

City of Union City 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

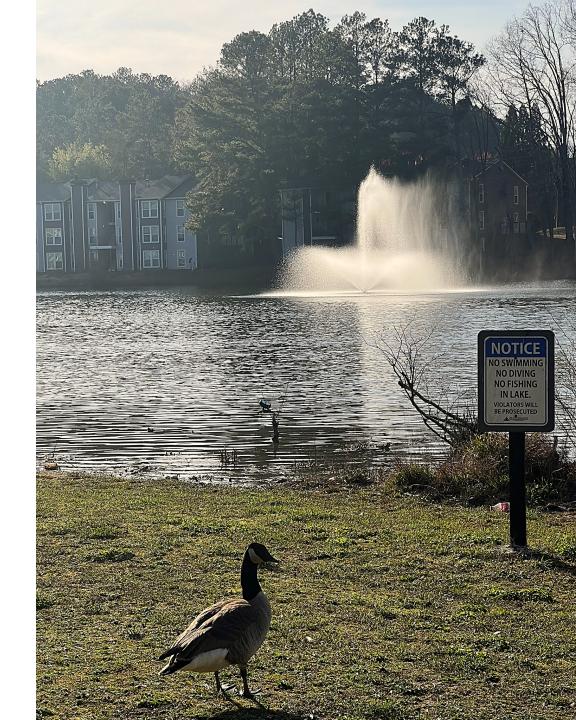
Public Hearing #2

August 19, 2025, 7:00 pm



Agenda

- 1. Comprehensive Planning Overview
- 2. Plan Timeline & Process
- 3. Plan Overview
- 4. Next Steps
- 5. Questions & Comments







Why Do We Plan?

- One of the fundamental responsibilities of local government is planning - How a community shapes and guides growth and development.
- Updating the comprehensive plan offers communities the opportunity to look beyond the execution of day-to-day services and consider where they want to be in the next five years – as well as what has to be done to get there.

The State of Georgia requires local governments to maintain a comprehensive plan!





Required Elements

REQUIRED FOR ALL



REQUIRED FOR SOME

* = Required for Union City

=5-year Update Required





Elements Requiring Updates Every 5 Years

- Needs and Opportunities
- Broadband
- Land Use
- Report of Accomplishments (ROA) Status of every item in existing Community Work Program (CWP), covering last 5 years
- New CWP Items noted as Underway or Postponed in ROA, plus any brand-new items, covering next 5 years

Elements RCs Are Required to Assist With

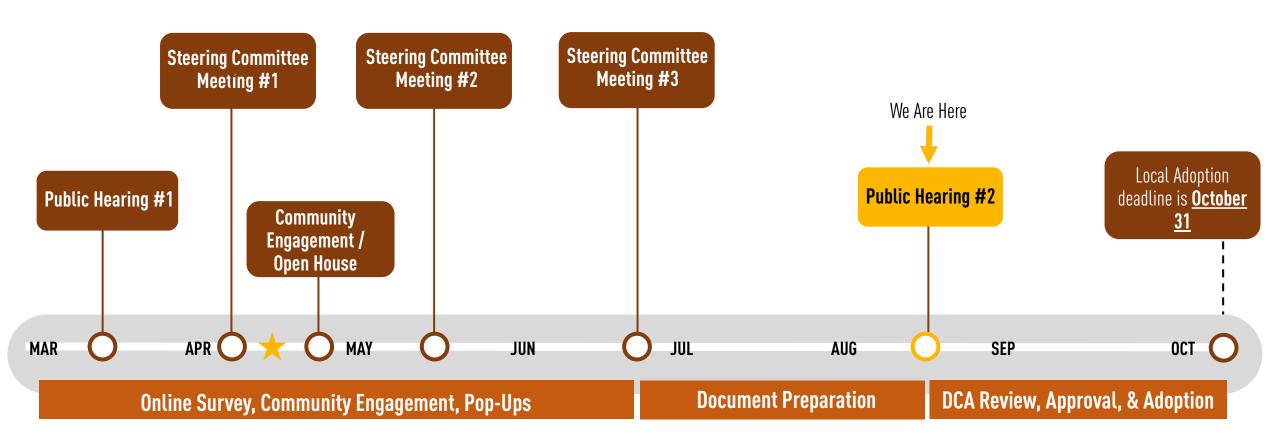
- Goals
- Needs and Opportunities
- Broadband
- Community Work Program

This is technically what's required of the Regional Commission (RC), but ARC's scope covers more.





