

Partners for a Prosperous Athens Housing & Transportation Committee

Transportation Subcommittee Recommendations

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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 # 5:

Explore other innovative alternatives to individual automobile ownership.

Strategies:

- Research programs such as car-sharing and ride-sharing to determine their feasibility for Athens.
- Large employers should consider options such as van pools, subsidized transit passes, or other means to help employees cut work-related transportation costs.
- Explore low-cost car ownership programs such as the Good News Garage.
- Look for and implement models where businesses provide a shuttle – e.g. GA Square Mall could provide shopper shuttles on Sunday afternoons.