

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

TAQC-ARC Board

January 11, 2023

Executive Summary

ARC is required to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) every four years.

Each Plan update provides an opportunity for **regional policymakers to reset regional policy and priorities**. An important element of this Plan update process is understanding **alternative futures and scenarios**. A major work session is planned for April with regional policymakers to **discuss alternative futures and regional disrupters**.

During 2023, ARC staff will work with the TAQC and ARC Board to:

- Revisit the regional policy framework
- Assess “disrupters” that will impact the region in the future
- Review alternative scenarios for the region
- Conduct the work necessary to adopt an updated Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in January 2024



Atlanta Regional Commission

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

2050 is the horizon Year for the Plan

\$173 billion Total value of all of the investments in the Plan

The last full update of the Plan was adopted by the Board in Feb 2020

This update will be adopted by the TAQC and the Board in January 2024

Time for Emergence of a New Vision for Metropolitan Atlanta

Prior Planning Work and Opportunity to Craft an Updated MTP

One Great Region

Updated
Baseline
Scenarios
and Policy
Framework

**The Atlanta
Region's Plan**

Reflected
transit
referendums

**The Atlanta
Region's Plan**
Scenario
Planning
Emphasis

Plan 2040

Addressed
Issues with
declining
funding

Envision 6

Responded to a
larger region

Mobility 2030

Transit
emphasis and
Express Lanes

**Transportation
Solutions for a
New Century**

MTP that
brought
region out of
non-
attainment.

VISION 2020

Establishes
vision for
growth

2000

2004

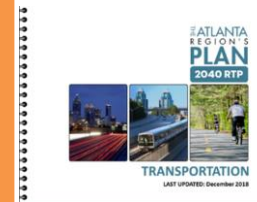
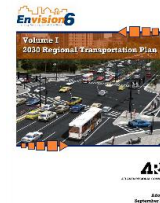
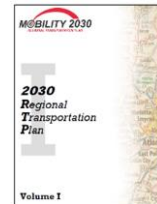
2006

