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## Georgia's Clean Air Force Offers Six Expert Tips for Buying a Pre-Owned Car

**ATLANTA (March 22, 2016)** – Of the 96 large metropolitan areas in the United States, motorists in metro Atlanta have the longest commute, according to a 2015 report by the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings.<sup>1</sup>

Since Georgia motorists rely so heavily on their cars, finding the right one is extremely important. Having the best resources help.

[Georgia's Clean Air Force](#), a partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), offers six key tips to help motorists purchase a pre-owned vehicle.

“Thoroughly researching the history of the vehicle is one of the most important things you can do before purchasing the vehicle. A little extra work before buying a car can potentially save you from multiple headaches down the road,” said Pamela T. Earl, Program Manager, Mobile & Area Sources, EPD.

- **Get a Free Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR).** Motorists can download the most recent vehicle inspection report (VIR) for free at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com). The VIR will let you know if the vehicle had a valid, passing emissions inspection performed within the last 12 months.
- **Request a Carfax Report.** Carfax reports give you the history of a car, letting you know if the car has been in an accident or might have any other negative events in its history. Some dealerships will run this report for you. Other dealerships or private sellers may not, but you can easily run a report yourself.
- **Research the Dealer.** Read reviews for any dealerships from which you are interested in purchasing a car. This can eliminate dealers that are untrustworthy or have negative comments about the cars they sell.
- **Get a Pre-purchase Inspection.** Have a pre-purchase inspection performed by a trusted third party. Most new car dealers offer this service for about \$100.
- **Bring a Mechanic to a Private Sale.** Private sellers are less obligated to work with you if there are any issues after the sale is made, so be sure to take a trusted mechanic with you to make sure you're not getting a lemon.
- **Perform an On Board Diagnostic (OBD) Test.** An OBD test scans the vehicle for specific codes that can let you know when the vehicle has had certain repairs

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2015/03/24-job-proximity/Srvy\\_JobsProximity.pdf?la=en](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2015/03/24-job-proximity/Srvy_JobsProximity.pdf?la=en)

or if it has undergone recommended preventative maintenance services. This can be helpful when determining what kind of damage or work has been done to the vehicle in the past. The device can be used manually or purchased as a Bluetooth OBD unit that connects to a smartphone through the use of an app.

Remember that sellers located outside of Atlanta's 13 metropolitan counties are not required to provide a passing emissions test at the time of sale. If you reside in one of the 13 metro Atlanta counties where passing an annual emissions test is required, you should take into consideration the location of your dealer.

For additional information, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

### **About Georgia's Clean Air Force**

Georgia's Clean Air Force, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, the Georgia EPD has worked to reduce harmful vehicle emissions. Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented tons of ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, by identifying and repairing more than 2.8 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

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