Balancing Multiple Priorities in the Southern Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan

GPA Spring Conference

April 23, 2021

SOUTHERN FULTON
COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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Essential Facts About the ARC CTP Program

- Began in 2005

- Locally led long range transportation planning process

- Typically updated every 6 to 8 years

- 80% federal funds with 20% local match

- Federal contribution typically ranges from $250K to $1M

- Plans form the foundation for the TIP/RTP

- Important for establishing local priorities for future revenue opportunities

Basic Requirements of a CTP

- Prioritized list of transportation investments supporting regional and community visions

- Five to ten year fiscally constrained action plan

- Local "buy in" resulting from robust community engagement

- Recommendations that leverage regional facilities, services and programs

- Recommendations that knit together existing local plans

SFCTP Consultant Team

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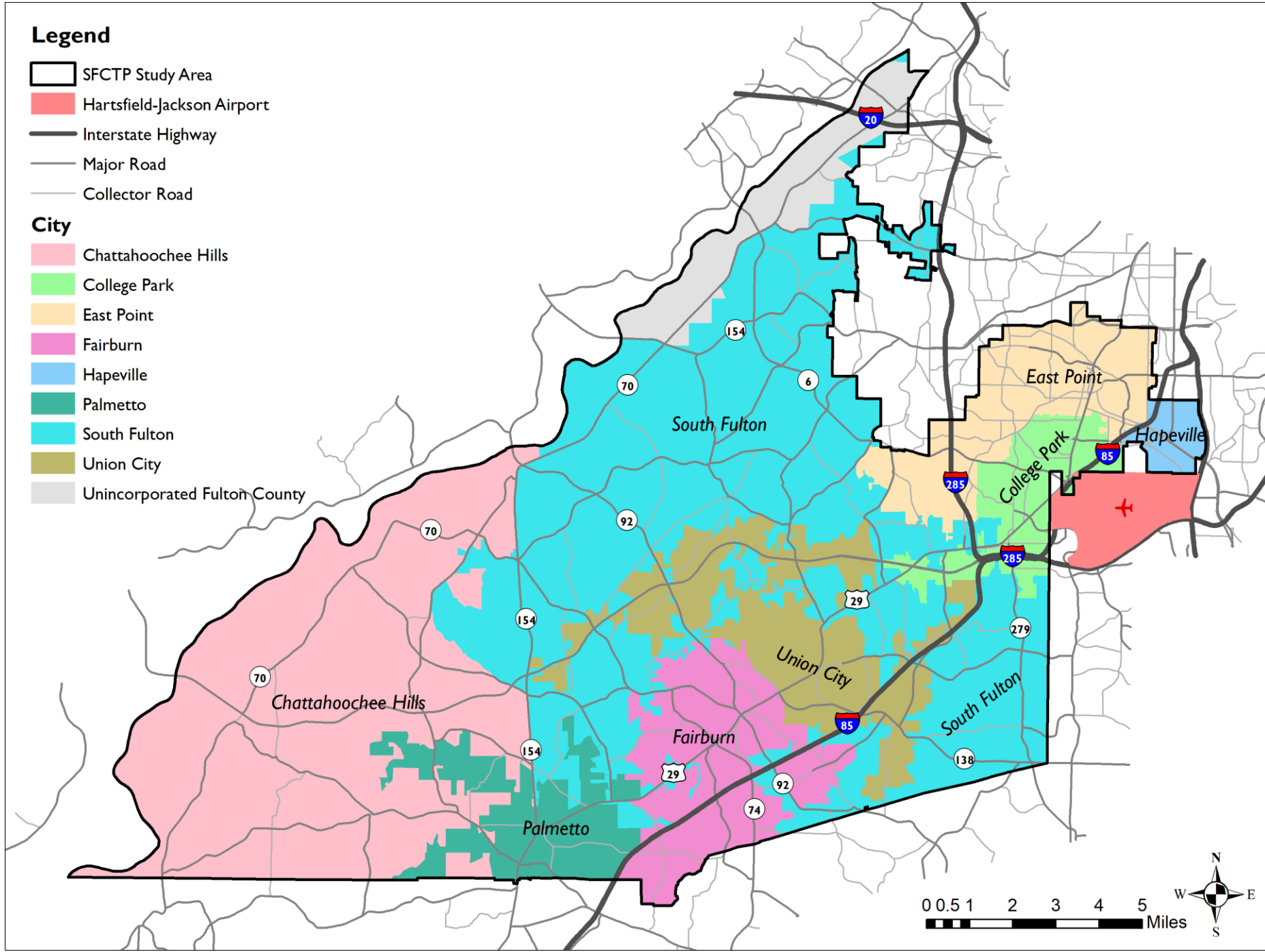**Arcadis**
Transportation &
Land Use

