

Livable Centers Initiative

A 20-year program by the Atlanta Regional Commission

Presented by Stan Harvey, FAICP

LCI Program Overview

Program Goals

- **Encourage a diversity** of housing, employment, commercial, shopping and recreation land uses at the transit station, local and regional center level accessible by people of all ages, abilities and income levels;
- **Enhance access** to a range of travel modes including transit, roadways, walking and biking and increase roadway connectivity to provide optimal access to all uses within the study area; and,
- **Foster public-private partnerships** and sustained community support through an outreach process that promotes the involvement of all stakeholders, including those historically underserved or underrepresented.



Source: Atlanta Regional Commission

LCI Program Overview



122
total LCI
studies



142
supplemental
studies



116
transportation
projects

\$16.8 M

in total study
funds

\$237 M

in transportation
funds

LCI Program Overview



166,000
population
increase
from 2000



107,000
new housing
units from
2000

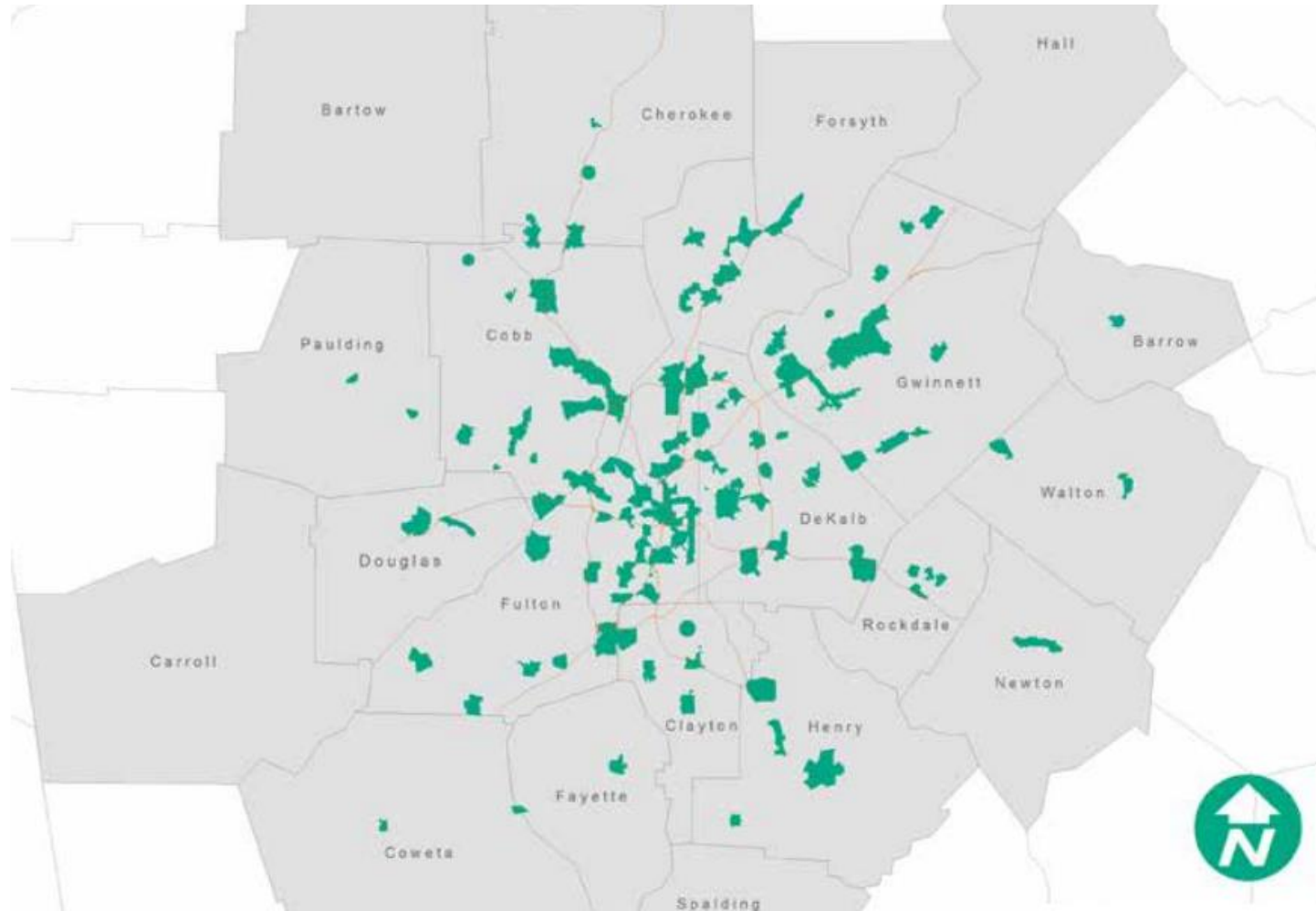


62,000
businesses



955,000
employees

ARC Map of LCI Projects



LCI Project Types



Planning Studies

Funding for communities to
conduct Catalytic or Tactical
planning studies



Transportation Implementation

Funding & TIP Programming for
PE & Design

Planning Study Types

CATALYTIC

FOCUS ON VISIONS

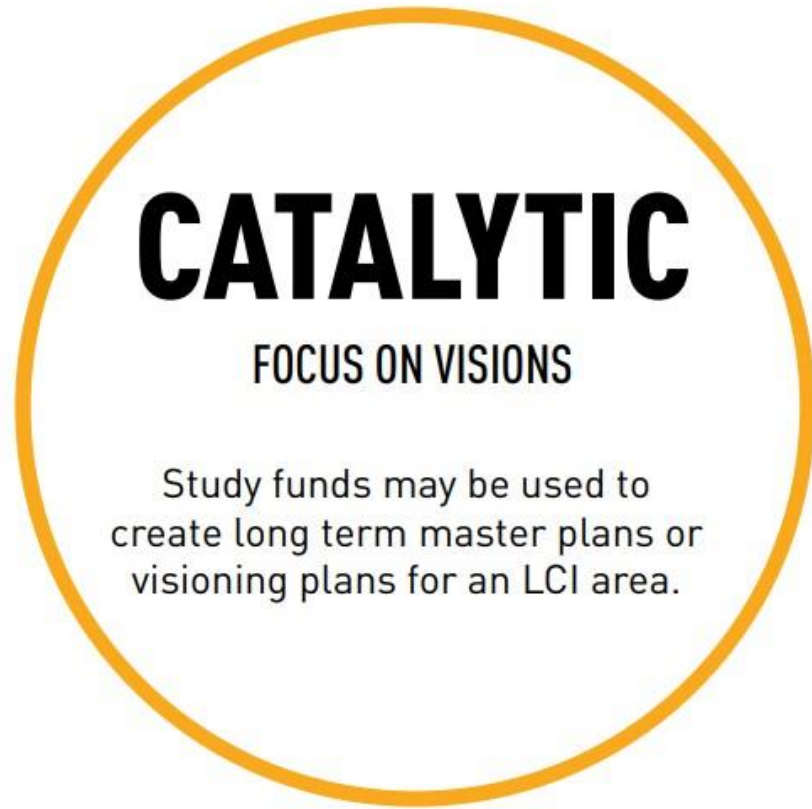
Study funds may be used to create long term master plans or visioning plans for an LCI area.

TACTICAL

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

Study funds may be used to prepare detailed studies that foster specific LCI plan implementation for an LCI area that has a completed catalytic plan.

Catalytic LCI Study



Examples:

- Create a master plan for an existing or future planned transit/transportation node
- Develop a vision for the growth of a downtown district
- Envision multimodal & multijurisdictional corridor with nodal development

Each Catalytic Study contains an implementation strategy, including a 100-day action plan, 5 year work program, implementation partners, and identified prospective funding sources.

