



RECONNECTING THE REGION

Bridging Divides. Fostering Thriving Communities.

Board Work Session

Friday, April 19, 2024 | Embassy Suites, Halcyon

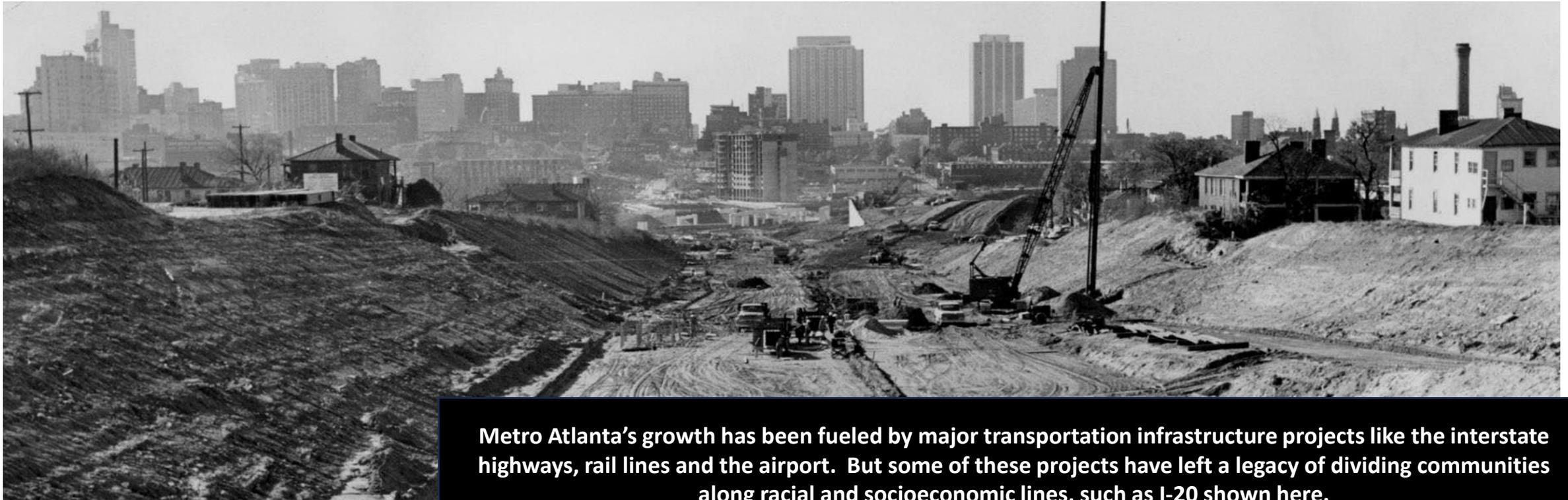


Atlanta Regional Commission

ONE **great** REGION



The Challenge: What's at Stake

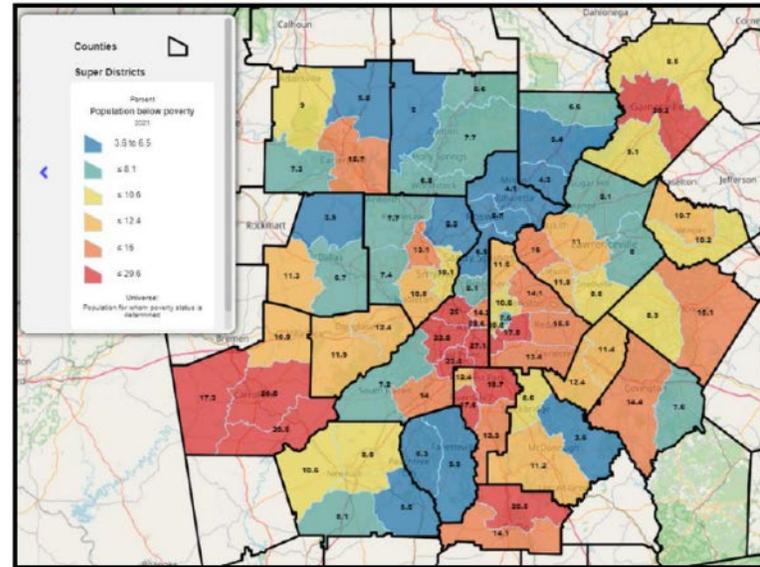
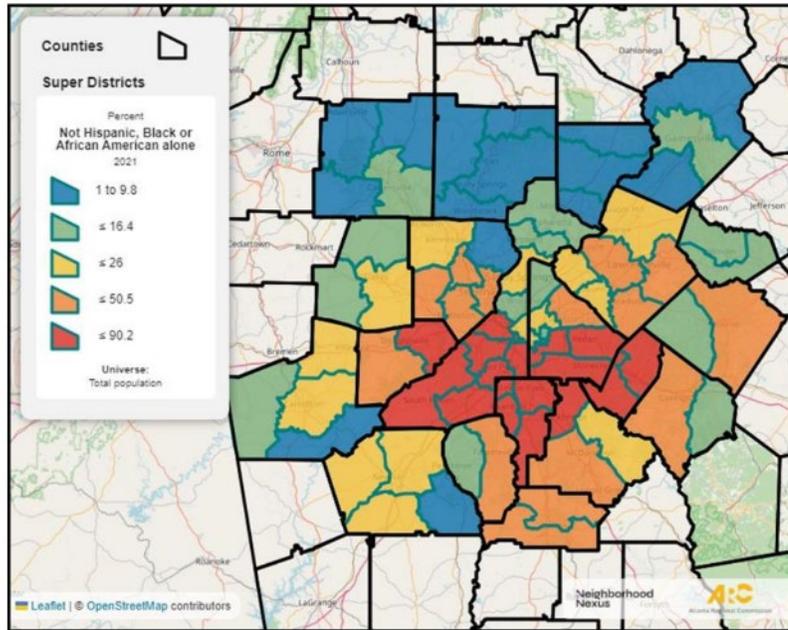


