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GGC Conference Presentation, July 22, 2019

“Still Going Strong in Georgia: Advocacy for Older Adult Transportation”

2018 DHS report by Georgia Health Policy Center, “At a Crossroads: Exploring Transportation for Older Georgians in a Rapidly Changing Landscape,” concludes that 34% (263,582) adults age 70+ have ceased driving and 200,000 have unmet transportation needs.

Demographic analysis projects that in 2016, 13% (1.3 million) state residents were age 65+ and this will grow to 22% (2.9 million) by 2040.

On average older adults outlive their ability to safely drive by 7 to 10 years.

In FY2018, current publicly funded Human Services Transportation programs served 37,877 unduplicated clients age 60+.

Human Services Transportation planning and management is divided among three separate state agencies, each with its own set of planning and service areas and each operating with differing rules and regulations about their programs. This fragmentation creates inefficiencies.

Georgia ranks 37th in transit spending per capita and 45th in spending per trip.

Thirty-six of Georgia’s 159 counties (23%) have no public transit service.

Rural and suburban areas lack the transportation provider capacity to meet demand.

Transportation is critical for older adults’ ability to maintain their independence, health, and well-being by connecting them to social determinants of health.

HB930 (2018) addressed transit needs in the Atlanta metro region and created the ATL (Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority). This will consolidate transit planning and funding in a regional approach.

HB511 (2019) addresses transit administration and funding for areas of Georgia outside of the Atlanta region. It would consolidate and streamline administration and provide new funding sources for transit expansion.

Audience Participation: Drawing from the Fact Sheet and from panelist presentations, write an advocacy summary statement about the need to expand older adult transportation that could be shared with legislators and planning agencies.