Perimeter CID

Catalytic Study Examples – Regional Activity Center

2002



Perimeter CID

Catalytic Study Examples – Regional Activity Center

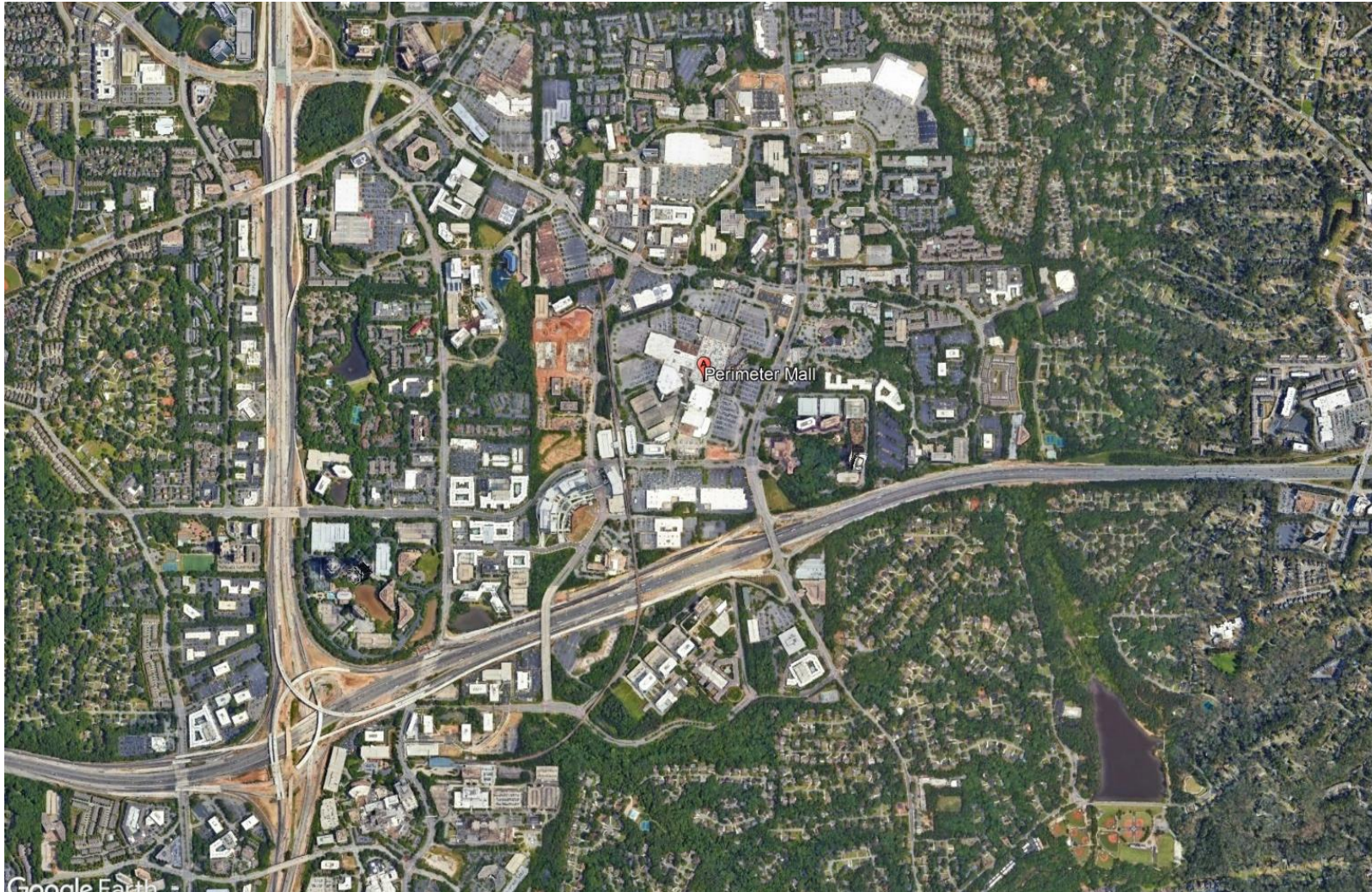
2008



Perimeter CID

Catalytic Study Examples – Regional Activity Center

2024



Perimeter CID

Catalytic Study Examples – Regional Activity Center