Jennifer Hibbert
AECOM
Transit/Bike/
Pedestrians

SFCTP Stakeholders

SFCTP
Study Area

What is the SFCTP?

- Southern Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan (SFCTP)
- Master list of prioritized transportation projects for 8 cities across all modes providing mobility options for all users
  - Financially Feasible Plan
    - Short-Term (5 years)
    - Mid-Term (10 years)
  - Long Term (10+ years)
- Can be used to:
  - Populate project list for next SPLOST program
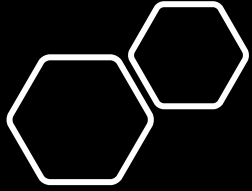 - Apply for federal funding from ARC during project solicitation process

Key Challenges:

1. Balancing the **needs and priorities of 8 jurisdictions**

2. Planning for new and emerging **technologies**

3. Balancing the **competing needs of freight and people** along corridors and dealing with zoning decisions of nearby jurisdictions

4. COVID-19 impact on **public engagement**

Challenge #1:

Balancing the needs and priorities of **8 jurisdictions**

Audience
Poll Question
#1

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Project Prioritization

- Projects were identified based on the Needs Assessment and stakeholder and public input

- The project prioritization evaluation criteria align with the Vision, Goals & Objectives and were developed and refined based on stakeholder and public input

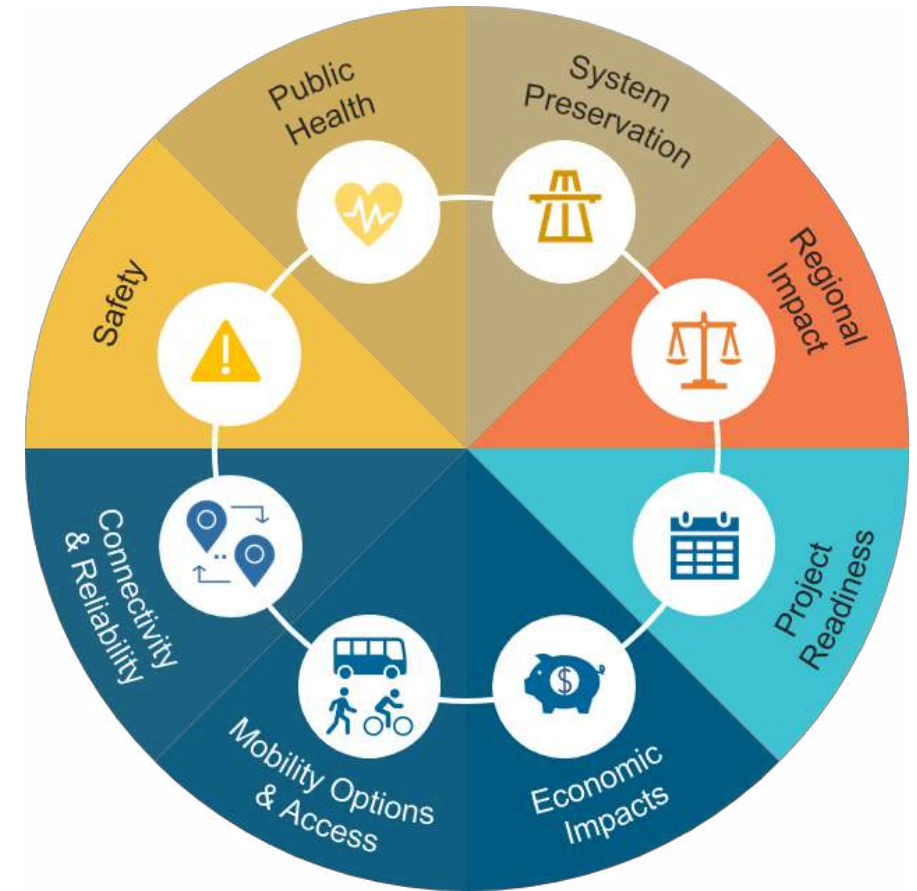- Specific metrics were identified for each evaluation criteria