Project Timeline





Pop-Ups





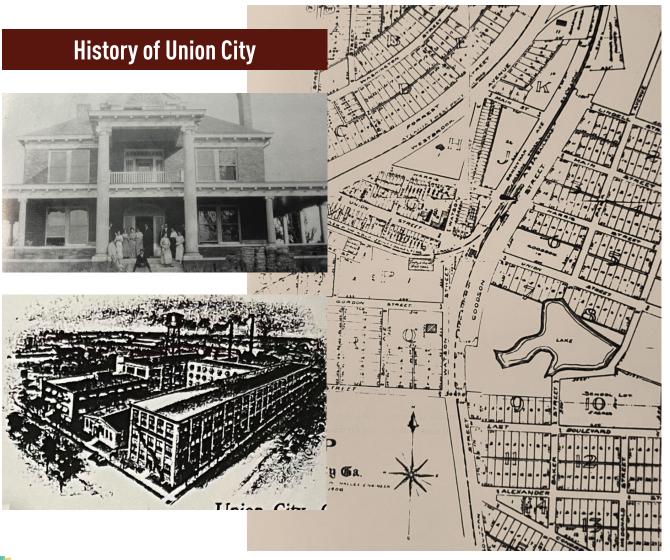
Project Includes...

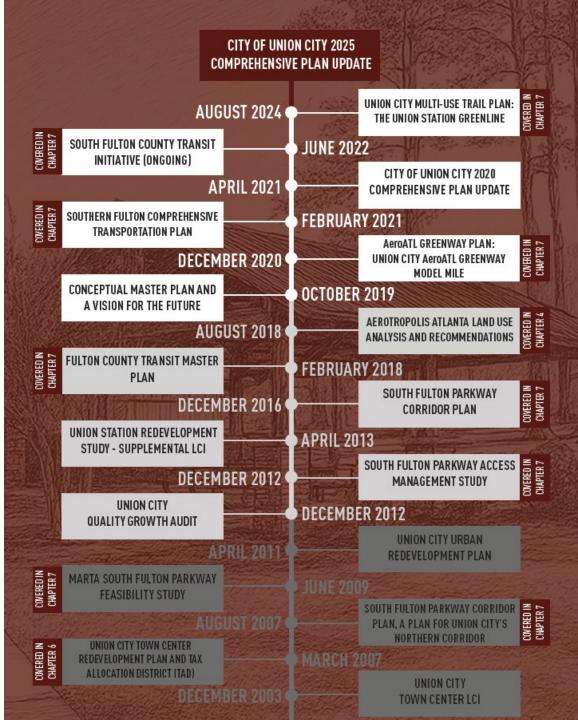
	1	Plan Background & Introduction	⊙_c°	7	Transportation
	2	Demographics & Data		8	Natural & Cultural Resources
229	3	Community Engagement Planning Process, Needs & Opportunities		9	Future Development Guide
	4	Community Vision & Goals	(1) (2) (3)	10	Community Work Program
	5	Housing		11	Report of Accomplishments
	6	Economic Development		12	Appendix Meetings and Additional Materials