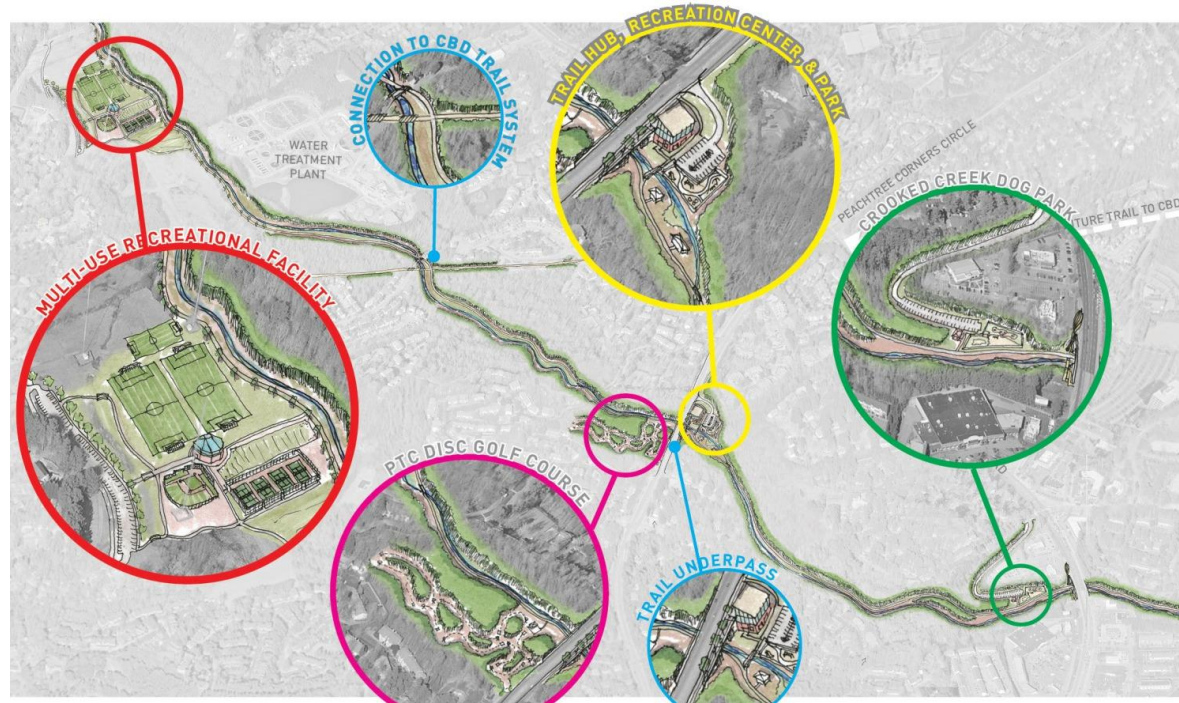
Perimeter CID

Catalytic Study Examples – Regional Activity Center



Holcomb Bridge

Catalytic Study Examples – Corridor



Holcomb Bridge

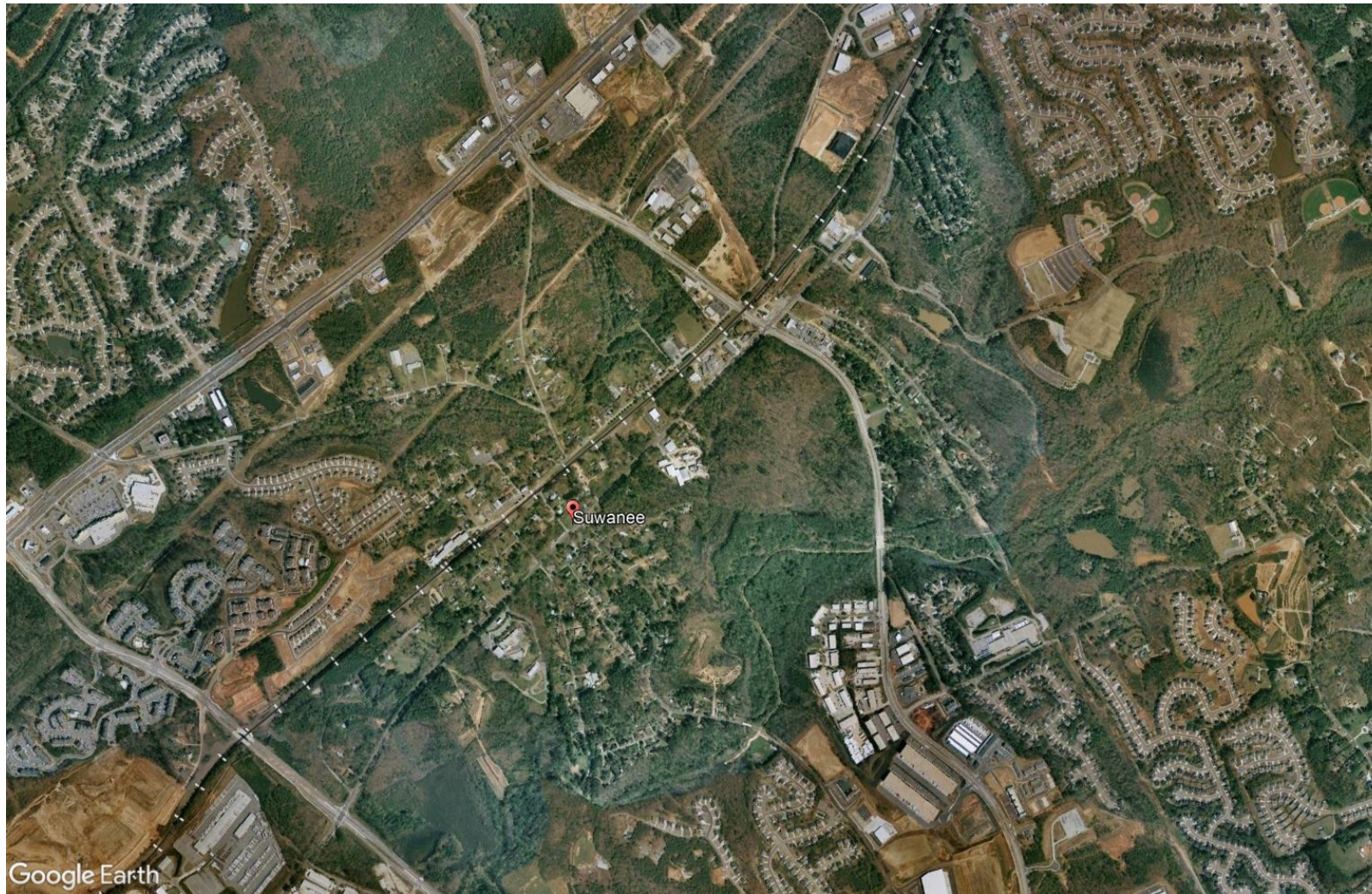
Catalytic Study Examples – Corridor



Suwanee Town Center

Catalytic Study Examples – Town Center