Metro Atlanta's growth has been fueled by major transportation infrastructure projects like the interstate highways, rail lines and the airport. But some of these projects have left a legacy of dividing communities along racial and socioeconomic lines, such as I-20 shown here.

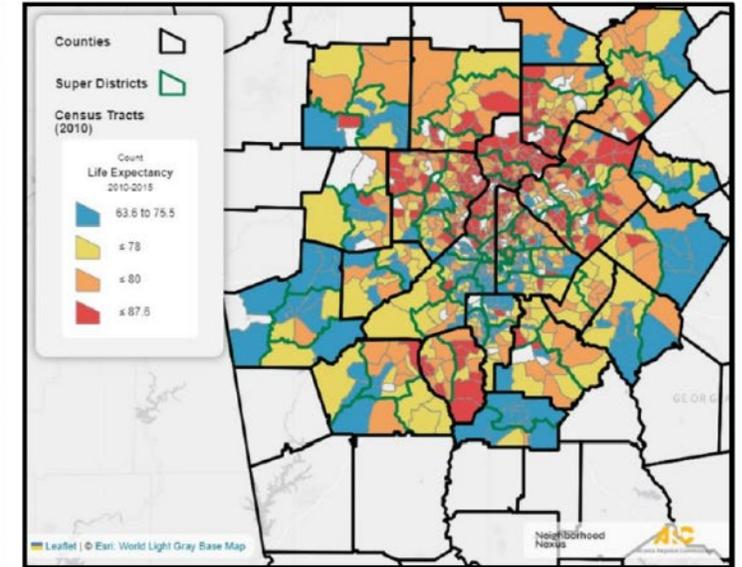


A Racial Divide...

...That Has Contributed to Great Disparities



Poverty Rate



Life Expectancy



The Opportunity: Tapping New Funding Sources



14 key transportation grant applications with an estimated \$11.4 billion available each year through 2026.

USDOT is prioritizing projects that:

- Are multi-jurisdictional or regional in scope.
- Reconnect communities divided by infrastructure.
- Improve access to jobs, education, healthcare, food, green space, and recreation.
- Foster equitable development and restoration.



Bridging Divides. Fostering Thriving Communities.

The Reconnecting the Region Initiative aims to build authentic connections between communities and create an inclusive, prosperous future for the metro Atlanta region through strategic storytelling, nurturing a strong sense of community and providing opportunities for efficient travel within the metro Atlanta region.



Regional Catalytic Projects (Identified Summer 2023)



Belt Line to Flint River Trail
\$50M federal grant (Mar 2024)



Regional Electrification Program
\$6.1M federal grant (Jan 2024)



The Stitch
\$158M federal grant (Mar 2024)



Regional Catalytic Projects (Identified Summer 2023)



Chattahoochee RiverLands
Funding application under review



Clayton County BRT



GA 400 BRT Stations



The Chicago Model: Proof of Concept

Northeastern Illinois Priority Investments

Leveraging federal funding opportunities for transformative infrastructure

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

February 2024

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS PRIORITY INVESTMENTS

Priority programs

- Accessibility
- Bridges and grade separations
- Decarbonizing transportation
- Bus priority
- Safe Travel for All Roadmap
- Greenways and trails

NOTE: Priority programs are implemented throughout the region and are not reflected as individual points on the map.