2011

2016

2020

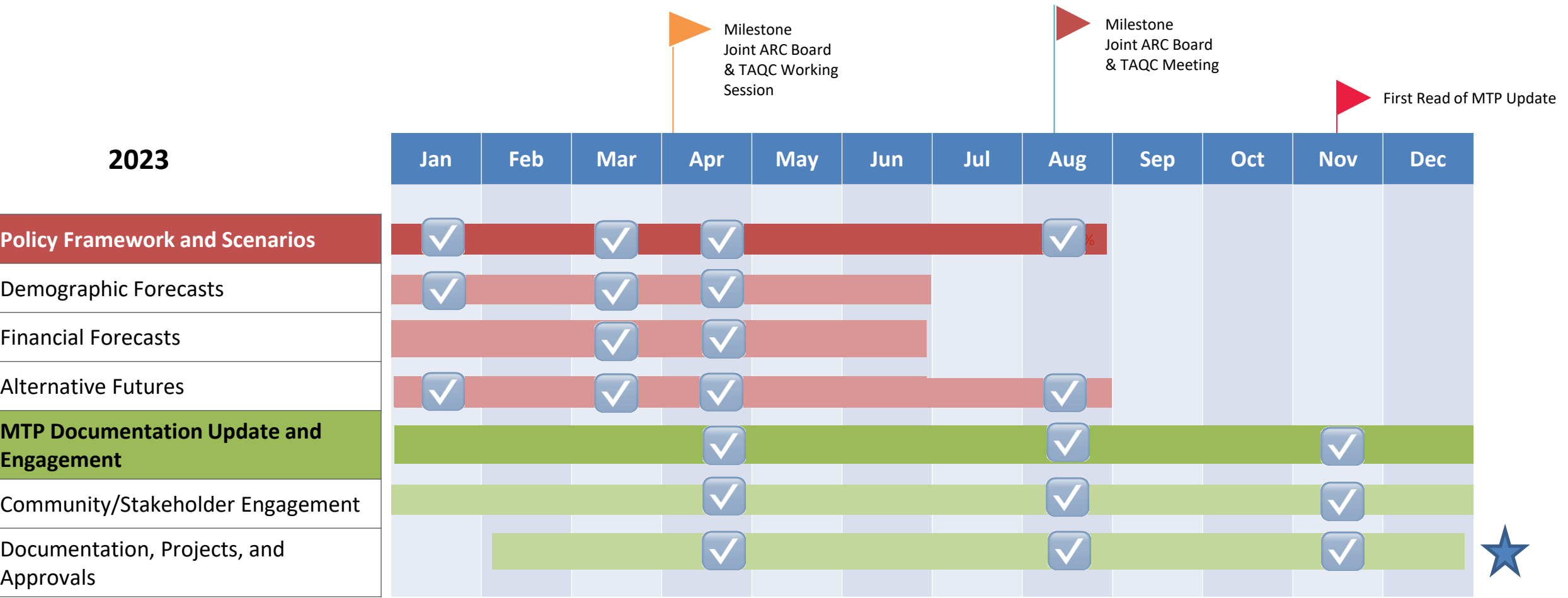
2024



Project Management

2023 MTP Work Activities

Final Review and Approval Required: January 2024



Key ARC Board / TAQC Coordination Points



Final Review & Approval: Jan. 2024

Critical Success Factors

1) Take stock of existing conditions and establish a new baseline for transportation planning and decision-making and 2) Develop strategic forecasts, scenarios and policy to guide future investment decisions.

1

Public participation strategy that includes local government coordination; Speaker's bureau and public meetings; Focus groups and small group discussions; Virtual public involvement; ConnectATL

2

Meeting **evolving federal planning emphasis areas**, including Climate, Electrification, Equity / Justice40, and other items in the IIJA and Executive Orders

3

Coordinate with **State-level planning** directions associated with mobility, **including the STIP update, MMIP, freight and electrification**

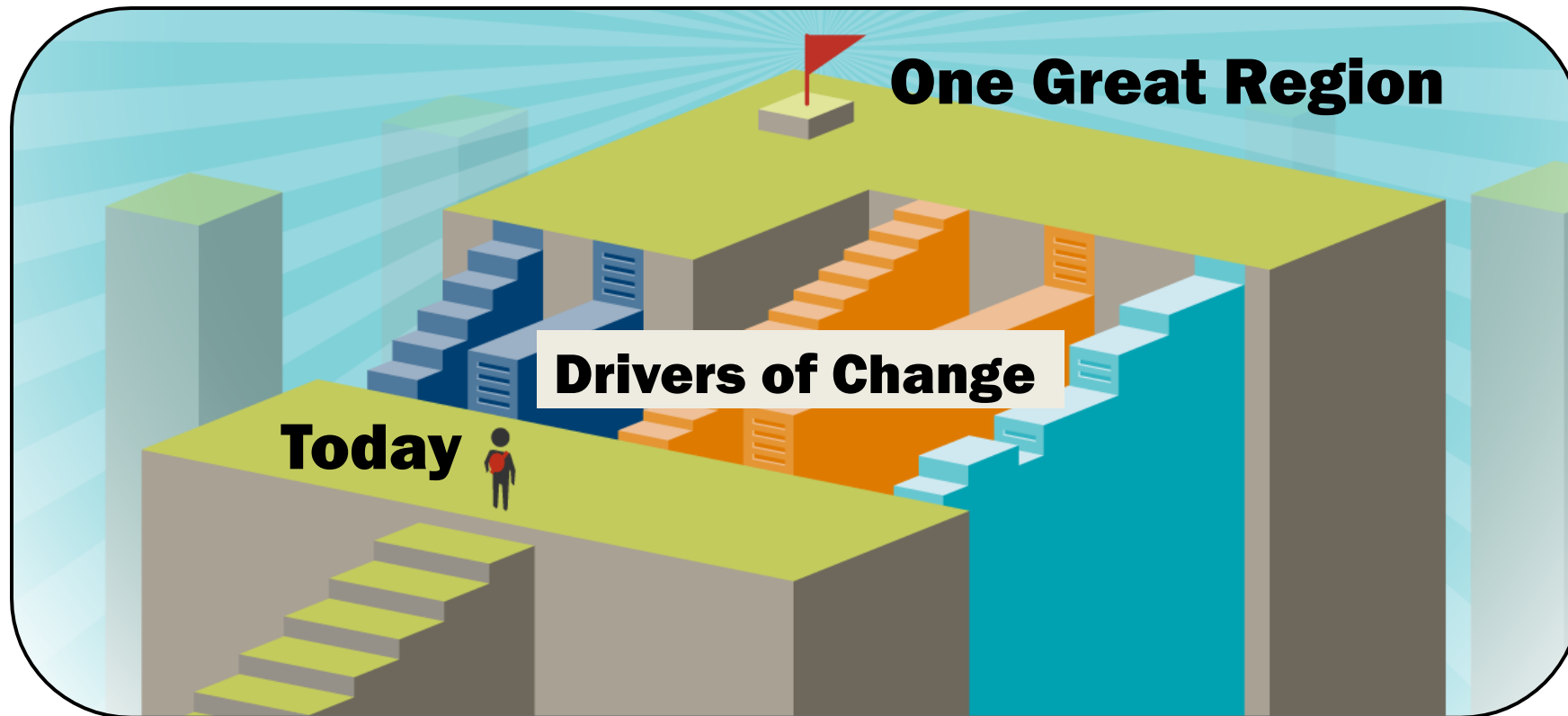
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Respond to updated **local and regional program adjustments**, including MARTA's program and ARC's emphasis on land use, **housing** and the Unified Growth Policy Map

