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# Infrastructure & Investment

ADDRESSING FUNDING CHALLENGES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

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# Program

7:00 AM **Breakfast & Networking**

7:45 AM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Michael Paris, President & CEO, Council for Quality Growth

Doug Hooker, Former Executive Director, Atlanta Regional Commission

**PART I** **FACING THE CHALLENGES**

Introduction: Sally Riker, 2024 Board Chair, Council for Quality Growth and Southeast Regional Vice President for Strategy and Growth, Atlas

8:00 AM **KEYNOTE: Skate to Where the Puck is Going**

George Riccardo, National Practice Consultant, HNTB

8:30 AM **CONGRESSIONAL CONVERSATION: Insider's Look at Federal Funding**

**Moderator:** Greg Bluestein, Chief Political Reporter, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
The Honorable Carolyn Bourdeaux, Former U.S. Representative, Georgia's 7th District  
The Honorable Tom Graves, Former U.S. Representative, Georgia's 14th District

9:05 AM **Barriers to Progress: A Mayor's Perspective**

**Moderator:** Dean Anason, Editor-in-Chief, Atlanta Business Chronicle  
Mayor Beverly Burks, City of Clarkston  
Mayor Rusty Paul, City of Sandy Springs  
Mayor Vince Williams, City of Union City

9:45 AM **Understanding Local Funding Options in Georgia**

Mike Alexander, COO, Atlanta Regional Commission

10:00 AM **Program Break**

**PART II** **FINDING THE SOLUTIONS**

Introduction: Michael Hightower, Managing Partner, The Collaborative Firm

10:25 AM **KEYNOTE: You're Taking SPLOST for Granted**

Jared Fleisher, CEO, Bedrock

10:55 AM **Infrastructure as a Service**

Robert Criste, Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners

11:20 AM **Local Ballot Measures and How Georgia Measures Up**

Carolyn Kramer Simons, Senior Director, State Funding Policy,  
American Road and Transportation Builders Association

11:50 AM **A County Chair's Response to SPLOST**

**Moderator:** Charlotte Nash, Former Chair, Gwinnett County  
Chairwoman Lisa Cupid, Cobb County  
Chairwoman Carlotta Harrell, Henry County  
Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson, Gwinnett County

12:30 PM **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Doug Hooker  
Michael Paris

# Welcome to The INTERSECTION 2025



## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

### DOUG HOOKER

#### *Former Executive Director, Atlanta Regional Commission*

Doug Hooker has had a long and distinguished career in Atlanta's private and public sectors. He served as Executive Director of the Atlanta Regional Commission, which plans and facilitates development strategies for regional growth and competitiveness. Currently, he is a Special Professor of Practice in the Urban Studies Institute of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Doug chairs the Board of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and serves on additional boards, including for the Atlanta Housing Authority, the Fox Theatre, and the Cornerstone Jazz Collective. He has been recognized by numerous leadership and service awards and by inclusion on lists, including the 100 Most Influential Georgians, one of the Atlanta Business Chronicles' Outstanding CEOs, and the 10 Most Influential Atlantans. In September 2025, he and his wife, Patrise, will be two of the three honorees at the Wesley Woods Foundation's annual Heroes, Saints, and Legends gala.

Doug earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia Tech and an MBA from Emory University. Doug's hobbies largely center around music: singing in a community chorus, playing the oboe, and composing music.



MICHAEL PARIS

President & CEO  
Council for Quality Growth

Michael Paris, a Cobb County native, took the Council's helm in late 2003 and has worked to expand the Council and to spread its mission of promoting balanced and responsible growth throughout the metro region and the state. With a degree in real estate from Georgia State University, Michael has more than 45 years of experience in real estate development, brokerage, land-use planning, and association management. His affiliations include the Board of Directors for the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, the Urban Land Institute, an Association Member of the Board of the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors, and a graduate of both Leadership Cobb and ARC Regional Leadership Institute.



