



RAIL-VOLUTION

Feel the [Regional Coalition] Power!

Monday, October 15, 2012

Los Angeles, California

Network of Mutuality

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”



-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Equity: Critical Component of Any Regional Planning Agenda

- Sprawling growth has led to imbalance of development and opportunity structures
- Affecting not only communities of limited opportunity but creating environmental and economic challenges for all (water, air, jobs-housing imbalance, etc.)
- History of inequity in American South has exacerbated these issues
- Incorporating equity indicators/practices promote balanced growth and authentic community engagement (Systems Change)



RELATIONSHIPS MATTER!

- Ecosystem Definitions

- A system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their physical environment
wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn
- A complex set of relationships of living organisms functioning as a unit and interacting with their physical environment.
www.adrc.asia/publications/terminology/top.htm



EQUITY ECOSYSTEM



“Equity Eco-System”

- Justice infrastructure formed when equity organizations and champions coalesce as a community to influence the established systems that affect their social, political, economic, and natural environment.
(NS)

Moving Towards Regional Equity

“If you want a future that’s distinct from the past, you have to be with people who you aren’t used to being with and have conversations that you’re not used to having.”



-Peter Block

Emory University: Anchor for Equity

- Emory University Office of Community and Diversity and
- Emory Center for Community Partnerships
- 2008 PolicyLink Regional Equity Summit



PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTHERN EQUITY

Mission:

- **Partnership for Southern Equity** pushes for policies and actions that promote equity and inclusive prosperity in metropolitan Atlanta. Through forums, research, and organizing efforts, we bring together our regional community to lift up and encourage just, sustainable, and civic practices for balanced growth and opportunity.

Goals:

- Leverage our combined assets to advance and coordinate regional equity activities utilizing the Shared Prosperity framework as our platform.
- Influence how local and regional decisions are made as they pertain to growth, development, and opportunity structures in metropolitan Atlanta.
- Highlight and support opportunities for Equitable Development and their positive impact on low wealth populations and communities of color.
- Promote and encourage equitable opportunities for inclusiveness, quality growth, and regional competitiveness.
- Support, develop, and position a multigenerational cadre of leaders and policy innovations for Regional Equity.
- Grow a REGIONAL EQUITY MOVEMENT comprised of diverse stakeholders and organizations representing the ten (10) county metropolitan Atlanta region

Network of Mutuality

- ***“Shared Destiny”*** mantra serves as spiritual foundation of PSE
- ***“Silo Busting”*** promotes collaboration for systems change (Policy Change + Institutional Change)
 - “Power With” (Partnership and Collaboration) vs. “Power Over” (Domination and Control)

Guiding Principles for Shared Prosperity

- Development must happen with people, not to people.
- Reduce local and regional disparities for balanced growth.
- Promote coordinated, galvanizing investments that result in measurable success based on outcomes for people, planet, and profit.
- Ensure meaningful community participation, leadership, and ownership in change efforts.



Advisory Committee

1. Act-Now – Laurel Paget- Seekins
2. Agnes Scott College – Susan Kidd
3. Atlanta Gas-Light – Trevor Quander
4. Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood-based Developers (AHAND) - Andy Schneggenburger
5. Atlanta Metro Black Chamber of Commerce – Michael Hill
6. Atlanta Regional Health Forum – Douglas Greenwell
7. Atlanta Regional Commission - Mike Carnathan
8. Atlanta Urban League - Nancy Flake-Johnson
9. Atlantans Building Leadership for Empowerment (ABLE)
10. Center for Working Families – Janelle Williams
11. Cobb Faith Partnership - Ann Guckert
12. Common Focus - Jon Abercrombie
13. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta – Tene Traylor
14. Cox Enterprises – Jamie Buck
15. DeKalb County Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE DeKalb) – Bettye Davis
16. Emory University Office of University-Community Partnerships – Dr. Michael Rich
18. Emory University Race and Difference Initiative (RDI) – Tyrone Foreman
19. Clarification & Mediation, Inc. - Clara Axam
20. Consultant, Charles Walker
21. Families First – Kim Anderson
22. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta - Sibyl Slade
23. Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda- Helen Butler
24. Georgia Power - Pat Sims
25. Georgia Tech – Chris Burke
26. Georgia STAND-UP – Deborah Scott
27. Georgia State Trade Association of Non-profit Developers (G Stand) – Kate Little
28. Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services - Nicole Love
29. H. B. Dorsey and Associates – Hattie B. Dorsey
30. IBM – S. Tjuan Dogan
31. J.P. Morgan Chase – Beverly Dabney
32. Keiser Permanente – Trey Ragsdale
33. Latin American Association - Millie Irizarry
34. League of Women Voters of Georgia – Tracy-Ann Nelson
35. MARTA – Lyle Harris
36. Mayson Avenue Cooperative – Garry Long
37. NeighborWorks America – Don Phoenix
38. 100 Black Men of Atlanta - Otis Threatt
39. Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association (PCIA) – LaShawn Hoffman
40. RRC – Young Hughley
41. Southern Alliance for Clean Energy – Seandra Rawls
42. Sustainable Atlanta – Scott Briskey
43. Sustainable Neighborhood Strategies, Inc. – Mtamanika Youngblood
44. The Genius Group – Milano Harden
44. Consultant - Charles Walker
45. Urban League – Nancy Flake-Johnson
46. The Zeist Foundation – Atiba Mbiwan

