

**Georgia Department of Transportation,
Office of Planning**
February 2016

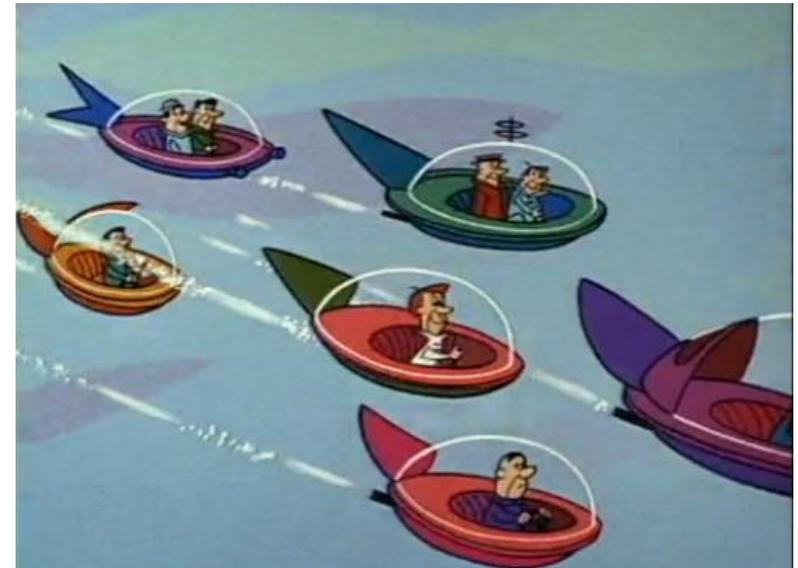
1950s



2000s



Future?





Downtown Connector Statistics (Existing)

- 350,000 vehicles per day (GDOT, GeoCounts, 2014)
- 32% over capacity (1.32 volume to capacity ratio, ARC Plan 2040 Model)
- Estimated 30% through traffic (traveling the full length of Connector) and 70% local traffic (traveling less than full length of Connector, including trips to/from I-20). Source: ARC Plan 2040 Model
- Interchange density is 4x the average AASHTO spacing recommendation
- Horizontal and vertical curves
- Weaving, merging, diverging, abrupt lane changes, queue jumps, illegal maneuvers, and other driver behavior issues
- HOV and truck violations



Downtown Connector in 2040

Anticipated Future:

- 381,000 vehicles per day (ARC Plan 2040 Model)
- 80% over capacity (1.8 volume to capacity ratio, ARC Plan 2040 Model)

Alternative Future?

- Low and high growth scenarios
- New technology
 - Autonomous vehicles
 - Vehicle to vehicle communication
 - Vehicle to infrastructure communication



Study Purpose

- Improve people mobility
 - Address congestion
 - Improve operations
 - Promote safety
- Identify practical, financially feasible solutions
 - Demonstrate effectiveness
 - Develop stakeholder support
 - Minimize impacts, consider relationship with built environment and broader visions



Study Outcomes

- Explore & evaluate a wide range of options, from small-scale operational improvements to very large-scale ideas
- Prioritize recommendations based on performance and practicality
- Incorporate findings into regional plan