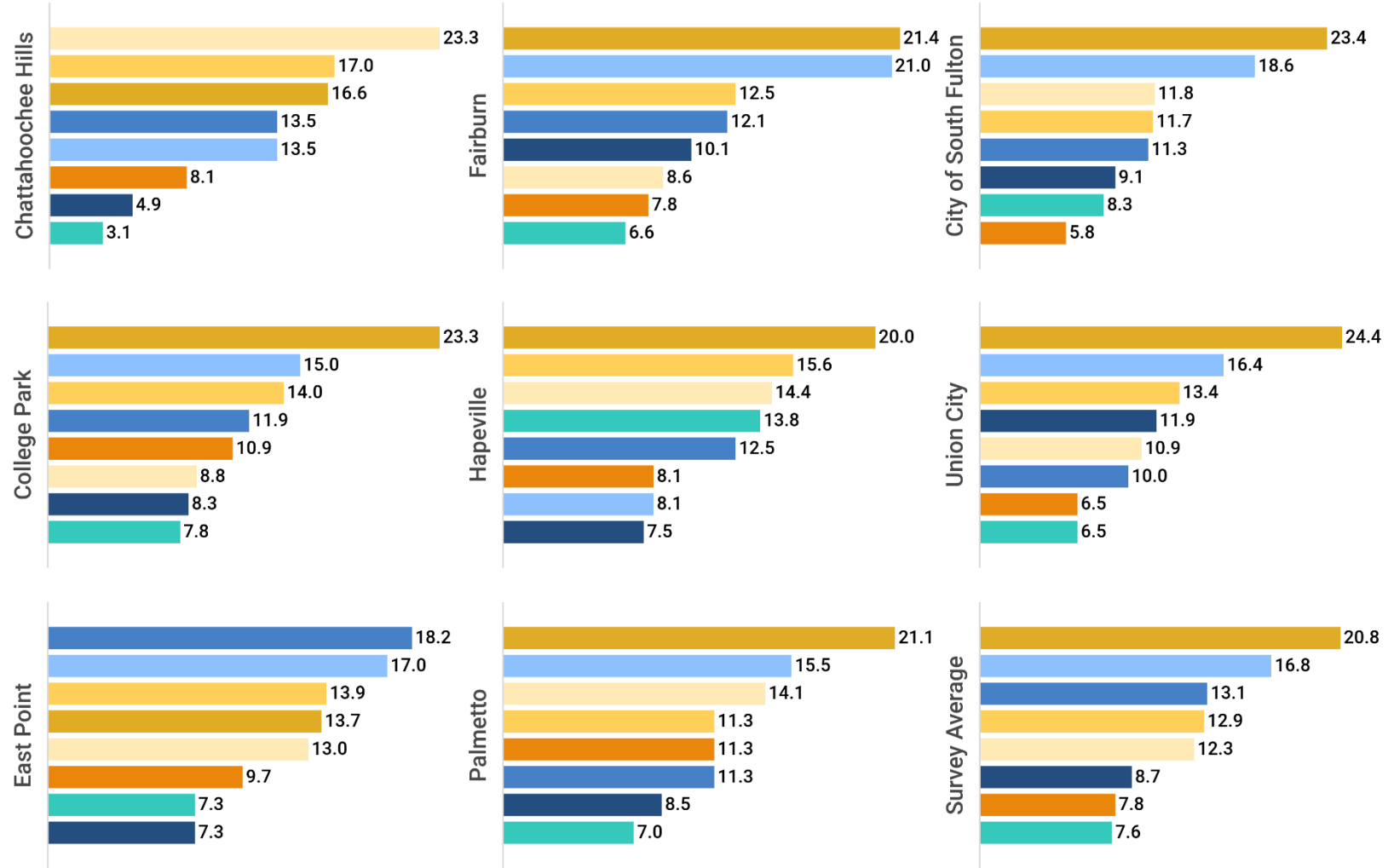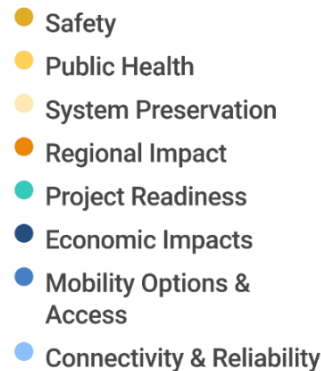**Refined Vision**

