



Dave Stockert
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TRANSPORTATION

The Challenge

Georgia is the third fastest-growing state in the nation, yet transportation funding per capita is next to last.

History of MAC Leadership

The Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC) has been committed to this issue for a long time.

- **MATI transportation blueprint** – The 1998 Metropolitan Atlanta Transportation Initiative was a MAC-sponsored assembly of state and local business leaders, elected officials, and community/civic leaders that first produced a “blueprint” for improving the transportation system in metro Atlanta.
- One major outcome of this blueprint was the Legislature’s creation of the **Georgia Regional Transportation Authority**. It was charged with planning and monitoring all forms of transportation in the Atlanta region, and providing accountability for meeting the long-term transportation needs of our region.
- MAC has completed numerous policy and research projects on such issues as **transit, transportation funding, high-speed rail, commuter rail and best practices** of other regions. These projects have shaped our policy decisions and demonstrated employer and employee attitudes toward congestion and mobility.
- In **2007**, MAC backed **regional transportation funding legislation** that would allow voters in any region in the state to raise funds for local transportation projects. It won far-reaching, bipartisan support from both Republicans and Democrats, and from rural and urban areas.
- After four consecutive years of advocacy at the state legislature, the Georgia General Assembly passed the **Transportation Investment Act in 2010**. This measure allows regions across the state to assemble a list of transportation projects and call a referendum on a one-percent sales tax to fund them.

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2011 Call to Action

- Metro Atlanta’s business community and its many partners are collaborating to organize, fund and execute a **campaign to support the transportation referendum** scheduled for 2012. MAC will work with partners from around the region to **raise funds and establish a campaign organization**.
- Meanwhile, we support the development of a **unified regional transit organization** for the metro Atlanta region, and we call on the legislature to consider **long-term transportation funding options**, such as converting the excise tax on motor fuel to a sales tax.