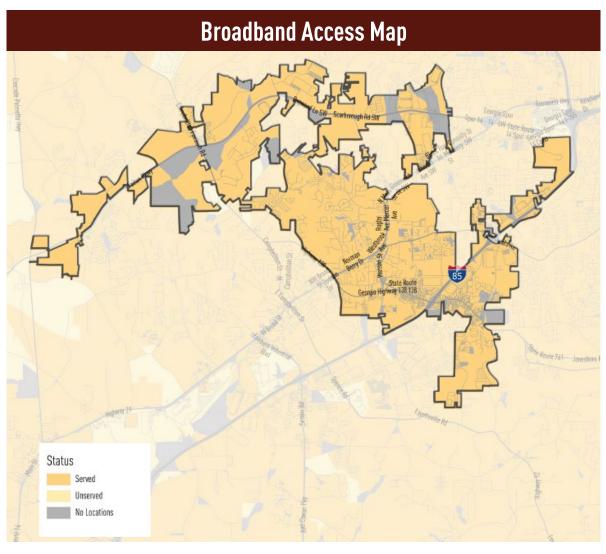
Plan Background & Introduction

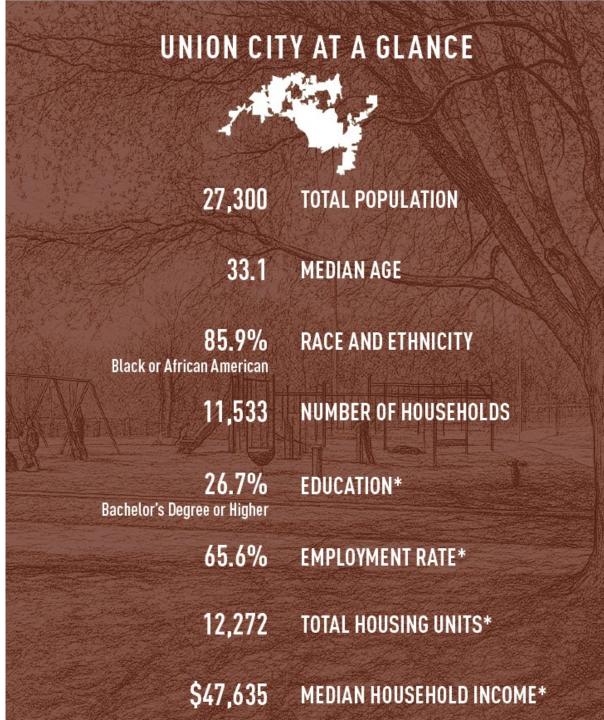






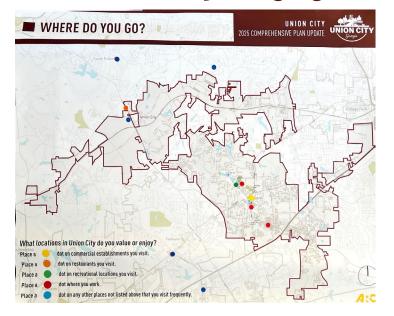
Data & Demographics







Community Engagement



NEEDS

 Preserve and expand green spaces, parks, and trails.

Residents ranked parks, trails, and recreation as top amenities, highlighting a need for additional investments in both new and existing spaces.

 Protect historic structures and cultural landmarks.

Downtown landmarks and other historic properties are important for preserving Union City's identity and can anchor tourism and redevelopment efforts.

Address litter and improve citywide appearance.

Community feedback calls for anti-litter campaigns, enforcement of property maintenance, and holding businesses accountable for site cleanliness and Code Enforcement.

OPPORTUNITIES

 Redevelop Dixie Lakes and similar natural assets into destinations.

Turning underused green spaces into recreation and gathering hubs can improve quality of life and draw regional visitors.

 Expand walking and biking trails and recreational amenities.

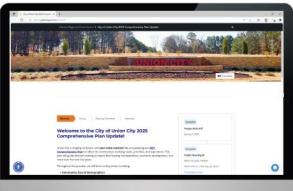
Outdoor recreation opportunities support healthier lifestyles and make the city more attractive for families and active residents.

 Promote cultural events and historic revitalization as community focal points.

Investing in cultural programming and historic preservation can enhance civic pride and tourism.







Online Survey & Public Input Website

Steering Committee Meeting 1: 04/02/2025
Framing the Plan and Setting Priorities

Steering Committee Meeting 2: 05/14/2025
Refining Needs & Opportunities

Steering Committee Meeting 3: 06/25/2025 Finalizing Vision, Goals, & Policies

Public Open House: 04/23/2025Open to Public Combined with the Town Hall Meeting

Pop-Up Engagement: 04/05/2025 Held by City Staff

Public Hearing 1 & 2 : 03/18/2025 & 08/19/2025Open to Public





Vision & Goals

Vision Statement

Union City will have walkable mixed-use development connected to parks and downtown areas with safe crossings, lighting, and a convenient public transportation system. The city will feature a variety of high-quality restaurants with family-oriented dining, diverse local community-centered businesses and retail, medical, health and educational facilities, and welcoming entertainment spaces with strong tourism. Union City will have a thriving and clean environment, and high development standards with venues promoting a safe place to play, live, and work.

Goals/Policies/Strategies

(Example-Housing Goals)





CREATE A VARIETY OF QUALITY HOUSING OPTIONS

• Promote a variety of housing choices in Union City - making it possible for all who work in the community to also live in the

Policy 1.1: Plan for a variety of housing types, styles and price points as new

Maintain residential balance so the community can continue to provide workforce housing in addition to housing at higher price points.

affordable housing options, make "aging in ensuring those who work in the city have homes available in their price range enabling them to live and work in Union City.

Policy 1.3: Encourage housing diversity in new neighborhoods.

Promote a variety housing types to provide housing choices and price points for all ages and income levels in the community.

Strategy 1.2.1: Conduct housing study to identify affordable housing

Strategy 1.1.1: Conduct housing study to identify the state of the current

housing stock and the future housing needs of the city, including

affordable, senior, and mixed-income housing.

Ensure that all residents have access to quality Strategy 1.2.2: Within the Union City Redevelopment Plan Target Area utilize the policies, tools and incentives found within the plan as well as place" a viable option for residents and the Opportunity Zone designation to encourage housing choices,

> Strategy 1.2.3: Utilize the existing Tax Allocation District (TAD) along Hww138/Jonesboro Road corridor to promote infrastructure improvements to attract residential redevelopment

Strategy 1.3.1: Create incentives, such as density bonuses or expedited permitting, for development that includes multiple housing types or affordable housing options, especially senior and mixed-income housing,

Strategy 1.3.2: Within the Union City Redevelopment Plan Target Areautilize the policies, tools and incentives found within the plan as well as the Opportunity Zone designation to encourage new housing development.

Future Development

Natural and Cultural Resources









Policy 2.1: Make visual improvements to Strategy 2.1.1: Develop financing tools for landowners that facilitate investment in struggling neighborhoods. Tax rebates, small low interest loan programs, or federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for interior and exterior renovations or home energy improvements can improve the visual character and quality of life of neighborhoods.