## Infrastructure & Investment

ADDRESSING FUNDING CHALLENGES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES



*Our infrastructure needs are obvious and abundant. There are plenty of big ideas to meet those needs and far less funding to make them a reality. This year, the intersection will look at our region's greatest challenge and most critical concern – funding. Specifically, funding much any needed local infrastructure projects that will strengthen our communities and prepare us for the continued growth and development of our region.*

## Sally Riker

*2024 Board Chair, Council for Quality Growth  
Southeast Regional Vice President for Strategy  
and Growth, Atlas*



Sally Riker leads strategic growth initiatives for Atlas’ Southeast region, bringing more than 25 years of experience in the AEC industry. She joined Atlas in 2024 after establishing herself as a recognized leader across Georgia’s engineering and development communities. A Fellow in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), Sally was honored with SAME’s President’s Medal in 2022 and currently serves on the organization’s Foundation Board. She served as the 2024 Chair of the Council for Quality Growth and continues to serve on its Executive Committee as past Chair. Sally also serves on the University of Georgia’s Board of Visitors and has been a member of the Urban Land Institute’s Women’s Leadership Initiative Americas Executive Committee since 2021. Sally is also active in her local community, serving as President of the Mount Paran-Northside Citizens Association, one of the largest neighborhoods in Buckhead (Atlanta). Named one of Engineering Georgia Magazine’s “100 Influential Women in Georgia Engineering” annually since 2018, she was also recognized as one of Georgia’s 500 Most Influential Leaders by Georgia Trend in 2022.

## Michael Hightower

*Founder, Managing Partner, The Collaborative Firm*

Michael Hightower is the Founder and Managing Partner of The Collaborative Firm, which was founded in 2001. The Collaborative Firm provides a wealth of experience in urban planning, economic development, community engagement and project management throughout metropolitan Atlanta and the southeast.



Prior to establishing The Collaborative Firm, Michael was elected as the first African American City Council Member for the City of College Park, Georgia in 1979. Michael also served for more than fourteen years as a member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. He also served as President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), which includes over 3,000 counties nationwide, and focused on welfare reform, affordable housing and sustainable communities.

In 2003, Michael, through The Collaborative Firm, established South Metro Development Outlook, an annual forum for the purpose of convening planning, development, finance, real estate and local government professionals with an interest in fostering smart growth in the South Metro Atlanta area.

Some of Michael’s current affiliations include the Aerotropolis Atlanta Alliance, Urban Land Institute, Airport Area, Clayton County, Douglas County and South Fulton Chambers of Commerce. He’s received nearly 300 awards and recognitions from entities such as The White House, National Association of Counties, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Ebony Magazine, the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia State University, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and numerous churches, colleges, schools and organizations.

Michael graduated from Clark Atlanta University with honors and completed additional management studies at Georgia State University. He and his wife Sandra have one daughter, Evie.

Friday, October 24, 2025

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# PART I | Facing the Challenge

*Federal transportation policy expert George Riccardo offers a national perspective on the current and future landscape for infrastructure funding policy. The former U.S. DOT advisor will look at where we are 6 months into the current administration, how HNTB is planning ahead, and what impacts or opportunities we can anticipate in Georgia. In the famous words of Gretzky, let's "skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been."*

KEYNOTE

## Skate to Where the Puck is Going



GEORGE RICCARDO



*National Practice Consultant, HNTB  
Former Policy Advisor at U.S. DOT & Director of Government Affairs  
at Federal Railroad Administration*

Riccardo leverages his extensive public and private experience to advise on how to deliver the country's biggest and most complex infrastructure projects. Throughout his career, Riccardo has served as a senior policy advisor to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Secretary, the director of government affairs for the Federal Railroad Administration and a senior congressional affairs officer in the Office of the Secretary at U.S. DOT. His understanding of the U.S. DOT's policies and programs, coupled with his unique perspective at the intersection of project delivery and federal policy, offer a depth of knowledge on the legislative and regulatory policy at the federal level.

## Insider's Look at Federal Funding

Federal legislation has authorized substantial funding to metro Atlanta infrastructure improvements through programs like ARPA and IIJA over the last several years. With speculation buzzing across headlines daily, state and local policy makers can't know what lies ahead with the new administration's redirected spending and budget cuts. This Congressional Conversation will offer an insider's look at the future of federal investments in our region.

### MODERATOR

## Greg Bluestein

Chief Political Reporter  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Greg Bluestein is the chief political reporter for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He is an author who writes for the front-page of the AJC, co-hosts the "Politically Georgia" podcast, contributes to the Politically Georgia morning newsletter, and is a frequent guest on local and national TV and radio programs. He's an MSNBC and NBC News contributor and the author of "Flipped," a book on Georgia's epic 2020 election. He's a proud graduate of the University of Georgia with degrees in journalism and political science, and Axios named him the "most dedicated" Bulldog fan at the 2023 national championship game. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Dunwoody.