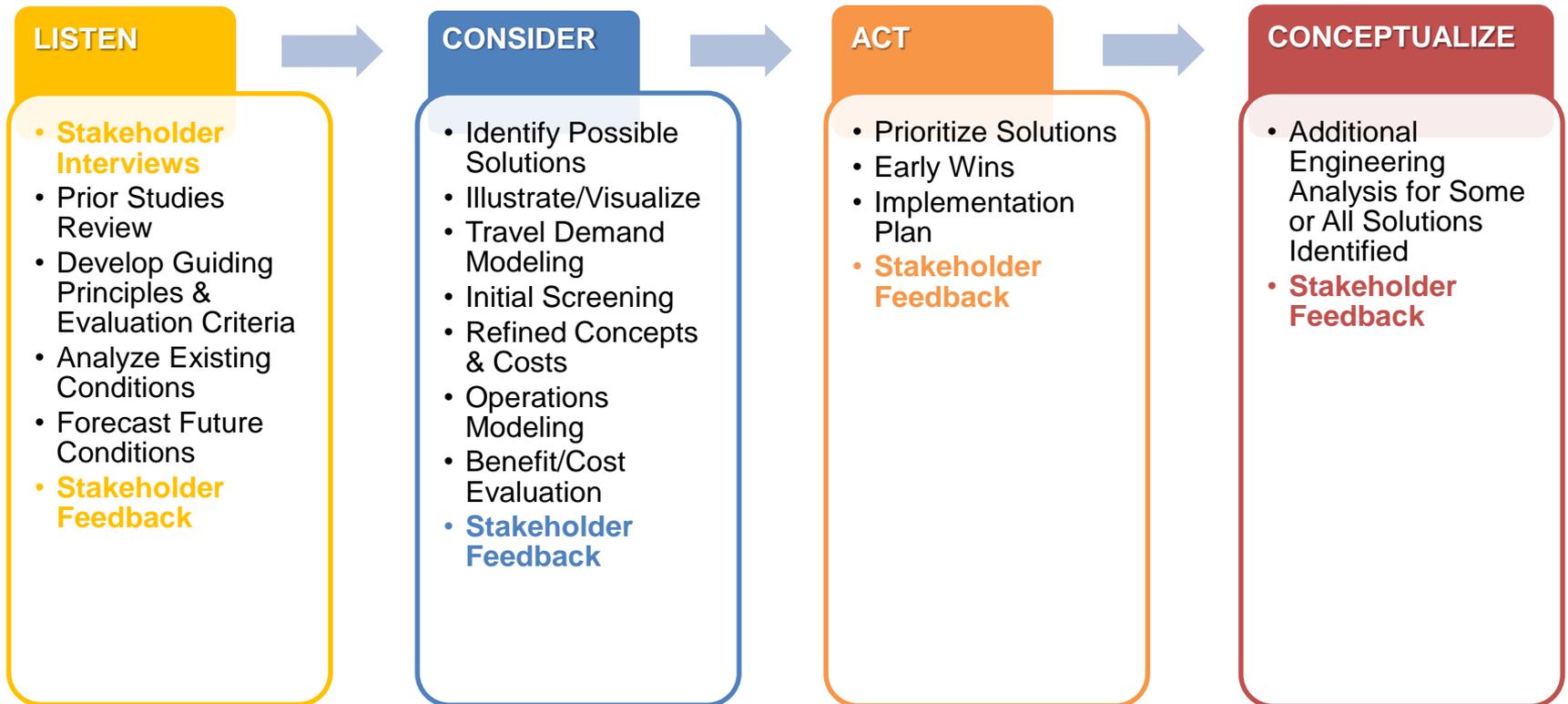
Study Area



- Focus is on the common section of I-75 and I-85, known as the Connector
- Complete study area includes:
 - Approaches to Connector along I-75, I-85, and I-20 inside I-285
 - Interchange ramps, cross streets, potential parallel routes in metro Atlanta



Process





Stakeholder Engagement

TECHNICAL ADVISORY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Atlanta Regional Commission
Central Atlanta Progress
City of Atlanta
FHWA
FTA
Fulton County
Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
MARTA
Midtown Alliance
State Road & Tollway Authority
GDOT Office of Roadway Design
GDOT Office of Innovative Delivery
GDOT Office of Traffic Operations
GDOT District 7 Office
GDOT Office of Maintenance
GDOT Office of Bridge Design
GDOT Office of Communications

GDOT EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Commissioner
Chief Engineer
Planning Director



Coordination with Past Planning Efforts

- Metro Atlanta Operational Planning Study, 2015
- Atlanta Regional Managed Lanes Implementation Plan, 2010 & current update
- 15th Street HOV Interchange Study, 2007
- Downtown Connector Congestion Mitigation and Operational Improvements Study, 2003
- Strategic Regional Thoroughfares Plan, 2012
- Atlanta Regional Evacuation Plan
- Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan, 2015
- Atlanta Strategic Truck Route Master Plan, 2008
- Atlanta Streetcar System Plan, 2015
- The Atlanta Region's Plan, 2016
- Connect Atlanta Plan, 2010
- Imagine Downtown Encore Plan, 2009
- Midtown Alliance Future Capital Projects List, 2016
- Blueprint Midtown II, 2003
- Peachtree Street Bridges
- Others?



Data Collection

DATA DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
Spot Speed Data (by lane)	GDOT Navigator
Segment Throughput Data	GDOT Navigator
Event Data (Incident Detection and Response Data)	GDOT Navigator
ITS Device Locations	GDOT Navigator
Demand Volumes for Segments and Ramps	ARC ABM
Travel Time between Key Locations	Streetlight Data
Basic Origin-Destination Data	Streetlight Data
Crash Data (2009-2014)	GDOT Office of Traffic Operations
Bridge Plans (SR 401 from SR 166 to 17th St)	Engineering Services
Design Plans for Signage Upgrade Project	Engineering Services
Aerial Photography	Fulton County GIS
GIS Data (Contours, Property Boundaries, Property Owners)	Fulton County GIS
Final Documentation from Recent Studies	GDOT Planning/Various
Downtown Connector VISSIM Model	GDOT Office of Planning
Downtown Connector HOV Lane Plans	Engineering Services
Ramp Meter Operation Schedule	GDOT Office of Traffic Operations
Bridge Inventory Reports (SR 401 from SR 166 to 17th St)	GDOT Office of Bridge Design
Planned/Programmed Projects in Area	GDOT Office of Planning



Questions

1. What is your “magic wand” scenario for improving the Downtown Connector (assuming no financial or feasibility constraints)?
2. What other ideas/solutions should we evaluate?
3. What issues or problems do you see on the Connector (now and in the future)?
4. What other data sources, previous plans, and studies should we consider?
5. Other thoughts?



Contact

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