The Latest

Transportation challenges can get in the way of graduating, students say

By Vanessa McCray

Many students are balancing school with jobs and other responsibilities. In 2023, the cost of living for college students in Georgia is surging, nearly 300% in recent years, he said.

Peevy also pointed to other solutions, such as the state's Invest Georgia program, which provides funding for road and transit projects.

The researchers included main campuses in Athens, Atlanta, and Columbus, as well as satellite campuses in Tifton and Valdosta.

The Civic Mapping Initiative is charting the proximity of community colleges to public transportation, said the agency plans to share the data with colleges.

The researchers found that nearly 58% of Georgia's community colleges are in rural areas, purposefully placed to connect campuses to bus or other transit lines.

They found that nearly 58% of Georgia's community colleges are within walking distance of a public transit stop. About 33% of students are more than 1 mile away, while 12% live more than 5 miles away.

Many students are balancing school with jobs and other responsibilities. They found that nearly 30% of students are working at least 20 hours per week, which has a direct impact on their ability to attend classes.

Transportation challenges can get in the way of graduating, students say. For some, it's the time spent walking or driving to campus, while others struggle to find affordable transportation options.

For one student, it's the time spent walking to and from campus. For another, it's the cost of parking or using public transportation.

“Transportation is a huge issue for students,” said Breale Howard, who attends Georgia State University. “It’s not just the cost, but the time and hassle as well.”

Some students have had to change their majors or even withdraw from school due to transportation challenges.

For some students, there are solutions. Many colleges and universities offer shuttle services or other transportation options.

But for others, the challenge remains. A recent study found that nearly 40% of college students in Georgia have transportation difficulties.

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