> Strategy 2.1.2: Within the Union City Redevelopment Plan Target Areautilize the policies, tools and incentives found within the plan as well as the Opportunity Zone designation.

Strategy 2.1.3: Continue the Clean and Lien Program under the Code Enforcement Department and enhance enforcement for property maintenance violations





Housing

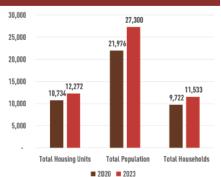
HOUSING UNITS

1. Housing Trends & Analysis (Example Below)

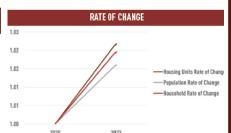
12,272 TOTAL 11,533 OCCUPIED

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year, 2020-2023

HOUSING UNIT GROWTH AND POPULATION GROWTH



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year, 2020-2023

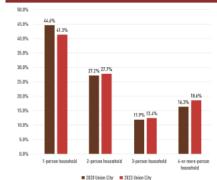


Housing Rate of Change	2020	2023
Housing Units Rate of Change	1	1.14
Population Rate of Change	1	1.24
Household Rate of Change	1	1.19

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year, 2020-2023

CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Union city has more 1-person HHs than the county and MSA, indicating a need for housing options that include smaller homes. Per the U.S. Census Bureau, the average household size is 2.34, below the Metro Atlanta average household size of 2.70



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year, 2020-2023

2. Submarkets: Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy



METROATL HOUSING STRATEGY APPROACH

The Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy Toolkit provides detailed information and data about the region's housing market and offers a set of actionable steps that local communities can consider taking to address their housing issues. Housing Submarkets in the ARC region are defined using home sales data for a point in time. Census data and demographic changes are incorporated to develop strategies and action steps for housing within each submarkets. Union City has four submarkets.

54% SUBMARKET7	
38% SUBMARKET 8	
6% SUBMARKET 9	
2% SUBMARKET 10	

UNION CITY SNAPSHOT

Median Home Sale Fince	4211,000
Change in Median Home Sale Price (2018-2023)	+ 56%
Home Sale Price Per Sq Ft (2023)	\$144,000 sq ft
Percent Change in Home Sale Price Per Sq Ft (2018-2023)	+ 102%
Median Building Area of	1,545 sg ft

Data Source: ARC analysis of ATTOM Data Solutions' home sale transactions, 2018-2023

3. Community Input (Example Below)

COMMUNITY INPUT ON HOUSING

WHAT UNION CITY SHOULD FOCUS ON



WHAT UNION CITY SHOULD FOCUS ON:

- 74% ENSURE NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT MEETS HIGH STANDARDS OF QUALITY
- 51% FACILITATE THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING HOUSING STOCK
- 40% PROMOTE A VARIETY OF HOUSING CHOICES
- 22% OFFER ATTAINABLE HOUSING OPTIONS

Based on the online survey results, Union City residents expressed strong interest in expanding housing options that reflect the community's diverse needs and aspirations. Top priorities include the development of senior housing, mixed-income housing, and higher-end housing priced above \$400,000. In addition to increasing housing variety, residents emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of quality in new residential construction, revitalizing the existing housing stock, and promoting opportunities for homeownership.

HOW THE RESIDENTS RANK HOUSING NEEDS

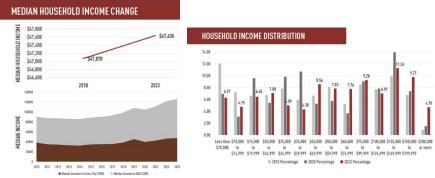
	Need More	Right Amount	Need Less
Affordable Housing	37%	49%	14%
Senior Housing	51%	45%	4%
Density	20%	59%	20%
Mixed-Income Housing	40%	40%	19%
High-Income Housing (\$400,000+)	58%	29%	13%

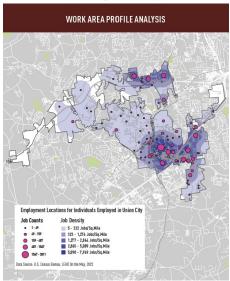


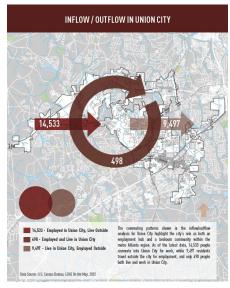


Economic Development

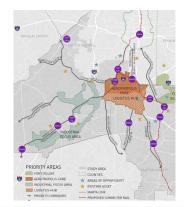
1. Economic Development Trends (Example Below)

