We all know the trend lines: Housing costs are rising much faster than wages, housing supply isn’t keeping up with population growth, and the number of affordable housing units is shrinking at an alarming rate.

Local communities across the region are in differing stages of dealing with their housing challenges, but it’s clearly an issue that has risen in importance among elected officials, residents, and the private sector.

In response, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) partnered with other state, regional and local partners to develop the Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy, which is designed as a guide to help local governments and communities better understand and address their housing challenges.

At the December 12 meeting of the Atlanta Regional Housing Forum, ARC will unveil a new regional housing strategy that focuses on six overarching strategies to:

-- Increase housing supply
-- Preserve the supply of affordable housing units
-- Reduce housing and transportation costs
-- Expand capital resources
-- Promote housing stability
-- Develop leadership and collaboration

ARC Executive Director Doug Hooker will provide remarks on the importance of regional planning and coordination around housing in metro Atlanta. He will be joined by David Stockert, retired CEO of Post Properties, to discuss private sector roles in addressing housing.

The conversation then turns to the specifics of the new housing strategy as ARC Senior Planner Marisa Ghani will discuss the tools available for practitioners and jurisdictions.

Rounding out the conversation will be Dr. Tiffany Manuel, President and CEO of TheCaseMade, who works to strengthen the capacity of our nation’s leaders to make the case for building strong, inclusive communities. Dr. Manuel will share tools and messaging ideas that every housing stakeholder and citizen can use to amplify voices and create the civic and political will needed for change to housing policy.

Guiding us through the entire conversation will be our Forum founder and moderator, Bill Bolling.

Join us Thursday, December 12, at the Atlanta Regional Housing Forum at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 435 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA 30308. Please register online at: www.AtlantaRegionalHousingForum.org

There is no charge to attend the Atlanta Regional Housing Forum. We do ask that you bring nonperishable food items for donation to Atlanta Community Food Bank!