

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 # 3:

Increase safety and infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. For some low-income Athenians, walking or biking are their only means of transportation.

Strategies:

- ACC should build more sidewalks and crosswalks
- ACC should install pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on heavily traveled transportation corridors where it is currently unsafe for walkers and cyclists who have no affordable transportation alternative
- ACC Police should enforce traffic laws more aggressively