Equity Impact Areas

1. Transportation Equity (Accessibility)

- Transportation has become either a barrier or gateway to opportunity in Metro Atlanta.

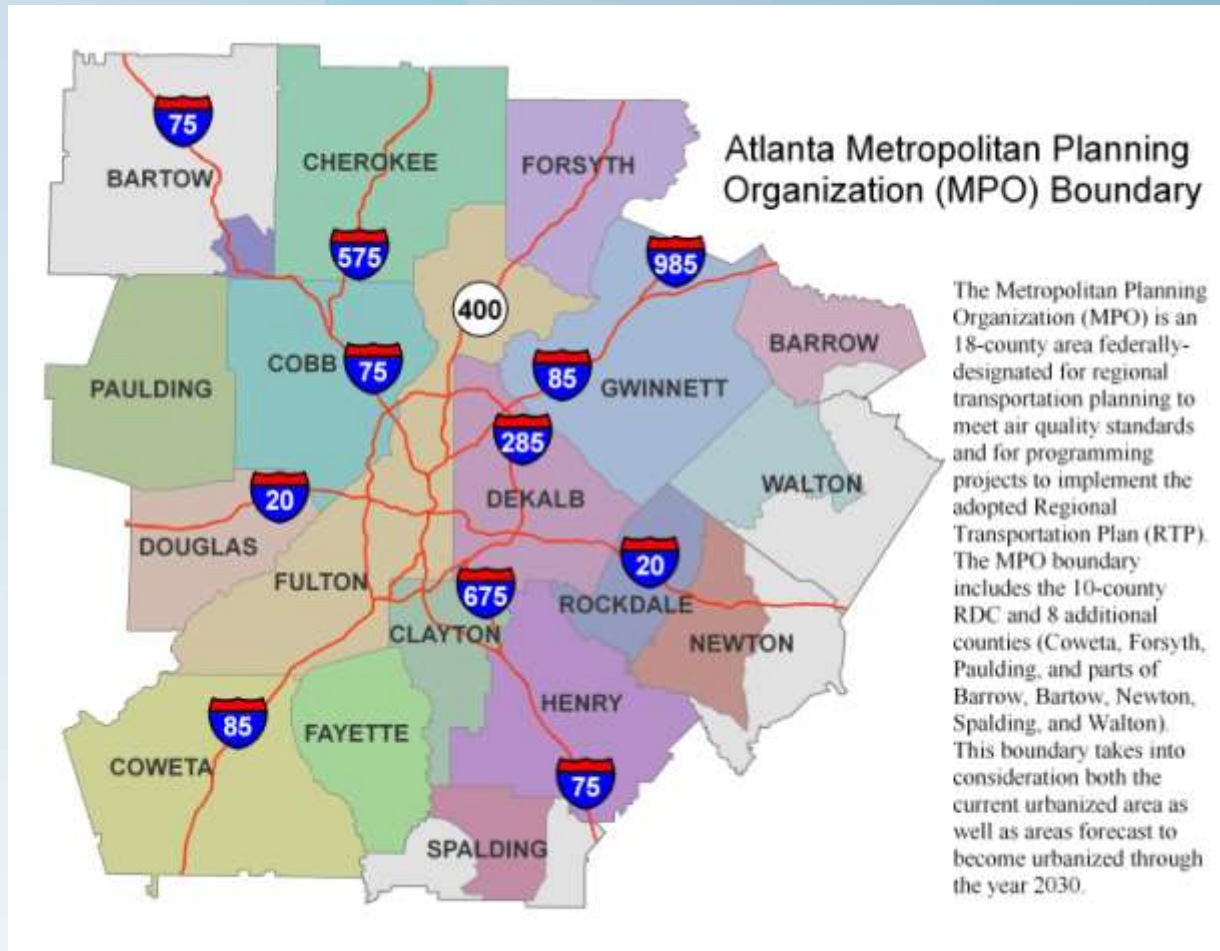
2. Equity of Opportunity (Vitality)

- Developing economic models that are lucrative, inclusive and just.