Scenario Planning Process at a Glance

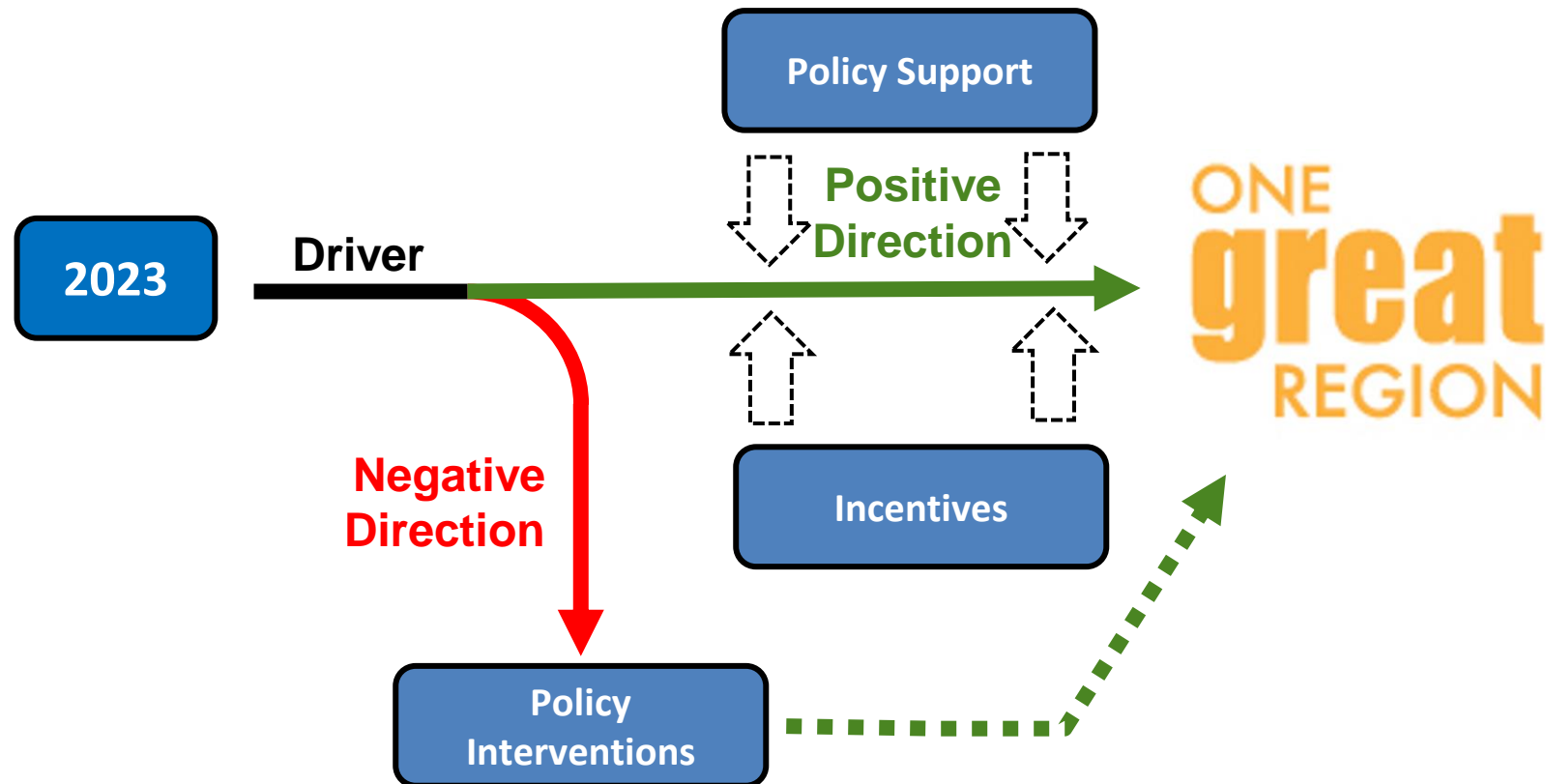
Scenario Planning helps Policymakers Understand the Future and what Paths can Lead to Success