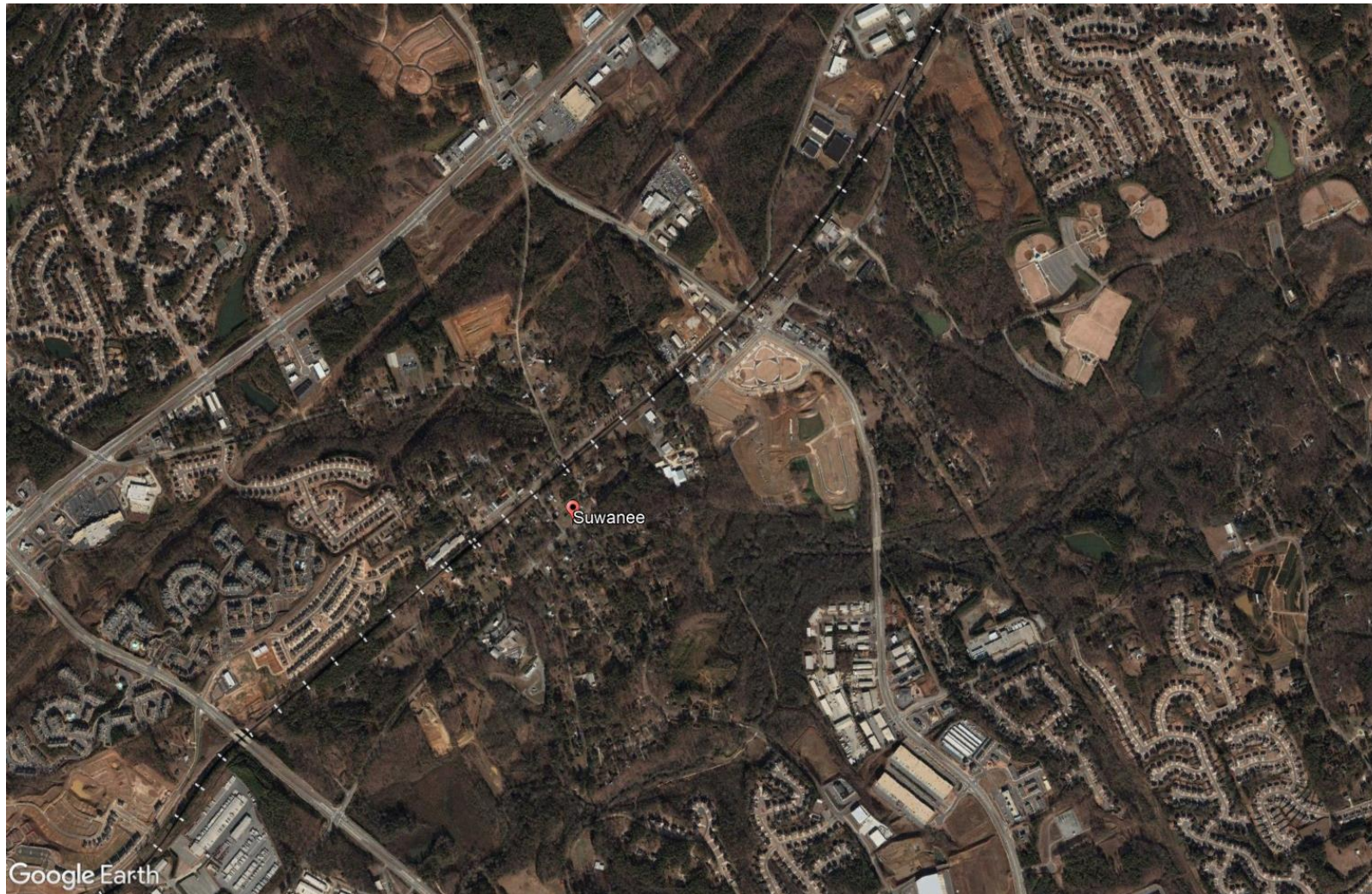
2002



Suwanee Town Center

Catalytic Study Examples – Town Center

2004



Suwanee Town Center

Catalytic Study Examples – Town Center

2024



Suwanee Town Center

Catalytic Study Examples – Town Center



Tactical LCI Study

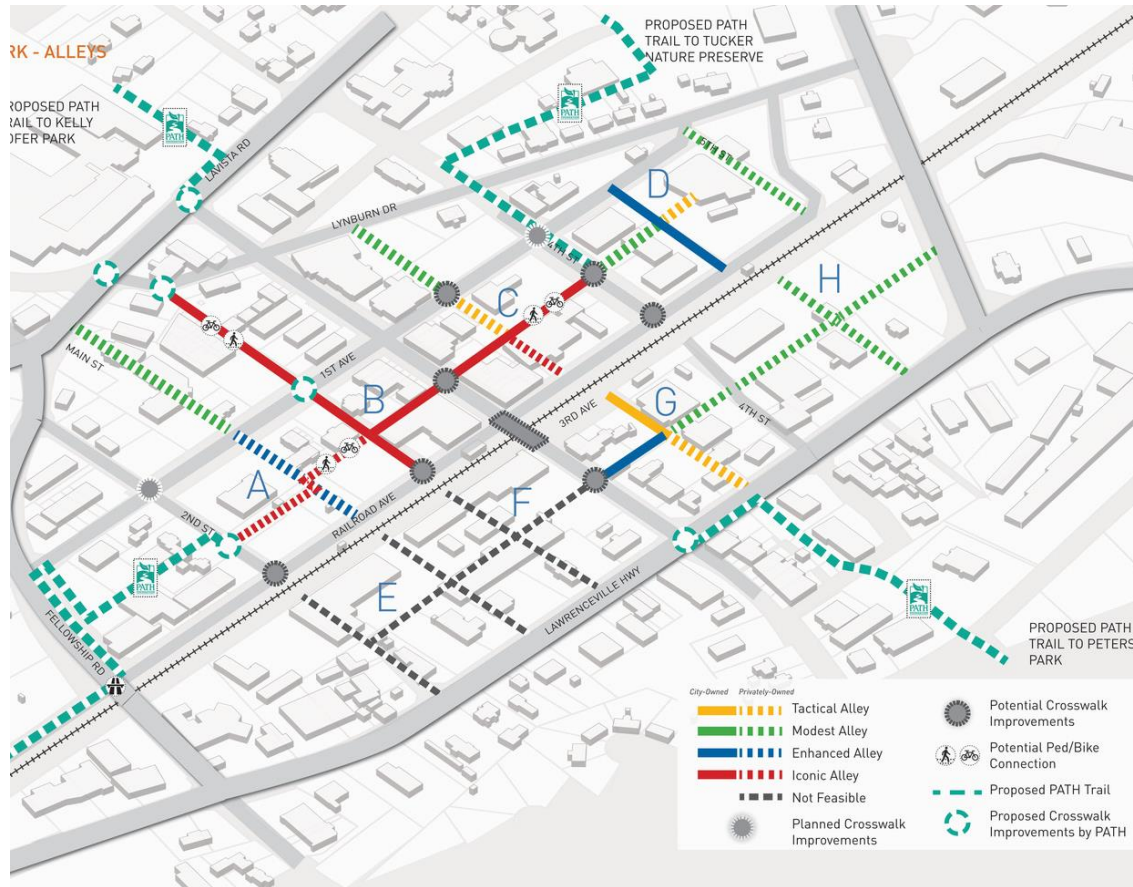


Examples:

- A detailed feasibility study for a trail proposed in a catalytic study
- Revise development regulations to incorporate changes proposed in the Catalytic LCI study
- Create detailed right-of-way design and cost estimates for a streetscape concept proposed in the Catalytic LCI study
- Provide specific site-level design for transportation recommendations.