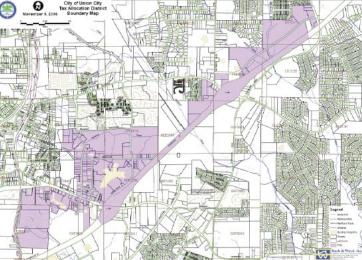






2. Economic Development Studies





3. Community Input (Example Below)

COMMUNITY INPUT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOP THREE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

68% ATTRACT NEW COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

63% MORE/BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

59% IMPROVE WAGE LEVELS

49% ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRIES

29% EXPANDING EXISTING BUSINESSES

27% ATTRACTING EXPERIENCED LABOR FORCE

WHAT BRINGS RESIDENTS TO DOWNTOWN UNION CITY



TOP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

PROMOTE REDEVELOPMENT OF UNDERUTILIZED, UNDEVELOPED, AND DECLINING AREAS

ESTABLISH A DOWNTOWN FOR AN ECONOMIC BASE

5% ATTRACT A VARIETY OF BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYERS

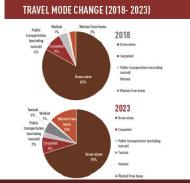
Community input on economic development highlights a strong desire for growth and revitalization in Union City. Survey respondents prioritized attracting new commercial businesses (60%), and improving wage levels (59%) as key strategies for local economic development. Additionally, over half of respondents (51%) recommender develveloping underutilized or declining areas, and 44% emphasized the need to establish a defined downtown to support economic activity. Public comments reveal a lack of clarity about where "downtown" is and note that existing civic services alone do not create a vibrant center—indicating a need for further investment and placemaking in Union City's core.

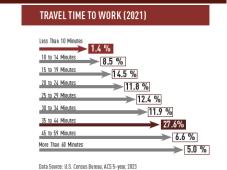


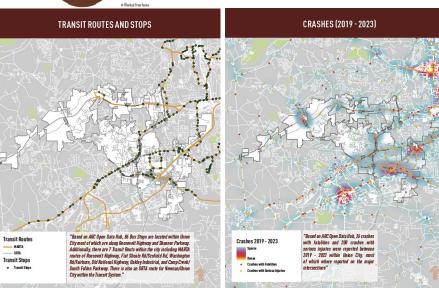


Transportation

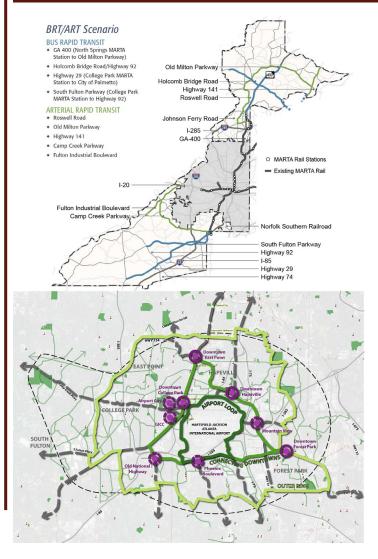
1. Transportation Trends & Analysis (Example Below)







2. Transportation Studies (Example Below)



3. Community Input (Example Below)

COMMUNITY INPUT ON TRANSPORTATION







oss streets.

More stricter

needed. The trucks

are out of control

When asked to rate the current transportation system, the majority of residents expressed dissatisfaction. Pedestrian and bicycle safety received the lowest marks, with 64% rating it as poor. Traffic congestion and safety were also major concerns, with 40% rating each as poor and an additional 40% ranking congestion as below average. These responses indicate a strong community demand for safer, more accessible, and better-connected transportation infrastructure.

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED

83% Improved Traffic Flow

46% Bike Lanes

42% Street Signage

RESIDENTS RANK	

Parkway is dark and

dangerous. Needs

	Poor	Below Average	Adequate	Good	Excellent	No Opinion
Traffic Safety	36%	26%	25%	6%	-	8%
Traffic Congestion	40%	40%	19%			2%
Road Conditions	25%	34%	38%	496		
Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety	64%	19%	13%	-	-	4%
Public Transportation	28%	28%	19%	8%		17%



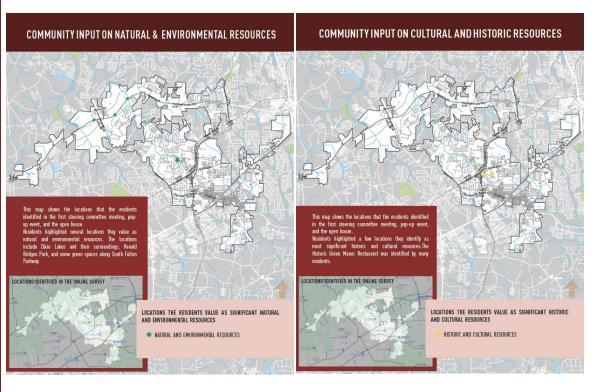


Natural & Cultural Resources

1. Resources Data & Maps (Example Below)

HISTORIC RESOURCES IN UNION CITY WATERBODIES, STREAMS, AND GREEN SPACES representing a variety of property types including single-family dwellings, religious institutions, residential and commercial buildings, a railroad, and a cemetery. While none of these sites are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, both the railroad and the cemetery have been identified as potentially eligible. This designation indicates that, based on professional surveyor evaluations, these resources meet the criteria for listing but have not yet been formally nominated or approved. One of Union City's most notable historic properties is the Green Manor, a preserved structure that has been repurposed as a restaurant, serving as both a community gathering place and a symbol of the city's cultural heritage. Groundwater Recharge Areas Floodolains 100-Year Flood Zone

