



**Georgia cities are making infrastructure investments that prioritize safety, sustainability and equity, and will count on the Federal government to efficiently channel resources through historic infrastructure legislation to local governments.**

Georgia cities [reported](#) capital needs totaling nearly **\$18 billion** between 2022-2026. These have only grown in response to demographic, economic and environmental changes. With passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, GMA urges Federal leaders to engage city officials in developing community-based, locally informed strategies and policies for infrastructure investment, focusing on sustainability and resiliency. GMA also calls for streamlined grant processes and more technical assistance to ensure communities of all sizes can access these historic federal funds.



**Housing availability and affordability remains top of mind for Georgia cities, and they will continue to require flexibility, intergovernmental support and partnerships to meet current and future housing demand.**

Georgia's cities are growing faster than the state as a whole. Between 2012 and 2022, the combined municipal population grew **15%** - exceeding the 10% growth in statewide population. To accommodate the attendant housing needs, cities are developing housing strategies that are appropriate to their local context and reflect the unique circumstances of each community. City leaders are eager to work with developers, homebuilders, nonprofits and other stakeholders to ensure housing is not only available but accessible to current and future residents. GMA calls on Federal leaders to raise the incentives for affordable housing development (including "missing middle" models), expand resources for cities to upgrade housing-supportive infrastructure (i.e. water, sewer, roads) and support local control over development regulations.



**Cities need help from Congress to invest at-scale in the workforce needed to build and maintain our state's critical infrastructure assets and sustain Georgia's economy.**

Cities are the economic drivers of Georgia. They are home to [69% of jobs](#) in the state and anticipate more in the coming years as major economic development projects create thousands more jobs in Georgia. Equipping people, including youth, with the right skills and opportunities will be critical to meet modern workforce demands. Furthermore, cities are prepared to put Congressionally approved infrastructure dollars to work, yet in some Georgia Congressional districts, it can take [30-40 days](#) to fill infrastructure jobs, resulting in delays and cost increases for much-needed capital projects. GMA urges Congress to invest in programs to support workforce development and job skills training, including programs for digital literacy and youth engagement.



**The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided a lifeline to cities and their residents, and has proven that federal funding reaps the most benefits when put directly into the hands of local leaders who know their communities best.**

GMA will continue to work with the U.S. Treasury Department to ensure that recipients have maximum flexibility to use ARPA SLFRF funds to address a variety of pandemic-related needs for public health, economic impacts, and government services.

# How Members of Georgia's Delegation Can Use GMA to Engage with Cities

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## Local Government Roundtable

Host a one-hour roundtable in your district to discuss legislative priorities and hear from local officials about their top issues. These discussions usually include the Congressman, a few staff and local officials from 2-3 cities and 2-3 counties.

## GMA District Meetings

Visit with local officials during the GMA Spring or Fall district meetings. These meetings gather city officials from within the district to provide an opportunity for fellowship over a meal (lunch/dinner). We typically have 40-50 officials in attendance representing 10-15 cities.

GMA has twelve districts: <https://www.gacities.com/About/GMA-Districts.aspx>

Upcoming meeting dates: **April 8-18, 2024**

## GMA Conferences

Participate in one of our two annual conferences:

- Cities United Summit (held in Atlanta **January 26-29, 2024**)
- Annual Convention (held in Savannah **June 21-25, 2024**)

That can look like:

- **Take part in a Policy Committee meeting:** We host a slate of Policy Committee meetings, one for each of our six policy areas (e.g. Transportation, Public Safety, Revenue and Finance, Environment and Natural Resources, Community Development, Municipal Government). While these typically focus on state legislative issues, it is always beneficial to have a federal perspective on the panel.
- **Address the GMA Federal Policy Council as a guest speaker:** The FPC comprises 38 city officials who have chosen to serve on this council because they have a particular interest in weighing in on federal issues that affect their communities.

## Additional Information

- Contact GMA if you would like to know how a particular bill might affect cities. We can contact or survey city officials and compile information and feedback for your office.
- Keep GMA in the loop about Congressionally Directed Spending / Community Project Funding application cycles so we can amplify those announcements to our members.