



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
regional impact + local relevance

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ARC Board Approves \$173 Billion in Transportation Projects through 2050 to Improve Mobility in Metro Atlanta and Cherokee County

(ATLANTA – February 26, 2020) – The Atlanta Regional Commission Board today approved a major update to the Atlanta Region’s Plan that allocates \$173 billion in federal, state, and local funding through 2050 to improve mobility and safety in metro Atlanta.

Notable projects in Cherokee that will begin in the next decade include:

- **Widening about 6 miles of SR 20 to six lanes**, from I-575 to East Cherokee Drive, with turn lanes at major driveways and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Construction is authorized to begin on the first phase in 2020, with additional phases starting in 2022 and 2024.
- **Construction of a segment of the Noonday Creek Multiuse Trail**, from Shallowford Road in Cobb County to SR 92 in Cherokee. Construction is set to begin in 2022.
- **Widening Bells Ferry Road** from north of Victory Drive to Port Victoria Way, from two to four lanes. Construction to begin in 2024.

The plan aims help keep pace with growth in Cherokee County. ARC forecasts Cherokee will add 139,000 people by 2050, bringing the county’s total population to more than 372,000.

The ARC board approved the funding allocation as part of a broad update of the transportation portion of the [Atlanta Region’s Plan](#). The Atlanta Region’s Plan is a long-range blueprint that details the investments, programs and services needed to ensure metro Atlanta’s future success by providing world-class infrastructure, fostering healthy, livable communities, and developing a competitive economy.

The plan, developed in close collaboration with local governments and transportation agencies and with robust public input, includes projects and programs designed to improve roads and

highways, enhance transit options, expand the region’s network of multi-use trails, and encourage alternative commuting options such as carpooling and teleworking.

“The Atlanta Region’s Plan offers a balanced, strategic approach to keep our region moving forward, even as our population continues to grow,” said Doug Hooker, Executive Director of ARC. “This plan will help metro Atlanta remain competitive, with a high quality of life, in the decades to come.”

The transportation element of the Atlanta Region’s Plan is designed to accommodate significant growth that is expected to occur over the next three decades. ARC forecasts the 20-county region will add 2.9 million people by 2050, bringing the metro area’s total population to 8.6 million.

The plan’s potential impact is significant, from cleaner air to reduced congestion. For example, annual transit ridership is expected to more than double, from 510,520 riders today to over 1.1 million in 2050. And tailpipe emissions will decrease by 21,182 tons per year.

The full list of transportation projects, including an interactive map can be found at atlantaregionsplan.org. Here are some highlights:

- **Maintenance and safety:** About \$102 billion, or nearly 60% of the total, is earmarked to maintain and upgrade the infrastructure that’s already in place. Projects include resurfacing roads, repairing bridges, and replacing aging buses and rail cars.
- **New transit options:** \$11 billion is programmed for transit expansion projects, including high capacity transit in Clayton County, expansion of the City of Atlanta’s streetcar network, and bus rapid transit lines in Atlanta and Clayton. Longer-range projects include a bus rapid transit lines in Gwinnett and Cobb counties.
- **Mobility alternatives:** About \$10 billion is dedicated to projects and programs that reduce congestion by encouraging alternative ways of getting around the region. This includes expansion of the region’s bike-ped trails and funding for ARC’s [Livable Centers Initiative](#), which helps communities transform into more vibrant places where it’s possible to walk from home to work to the store or restaurant
- **Tackling traffic bottlenecks:** The Regional Transportation Plan provides about \$27 billion for key interchange and highway improvements throughout metro Atlanta. Highway projects due to start construction in the next decade include Xpress lanes on the [top-end Perimeter](#), [I-285 East](#), and [I-285 West](#), and reconstruction of the two interchanges where I-20 meets I-285.

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The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the official planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta Region, including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties as well as the City of Atlanta and 73 other cities. The Atlanta Regional Commission serves as a

catalyst for regional progress by focusing leadership, attention and planning resources on key regional issues.