2. Community Input (Example Below)

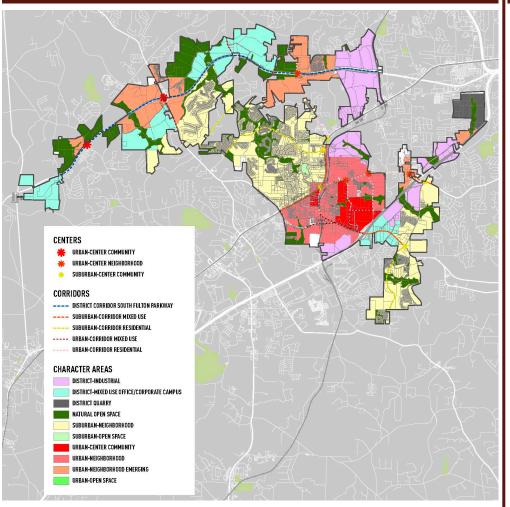






Future Development

1. Future Development (Land Use) Map



2. Character Areas Descriptions (Example Below)

URBAN - NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGING

Inte

CREATE new urban neighborhoods to improve the quality of life with an increased sense of place and community.



General Characteristics: Urban Neighborhood Emerging (U-NE) is characterized by compact, walkable development in close proximity to a Community or Neighborhood center. The general development pattern is defined by residential, and cMc uses such as schools. Neighborhood-oriented commercial uses may be permitted when part of a mixed use development. Buildings have mobirate to shallow setbacks and use the building structure or landscardon to frame the street.

Street networks are defined by Uniear streets with moderate to short distances between intersections. Readway cross sections are typically defined by the nealway, curb and gutter, stdewalds, and formal landscaping at the edge of the public right-or-way and private property. On-street parking should be encouraged. Connectivity is high for vehicles, pedestifians, and bitycle users.

Green space on individual lots is reduced since lots are smaller. Green space along streets, including street trees, bushes and plantling strips, is more prominent than in suburban neighborhoods. These streetscape elements frame the street, provide shade and contribute to the neighborhood's unban character. Neighborhood and community parks provide large green space and recreation areas.

Future development should emphaste connectivity and housing diversity by accommodating a mix of housing types and sizes with development, including small-ind single family, townshomes, and lovelywork units. Higher Intensity residential uses should be located at key Intersections and along higher traffic streets to create a transition to less intense residential uses. Access to nearby corridors and centers should be supported with pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Application: U-N areas are generally areas currently undeveloped or developed in a rural or suburban development pattern but where the desterd future development pattern is for a more under, walkable and connected development pattern. These areas are generally located along the South Futtor Parkway currisor and in close proximity to the MARIA. Parkin-Rillo.

URBAN - NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGING

Site Design

- Vehicular access provided by alleys and private driveways
- Moderate to shallow building setbacks
- Moderate to high lot coverage with medium to large building fortunint in relation to lot size.



Primary Future Land Uses

- Residential uses such as single family attached and detached homes townhomes live/work units and multitamily
- Civic uses such as places of worship, schools, municipal services, community centers, parks, or passive recreation (including proportions and traile)

Compatible Zoning Classifications

- R-0
- RM
- ICMF

Density/Intensity

High density/intensity
 1-3 story buildings

1-3 sonk naminings

Green Space

- Formal landscaping with built areas
- Moderately dense street trees, bushes, and planting strips
- Neighborhood and community parks

Transportation

- High pedestrian connectM ty with sidewalks and bikeways
- High vehicular connectivity with curvilinear and linear streets and moderate to short distance between intersections

rastructure

- Municipal water and sewer service
- Telecommunications available





Community Work Program

Community Work Program (Example Below)