✈ Airport
--- Rail
— Highway & Interstate
— Major road

Priority projects

- 1 Chicago Hub Improvement Program**
Amtrak, IDOT, Michigan DOT, CDOT, Metra, Cook County
- 2 Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project**
CDOT
- 3 West Side Community Connectivity**
CDOT
- 4 Grand Gateway Grade Separation**
Cook County, IDOT, Metra, Illinois Commerce Commission
- 5 Overcoming Expressways**
Cook County
- 6 65th Street and Harlem Avenue Grade Separation**
CREATE, IDOT, CDOT, Cook County
- 7 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project**
CREATE, IDOT, CDOT, Cook County, Metra
- 8 Red Line Extension**
CTA
- 9 I-290 Blue Line Modernization**
IDOT, CTA, CDOT
- 10 Regionwide Arterial Traffic Management Center**
IDOT
- 11 Cedar Lake Road Realignment**
Lake County
- 12 Randall Road at Hopps Road Intersection Improvements and Grade Separation**
Kane County
- 13 Rock Island Intercity Improvements**
Metra, Amtrak
- 14 Pace SW Division Garage Electrification**
Pace
- 15 Expansion of free and reduced fares**
RTA

● Transformative projects ● Priority grade crossings
● Corridor improvements ○ Regionwide
● Transit / passenger rail Note: Alphabetical by sponsor, not ranked by priority.

8 Northeastern Illinois Priority Investments | 2024 9



RtR: More Than Just Transportation

ARC is uniquely positioned to advance a wide array of multi-disciplined projects, programs and initiatives that can be championed and supported by its various divisions.

- Aging and Independence Services
- Community Development
- Homeland Security and Recovery
- Mobility Services
- Natural Resources
- Research and Analytics
- Transportation Planning
- Workforce Solutions



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.

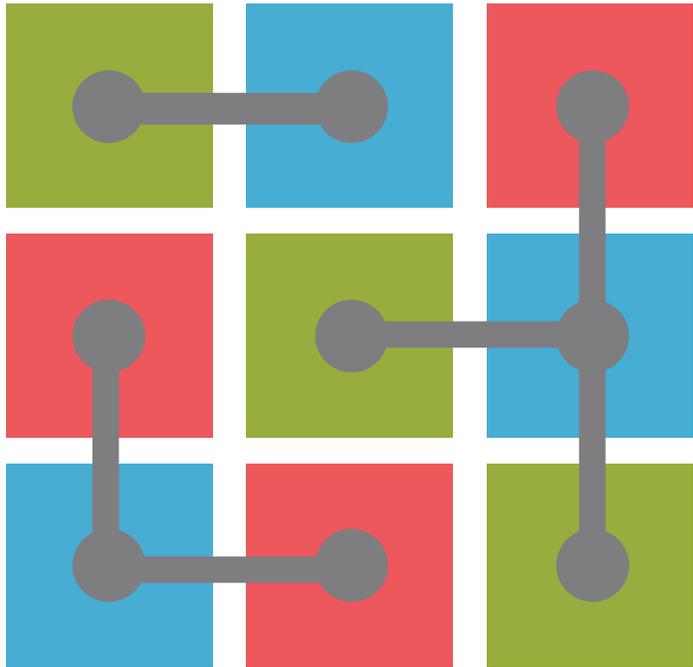
 **Diverse stakeholders engage** and take a regional approach to solve local issues.

 **A competitive economy** that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.



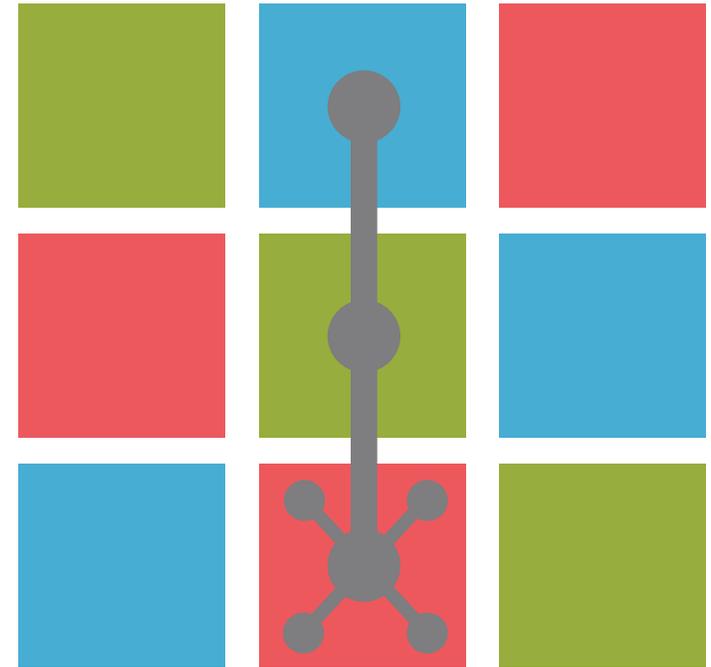
What Defines a RtR Project?

