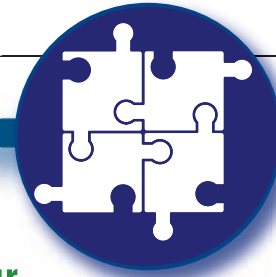




Making The Connection



Here are some suggestions for making your
Hometown Connection a success:

Pick a Date

- Coordinate with partners/legislators
- Try to hold your meetings in September. This is generally the best month for legislators.

Who Should Be There? *

- Other cities in your area
- City Managers and department heads, such as Police Chief, Fire Chief, Utility Directors, etc.

Plan a Tour

Start at city hall with an overview of city functions and finances.

- Budget
- Where revenues come from/where spent
- Services city provides
- Increases in costs (employee insurance, meeting EPD regulations, building infrastructure, etc.)

Hit the Road!

- Police and Fire Departments
- Water treatment plants
- Redevelopment projects
- Downtown/streetscapes
- Park projects

Wrap it Up

- End with lunch at a downtown restaurant, boxed lunches at city hall, etc.
- Give legislators a “take-away”, such as a budget overview
- Make a commitment to follow up with legislators
- Thank them for their time and interest!

Let's Have Lunch

Don't have time for a tour? Set up a lunch or dinner date with your legislators. Be sure to make the meeting informative with handouts and summaries of city activities.

Tell Us About It!

Let GMA be a part of your plans! Let us know what you're doing and consider inviting a GMA Government Relations staff member to attend.

* Remember, if you have a quorum of your city officials participating in the event in your city, you must let the media know of the meeting. In general, you may also want to consider inviting members of the media to join you, depending on the relationships you have.



GMA 2010 Legislative and Policy Issue Highlights

Transportation Financing:

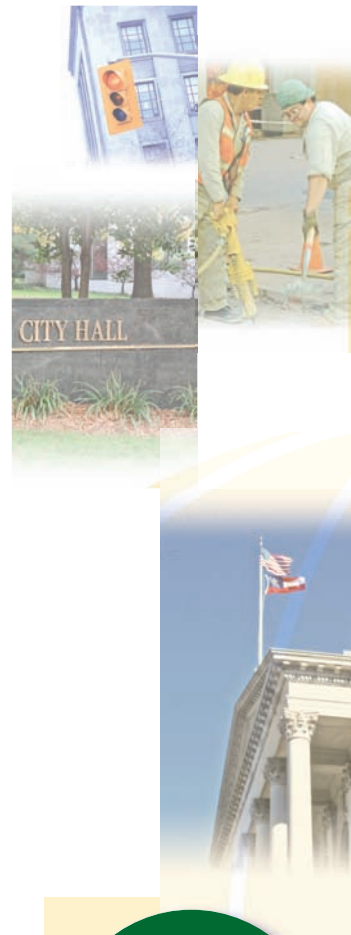
Cities face over \$1 billion dollars of transportation improvements over the next five years, with very limited financial options. GMA supports a regional approach to addressing transportation issues in the metro Atlanta area but believes a more flexible approach is needed in other areas of the state, including options such as smaller regional sales tax coalitions and an option for a city sales tax.

Municipal Option Sales Tax:

Flexibility in addressing property tax relief as well as local funding options for major infrastructure investments is a major priority of GMA and city officials across the state. GMA believes city residents should have the ability to consider and vote on a municipal option sales tax within their city to help fund important major capital needs as well as provide city property tax relief.

Accurate Accounting of Sales Tax:

GMA is concerned about the full collection and accurate disbursement of sales tax revenue to cities. Accurate accounting of sales tax data is critical to ensuring that municipal taxpayers receive the tax relief and city services that they deserve. Sales tax data will assist city officials in economic impact projections, city planning and development opportunities that benefit the growth of cities.



From recent legislative sessions, we've learned that too many of our legislators don't know enough about what city officials do and the hard choices you make everyday.

GMA's Hometown Connection is a way for city officials to reach out and connect with their House and Senate members and fix this informational gap. Invite them to your city to show them what is going on in your community and to talk about the challenges and opportunities you and your citizens face.

The Hometown Connection is based on the simple premise that the relationship between city officials and legislators is vital to cities

and to the advancement of Georgia.

Use the "Making the Connection" ideas to get your message across or better yet, come up with your own. The GMA legislative team is available to assist you.

If your city is willing to participate in the Hometown Connection, please complete the form below and fax to 678-686-6306; or email to kwilliams@gmanet.com. For questions, contact Lamar Norton at 678-686-6273.

We look forward to participating in your Hometown Connection!

City: _____

Contact: _____

Possible Dates: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____