Refined Goals & Objectives

Weighting Scenarios

Accounting for Differing Priorities

- Each city's prioritization weighting was evaluated based on the online survey in which respondents were asked to select their city.
- The average resulted in **Safety** as the top priority, followed by **Connectivity & Reliability** and **Mobility Options & Access**.

Chattahoochee Hills: 23.3, 17.0, 16.6, 13.5, 13.5, 8.1, 4.9, 3.1

Fairburn: 21.4, 21.0, 12.5, 12.1, 10.1, 8.6, 7.8, 6.6

City of South Fulton: 23.4, 18.6, 11.8, 11.7, 11.3, 9.1, 8.3, 5.8

College Park: 23.3, 15.0, 14.0, 11.9, 10.9, 8.8, 8.3, 7.8

Hapeville: 20.0, 15.6, 14.4, 13.8, 12.5, 8.1, 8.1, 7.5

Union City: 24.4, 16.4, 13.4, 11.9, 10.9, 10.0, 6.5, 6.5

East Point: 18.2, 17.0, 13.9, 13.7, 13.0, 9.7, 7.3, 7.3

Palmetto: 21.1, 15.5, 14.1, 11.3, 11.3, 11.3, 8.5, 7.0

Survey Average: 20.8, 16.8, 13.1, 12.9, 12.3, 8.7, 7.8, 7.6

Legend:
- Safety
- Public Health
- System Preservation
- Regional Impact
- Project Readiness
- Economic Impacts
- Mobility Options & Access
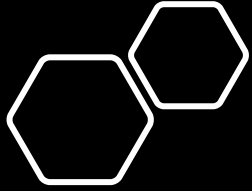- Connectivity & Reliability

Project Prioritization Framework

01 Universe of Projects
List of project ideas based on data needs and stakeholder input

02 Raw Score
Based on the selected metrics

03 City Weighting
Based on survey #1 results by city

04 Regional Weighting
Based on all survey #1 results combined

05 Ranking
Prioritized list of projects in order by combined city and regional score

Universe of Projects

Raw Score

City Weighting

Regional Weighting

Ranking

Challenge #2:

