



# **Tools to Achieve Greater Equity and More Inclusive Growth**

**Reinventing Older Communities: Bridging Growth  
and Opportunity, Philadelphia, May 12, 2014**

# 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: A Critical Component of Any Competitive Growth 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, opportunity and authentic community engagement (Systems Change)



# Metropolitan Atlanta



## Atlanta Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is an 18-county area federally-designated for regional transportation planning to meet air quality standards and for programming projects to implement the adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The MPO boundary includes the 10-county RDC and 8 additional counties (Coweta, Forsyth, Paulding, and parts of Barrow, Bartow, Newton, Spalding, and Walton). This boundary takes into consideration both the current urbanized area as well as areas forecast to become urbanized through the year 2030.

# Metro Atlanta – A tale of two regions

- #1 Income Inequality (City of Atlanta)
- #1 Lack of Income Mobility for Poor Children (Metro Atlanta)
- From 2000 to 2010 poverty in the metropolitan Atlanta suburbs increased by 122% - more than doubling over the course of a decade
- 90 percent of metro Atlanta's seniors —more than 500,000 people — have "poor access" to transit and "will face shrinking mobility options as they age" by 2015
- Over 90% of job centers are found north of Highway I-20
  - Hartsfield-Jackson Airport only major job center found south of I-20
- **EQUITY IS THE SUPERIOR GROWTH MODEL**

- Clayton County shut down C-Tran in 2010, stranding 8,500 people, 81% of whom earn less than \$35,000 a year and 65% of whom have no car.

Mr. Butler, who lives in Avondale Estates, grew concerned when he heard that one option under consideration was the elimination of weekend train service until 7 a.m. "I work at a hospital and I have to be there at 6 a.m.," he said.

"I stay with friends in Midtown. I moved from Clayton because I had to keep my job. I work in Buckhead in a law office and I use to take the bus from Clayton to the MARTA train to get there. It's not like, I have a choice." – Clayton

- Approximately 75% of the regions residents have no other option but to drive to most destinations (ARC)

# 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

# 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 (18) county metropolitan Atlanta region

# Equity Impact Areas

## 1. Just Transportation (Accessibility)

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

## 2. Just Opportunity (Vitality)

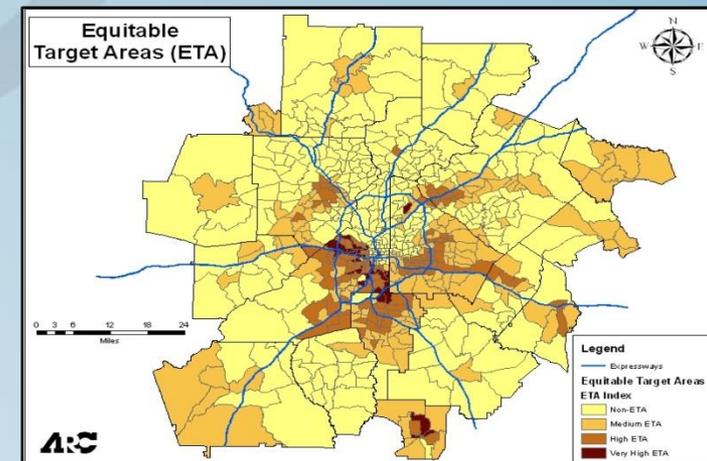
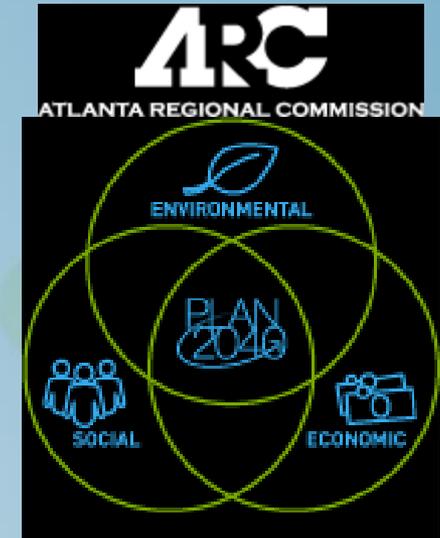
- Developing economic models that are lucrative, inclusive and just.

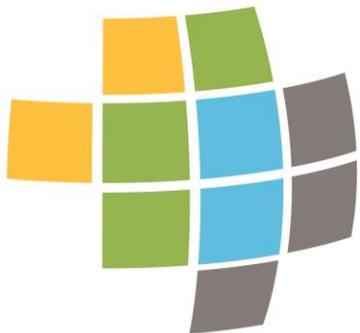
## 3. Just Growth (Harmony)

- Unbalanced growth and investment in our region have created a less sustainable and competitive region.

