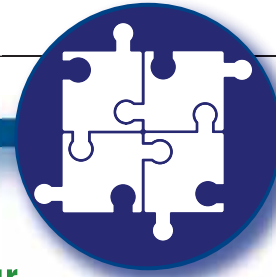




Making The Connection



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

Pick a Date

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

Who Should Be There? *

- Other cities in your area.
- City Managers and department heads, such as a Police Chief, Fire Chief, Utility Director, 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 Core Principles

Tools to Build

GMA supports the growth and development of strong and accountable municipalities that serve as vibrant centers of commerce, provide safe hometowns and reflect local values.

Authority to Lead

GMA supports the authority of municipalities to respond to local needs and circumstances as well as its role in promoting local leadership and local accountability.

Partnerships to Succeed

GMA supports active and informed municipal government participation in the complex local-state-federal intergovernmental system that is based on trust and accountability.



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: _____