Planning for new and emerging **technologies**

Audience Poll Question #2

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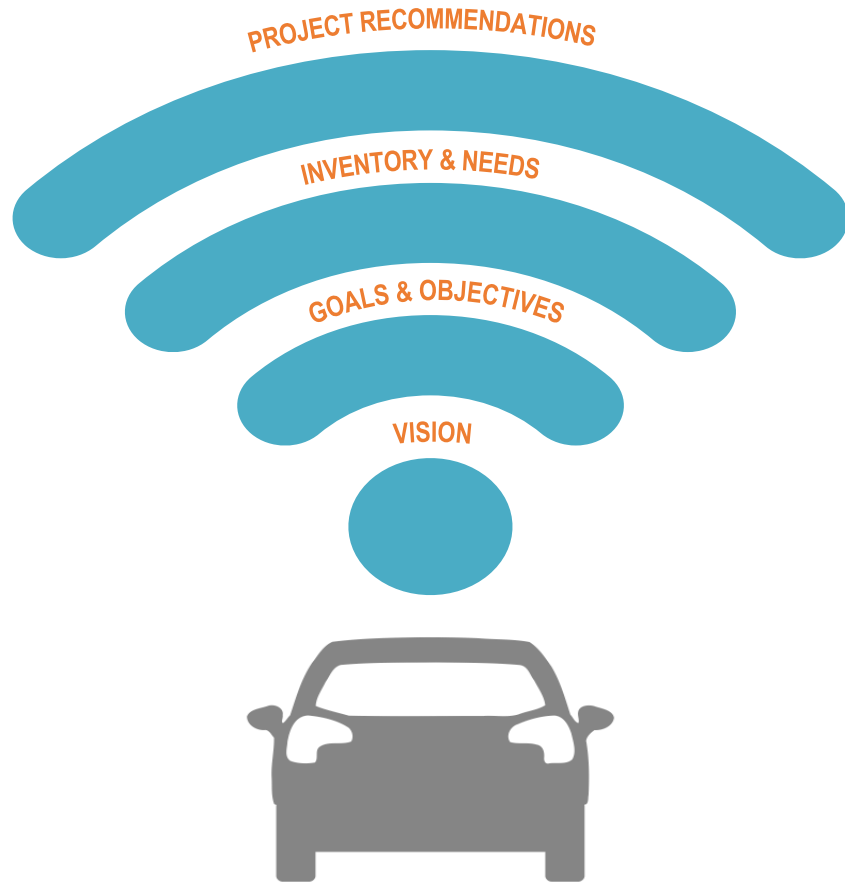
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How were new and emerging technologies, and other disrupters, accounted for?

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ Identified smart corridor network
✓ Project cost estimates include fiber (line itemed) for widening and new construction
✓ Installation of communications at traffic signals
✓ Signal preemption for emergency vehicles and signal priority for buses and/or trucks on designated corridors
✓ Flashing beacons for mid-block pedestrian crossings
✓ Bike signals
✓ Electric Vehicle (EV) charging locations
✓ Reduced funding scenario to reflect disruptors that may impact motor fuel tax revenues such as pandemics, connected and autonomous vehicles, and EVs.

INVENTORY & NEEDS

✓ Communications equipment (cellular, Dedicated Short-Range Communications (DSRC), and/or fiber)
✓ Smart corridor network

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

✓ CVs reflected in Goal #2: Provide a connected and reliable transportation system that operates efficiently supports future growth.
✓ CVs reflected in Objective within Goal #2: Promote innovative approaches for reducing congestion and promoting travel time reliability across multiple modes.

