WORKING TOWARDS EQUITY IN THE ATLANTA REGION

Experiences of the Atlanta Regional Commission and its Transportation Equity Advisory Group

Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference
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Atlanta is the most unequal city in America — here’s why

Atlanta’s top incomes grew faster than any other US city between 2012-2013 while its lowest wages remained stagnant, making it the most unequal city in America for the second year in a row, according to a Brookings Institution report on income inequality.

The city’s richest 5% make roughly $288,159 per year, while its poorest 20% bring in just under $15,000, resulting in an inequality ratio of 19.2 — slightly higher than San Francisco’s ratio of 17.1.

While San Francisco’s top incomes are higher overall than Atlanta’s (the top 5% make around $425,000 per year), its lowest-income residents still earn about $10,000 more per year than Atlanta’s poorest.

The South Has the Fastest-Growing Economies and the Least Economic Mobility for the Poor

By David Love — April 14, 2017

The South is booming from an economic standpoint. For proof of this, one need only look at cities such as Atlanta, Austin, Charlotte, Dallas, Orlando and Raleigh to understand there is a new South. Of the 20 cities listed on Forbes’ “fastest-growing cities in 2016” list, eight are in the South. Despite this reality, poor people in the South are not sharing in this growth. It is in Dixie — the former Confederacy, the Jim Crow states — where children have the toughest chance of getting ahead. This is where people have the lowest levels of economic mobility, also commonly known as the American Dream, meaning that the poor will likely remain poor.
DISCUSSIONS
DATA

DRAFT Equitable Target Areas (Method 1 - Broad)

Poverty Concentration
- Very High
- High
- Low-Medium

Race Concentrations
- Very High
- High
- Low-Medium

Regional Averages:
- Poverty: 16%
- African American: 34%
- Hispanic: 11%
- Asian: 5%
- Other Non-White Race: 2%

Race based on 2010 Census
Poverty based on 2012 ACS 5-Year
DEFINITIONS
WORDS

MATTER

OUR
EQUALITY

EQUITY
VULNERABLE

DISADVANTAGED
STOP TALKING START DOING
WHAT GETS MEASUREMENT GETS DONE.
DEFINE SUCCESS
The way I see it
Isn’t necessarily
The way you see it

CONSIDER PERSPECTIVES
CONVENE AND CONNECT
EDUCATE
INFLUENCE
ENSURE ACTION
DISCUSSION?

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