

A CONVERSATION ON REGIONAL TRANSIT



WHY THIS CONVERSATION MATTERS

Transit is top of mind for individuals across the region. As residents, we recognize that to remain competitive as a region—and to improve our quality of life—we must demand a comprehensive and unified transit system.

AdvanceATL is committed to the possibility of a connected and prosperous Atlanta region. And a \$2.5 Billion referendum will be on the ballot in November for the City of Atlanta. But it's up to us to ask big questions, spark a regional dialogue and engage one another in bringing this possibility to life.

From August through November, we invite neighbors, friends, colleagues, peers and students to host Civic Dinners. This isn't about hearing experts talk. It's an invitation for people to participate in a community conversation that requires that they engage as active citizens. And it's about inviting diverse voices to the table, asking big questions, listening to one another, and committing to the possibility of a regional transit system.

HOW IT WORKS

Each dinner follows a simple but powerful format that is democratic, self-governing and inspiring.



HOST



6-8 DIVERSE
GUESTS



3 BIG
QUESTIONS



EQUAL TIME
TO SHARE



ONE VOICE
AT A TIME

The Civic Dinners platform makes it easy for hosts to plan dinners, invite guests, lead the conversation and capture key ideas, stories and possibilities from attendees. But the experience itself is transformational. By answering big questions, we become more accountable, more committed, more vulnerable, more intimate and more connected.

HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

HOST A CIVIC DINNER



- Sign-up to host on cividdinners.com and receive the toolkit with questions
- Pick a date, time and location (most choose a restaurant, but feel free to host at your home as well)
- Everyone pays for their own meal
- Invite a diverse group of guests for a night of great conversation and food

ATTEND A CIVIC DINNER



- Search on cividdinners.com and filter by location and date to find a dinner near you on #AdvanceATL
- RSVP to one or sign-up for updates
- Enjoy an evening with fellow Atlantans and great conversation
- All guests pay for their own meal

FOLLOW #ADVANCEATL



- Sign-up on cividdinners.com to learn more about the conversation on transit
- Use #AdvanceATL in your social media when sharing ideas, perspectives and views related to transit in Atlanta
- Check out the #AdvanceATL social feed collecting tweets, photos and videos tagged with #AdvanceATL

Questions? Press Inquiries?
Contact: hello@cividdinners.com



CIVIC DINNER HOST GUIDE

HOW TO LEAD A CITIZEN CONVERSATION ON REGIONAL TRANSIT

Thank you for your willingness to host a Civic Dinner on behalf of AdvanceATL.

YOUR ROLE AS HOST

As a host, you'll invite diverse voices to the table and help shape a shared vision for regional transit. By following this simple guide, and the Civic Dinner format, you'll spark a citizen-driven conversation and help create a strong and connected community.

INTRODUCING AN #ADVANCEATL CIVIC DINNER

- **GREET GUESTS AS THEY ARRIVE** Begin 15 minutes after start time and make sure everyone has a chance to order a drink or make their own.
- **THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING** "By showing up, those of you here are the right people for tonight's conversation"
- **INTRODUCE YOURSELF** Share your name, where you live and why you wanted to host a Civic Dinner
- **INTRODUCE ADVANCEATL:** "AdvanceATL is a citizen-driven grassroots advocacy coalition dedicated to building support for regional transit."
- **SHARE PURPOSE OF THE CIVIC DINNER:** "Tonight we gather to hear individual perspectives, understand common values and commit to possibilities for a regional transit system."
- **REVIEW FORMAT OF THE EVENING:** "We'll start by introducing ourselves, then dive into the first of three questions, with each person having equal time (about 90 seconds) to share their answer. Please be respectful of your speaking time so that we hear from all."
- **CAPTURE IDEAS:** "To collect ideas from tonight we ask you to share photos, tweets and videos on social media using hashtag #AdvanceATL"
- **BEGIN QUESTIONS:** Ask each question, one at a time, in order, and remember to order or serve main course between question 1 and 2.

HOW TO GET STARTED



SELECT A QUIET VENUE

- Restaurant (quiet or private area)
- Home (prepared or potluck)
- Public space (park picnic)
- Quiet spaces are best for listening



SELECT A DATE AND TIME

- Between August 8 - November 8
- Plan for dinner to last 2 - 3 hours
- Avoid weekends if possible



REGISTER YOUR DINNER ONLINE

- Follow instructions on the next page
- Email hello@cividdinners.com if you have any trouble or have questions



INVITE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

- Set a guest limit (small group 6-10)
- Invite people from outside your circle
- Confirm your reservation (restaurant)



ENJOY THE CONVERSATION

- Follow host guide and instructions
- Select your 3 questions from guide
- Take notes & record key insights



SHARE KEY INSIGHTS

- Take photo of dinner and share
- Invite guests to share #AdvanceATL
- Email sent to guests with survey

QUESTION 1: APPETIZER & TOAST PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ISSUE

Why does transit matter to you?
— AND / OR —
Share your personal connection to transit and give a short toast to what you plan to gain or learn from this conversation. (if anything)

QUESTION 2: MAIN COURSE COMMON VALUES & SHARED VISION

Every time we go somewhere we make a choice to take the car, the train, the bus, the bike, a cab or walk. What are the top key things that influence our choice of travel? And what would make transit the #1 choice most of the time?

QUESTION 3: DESSERT / CLOSURE COMMITMENT TO TAKE ACTION

What is your contribution to the very thing you complain about?
— OR —
Pretend you have a magic wand, and you can change one thing about transit in Atlanta. What would you change?