VISION

✓ CVs reflected in "connected" transportation infrastructure to support mobility options and economic growth.
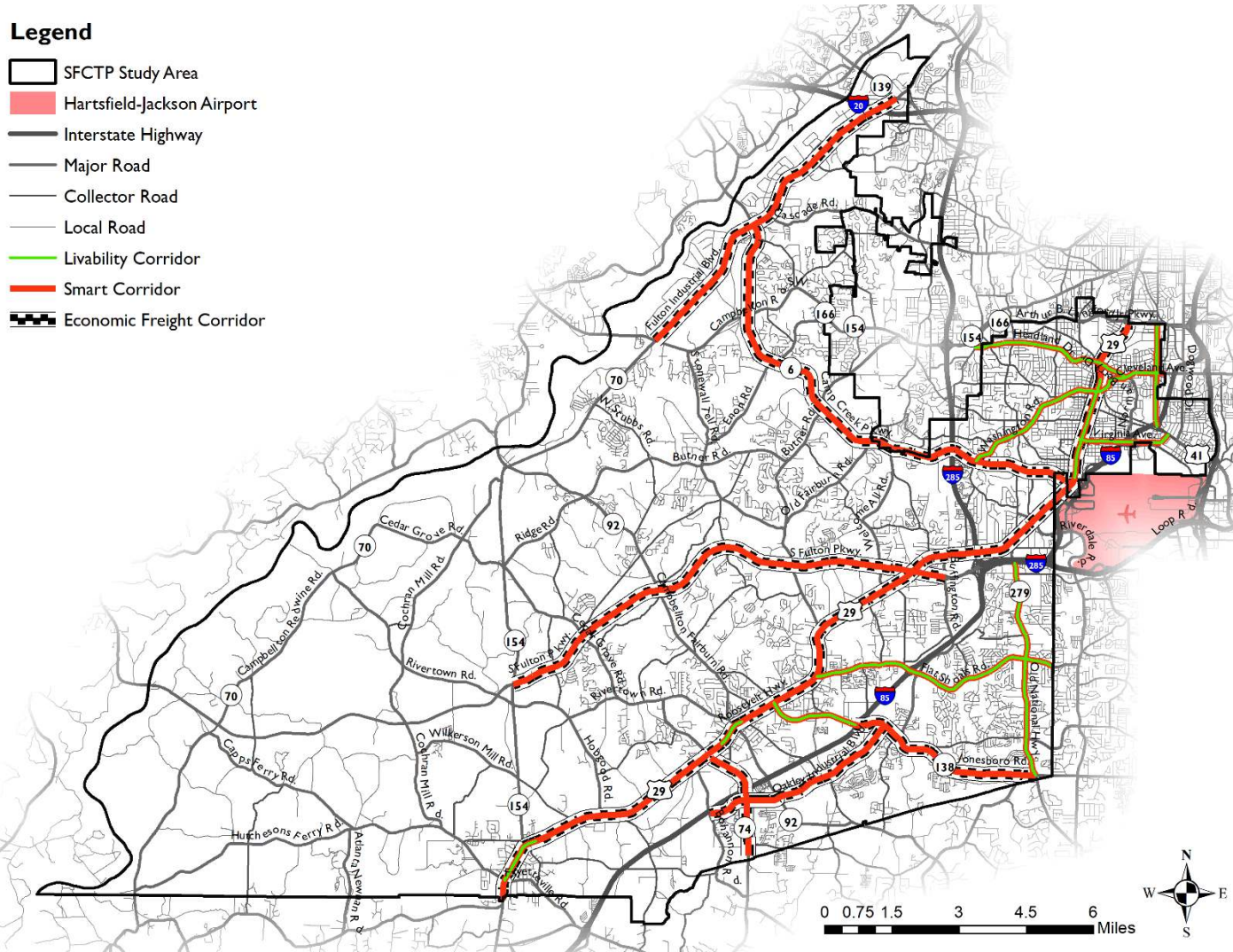
Challenge #3:

Balancing the **competing needs of freight and people** along corridors and dealing with zoning decisions of nearby jurisdictions

Accounting for Differing Users

Legend

☐ SFCTP Study Area
🟥 Hartsfield-Jackson Airport
── Interstate Highway
── Major Road
── Collector Road
── Local Road
── Livability Corridor
── Smart Corridor
▬▬ Economic Freight Corridor

A UNIQUE ASPECT OF THE SFCTP WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CORRIDOR FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERATION DURING FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING DECISIONS AND TO FOCUS THE TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE CORRIDOR BASED ON THE INTENDED USES.