	Union (City Community W	ork Program	- 2025						Union City Community Work Program - 202						2025			
ID	Project	Responsible Party	Cost	Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	ID	Project	Responsible Party	Cost	Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
		Land U	se							14	Nuisance Abatement Program/Blight	Comm.Dev/Code	Staff Time	General	Х	Х	χ		
1	Utilize conservation easements and other land preservation tools	Comm. Dev/Public Services	Staff Time		X	Х	X	X			Ordinance	Enforcement		Funds/ TSPLOST/ Bond					
2	Pursue discussions about the revitalization of Dixle Lakes	Comm. Dev./ Public Services	Staff Time		X	X	X	Х		15	Address High vacancy rates, blight, and adsentee landlords on Roosevelt Highway	Comm.Dev/ Code Enforcement	Staff Time		χ	χ	χ		П
3	Continue to implement Roosevelt Highway Overlay District	Comm. Dev.	Staff Time		Х	X	X			16	Complete rewrite of Zoning Ordinance and Code of Ordinance	Comm. Dev	Staff Time	\$150,000	χ	χ	χ	χ	Х
4	Regularly review the Town Center Mixed Use Mixed Use District to ensure regulations support the development of mixed use	Comm. Dev.	Staff Time		X	X	X	X	X		Create a Unified Development Code of Ordinance	Comm. Dev	Staff Time	\$100,000	X	X	X	X	Х
5	centers. Adopt street connectivity standards that	Comm. Dev	Zoning Ord	General	Х	Х	Х			18	Create a city redevelopment plan for the new Downtown and Shannon Parkway	Comm.Dev	DDA	General Fund	X	X	X	X	X
	require connectivity within new		Re-write \$	Fund							,	Housir							
6	development and to adjacent areas Develop an inventory of vacant and/ or unoccupied Brownfield and Greyfield areas to identify sites that are suitable for	Comm. Dev.	TBD Staff Time		Х	Х	Х				Conduct housing study to identify housing stock existing conditions and future needs in the city (including affordable housing).	Comm. Dev	\$60,000	ARC CDAP	X	X	X		
7	development and redevelopment Coordinate school site section with planning	Bd. of Edu	Staff Time		X	Y	¥			20	Develop incentives that encourage diverse and affordable housing	Comm. Dev	Staff Time		X	X	X		
,	officials, neighborhoods, and the school board	Comm. Dev.	Stall Time		^	^	^			21	Conduct Housing Assessment Survey	Comm.Dev/ Marketing	Staff Time	General Fund	Х	Х	χ		
8	Review and amend park and open space dedication requirements and incentives	Comm. Dev.	Staff Time		X	Х	X			22	First Time Homeownership Program	City Administration/	Staff Time	Grants/ General	Х	Х	χ		
9	Pursue emergency facilities and technology educational opportunities	Comm. Dev.	Staff Time		X	X	X					Housing Authority	Fund						
10		Comm. Dev	Staff Time		Х	Х	Х			22	Work with organizations such as PEDS to	Transport Public Service	Staff Time	General	Y	v	v		
	Parkway Corridor Plan process to continue coordinated planning with adjacent jurisdictions and to ensure the balanced development of South Fulton Parkway										coordinate safe routes to school programs and PATH for and pedestrian connections.	Fublic Service		Funds/ TSPLOST/ Bond	۸	۸	۸		
11	Pursue creative placemaking for the following corridors: Flat Shoals, Shannon Parkway	Comm. Dev/ Public Services/ Marketing	Staff Time		Х	Х	X	Х		24	Coordinate with MARTA on the Greenway Project including the Park-N-Ride for a trailhead from Feldwood Road ti Buffington Road	Comm. Dev.	Staff Time		X	X	Х	X	
12	Create overlay district for South Fulton Parkway.	Comm.Dev/City Administration	Staff Time	General Fund	X	X	X			25	Coordinate with MARTA to restore routes along Roosevelt Highway	Public Services	Staff Time	TSPLOST/ General Fund	Х	Х	Х	Х	X
13	Create infill development guidelines to support the adaptive reuse of vacant properties.	Comm.Dev	Staff Time		X	X	X			26	Adopt development regulation amendments requiring installation of bicycle and pedestrian amenities with new development.	Public Services	Staff Time		X	X	X		

ONE **Great** REGION

UNION CITY 2025 COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM

As part of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update, the Community Work Program chapter establishes a clear roadmap for transforming community input into actionable initiatives over the coming five-year planning period. Building on the foundational principles from previous planning efforts, the program outlines specific strategies designed to implement priorities identified through visioning workshops, stakeholder interviews, public input surveys, and open house events.

A key component of the Comprehensive Plan is to identify projects that the Union City will undertake to implement the goals and policies of the plan. The following pages identify the projects that Union City will undertake in the next five years.