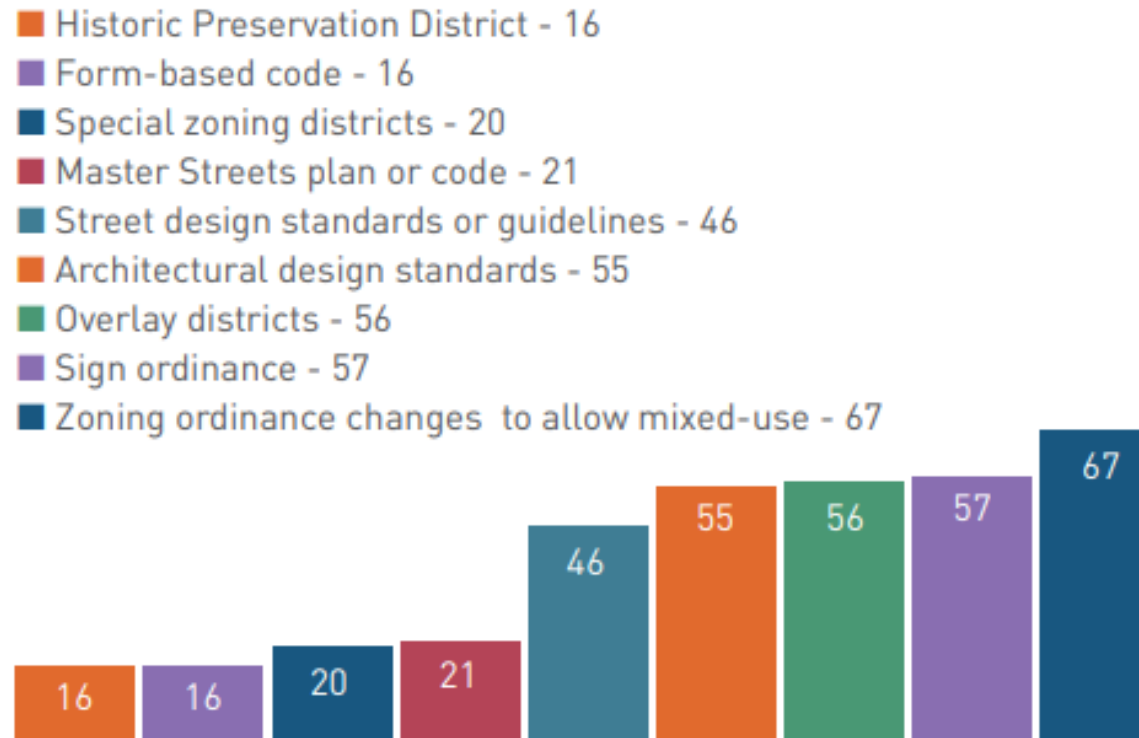
Tucker Grid Study

Catalytic Study Examples – Supplemental Study



LCI-Inspired Policy Change

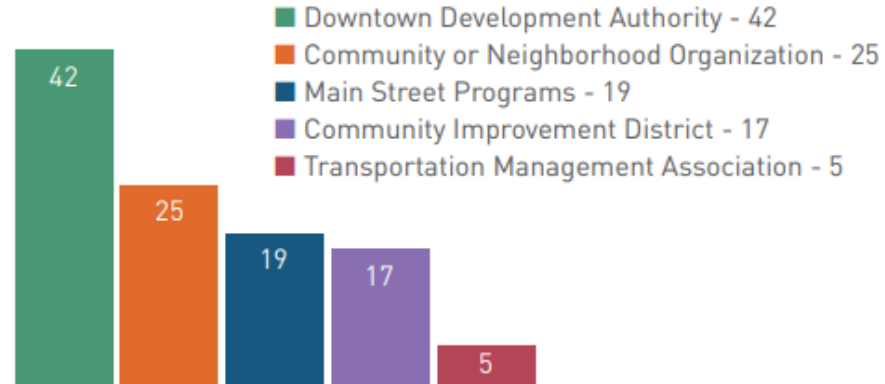
Policy Changes Since LCI Adoption



Partners

LCI Creates Partnerships

In addition to planning staff, these organizations play a key role in implementing LCI plans.



Public & private partnerships have evolved with the program over time.



LCI Planning Funding Overview

- Reimbursable grant program for CID or local government within 20-county MPO
- As of 2024, funded by \$2,000,000 Federal and \$500,000 Local STBG annual funds, programmed as planning program into the ARC TIP
- Applications solicited once per year
- ARC pays 80% of the study amount, local match 20%

Atlanta Region's Plan MTP (2024) FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program - Sorted by ARC Project Number

AR-001-2024	LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE (LCI) PLANNING PROGRAM - FY 2024	Jurisdiction	Regional	Existing	Planned	Length (mi.)	Network Year	
0017695		Sponsor	ARC	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	
Completed		Service Type	Other / LCI Program	Analysis		LCI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flex <input type="checkbox"/>		
				Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)				
PE	Status	Year	Fund Type	Federal	State	Local	Bonds	Total
	AUTH	2024	Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program - Urban (>200K) (ARC)	\$2,000,000	\$0,000	\$500,000	\$0,000	\$2,500,000
				\$2,000,000	\$0,000	\$500,000	\$0,000	\$2,500,000

AR-001-2025	LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE (LCI) PLANNING PROGRAM - FY 2025	Jurisdiction	Regional	Existing	Planned	Length (mi.)	Network Year	
0017696		Sponsor	ARC	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	
Programmed		Service Type	Other / LCI Program	Analysis		LCI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flex <input type="checkbox"/>		
				Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)				
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		2025	Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program - Urban (>200K) (ARC)	\$2,000,000	\$0,000	\$500,000	\$0,000	\$2,500,000
				\$2,000,000	\$0,000	\$500,000	\$0,000	\$2,500,000

AR-001-2026	LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE (LCI) PLANNING PROGRAM - FY 2026	Jurisdiction	Regional	Existing	Planned	Length (mi.)	Network Year	
N/A		Sponsor	ARC	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	
Programmed		Service Type	Other / LCI Program	Analysis		LCI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flex <input type="checkbox"/>		
				Exempt from Air Quality Analysis (40 CFR 93)				
PE	Status	Year	Fund Type	Federal	State	Local	Bonds	Total
		2026	Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program - Urban (>200K) (ARC)	\$2,000,000	\$0,000	\$500,000	\$0,000	\$2,500,000
				\$2,000,000	\$0,000	\$500,000	\$0,000	\$2,500,000