To best understand and plan for the future, it is critical to identify the primary drivers of change. Extensive work was previously done on identifying these drivers of change. The time has come to update and revise the drivers of change and discussion on drivers of change and scenarios will be the focus of discussion at our April work session.



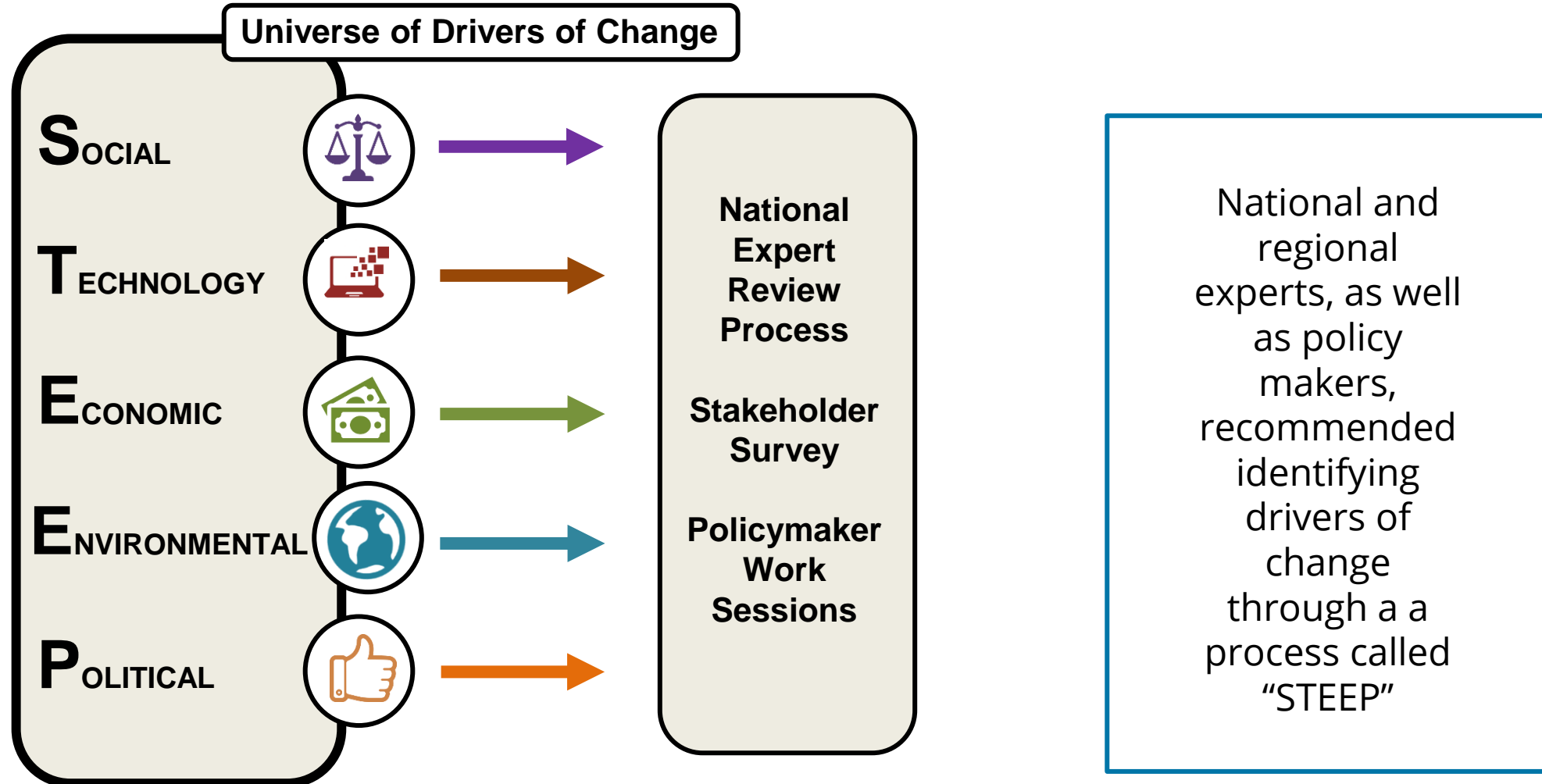
In order to support the long-term outcome of having “One Great Region” we need to understand where potential policy interventions are needed

Alternative scenarios helps to inform this process and provides policymakers with information on the future.

