

GRTA



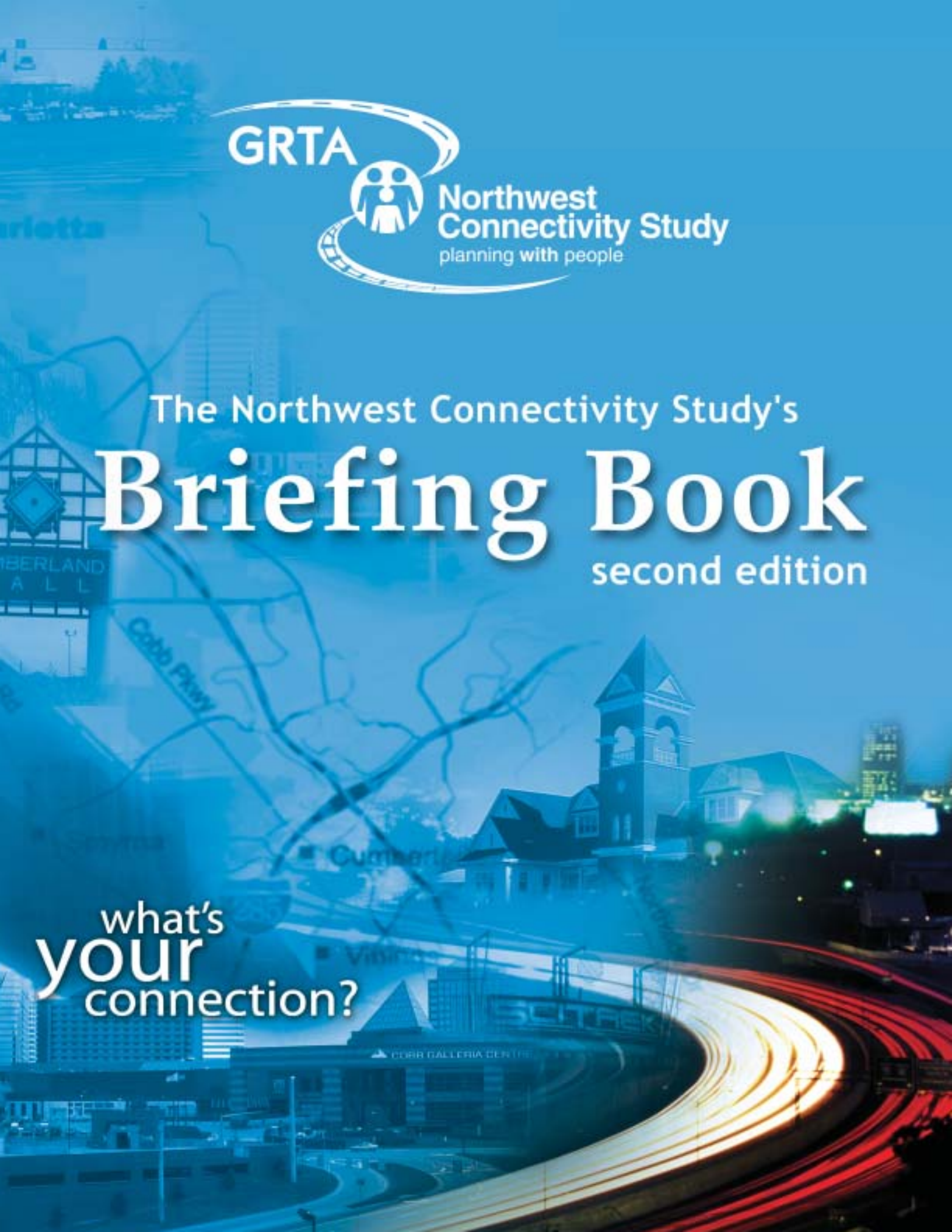
Northwest
Connectivity Study
planning with people

The Northwest Connectivity Study's

Briefing Book

second edition

what's
your
connection?





Dear Friend and Neighbor:

Thank you for your interest in the Northwest Connectivity Study now underway by the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA).

We expect the outcome of this study will provide a major new transportation choice for the people of metropolitan Atlanta. A new transit link between the burgeoning commercial, residential and entertainment centers in Midtown Atlanta, Cumberland Galleria and Town Center is a key “missing element” of our regional transportation network. A transit choice will mutually benefit these activity centers, providing a greater range of shopping, entertainment and commuting options.

The study corridor follows generally Interstate 75 and U.S. 41 and the state-owned Western & Atlantic Railroad and is bounded by Powers Ferry Road on the northeast and GA 280 on the southwest. The project is expected to comprise a major element of an expanded regional transit system for the Atlanta area, connecting to the MARTA rail and bus network, the Cobb Community Transit bus system and GRTA’s Regional Express Bus system.

A critical part of this study is you. We need the active involvement of the people in metro Atlanta in helping us plan this new transportation choice. We will be looking at specific alignments, types of transportation technologies – such as rail, buses, expanded carpool lanes or a combination – and other issues. That is why it is important for you to take some time to read this booklet, attend our public meetings and let us know what you think. To get connected, you need to be connected to us. We want to hear from you.

Thank you for your interest and support as we work together to improve air quality, provide transportation choices and enhance the quality of life in all areas of metropolitan Atlanta.

Sincerely,

Dr. Catherine L. Ross

Executive Director

Georgia Regional Transportation Authority





GRTA's Mission

It is the mission of Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) to provide the citizens of Georgia with transportation choices, improved air quality and better land use in order to enhance their quality of life and promote sustainable growth for all Georgians.

GRTA's Role

GRTA was created by Georgia Governor Roy Barnes and the Georgia Legislature in 1999 to provide leadership to counties designated nonattainment under the federal Clean Air Act standards in their efforts to solve Atlanta's increasing traffic congestion and air quality problems. GRTA works in concert with a number of planning agencies, including the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the over 80 governments in the 13-county nonattainment area.

To this end, GRTA is pursuing a number of projects under the Governor's Statewide Transportation Choices Initiative to ensure that Atlanta's transportation system is able to sustain and enhance our quality of life and keep our economy strong. The Northwest Connectivity Study is one such initiative.

GRTA's Goals

- Improve Air Quality
- Improve Mobility and Accessibility
- Improve the Coordination of Land Uses and Transportation Decisions
- Improve the Existing Transportation Systems



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.

Future Land Use and Transportation Planning:
WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION?.....page 1

II.

Decisions to be Made:
WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?.....page 2

III.

The Process:
WHAT MAKES THIS STUDY DIFFERENT?.....page 6

IV.

The Existing Corridor:
WHERE ARE WE NOW AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?.....page 10

V.

Future Growth:
WHAT ARE THE CONNECTING FACTORS?.....page 14

VI.

Alternative Solutions:
WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR THE CORRIDOR?.....page 20

VII.

Demographics:
WHO IS IN THE NORTHWEST CORRIDOR?.....page 24