



STILL

BOOMING

after all these

YEARS

SIXTY YEARS

of REGIONAL PLANNING AND PROGRESS

1947-2007



A&C

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION



Since 1947, the Atlanta Regional Commission and its predecessor agencies have brought together the region's leaders to plan for the future and act on shared opportunities and challenges. Regional planning milestones include the Chattahoochee Corridor Study, which led to protection of precious water supplies for our region...the first parallel runway system in the nation that led today's busiest airport...the first rapid rail system in the South...and the Livable Centers Initiative, which is creating better places to live. With the Atlanta region's population expected to grow to 7 million by 2030, ARC continues to work with local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations and citizens to help create the kinds of communities we desire, now and in the future. Together, we can keep metro metro Atlanta booming and thriving for many years to come.



1950s



1947 | The **Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)** is created and becomes the first publicly funded, multi-county planning agency in the U. S. Member governments include DeKalb and Fulton counties and the City of Atlanta.

1950 | Building begins on **Buford Dam** at Lake Lanier by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for navigation, hydropower, flood control and water supply for the Atlanta area.

1952 | MPC recommends the development of a **transit system**.

Up Ahead, the region's first comprehensive development plan, calls for contained growth within a beltway (I-285), conversion of a naval airport in Chamblee to a civilian airport (Peachtree DeKalb), a civic center and merchandise mart in downtown Atlanta, along with several major parks including Stone Mountain and a portion of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

1954 | *Now... For Tomorrow*, a revised regional plan, recommends more expansive growth, study that would result in DeKalb General and South Fulton hospitals and improvements to the bus transit system including express buses on new expressways when completed.

1955 | MPC produces first, annual **"Population & Housing"** report, which continues today.

1959 | Region reaches the **1 million** population mark.

1960 | The MPC publishes *What You Should Know About Rapid Transit*, confirming the necessity for rapid rail.

Atlanta Region Metropolitan Planning Commission (ARMPC) is formed as successor to MPC, adding three new member counties — **Clayton, Cobb** and **Gwinnett**.

1962 | New **Regional Development Plan** and **Plan for Rapid Transit** are adopted by ARMPC.

1963 | First **Nature Preserves Plan** is adopted for Atlanta Region.

1965 | First **Airport Systems Plan** in U. S. is created and adopted by ARMPC, calling for a midfield terminal and first parallel runways in the nation.

1966 | **Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)** becomes an operating agency.

1967 | ARMPC helps spearhead region's first criminal justice plan: **Next Move, Planning for Less Crime**.

1968 | ARMPC adopts an updated regional development plan that for the first time includes plans for major activity centers like **Buckhead** and **Perimeter Center**.

1969 | Last two links of **I-285** built. **Areawide Water/Sewer Plan** completed.

1971 | Act 5 is passed by the Georgia General Assembly combining several agencies into a new planning authority to become the **Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)** the next year.

1970s



ARC, MARTA and the Georgia Highway Department sign a **“tri-party” agreement for regional transportation planning and cooperation**, the first of its kind in the country — used later as a model by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

The **MARTA referendum passes** in Fulton and DeKalb counties, leading the way for a mass transit rail and bus system.

1972 | ARC is officially created, with **Dan Sweat** as the first executive director. **Ernest Barrett** begins his tenure as ARC chair, a post he holds through 1984.

Chattahoochee River Corridor Study completed.

1973 | The **Metropolitan River Protection Act** is passed by the Georgia General Assembly.

Douglas and Rockdale counties join ARC.

1974 | ARC is designated as **Area Agency on Aging**.

1975 | ARC adopts its first **Regional Development Plan**.

1978 | ARC joins other regional partners in forming the **Alliance for Human Services Planning**.

1979 | ARC co-sponsors first **Silver-Haired Legislature**.

First **MARTA** rail line opens.

1980 | **Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport’s** new terminal opens.

1981 | ARC establishes the **Aging Information and Referral Network**.

1983 | ARC designated as the administrative agency for **job training** programs.

1984 | ARC initiates **Major Development Area Plan Reviews**.

Region reaches **2 million** in population.

1985 | ARC **Regional Development Plan** is updated to reflect rapid growth.

1989 | **Georgia Planning Act** passes, providing strength to ARC planning process.

Henry County joins ARC.

1990 | **Human Services Investment Strategy** created — first long-range plan for prioritizing human service needs for region.

1991 | ARC and Metro Business Forum co-found the **Regional Leadership Institute**.

Fayette County joins ARC.

1992 | ARC adopts **Regional Solid Waste Management Plan**.

ARC helps **4,000 dislocated workers** find training and assistance, in the wake of the Eastern Airlines closing.

1993 | ARC’s **VISION 2020** is the largest community collaborative planning effort ever conducted in the U. S., involving thousands of citizens to build a future regional vision and priority steps to achieve it.

Cherokee County joins ARC.

1995 | ARC produces first **Economic Development Information System (EDIS)** CD-ROM in the country.

Commute Connections program launches to promote carpooling, teleworking and other commuter programs.

2000s



1996 | Region reaches **3 million** in population.

ARC launches transportation plan for **Centennial Olympic Games**.

1997 | ARC works to develop new **2020 Regional Development Plan**, with associated Water Supply and Regional Transportation Plans.

1998 | ARC establishes two leadership programs, the **Model Atlanta Regional Commission** youth leadership program and the **LINK** city visits program, to expand regional vision and stewardship.

ARC and partners create the **Thanks Mom and Dad Foundation** to support aging programs.

The **Metropolitan River Protection Act** is amended to extend protection of the Chattahoochee River from Peachtree Creek to the southern limit of Fulton County.

1999 | ARC creates the **Livable Centers Initiative** to provide planning grants to town and employment centers to study how to create more connectivity, livability and viability for their future.

2000 | ARC adopts **Transportation Solutions for a New Century**, which meets air quality requirements and provides a multi-modal approach to regional mobility.

2001 | ARC provides professional planning staff to the 16-county **Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**, established to insure future water supply and quality for fast growing metropolis.

2002 | ARC's **Community Choices** program expands to provide a range of community building tools for local governments.

The Aging Network serves over **one million meals** to older adults in the Atlanta Region.

With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ARC launches the **Aging Atlanta** initiative to create an age-friendly region.

2003 | Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District **adopts three plans** to address water conservation and supply, watershed protection and long-term wastewater management.

2004 | **Mobility 2030**, a \$54 billion regional transportation plan, provides dramatic expansions to the region's transportation systems. **2005** | ARC leads a **Transit Institutional Study** to create a path towards expanded, coordinated and seamless transit services for regional residents.

"The Shape of Things to Come," an ARC-sponsored 30-minute television show, is initiated to better inform regional residents about pressing issues and opportunities facing the Atlanta region.

The first **Kinship Center** for grandparents raising grandchildren opens in Clayton County

2006 | On January 1, the first **baby boomers turn 60**.

The region's first **Transit Planning Board** is formed to spearhead a seamless transit system for the Atlanta region.

2007 | ARC commemorates **60 years of regional planning**.



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