Smart Corridors
Corridors where technology upgrades are most beneficial for improved safety and operations.
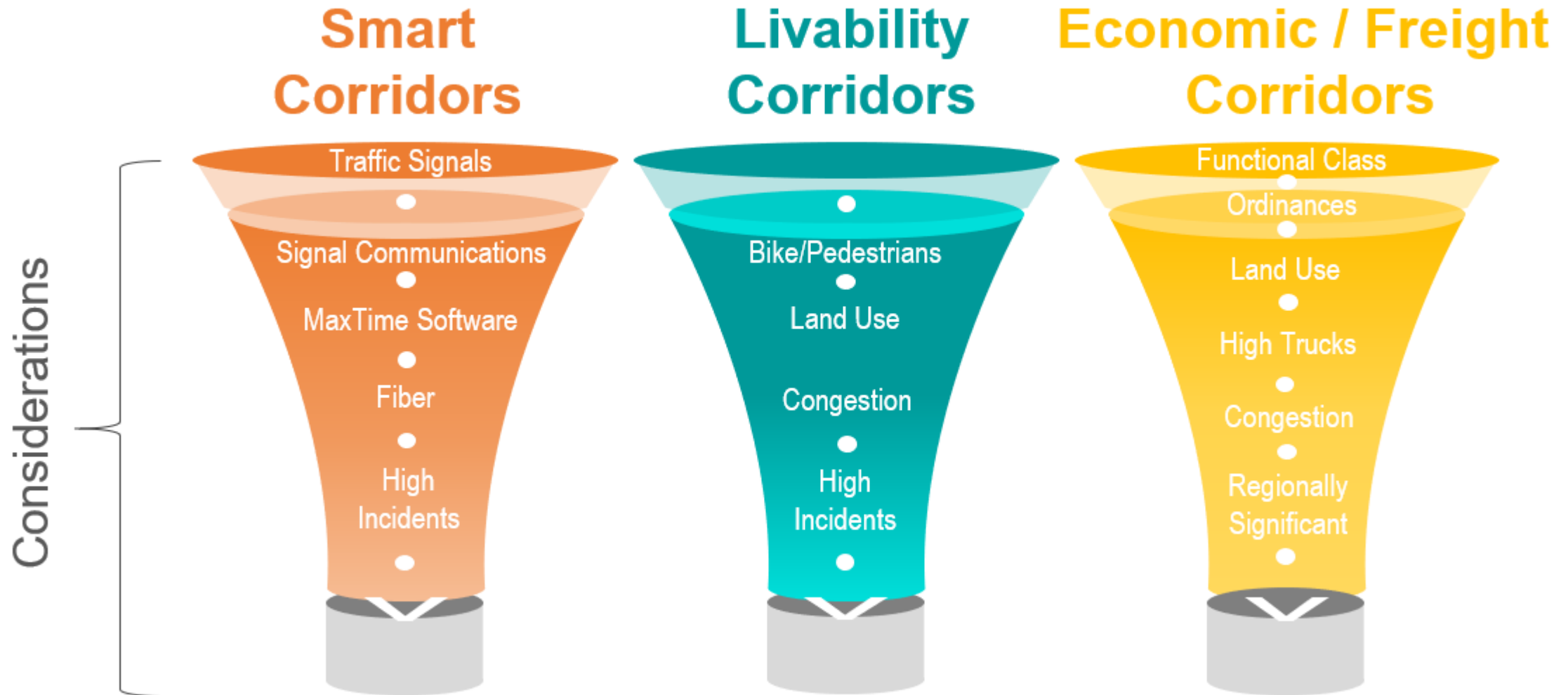
Livability Corridors
Corridors with commercial, residential, and mixed-use land uses, and activity centers. These corridors have high bicycle, pedestrian, and transit volumes.

Economic Freight Corridors
Corridors where projects focus on improving freight and economic activity. These corridors have heavy commercial vehicle volumes and industrial land uses.
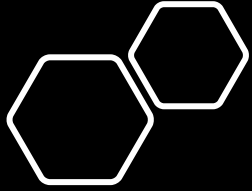
Accounting for Differing Users

Considerations

Smart Corridors

- Traffic Signals
- Signal Communications
- MaxTime Software
- Fiber
- High Incidents

Livability Corridors

- Bike/Pedestrians
- Land Use
- Congestion
- High Incidents

Economic / Freight Corridors

- Functional Class
- Ordinances
- Land Use
- High Trucks
- Congestion
- Regionally Significant

