



## **ARC Remarks for Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 10:30am**

Presentation is during the March 1<sup>st</sup> Transportation Committee Meeting

### **Three areas to discuss regarding recent update on ARC:**

- Transformation Alliance SPARCC grant
- Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) recent grants and activity
- Water Ruling from Special Master

## **1. Transformation Alliance SPARCC grant**

In February, Atlanta was selected to join the Strong, Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC).

SPARCC is a three-year, \$90 million initiative that will bolster local groups and leaders in their efforts to ensure that, as major new investments in transportation are made, they improve equity, health, and environmental outcomes for all residents.

The award from SPARCC will enable Atlanta to create a new model of an equitable, healthy, and climate-wise development and ensure benefits for all residents.

Atlanta is one of six sites chosen to receive initial funding and expert technical assistance from SPARCC. The others are Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Memphis, and San Francisco Bay Area.

TransFormation Alliance – a diverse group of organizations representing government agencies, business partners, metro Atlanta’s transit agency, and the nonprofit community – was awarded \$1 million in direct grant and technical assistance funds over the next three years.

Collectively, the SPARCC sites will have access to an estimated pool of \$70 million in financing capital, as well as \$14 million in additional programmatic support.

These efforts will result in altering the inequitable development trajectory of our region and create a new approach to transit and community development investments. This new approach is underpinned by racial equity, incorporates arts and culture-based community engagement, responds to community needs and shapes future health and climate outcomes.

## **Transformation Alliance SPARCC grant (con't)**

Some aspects of Atlanta's use for these potential funds:

- The demonstration focus area is the Lee Street corridor, from the West End MARTA station to the Oakland City MARTA station in southwest Atlanta.
- Address shortcomings and challenges that result from spatial segregation, including the health and climate disparities that disproportionately impact black neighborhoods.
- Use innovative capital strategies, including advancing the early acquisition of sites for affordable housing, healthy food initiatives, healthcare facilities, infrastructure development, the leveraging of green and energy efficiency rehab programs, and advancing models of permanent affordability.

SPARCC is an initiative of Enterprise Community Partners, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Low Income Investment Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, with funding support from the Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and The California Endowment. Long term, SPARCC's intention is for other cities, communities and regions to adopt similar approaches to achieving more just economic, health and environmental outcomes, using the success of SPARCC sites as a model.

## **2. ARC Livable Centers Initiative Grants**

The Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) is a program that awards planning grants on a competitive basis to local governments and nonprofit organizations to prepare and implement plans for the enhancement of existing centers and corridors consistent with regional development policies, and also provides transportation infrastructure funding for projects identified in the LCI plans.

- Named by Julie Ralston, who retired last week after 32 yrs w ARC

ARC has awarded over \$201 million in LCI grants to 120 communities in the past 18 years. LCI communities cover less than four percent of the region's land area, but in recent years these areas are home to seven percent of metro Atlanta's residential development, 29 percent of commercial development and 69 percent of office development.

The grants will help recipients develop plans and policies that support the creation of more vibrant, connected places. Once the studies are complete, these communities will become eligible to receive funding for transportation projects, such as sidewalks and intersection improvements, to help implement their visions.

The LCI program is funded with federal transportation dollars. The grants cover 80 percent of the cost of each study or transportation project, with the recipient making a 20 percent match.

## **ARC Livable Centers Initiative Grants (con't)**

### **The 2017 LCI study grant recipients (in the City of Atlanta):**

#### **Central Atlanta Progress**

Grant amount: \$32,000

In conjunction with three existing LCI areas, Central Atlanta Progress will analyze land use, zoning and transportation needs in the City of Atlanta's Memorial Drive corridor and develop recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes.

#### **City of Atlanta**

Grant amount: \$100,000

This major plan update to the Greenbriar Town Center LCI identifies creative ways to generate economic development opportunities in the Greenbriar Mall area, a key goal of the Invest in Southwest Atlanta Task Force.

#### **Aerotropolis Atlanta Community Improvement Districts**

Grant amount: \$160,000

This supplemental study will develop a plan for a trail network that connects the communities around Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as well as the Atlanta Beltline, the Phoenix Trail, and Southtown Trail.

#### **City of Decatur, City of Atlanta, MARTA**

Grant amount: \$100,000

This supplemental study will develop conceptual plans for development at the East Lake MARTA Station and pedestrian/bicycle connections to surrounding neighborhoods and amenities.

### **3. Water ruling (Georgia versus Florida – water wars)**

Special master, Ralph Lancaster, appointed by the U.S. Supreme Court to review case between Georgia and Florida in 2014

Special master is attorney who conducts a trial and makes findings of facts. Makes recommendations to US Supreme Court.

Supreme Court does NOT have to accept, but often does.

Georgia & Florida made presentations and ARC reps were there to observe and follow the process

Special master ruled in favor of Georgia against Florida

Recommendation was for Florida's claims to be denied. The claim by Florida was for Georgia to revert to 1992 levels of water use

Army corps of engineers, who decide on amounts of water to release, were ruled to not be a party to the lawsuit.

Special master made specific reference to Georgia, and Atlanta's great work in water conservation

**To win, Florida had to show all of the below:**

Georgia usage was excessive

Excessive use harmed Florida

Relief for Florida would be fixed by their request to limit Georgia water use to 1992 level

## **Water ruling (Georgia versus Florida – water wars) (cont)**

Special Master said even if first two was correct, which he did think was the case, he could not order action because Army Corps were not part of the lawsuit, therefore, no way to redress the issue

While we are happy, there is still the final step of the ruling of the Us Supreme court, which should come in the next year.

ARC feels very positive about our chances at the recommendation being heeded by the US Supreme Court, but we have no 100% assurance of success.