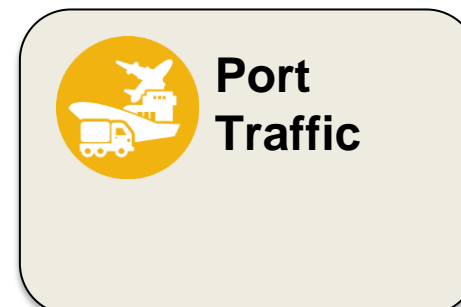
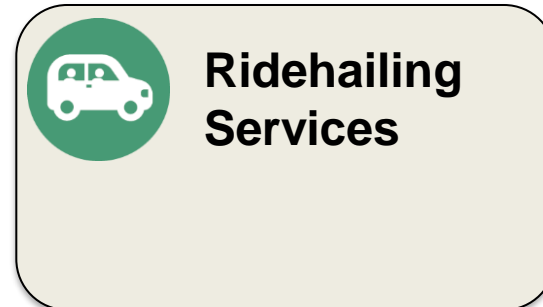
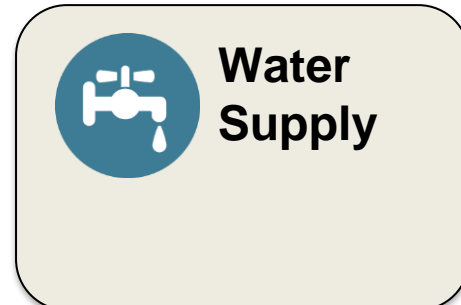
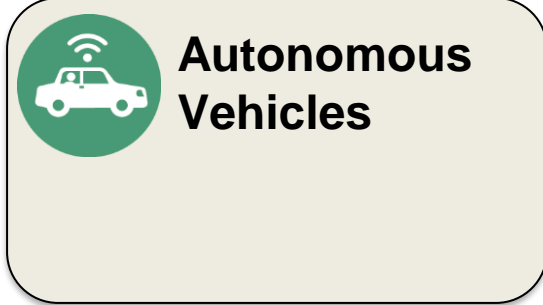


Drivers of Change

The Atlanta Region was one of five regions selected by USDOT to receive supplemental funding assistance to implement next generation scenario planning between 2015 and 2017. A key outcome was identifying disruptive changes impacting the region.



Nine Key Drivers of Change – or Disruptors – Were Identified and Scenarios were Built Around Addressing these Challenges



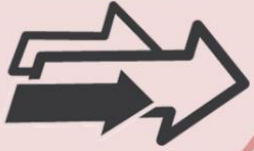
One key emphasis area was technology and the impact on workplaces and travel

Other critical drivers of change included the emergence of Georgia as a freight hub, climate change regulations, and a changing population

Highlights of Prior
Scenario Planning
Work that
Supported the
Current Regional
Vision

Prior Scenario Planning Assessed Four Alternatives

Full Steam Ahead



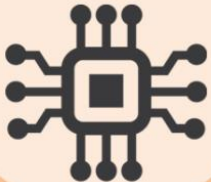
Full Steam Ahead most closely mirrors current forecasts and projections; trends that were present in the first two decades of the 21st century continue at a moderately accelerated pace. Full Steam Ahead is “business as usual” – development patterns are driven by current lifestyle preferences and short term financial return on investment, but the region is slow to respond to significant long term shifts in demographics.

Fierce Headwinds



Global instability effects metro Atlanta in a myriad of ways. Population growth has slowed; the economy is stagnant; extreme weather events are the new normal. Uncertainty necessitates a new course for metro Atlanta.