# Equitable Planning Efforts

- Atlanta Regional Commission  
*Plan 2040 (RTP)*
  - Equitable Planning Workshop
  - Social Equity Advisory Committee
- Equitable Target Areas Index
  - Identify and further advance the understanding of environmental justice communities in the Atlanta region
  - Senior population, low education attainment, housing values, poverty and the distribution of communities of color (Indicators)
  - Many metro counties utilize ETA Index in local comprehensive planning efforts





**METRO**  
**ATLANTA**  
**EQUITY**  
**ATLAS**

**ONE REGION**  
**ONE REALITY**  
**ONE FUTURE**

# Metro Area Equity Atlas



**MAPS**

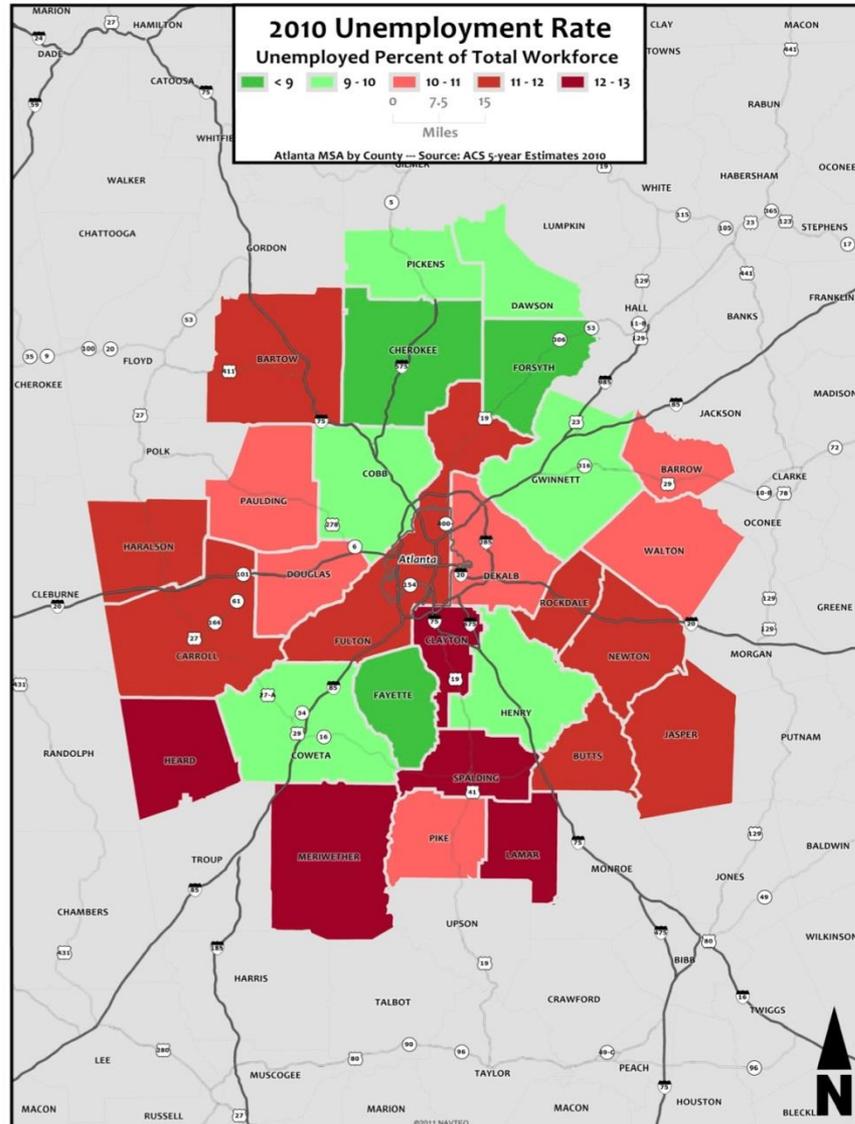


**DATA**

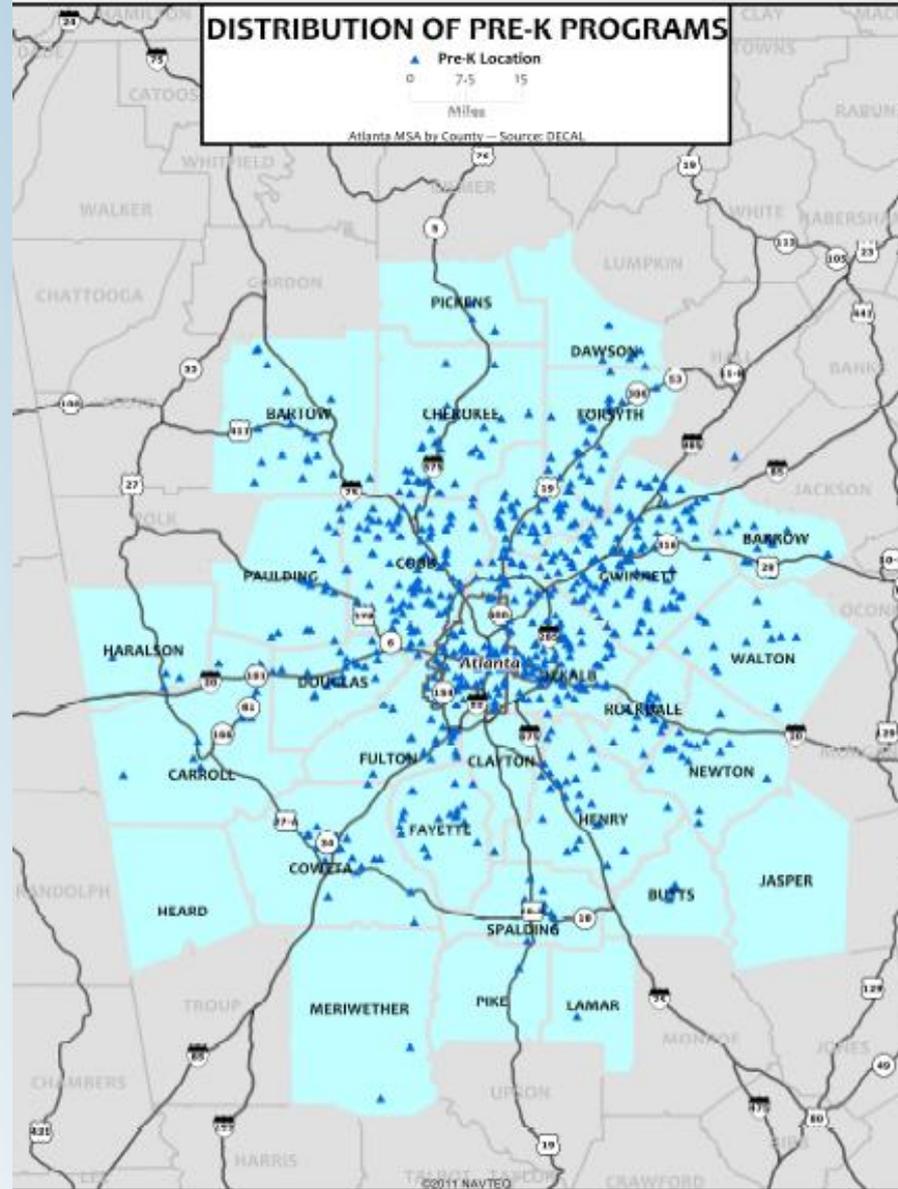


**NARRATIVE**

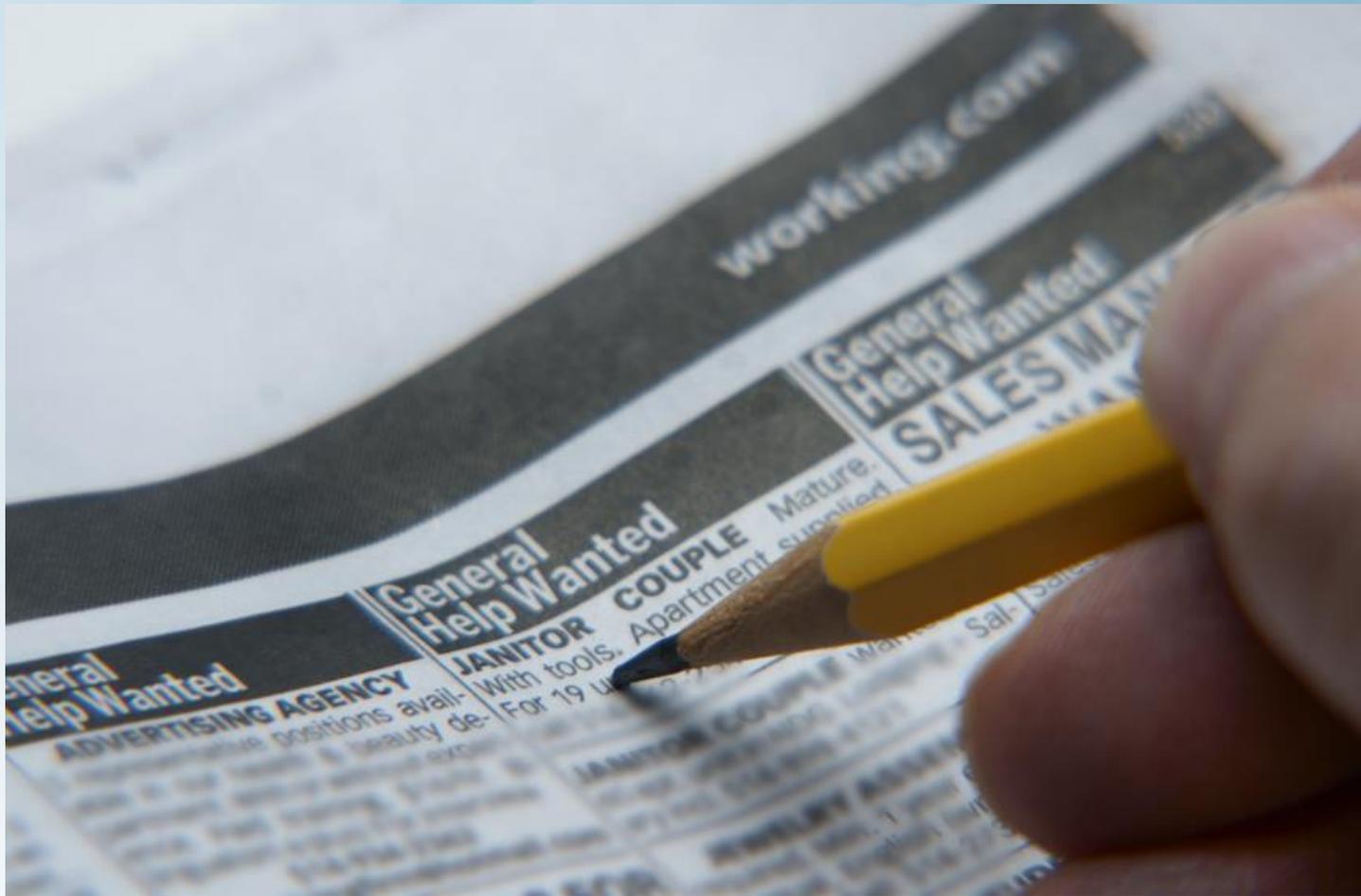
# Economic Development



# Education



# Just Opportunity





- **Promote a “continuum of economic opportunity” for vulnerable populations in metropolitan Atlanta:** Leveraging partnerships among PSE membership to identify economic opportunity support among local/regional employers that will either experience large personnel loss due to retirement and/or witnessing a need for skilled labor.
