommendations (Jan. 2027)

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Stakeholder Interviews (Task 2)

- Stakeholder interviews are underway as we engage South Fulton CID businesses on key topic areas including:
  - Company-Specific Sustainability Goals and Policies
  - Sustainable Infrastructure Assets
  - Alternative Fuel Freight Vehicles
  - Workforce Sustainable Transportation Options

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What We're Hearing so Far:

- Opportunities for alternative fuel freight vehicles are a key consideration as multiple companies in the South Fulton CID operate private fleets.
- Early interviews indicate that companies have begun adopting these technologies and there may be opportunities for growth.

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Intercept Survey (Task 2)

- An intercept survey focused on freight workers in the CID study area is a key engagement activity.
  - *How do workers currently travel? Where do they want to go? How can we support sustainable modes?*
- The recently launched MARTA NextGen Bus Network impacts worker commutes as many rely on transit.
- The intercept surveys are being collected at both public transit sites and employer sites.



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Best Practices Review (Task 3)

- High-level review of notable sustainable transportation and supply chain practices
- Key focus areas include:
  - Approaches to reduce emissions and consumption of non-renewable resources
  - Approaches to reduce pollution due to employee commutes
  - Approaches to help freight be a ‘good neighbor’



Maersk-ProLogis Denker Charging Deport, Los Angeles, CA.

What are some notable sustainable transportation and freight practices that you're aware of? What best practices should we be sure to include?

Freight signal priority

tech-driven route and load optimization

We would like to discuss this in further details. Please contact Donna Mullins at donna.mullins@kalelogistics.com

equipment pilots where the ROI and TCO make sense

renewable fuels (renewable diesel, RNG)

Autonomous truck / rail on dedicated last mile corridors

Atlanta Gas Light has a total cost of ownership tool for CNG trucks that they will work with fleets on for free.

Drone and robot last mile delivery

What are some notable sustainable transportation and freight practices that you're aware of? What best practices should we be sure to include?

- Shift deliveries to rail
- E-cargo bikes for urban last-mile deliveries
- Dedicated truck lanes
- Port and inland community system platforms for staging of trucks based on cargo availability

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Inventory and Assessment (Task 4)

Alternative Fuels

- Assessment of heavy-duty alternative fueling locations and infrastructure, current adoption status among CID area companies, and relevant programs to support adoption

Employee Access

- E.g., current employee commutes and opportunities for more sustainable access to worksites

Site- and Employer-Specific Transportation Reviews

- Field visits to assess sustainable applications of green parking lots and roofs, permeable surfaces, TDM programs, and others

Supply Chain Sustainability

- Local government incentives and disincentives for improving sustainability in supply chains as well as company practices and policies

Other Relevant Topic Areas

- Sustainable Transportation Assets – bioswales, solar panels, bike/ped infrastructure, etc.
- Truck Origin-Destination Patterns – truck trip-making patterns to support alternative fueling opportunities

- Detailed inventory of existing freight sustainability-related conditions and an assessment of current and future freight sustainability-related needs and opportunities in the CID area

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Next Steps

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Next Steps

- Over the next 3 months, key activities include:
  - Completing the first draft of the Best Practices Review (Task 3)
  - Continue stakeholder interviews and complete the employee intercept surveys (Task 2)
  - Initial draft analysis for the Inventory and Assessment (Task 4)

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Thank you

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