Technology Reigns



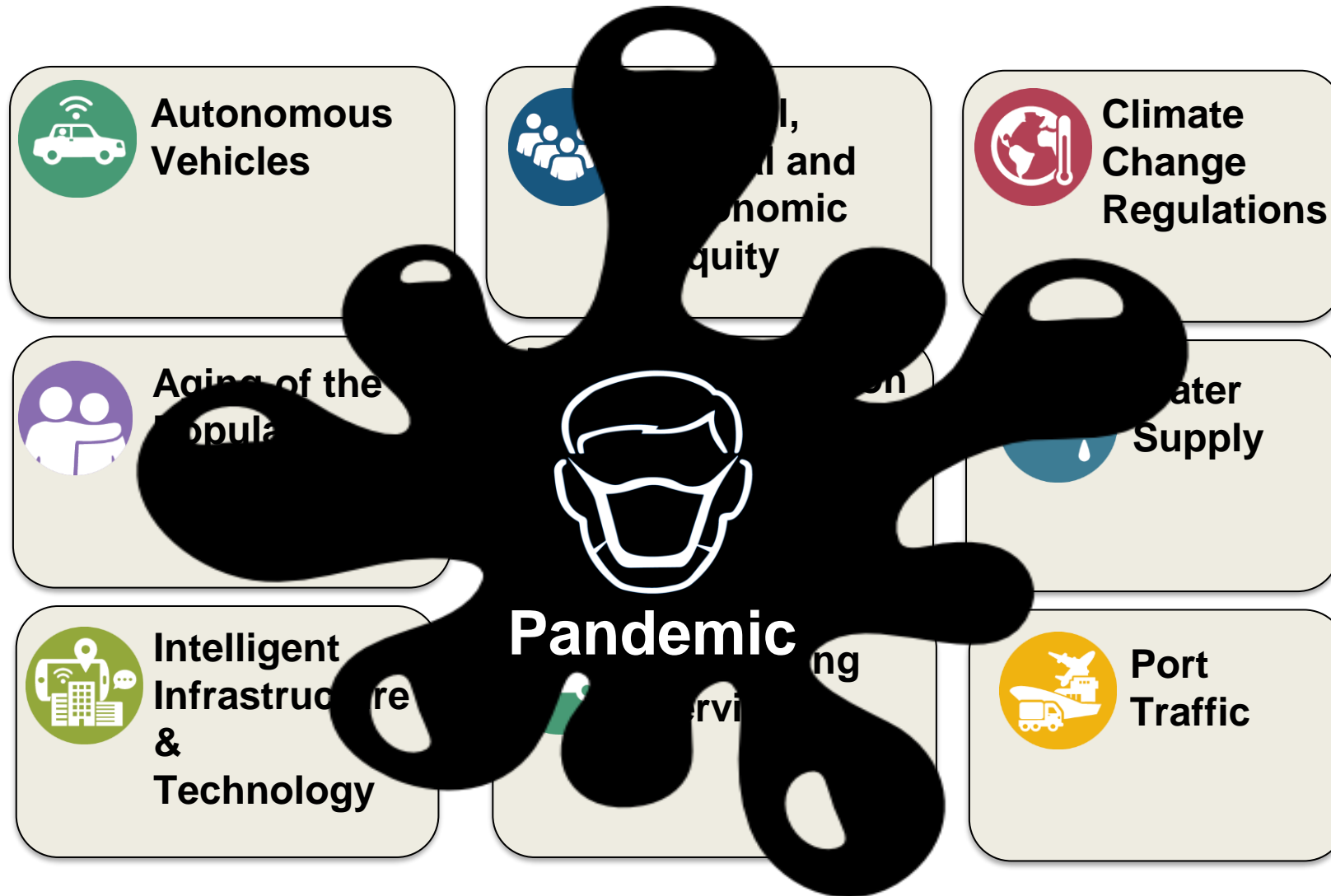
Technological advances vastly improve the quality of life for the metro Atlanta residents who have the means to take advantage of new innovations. Autonomous vehicles, renewable energy, and reliable robots abound. However, the pace of change has yielded negative consequences for some of the region’s more marginalized communities as the digital divide grows and automatization replaces jobs for unskilled workers.

Green Growth



Sustainability is on the forefront of public consciousness. With an emphasis on green growth, Metro Atlanta’s new economic, social, and transportation priorities reflect strong environmental ethics. Once the poster child for resource-intensive development patterns, Metro Atlanta is now a model for protecting its natural resources.