AJC

## The Honorable Carolyn Bourdeaux

Former U.S. Representative, Georgia's 7th District  
Executive Director, Concord Coalition

Dr. Carolyn Bourdeaux has built a career at the intersection of policy, politics, and governance. She has served as a Democratic Member of Congress from Georgia from 2021-2022 after winning one of the most competitive races in the country. During her time in Congress, she focused on health care, small business and infrastructure and worked extensively with the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus to help pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act one of the most significant investments in infrastructure in US history.



CONCORD  
COALITION

Prior to entering politics, Dr. Bourdeaux was a noted state and local public finance expert and held an appointment as an Associate Professor of Public Management and Policy at Georgia State University. Among her many accomplishments, she served as Director of Georgia's Senate Budget and Evaluation Office during the Great Recession, where she received recognition by the Senate for significant service to the State of Georgia (S.Res. 1598), and she served as a legislative aide to Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon working on a broad portfolio of issues from education and immigration to transportation and infrastructure.

She was elected by her peers to become a member of the National Academy for Public Administration, served as Chair of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, founded the Center for State and Local Finance at Georgia State University, and wrote an award-winning dissertation on the use of special purpose governments to finance critical community infrastructure.

## The Honorable Tom Graves

Former U.S. Representative, Georgia's 14th District  
President and CEO, Ervin Graves Strategy Group

As a north Georgia country boy, Tom's life has been fueled by one slogan his father shared with him: *Dream Big, Work Hard, and Achieve Much.*

He's been a small business owner, a real estate investor, a Georgia State Representative and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. As a U.S. Representative for more than a decade, he has prioritized relationship building, pursuing creative solutions and executable strategies to address some of the biggest challenges facing our country, placing him in the center of all major policy decisions in Washington.

As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee in the U.S. House, overseeing more than a trillion dollars of annual spending, he has a unique understanding of the complexities of government funding, operations and the agencies at the forefront of change.

As Vice Chair of the Special Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, he led the effort to modernize one of our nation's oldest institutions. Pushing the envelope and disrupting the status quo to get Congress working better for all Americans. While representing one of the most Republican districts in the country, he was also respected as one of the most bi-partisan members of Congress.

When he's not working in Washington, he's back home in Ranger, running on the state's beautiful roads and trails, planning a hunting trip, grilling out with the family, or eating popcorn while binge watching the latest historical fiction thriller.



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2025 Chair, Council for Quality Growth

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## Barriers To Progress: A Mayor's Perspective

*Higher interest rates, inflation, waning ARPA relief funds, uncertain SPLOST referendums, fierce competition for federal infrastructure grants, and tight local budgets all challenge local government efforts to improve transportation, utilities, and public safety. Despite significant financial barriers, increasing needs around water resources, roadway and transportation improvements, walkability initiatives, and public amenities are at the forefront of every city planning process. Mayors share how they navigate fiscal uncertainty to fund critical infrastructure projects in their communities, and highlight how innovation and local leadership are thinking through funding challenges as they advance vital projects.*

### MODERATOR

#### Dean Anason

*Editor-in-Chief  
Atlanta Business Chronicle*

Dean Anason is the Chronicle's editor-in-chief. He has come full circle to the publication where his career began. In between, he covered banking policy on Capitol Hill, served as Washington bureau chief and managing editor of American Banker, and was an assistant business editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Dean holds degrees from Emory, Northwestern and the old North Fulton High.



#### Mayor Beverly Burks

*City of Clarkston*

Mayor Beverly Burks has been the Mayor of Clarkston since November 2020. As a mayor, she works with the city council to lay the foundation with policies to make economic improvements for small businesses, improve the health and well-being of residents, increase branding in the city, increase usage of the path, and create more community engagement of the police department.

Ms. Burks has been a member of various professional and community organizations including the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP), National Association of Female Executives, National Black Meeting Planners Association, Junior League of DeKalb County, and the DeKalb Democratic Party. She is a member of the Prevention Research Center - Georgia State University Community Advisory Board, Clarkston COVID-19 Task Force, and Sagal Radio. Beverly also participated in the 2020 Class of Leadership DeKalb.