Improvements by Corridor Type

SMART	LIVABILITY	ECONOMIC / FREIGHT
• Signal priority (transit and/or freight)	• Bicycle facility improvements (e.g., bike lanes, bike parking, bike signal detection)	• Freight signal priority during off-peak hours
• Emergency vehicle signal pre-emption	• Pedestrian crossing improvements (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, mid-block crossings, pedestrian refuge islands)	• Truck parking
• Adaptive signal control technology		• Raised medians
• Larger traffic signal cabinets to fit new technology		• Shoulders
• Transit-pedestrian warning systems	• Bus stop amenities (addition of bus shelters or existing bus shelter enhancements (e.g., solar bus shelters), seating, lighting, trash receptacles, etc.)	• Design modifications
• Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs)		• Intersection improvements
• Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRPBs)		• New connections
• Bike signal detection		• Widenings
• Railroad crossing information	• Wayfinding/digital wayfinding	• Interchange modifications
• Smart street lighting	• Public Wi-Fi	• New interchange(s)
• Automated traffic monitoring/object detection	• Streetscape improvements (e.g., trees, landscaping, benches)	
• EV charging stations	• Loading/unloading zones for ride hailing (e.g., Uber, Lyft)	
• Automated parking systems	• Parking	
• Automatic license plate readers		
• Driverless shuttles		

Audience Poll Question #3

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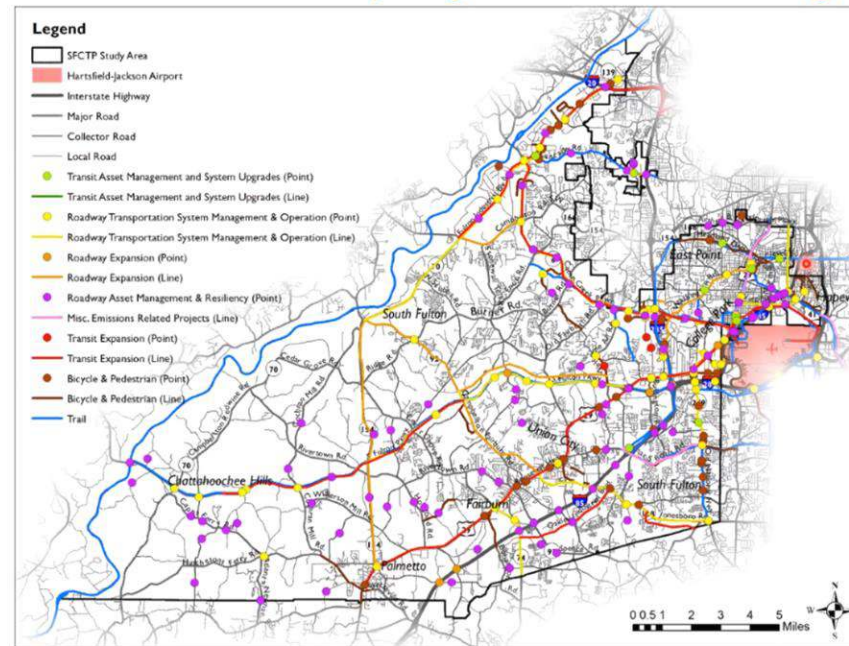
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Challenge #4:

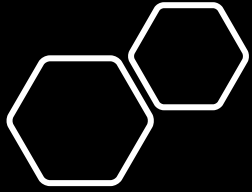COVID-19 impact on
public engagement

COVID-19 Impact on Public Engagement

- Switched to online engagement via online meetings and webinars

- All in-person and virtual public meetings livestreamed on social media

- Over 4,000 views of the 11 public meetings!

- Flyers within food boxes provided to individuals and households affected by the pandemic

Audience
Poll Question
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Questions?
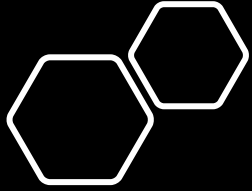
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Audience Poll Question #5

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