- **Organize place-based skill development “hubs” to advance education and training to low skill workers in the region:** Framing a community college and non-profit training strategy to accelerate employment education, certification, and “on the job training” opportunities drawing on the importance of equity and regional competitiveness.
- **Drive workforce development research, and public policy:** Develop skill development research, data, and policy to create inclusive methodologies to employment for marginalized groups like veterans, youth, and reentry populations in the regional workforce.

# Energy Equity

Energy Equity is the fair distribution of the benefits and burdens from energy production and consumption.



# Founding Organizations

- Fulton Atlanta Community-Action Authority
- Partnership for Southern Equity
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Georgia Watch
- Center for Sustainable Communities
- GreenLaw



PROTECTING CONSUMERS.  
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY.  
EMPOWERING CITIZENS.



# Moving Towards Energy Equity...

## Just Energy Circle Mission

PSE's Just Energy Circle is an inspiring, morally-grounded collaborative effort that empowers sustainable, self-sufficient communities and participation in developing clean energy solutions that benefit everyone.

## Vision Statement:

Our circle seeks to inspire new, diverse, authentic leadership that is recognized in prominent decision-making positions in both civic and private sectors. We aim to establish that structures are in place to ensure that energy opportunities are available to all, including low-income protections, costs and employment. We represent an ecosystem of diverse business, political, and community interests. We believe that this approach is the future of the sustainability movement, and that the future of our communities is dependent upon our ability to provide “Just Energy” for all.

# What is Equity?

eq·ui·ty *ek-wi-tee*, noun. Just and fair inclusion.

An equitable society is one in which all can participate and prosper. The goals of equity must be to create conditions that allow all to reach their full potential. In short, equity creates a path from hope to change.

# Stay Connected!

- **Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE)**
  - [www.psequity.org](http://www.psequity.org)
  - [www.atlantaequityatlas.com](http://www.atlantaequityatlas.com)
  - @PSEquityMatters (twitter and youtube)
  - Partnership for Southern Equity (facebook)
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