

Over the course of Murphy's political career the metropolitan area of Atlanta grew dramatically. Although Murphy was from a small town and shared the values of rural Georgians, he recognized how important Atlanta was to the rest of the state.



The entrance to the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta
Courtesy of Ashley Judy



Sketch and aerial photo of the Georgia Dome and World Congress Center complex with proposed additions
Courtesy of the Murphy Collection at the University of West Georgia

Atlanta today is the largest metro area in the Southeast, has the world's busiest airport, and is an international center of business and commerce. Much of this success is rooted in decades of tireless effort by Speaker Murphy.

He supported the construction of MARTA even before he became Speaker. He also backed construction of the Georgia World Congress Center and the Georgia Dome, and worked for improvements to Grady Hospital.

Murphy favors funding dome

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 24, 1987

"Atlanta is the capital of Georgia and the economic center of the Southeast. And we've got to do everything we can to keep it that way. We can't afford to sit around and let it be replaced in that role by Jacksonville or Charlotte or Orlando or some other city."

— Tom Murphy

"Ironically, the best friend that the metro Atlanta area ever had was Tom Murphy."

- Governor Roy Barnes