3. Equitable Development (Harmony)

- Unbalanced growth and investment in our region have created a less sustainable and competitive region.
- **EQUITY IS THE SUPERIOR GROWTH MODEL!**

Metropolitan Atlanta



Equity Circles

- I. Just Transportation Circle (JTC)
- II. Economic Opportunity and Jobs Circle (EOJ)
- III. Metropolitan Atlanta Equity Atlas (MAEA) Circle
- IV. Health Equity Circle*



*In Formation

Just Transportation

- Initiative created to push for transportation access and balance in the Metro Region.
 - Goals realized through:
 - Regional Organizing
 - Education, Engagement and Policy Advocacy
 - Research (Reports, Best Practice research, Policy Briefs)



Equitable Planning Efforts

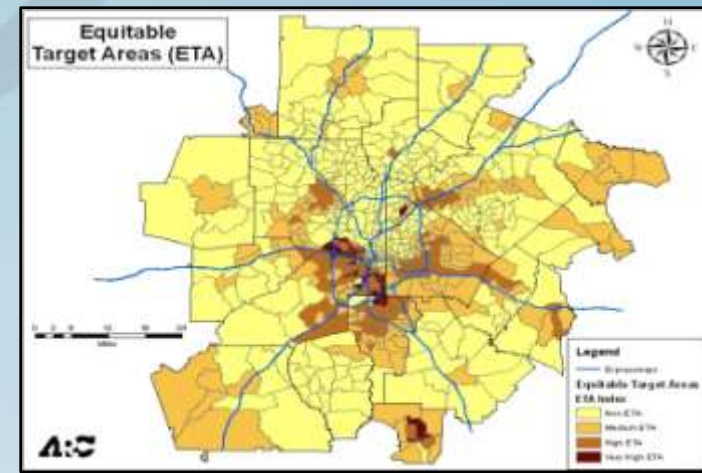
- Atlanta Regional Commission

 - Plan 2040 (RTP)

 - Equitable Planning Workshop
 - Social Equity Advisory Committee

- Equitable Target Areas (ETA) Index

 - Identify and further advance the understanding of overburdened communities in the Atlanta region
 - Senior population, low education attainment, housing values, poverty and the distribution of communities of color (Indicators)



Regional Organizing

- Organized ***Just Transportation Circle***
 - Southern Environmental Law Center
 - Urban League of Metro Atlanta
 - Atlanta Regional Commission (MPO)
 - Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
 - League of Woman Voters of Georgia
 - Sustainable Atlanta
 - Amalgamated Transit Union
 - Over 20 organizations are members of JTC
- Facilitated development of shared vision, principles and goals for JTC
- Organizing of local ***“Equity Hubs”*** to support placed based advocacy and education efforts – 4 new hubs created
- ***Organizing for Opportunity*** “Train-the-Trainer” trainings in 5 largest counties in metro region – Over 50 leaders have participated in trainings so far

Education, Engagement and Policy Advocacy

- ***Moving to Opportunity Forums*** held in 5 largest counties in metro Atlanta – Almost 500 people have participated in forums
- ***Moving to Opportunity policy document*** developed to make case for transportation equity in metro Atlanta
- ***From Promise to Prosperity*** document in development to promote equitable jobs policies for TIA
- Increased participation of JTC advocates in regional roundtable deliberations
- Advocacy and ratification of **Equitable Target Areas (ETA)** mapping as influencer of projects selected for project list by regional roundtable
- Development and ratification of **regional equity indicators** for decision making of regional roundtable
- ***Turning Towards Equity*** document made from Forum Feedback

Ingredients for Successful Regional Equity Coalitions

- Designate Anchor Institution (s) to provide guidance/support for coalition
- Partnership must serve as both “mirror and magnifier.”
- Must be able to clearly articulate short-term and long-term success to partners.
- Be sensitive to the dynamics of POWER inside your partnership.
- Learn from successful past/current partnerships in your community.
- Understand the “Rules of Engagement” in your community.
- Lead from the CENTER!

Lessons Learned

- If you want to lead you have to be willing to serve.
- Partnerships = Power
- Relationships are key to building successful partnerships
- Develop partnership principles/statement of values, short-term/long-term success measures early in process
- Equity is not a tactic but a way of being



www.psequity.org

TOGETHER WE PROSPER!