## Mayor Rusty Paul

*City of Sandy Springs*

Elected mayor in November 2013, Russell K. (Rusty) Paul brings more than 40 years of federal, state and local public policy and public administration experience to the job. He is currently serving his third term. Mr. Paul was elected to the founding city council for Sandy Springs in November 2005 and served one term. He chaired the city's charter review commission and the Sandy Springs Development Authority.

Besides his stints in federal government, Mr. Paul is a former Georgia State Senator, served on the Stone Mountain City Council and served three terms on the Georgia Municipal Association board of directors.

In 1995, he was elected chairman of the Georgia Republican Party and served on the Republican National Committee, where RNC Chair Jim Nicholson appointed him to chair the State Chairman's Advisory Committee.

He is a past chairman of the Sandy Springs/Perimeter Center Chamber of Commerce and a member of Sandy Springs Rotary. He and his wife, Jan, are parents of five adult children and attend Holy Innocents Episcopal Church.



## Mayor Vince Williams

*City of Union City*

Mayor Vince R. Williams is the twentieth Mayor of Union City, Ga. He was elected to the office of Mayor in November 2013, after serving six years on the City Council. Mayor Williams is a graduate of Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee where he earned a B.A. in Political Science. He has over 25 years in Corporate America that includes a strong work ethic and positive attitude. He is a graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development, received Special Recognition from the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department for Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Business Continuity Leadership Institute, and completed the Robert E. Knox Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute program through the University of Georgia in partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association. He is a Class of 2016 Regional Leadership Institute (RLI) graduate.



# Understanding Local Funding Options in Georgia



Mike Alexander joins *The INTERSECTION* to offer a look at all the funding mechanisms available to local governments in Georgia today. From Tax Allocation Districts (TADs) and Special Service Districts (SSDs) to Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) or SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) programs, ARC's Chief Operating Officer lays out the local options and how they can best be leveraged in metro Atlanta's growing communities.

## Mike Alexander

Chief Operating Officer  
Atlanta Regional Commission

Mike Alexander is the Chief Operating Officer of the Atlanta Regional Commission, managing the Community Development, Natural Resources, Research & Analytics, Transportation Planning, Mobility Services, Aging and Independence Services, Workforce Development, and Homeland Security Departments of the ARC. Mike has over 20 years of public policy experience focused on regional and local community planning. As the COO, he leads this multidisciplinary, professional staff in the fields of transportation planning, environmental planning, community and workforce development, economics, aging services, and demographic forecasting.

He is a graduate of the ARC Regional Leadership Institute, Leadership DeKalb, and Leadership Atlanta. Originally from South Carolina, Mike attended Auburn University where he received a dual master's degree in Public Administration and Community Planning. He served as a Marine Infantryman in Desert Storm.



Atlanta Regional Commission

## KEYNOTE

## You're Taking SPLOST for Granted

*Keynote Jared Fleisher joins The INTERSECTION from Detroit to talk about what he accomplished in Michigan to generate foundational investment in infrastructure through state legislation. An expert on innovative funding models for public infrastructure, Fleisher sees the SPLOST model as the most straightforward method for funding these projects. As he works with other states to fight for local sales tax options, he brings a "you don't know how good you have it" approach and provokes a new way of thinking about something that's become rather "run of the mill" here in Georgia.*

**JARED FLEISHER****CEO, Bedrock**

Jared Fleisher is the CEO of Bedrock, Dan Gilbert's portfolio of companies which includes Rocket Mortgage, the nation's leading mortgage lender; the Cleveland Cavaliers; and Bedrock Real Estate, a full-services commercial real estate firm dedicated to the revitalization of Detroit and Cleveland.

In this role, Jared is principally focused on strategy and public policies that support urban development and the building of vibrant city centers. Among other activities, he spearheaded the creation of Michigan's Transformational Brownfield Program (TBP), a new incentive program designed to support large-scale redevelopment of brownfield sites in Michigan.

In addition to the TBP legislation, Jared has been involved in the development and implementation of nearly every major piece of economic development legislation in Michigan over the past decade, including the creation of Michigan's Strategic Site Readiness Program designed for large-scale attraction and retention projects.

Jared is also active at the federal level on tax policy related to economic development and public infrastructure. Prior to joining the Rock Family of Companies, Jared was an Attorney with Squire Patton Boggs in Washington, DC where he represented local governments in achieving their infrastructure and economic development policy and funding objectives. Jared is a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School. He is originally from Los Angeles, California and currently resides in Detroit, Michigan.