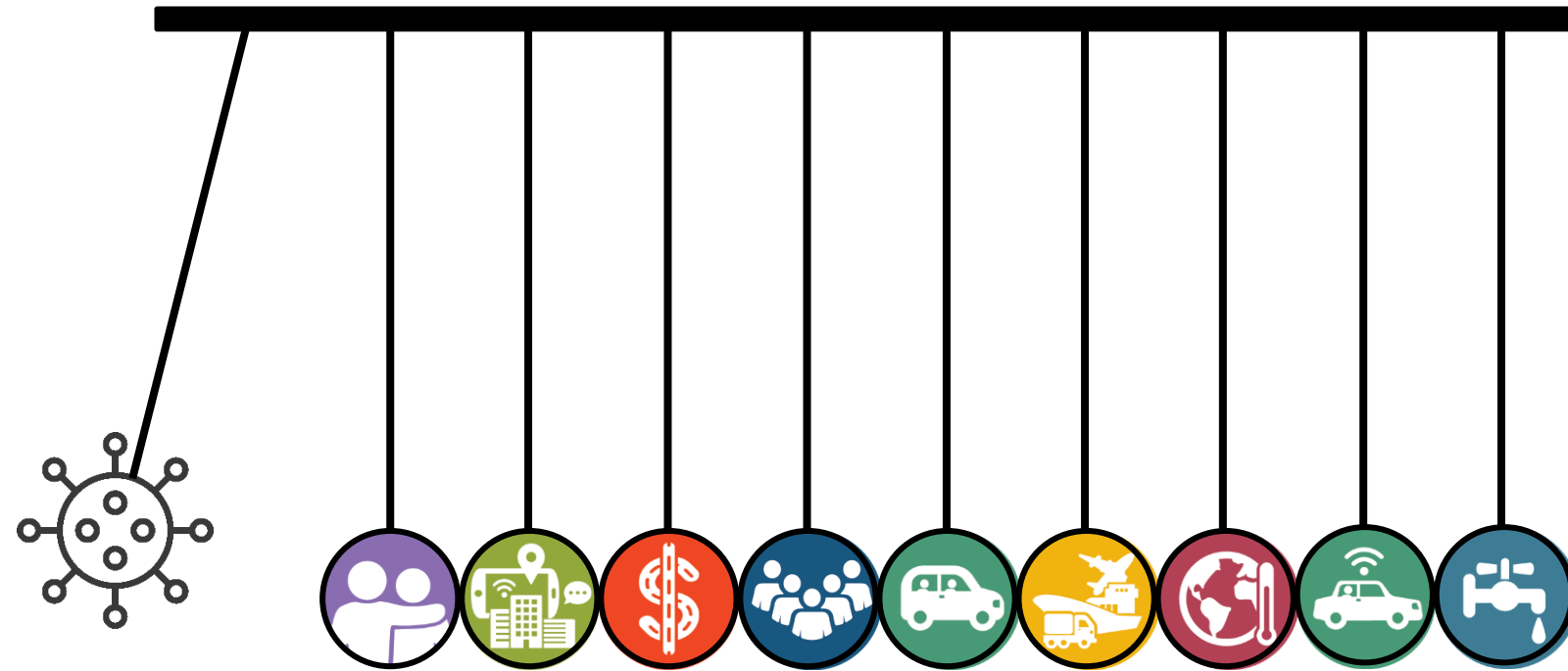
Key Challenge: The Most Significant Disruptors can be Unexpected



