

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 # 4:

Explore ways to make local taxi service more affordable to low income families.

Strategies:

- ACC, citizens, and taxi operators should work together to research different models for taxi service used in cities similar to Athens to determine if there is a viable way to structure Athens' regulations to better meet the needs of low-income families.
- Athens community organizations should fund more taxi vouchers to be distributed by local agencies such as the Athens Area Homeless Shelter, the Ark, etc.