Example TIP Program

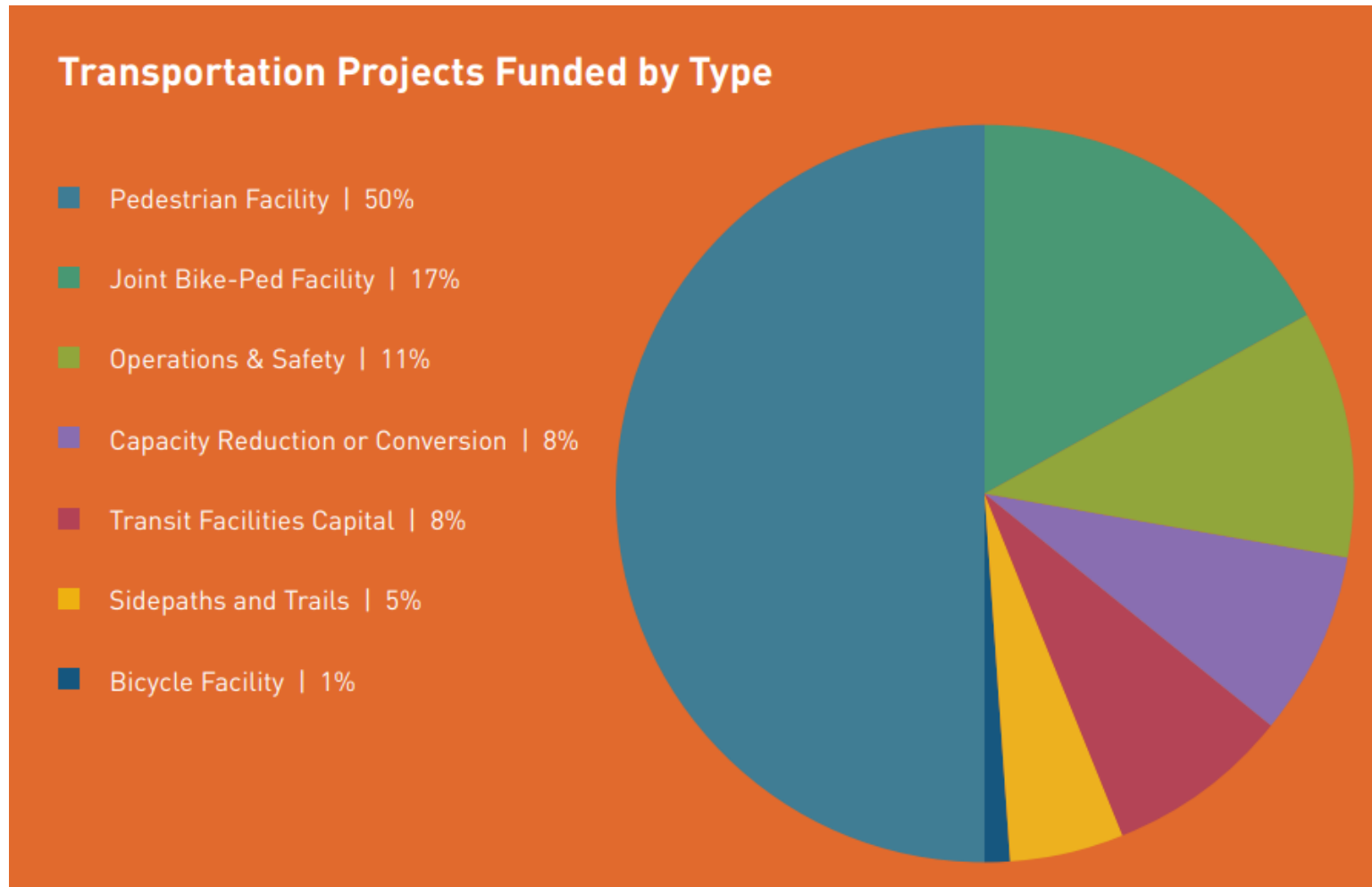
LCI Transportation Funding Overview

- Over \$500 million in completed or planned commitments from 1999-2040
- Dedicated PE phase funding for communities with completed LCI Plannings Studies to receive funding during regular TIP programming / project selection
- 80% LCI / 20% Local Match
- Robust application evaluation methods available on ARC LCI Transportation website

Sponsor	Project	Phase	LCI Grant (80%)	Local Match (20%)	Total Project Funding
City of Alpharetta	North Point Alpha Link	PE*	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
City of Atlanta & ADID	Peachtree Shared Space	PE*	\$1,200,000	\$300,000	\$1,500,000
City of Atlanta & Little 5 Points CID	Moreland & Dekalb Interchange Improvements and Trail Connection	Feasibility Study	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$300,000
City of Buford	Buford Multi-Use Trail Phase 2	PE*	\$712,000	\$178,000	\$890,000
Cherokee County	Bells Ferry Corridor LCI Multi-Use Trail	PE*	\$308,000	\$77,000	\$385,000

Sample Project Listing

LCI Transportation Funding



Success Factors



- Utilizes existing federal funding
 - STBG funds to MPO
- Voluntary incentive program
 - Annual call for applications
- Local control & involvement
 - Localities select teams through RFP/RFQ
- Local funding
 - Match required
- Implementation impact
 - Funding for engineering design