COVID 19 has fundamentally changed the region

Has impacted commutes, housing, and regional growth

Moving Forward it is Critical to Focus on System Shocks



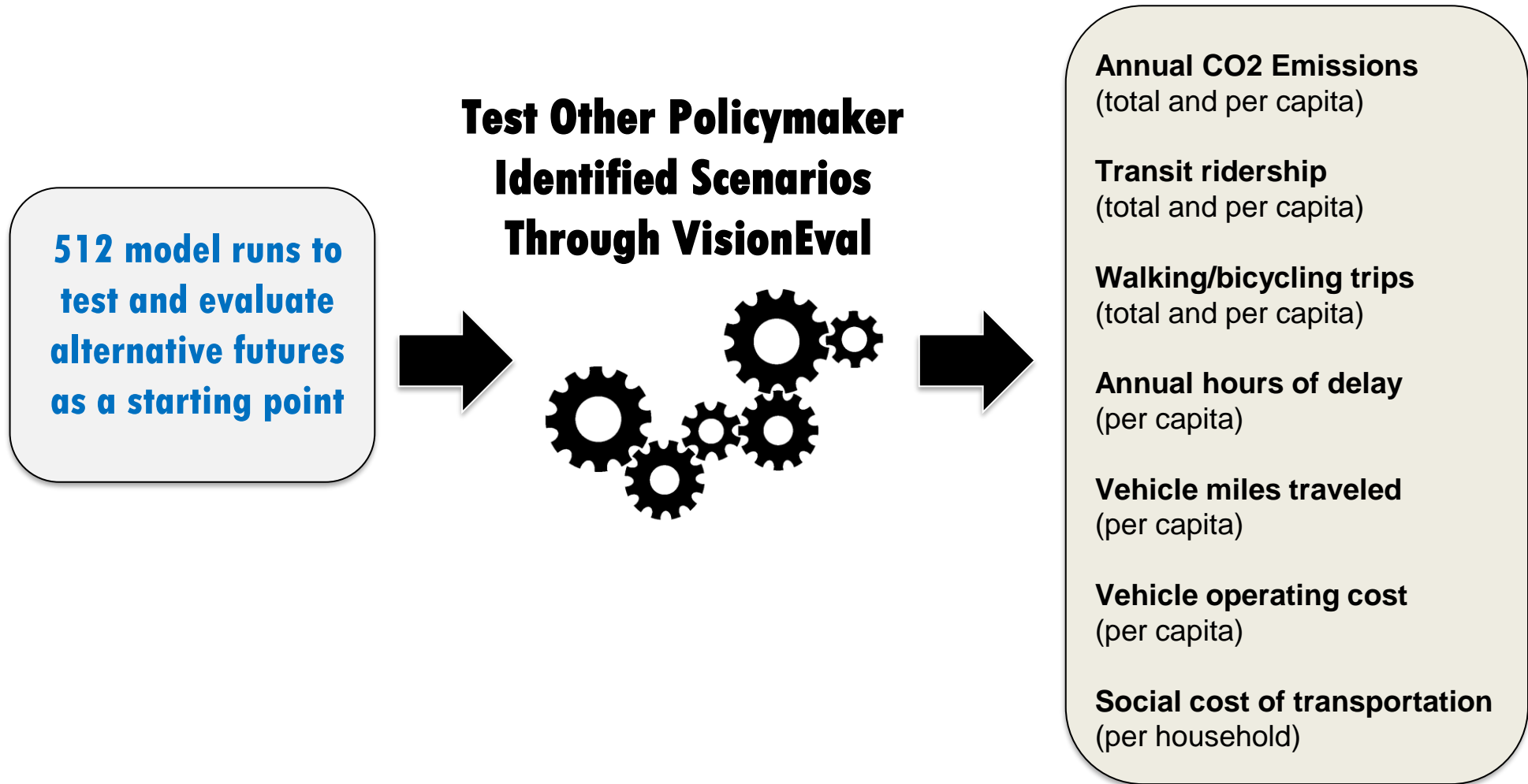
What other unexpected system shocks could our region experience in the future?

ARC will use new tools (VisionEval) to Assess Future Scenarios*

INPUT				
Regional Context	Local Actions		Collaborative Actions	
	Community Design	Marketing & Incentives	Vehicles & Fuels	Pricing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demographics• Income growth• Fuel price	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transit service• Future housing (single and multi-family)• Parking fees• Bicycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel demand management strategies• Car sharing• Education on driving efficiency• Intelligent transportation systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicle fuel economy (mpg)• Fuel types• Commercial fleet information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay-as-you-drive insurance• Gas taxes• Road user fees

*Illustrative examples of inputs that can be adjusted in model and does not include all variables.

Performance Metrics will Help Inform Discussions for the April Working Session



Polymaker Feedback....What are the Key Drivers of Change Post-Pandemic? Examples

WHAT ARE WE MISSING?



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY RELATIVE TO NATIONAL PEERS

The ability to afford rents and mortgages has historically been one of region's great assets



IMPACT OF REMOTE WORKING ON JOB CENTERS AND COMMUNITIES

How will job centers and communities respond? Is this a permanent change in the way we work?



FEDERAL POLICY CHANGES AND IJA

Onshoring of manufacturing for electric vehicle industry and the Executive order to assess net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

Policymaker Feedback for Today...

In preparation for the April Working Session please provide feedback on:

- 1) What do you see as the primary “drivers of change” in the future?
- 2) Are there planning scenarios that ARC should test?