Report of Accomplishments

Report of Accomplishments (Example Below)

	Union City Report of Accomplishments												
ID	Project	Responsible Party	Cost	Funding Source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Status	Comments		
1	Work with organizations such as PEDS to coordinate safe routes to school programs and PATH for and pedestrian connections.	Public Service	Staff Time	General Funds/ TSPLOST/Bond	X	X	X	X	X	Underway	The Union Oay Public Sarvies Department is not comenty working with PEDS, however, we are actively implementing our own Trail Moster Plan to guide pedestrain connectivity throughout the city. In a definion, we are in the process of diverloping a Chywide Sidewald Master Plan to definity and pointific sidewal king improvements in a phased approximation for the other phased approximation special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), municipal books, and general hand allocations, we are addressing sidewalds apps, constructing sidewalds where none exist, and advancing trail infrastructure under the Union Diff Greenlie in Intaker. This placed, long-tern approximations to not not reveal additionally, improve public safety, and expand alternative to an eportation options for residents across the city.		
2	Coordinate the location and construction of new civic building in activity centers, corridors and neighborhoods	City Administration	Staff Time		X	X	X	X	X	Underway			
3	Coordinate working relationships with planning staff, local businesses and local economic development organizations to ensure new and existing business developments are in line with the principles of the Future Development Guide	Comm. Dev.	Staff Time		X	X	X	X	X	Underway			
4	Review and amend tree preservation regulations	Comm. Dev.	Zoning Ord Re-write - \$ TBD	General Fund	X					Complete			
5	Coordinate with MARTA on the Greenway Project including the Park-N-Ride for a trailhead from Feldwood Road ti Buffington Road	Comm. Dev.	Staff Time		X	X				Underway			
6	Coordinate with MARTA to restore routes along Roos evelt Highway	Public Services	Staff Time	TSPLOST/ General Fund	Х	X	Х	Х	X	Underway	The Union Dly Public Services Department has actively coordinated with MaRIA to support the restoration of transit routes along Riccs well Highway, with a storing emphasison improving accessibility, selvy, and walkability. As part of the collaboration, MARIA has upgraded several bus stops along the corridoc including the installation of concrete landings to enhance passenger confort and AIDA accessibility. To complement these upprofes, the Public Services Department has programmed the construction of AIDA-complaint sidewalks to connect all transit stops along the note. Additionally, the City is implementing safe pedestrian crossings at key locations to improve safety and ensure seemless, walkable access to public transportation. These improvements are part of a broader, placed initiative to create a more transit-friendly and prefestionar-releted coursil or that supports long-term mobility, safety, and connectivity for Union City residents.		

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KEY TO TERMINOLOGY

Items that are Completed have been finished within the 5-Year reporting period prior to this Comprehensive Plan Update.

Items that are Underway have been initiated or have had partial progress made as of the end of the 5-Year reporting period prior to this Comprehensive Plan Update. They have been carried over into the new 5-year reporting period for this Comprehensive Plan Undate

Items that are Postponed are still priorities for the community and have been carried over into the new 5-Year reporting period for this Comprehensive Plan Update.

Items that are Cancelled will not be carried over into the new 5-Year reporting period for this Comprehensive Plan Update. Generally, these are items that are broad policy statements or routine city operations, and they have been identified appropriately as such. COMPLETED

UNDERWAY

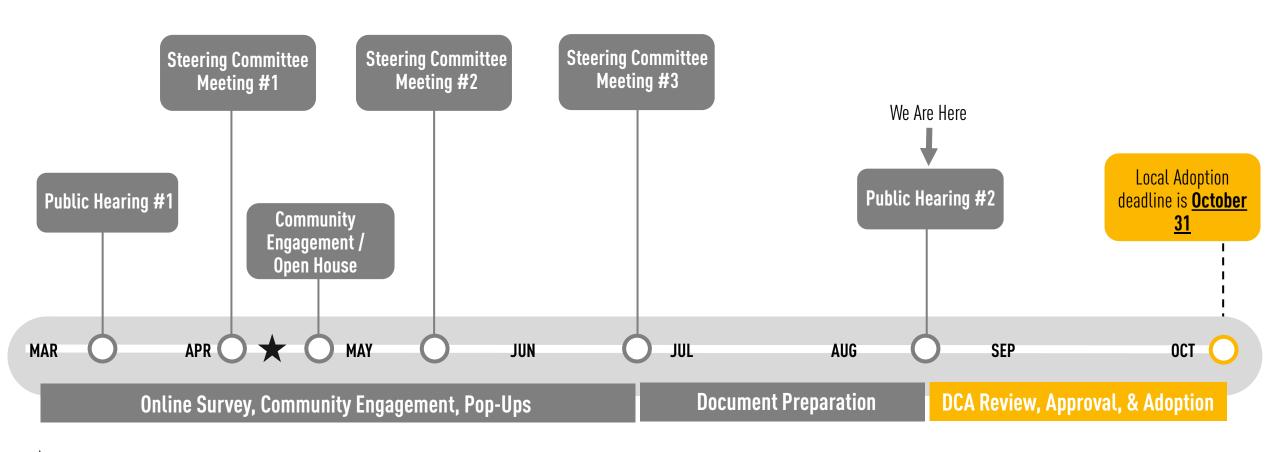
POSTPONED

CANCELLED





Next Steps





Pop-Ups

Draft Document









Questions? Comments?





Thank You!

Shima Khodagholi, Project Manager Skhodagholi@atlantaregional.org

