

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION REFERENDUM



Initial Economic Modeling Results

ARC's Analysis Shows Economic Benefits from Additional Transportation Investments

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), following the adoption by the Atlanta Regional Roundtable of the project list as required by the Transportation Investment Act, began in-depth analysis of the impacts of these projects. The process included analysis of the ARC's travel demand model and the ARC econometric forecasting model, called Regional Economic Models, Inc. (TranSight). In addition, ARC received support from regional policy experts and economists as well as the Economic Development Research Group (EDRG), nationally known for their impact analysis of large transportation investment programs.

Together, this effort analyzed the travel economic benefits of the projects within the context of current regional transportation plans. The results show:

4-to-1 return on investment

In spending approximately \$8 billion for more than 150 projects, the region receives more than **\$34 billion** (current \$) **back in Gross Regional Product by 2040**. (Gross Regional Product is the Gross Domestic Product for the Atlanta region.)

200,000 additional jobs supported

Modeling results show that by 2040, the **investment will create or support an additional 200,000 jobs**, including those jobs that are maintained year-over-year.

Two-thirds of supported jobs are in high- and mid-paying sectors

Of the new or supported jobs, almost **two-thirds of these jobs are in mid- to high-paying job sectors**.

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34,000 supported Construction jobs

The Construction sector has been the hardest hit during the great recession. **The investment will help create and support 34,000 jobs in this critical sector by 2040.**

\$18 Billion increase in region's personal income

Due to increased travel time savings and reduced fuel costs, **regional residents will save more than \$18 billion (current \$) by 2040.**

\$9.2 Billion in travel time savings

Because of the congestion relief the transportation investments will bring, the **region will save an estimated \$9.2 billion (current \$) through 2040.**

Why the Transportation Referendum?

Metro Atlanta faces a transportation funding crisis. Revenues from gas taxes, the primary source of federal and state funding, are declining as cars become more fuel efficient. In fact, 70 percent of the region's transportation funding will be spent to simply maintain the existing roads and systems over the next 30 years, leaving little room for expansion. This means that as the region grows, congestion will worsen unless adequate investments are made.

ARC's Plan 2040 long-range blueprint for metro Atlanta underscores the need to identify alternate funding mechanisms, as it forecasts an additional three million metro Atlanta residents by 2040.