# Infrastructure as a Service

*Sustainability Partners is working nationally to resurrect underperforming infrastructure through a transformational change in mindset: Local governments don't have to own all their infrastructure. The chronically overwhelming cost of upkeep and maintenance has bubbled up to the surface in local communities and created a value engineering pandemic. Criste's "infrastructure as a service" model offers a way to invest in optimally operating infrastructure and a clean balance sheet.*

## ROBERT CRISTE

*Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners*

Rob began his career in high-end golf course construction throughout the United States, Mexico and various Caribbean Nations. His expertise expanded into sustainable land-use-planning of resorts and master-planned community developments. Rob is a subject-matter expert in water and wastewater software, biology and chemistry, distribution systems, and regulatory affairs. He has worked extensively with municipal projects including public funding of both water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Rob holds a Bachelors in English and Economics from Elon University in Burlington, NC, and a Master's in Global Finance and Spanish from Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, AZ.



## Local Ballot Measures and How Georgia Measures Up

*Last November, U.S. Voters approved 77% transportation funding measures on state and local ballots which will generate a collective \$41 billion in new or renewed funding for roads, bridges, trails, and rail nationally. Unfortunately, Georgia didn't have the same rate of success at the ballot box last year with our two major TSPLOSTs in Cobb and Gwinnett. How does Georgia measure up to other states passing local transportation measures?*

## CAROLYN KRAMER SIMONS

*Senior Director, State Funding Policy  
American Road and Transportation Builders Association*

Carolyn Kramer Simons is the Senior Director of State Funding Policy with the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA). Through ARTBA she tracks and analyzes state transportation investment legislative and ballot initiatives, as well as reports on funding methods and trends. Carolyn has produced dozens of reports, resources, and presentations while at ARTBA, as well as led numerous live and virtual events.

In addition to her work on state and local funding, Carolyn also manages ARTBA's Transportation Officials Division, the Workforce Development Council, the Transportation Investment Advocates Council, and the Industry Leader Development Program.

Carolyn graduated from Rutgers College in May 2009 with a BA in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science. She obtained a Public Relations Certificate from the Rutgers Professional Development Studies at School of Communication and Information in July 2014. Prior to ARTBA Carolyn worked with other advocacy nonprofits and interned in media. A New Jersey native, she currently resides in Alexandria, VA with her husband and two sons.



## A County Chair’s Response to SPLOST

*The percentage of positive voter approvals for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is trending in the wrong direction, a critical funding mechanism for county and city governments. These renewable voter-approved sales taxes have funded significant transportation, public safety, parks and recreation, and other capital improvement projects. County Chairs share their response to SPLOST programs — successes, failures, alternatives, and how to turn the vote around.*

### MODERATOR

#### CHARLOTTE NASH

*Former Chair, Gwinnett County*

Charlotte J. Nash’s career with Gwinnett County spanned almost four decades, first as a staff member and then as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

She has been active in multiple civic and governmental organizations at the local, regional and state level. Her roles have included board member for the Atlanta Regional Commission, board chair for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, and President of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). She was recognized by Georgia Trend magazine in 2020 as an inaugural Georgia Legacy Leader based on lifetime contributions to the State of Georgia.

In retirement, Charlotte has continued to serve as Board Member and Treasurer of the Leadership Gwinnett Foundation, as a member of its initial class way back in 1985-86. Charlotte also is an active member of the Gwinnett Historical Society, currently serving as Chair of its Board of Trustees and Immediate Past President.

Charlotte, a graduate of Dacula High School and the University of Georgia, is a lifelong resident of the Dacula/Harbins area of Gwinnett.



#### CHAIRWOMAN LISA CUPID

*Cobb County*

Lisa Cupid is the Chairwoman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. She has served on the Cobb Board of Commissioners since 2013 and in 2020 was elected as Cobb’s first black and first female Chair. Cupid helps set policy for Georgia’s 3rd most populous county boasting multiple Fortune 500 companies, the Atlanta Braves, strong K-12 schools, top higher educational institutions, natural and historic amenities, attractive communities and robust tourist attractions.

Chairwoman Cupid is a woman of faith and a devoted mom whose steps are ordered to serve. She is an attorney and former mediator, policy analyst and manufacturing process engineer. She resides in Smyrna with her two children and husband, who is also an attorney, law partner, and former electrical engineer. Both are graduates of Georgia Tech and Georgia State Law. Cupid and her husband are of Guyanese and Trinidadian heritage, respectively, which Cupid credits for her hard work ethic, humility and humor.

