

Partners for a Prosperous Athens Housing & Transportation Committee

Transportation Subcommittee Recommendations

DRAFT 12/12/2006

Our recommendations address the relationship between transportation and poverty. Access to reliable, affordable transportation is an important component in overcoming poverty. The inability to afford reliable transportation can serve as a barrier to getting and keeping a job; participating in school activities; and accessing services.

Furthermore, the costs of automobile ownership – often the only option for low-income families living beyond the reach of public transportation – can be as high as 40% of the gross income of a family of four living at the federal poverty rate. If such a family could devote some of those transportation dollars to housing, they could begin building equity.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

Establish a regional public transportation system. Expanding the geographical scope of public transportation to include our neighboring counties, as well as access to the Atlanta area, would expand the economic opportunities of those who rely on public transportation to get to work, shopping, and services.

Strategies:

- The ACC Mayor & Commission should begin working with Athens Transit and neighboring counties to establish a regional public transportation system.
- ACC should explore funding options for regional transportation systems. There are funds available through the federal government to fund regional transportation for different populations (e.g., people with disabilities, elderly people, and people with very low incomes.) A grant writer will be needed to access such funds. The Statewide Independent Living Council is a 501(c)(3) organization and would be willing to assist.