REGIONAL SCALE



Expands and/or improves access between disadvantaged communities and the rest of the region, either through large-scale multijurisdictional investments or smaller-scale “first/last mile” connections and complementary services and programs

COMMUNITY SCALE





Your Turn: Identifying Potential New Projects



2

Staff identified transportation projects or programs for regional discretionary funding prioritization

+

2

Other staff-identified supportive initiatives to investigate for implementation opportunities

+

1

Surprise us! What did we miss?



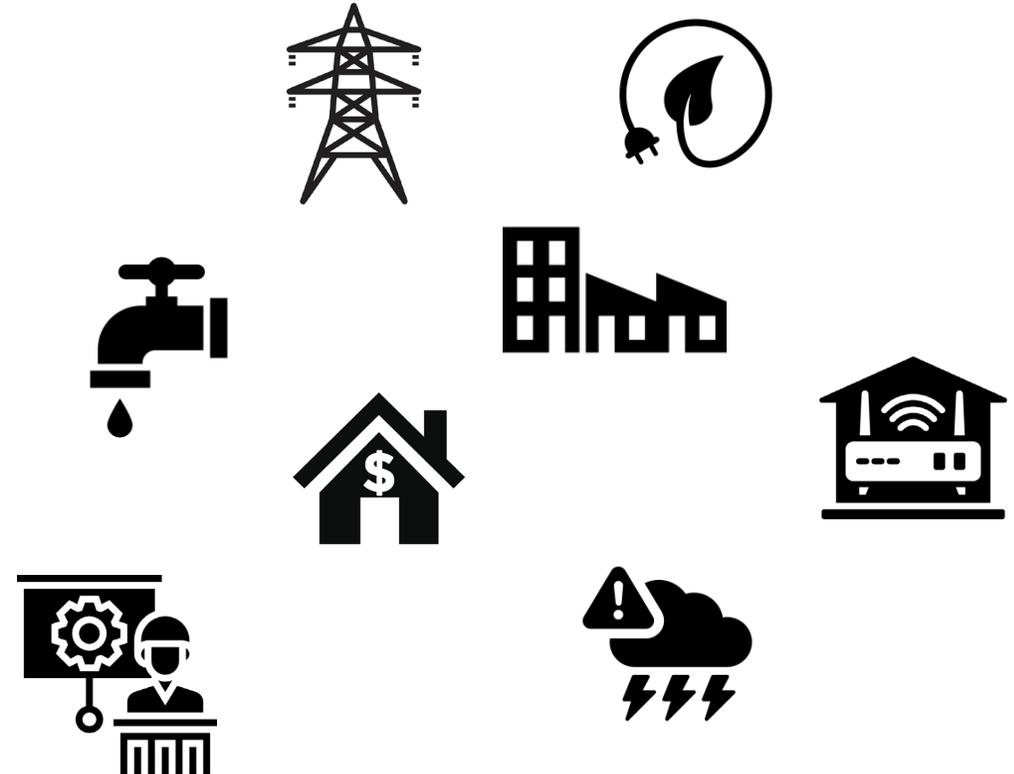
Potential Transportation Projects & Programs

- **Transit**
 - Light rail, BRT and ART services
 - MARTA infill rail stations
 - Local transit service expansions and hubs
 - Fare collection system upgrades
- **Bicycle / Pedestrian**
 - Trail/path connections between communities
 - Local bike-ped networks, with emphasis on connections to transit services, job centers, health care, retail, and government services
 - Coordinated micromobility services and docking program
- **Safety**
 - Comprehensive multimodal safety investments
- **Freight**
 - Regional rail safety and efficiency improvements
 - Regional truck parking strategy
- **Other**
 - Airport access and circulation
 - Additional phases of current partially funded projects



Other Staff-Identified Opportunities

- **Electrical grid capacity and resilience**
- **Clean energy production, storage and distribution**
- **Water and stormwater infrastructure**
- **Transit oriented development**
- **Affordable housing**
- **Workforce training**
- **Climate change adaptation**
- **Broadband access**





RtR Prioritization Considerations

- **Strategic alignment:** Does the need and purpose of the project/program align well with the Reconnecting the Region concept?
- **Programmatic alignment:** Which funding program(s) does the project scope most closely align with?
- **Project ‘ownership’:** Is there an agency willing and able to serve as the lead applicant (jurisdictional authority, match and technical capacity, ability to negotiate subgrant agreements, etc.)?
- **Readiness:** Is the project/program ready to advance into implementation?