Cupid is committed to being all-in, where the success of Cobb reaches all areas and all people of the County.



## CHAIRWOMAN CARLOTTA HARRELL

### *Henry County*

Carlotta Harrell was elected in 2020 as Chairwoman of the Henry County Board of Commissioners. Chair Harrell has been instrumental in moving Henry County forward by building key relationships with State and Federal partners. She was able to get bipartisan support with the passage of the first ever T-SPLOST for Henry County in 2021 expected to generate over \$300 million, the opening of the Public Safety Real Time Crime Center, securing \$47 million in Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program and over \$500 million in GDOT funds for road infrastructure projects, and the list goes on. Her education and background are in public administration and criminal justice, including 20+ years of service law enforcement. She's served on various Boards and civic organizations and is Managing Partners of her own consulting firm. As a true public servant, Harrell grew up in an environment where giving back to the community was a daily activity, and she carried those values of service into her adult life. Born the daughter of a Pastor and Freedom Fighter, Harrell grew up watching her parents march and fight for equality alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Congressman John Lewis. Her experiences at a very young age led her to a life of service which helped shape her into the leader she is today.



## CHAIRWOMAN NICOLE LOVE HENDRICKSON

### *Gwinnett County*

In 2020, Nicole Love Hendrickson made history by becoming the first African American Chairwoman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. As the Commission Chair, she steers the Board in shaping policies, leading the creation and adoption of the County's \$2.5 billion budget, and ensuring equitable government services and programs for more than 1 million residents. Chairwoman Hendrickson has played a pivotal role in redefining Gwinnett County's vision, mission, and values, emphasizing accountability, transparency, equity, inclusivity, and innovation.

Since taking office, she has been forward-thinking in addressing housing affordability and transit services in Gwinnett and the metro Atlanta region. She is actively engaged in local, state, and national boards, including the Atlanta Regional Commission, where she serves on the Executive Board. Chairwoman Hendrickson is a recognized and accomplished public servant, named among Engineering Georgia's 100 Most Influential Women, Atlanta Business Chronicle's Power 100, and Georgia Trend Magazine's 100 Most Influential Georgians in 2024. Before her historic election, she served as Gwinnett's first Community Outreach Director, championing multicultural initiatives like the Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy and Gwinnett Youth Commission. A Rhode Island native, Chairwoman Hendrickson holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Rhode Island and a Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia. She resides in Lilburn with her husband and son.



# Quality Growth INSTITUTE

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The Quality Growth Institute is your solution to keeping up with the rapidly changing technologies in the growth and development sector. Our programs are designed to provide continuing education opportunities, many of which are accredited by one or more professional organizations. If you are in architecture, engineering, construction, real estate, or in legal practice, the Quality Growth Institute has learning opportunities for you.

**MISSION** To offer superior, relevant, and up-to-date education programs, courses, and services, focusing on solutions, trends, and best practices that can be implemented in order to foster sustainable growth and development in the metropolitan Atlanta region.

**VISION** To live and work in a metropolitan Atlanta region where all actors - private sector, public sector, and the general public - are informed on developmental issues and events and have opportunities to communicate and cooperate with each other in order to foster effective and sustainable development and growth.

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The Quality Growth Institute (QGI) is an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the state of Georgia. All contributions to the Quality Growth Institute, Inc. are tax-deductible.

[www.councilforqualitygrowth.org/QGI](http://www.councilforqualitygrowth.org/QGI)

## THE COUNCIL FOR QUALITY GROWTH

The Council for Quality Growth is a trade organization that works to ensure continued growth and economic success for generations to come by providing advocacy, information and education to its members. Committed to the mission of promoting balanced and responsible growth, the Council is proactively involved in the formulation of policy and legislation critical to the growth and development industry. The Council addresses, head-on, strategic economic planning, infrastructure needs and tough quality-of-life issues throughout the metro Atlanta region and state.



## CONNECT WITH US



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# The Council Connects Your Business To The Region's Local Governments

Your opportunity doesn't stop or start at the county line – **regulations often do** – and that can impact your ability to move a project forward.

**The Council can help.** We offer a unique regional reach at the intersection of public policy and private investment. Our policy, planning and legislative expertise can help ensure your ability to operate effectively across the metro Atlanta region.



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