

Media Contacts:  
(404) 796-2971  
[JGoldberg@atlantaregional.org](mailto:JGoldberg@atlantaregional.org)

Paul Donsky, (404) 202-4662  
[PDonsky@atlantaregional.org](mailto:PDonsky@atlantaregional.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Telework is Here to Stay

*Georgia Commute Options data shows commuters and employers plan to continue to work from home more frequently than before the pandemic*

**ATLANTA - (July 27, 2020)** – Teleworking is likely to play a much greater role in metro Atlanta’s post-pandemic workplace than it did before the crisis, according to surveys of commuters and major employers conducted by Georgia Commute Options.

Survey highlights include:

- Commuters surveyed said they wanted to work from home an average of 2.5 days per week, a 213% increase from pre-pandemic levels.
- About 69% of employers said more of their employees will work from home in the future, while 23% said more of their workers would telework on a full-time basis.
- About 64% of Georgia Commute Options participants who teleworked at least occasionally before the pandemic said they planned to do so more frequently in the future.

“COVID-19 completely shifted many companies’ perception of how and where business can be done,” said Roz Tucker, Managing Director, Georgia Commute Options. “Our goal, over the last few months has been to better understand how businesses adapted to their new environment, provide resources to help companies make the change to working outside of their workplace, identify what pain-points they were experiencing and get an idea what they expect their future work to look like.”

Through a series of surveys, both of employers in the region and of participating Georgia Commute Options commuters, some consistent themes about Georgia’s current and potential future commute emerged:

### Remote Work Survey

Nearly 3000 metro Atlanta residents provided insight on their previous and current work arrangements. Of the pool of respondents, seven percent indicated they were an executive in their respective company while 21 percent indicated they managed staff and 72 percent were non-managers.

Comparing work from home rates before the pandemic, during and desired future after:

- Before the pandemic, survey participants worked from home and average of .8 days per week.

- At the time of the workforce survey (April) that number skyrocketed to an average of 4.6 day/week.
- The majority of survey participants wanted to return to their worksite part time but work from home more than they did before the pandemic. Their desired future was an average of 2.5 days per week. This would be a 213 percent increase from pre-pandemic levels.

Respondents perceived many positive benefits associated with working from home including saving money by not commuting (73 percent), decreased stress due to not commuting (54 percent), having more time to spend on household projects (54 percent), spending more time with family (52 percent), sleeping more (46 percent) and feeling more productive (39%). Survey respondents also indicated what challenges they experienced as they adapted to working from home. The top issues workers experienced were struggling to unplug (28%), Anxious about company health (27%) and distractions from kids, pets, etc. (23%)

### **Remote Work Executive Interview:**

The Georgia Commute Options Team also hosted a series of in-person interviews with executives from some of Georgia's largest employers including Coca-Cola, Cox, Georgia Power, Primerica and State Farm to better understand their experience during the pandemic and how they plan to adapt going forward.

Key findings include:

- Before the pandemic, the company's interviewed estimated less than five percent of their workforce participated in a company telework program. By March 27, 2020, they estimated that 90 percent of their workforce was now working from home.
- When asked about their future plans, 69 percent indicated that more of their employees will work from home periodically and 23 percent believed that more employees would work from home full-time.

### **Survey of Georgia Commute Options Participants**

Georgia Commute Options surveyed over 4000 of its own participants in the trip planning and logging system to get an understanding of how their commute had changed during the pandemic and what they anticipated their future commute to be.

Key Findings:

- 13 percent of respondents indicated that their sole mode of commuting before the pandemic was driving alone. 84 percent of these workers moved to full time telework during the pandemic. Of this group 86 percent planned to continue to work from home at least occasionally once their worksites reopened.
- Of people who indicated that they teleworked at least occasionally before the pandemic, 64 percent indicated that they planned to do so more frequently in the future.

"We expect to see an increase in the number of workers in the region working from home at least occasionally for the foreseeable future," said Tucker. "Even in a teleworking environment that was sub-optimal, many companies and their teams have found efficiency in the remote work setup and are even seeing gains in productivity. For the many commuters, repurposing the hours previously spent driving to and from work has been a bright spot in this challenging situation."

Georgia Commute Options has a team of worksite advisors that can help companies looking to adopt or expand a teleworking program. Those who are interested can visit [www.GaCommuteOptions.com](http://www.GaCommuteOptions.com) to find out more.

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### **About Georgia Commute Options**

Georgia Commute Options, a program managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission and funded through the Georgia Department of Transportation, works with employers, commuters and schools to encourage drivers who ride alone to make the switch to a commute alternative such as riding transit, teleworking, carpooling, vanpooling, walking and/or biking, with the ultimate goal of reducing congestion and the emissions that contribute to smog pollution. For more information, visit [www.GaCommuteOptions.com](http://www.GaCommuteOptions.com) and follow Georgia Commute Options on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). The Georgia Commute App to log commutes is available for download via [the App Store](#) or on [Google Play](#).