

# OFFICE OF THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

## ARC QUARTERLY SUMMARY

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### **1. Monthly Meeting: May 22, 2019**

- **ARC Board Approved TIP Amendment #7:** The ARC Board approved an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program. This amendment was developed to include the programming of new projects that impact air quality conformity and amongst other needs, update programming and financial details for projects in the state DOT's Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP). <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/final-issue-summary-and-resolution-tip-amendment-7-may-2019-2.pdf>
- **Board Engagement Taskforce Provided Update:** Suggestions were made to improve board engagement, some of which included: hosting board meetings and committee meetings on the same day, incorporating video conferencing and, introducing peer-to-peer outreach to encourage participation among members. The goal is to finalize recommendations in June to present to the ARC board.
- **Update of Community Engagement Plan:** The Transportation Access & Mobility Group provided an update on the Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan. The plan, which includes three guidebooks, available on ARC's website, is open for public review until May 27, 2019, and will go for committee approval in June. <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/20190522-arc-board-regional-community-engagement-plan.pdf>  
\*Comments and/or questions should be directed to Melissa at [mroberts@atlantaregional.org](mailto:mroberts@atlantaregional.org).
- **Incorporating Equity and Resiliency in 2019 CDAP/LCI:** An overview of the 2019 Call for Projects was presented. It now includes additional focus on equity and resiliency. The following eight priority issue have also been added: access to healthy food, affordable housing, lifelong communities, green infrastructure, historic preservation, smart communities, workforce development, and creative placemaking. Project selections for CDAP are expected to be announced at the Community Resources Committee meeting in June. <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/board-meeting-2019-call-for-projects-overview-final.pdf>
- **Reimagine Aging: May is Older Americans Month:** On May 7, Aging & Independence Services connected with the High Museum of Art to host a Civic Dinner covering the topic of Reimagine Aging where both older and younger generations came together to discuss their ideas on the topic. <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/older-americans-month-2019.pdf>

## **2. Monthly Meeting: June 26, 2019**

- **ARC Board Adopts Community Engagement Plan:** The ARC Board unanimously adopted the Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan. This plan serves as:
  1. A regional planning community engagement guide for the public;
  2. The official participation policy for transportation planning for ARC; and
  3. An ARC response to the U.S. Department of Transportation directive to develop a participation plan for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

\*The plan was available for public comment between April 12 and May 27.  
<https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/20190522-arc-board-regional-community-engagement-plan.pdf>
- **An Update on Atlanta Region's Plan:** The Plan's last major update was completed in 2016. Changes since then include More MARTA and community transit plan updates. Highlights of those updates include the DeKalb County Transportation Plan, which is expected to be presented for action in July, and the MARTA Board's approval of More MARTA project prioritization. Assumptions of a decrease in federal funding will have an impact on components of the plan. The plan's proposed transit expansions will occur 2030 through 2050 and includes 22 miles of commuter rail and 30 miles of light rail transit. The next steps are working with regional partners, documentation, and engagement. The Board's first review of the plan is anticipated in January 2020.
- **ARC DBE Goal is 17.6% for 2019-2020:** ARC's DBE Liaison delivered an update on the Disadvantaged Business Entity program, established by the USDOT to combat the effects of discrimination. The goal is for 17.6% of the business enterprises that ARC engages to be DBEs, which are certified at the state level. The goal is reset every three years. The plan is available on the website for review and is anticipated to be up for Board action in July.

## **3. Monthly Meeting: July 24, 2019**

- **Atlanta Region Share of Critical FTA Funding Has Changed:** Changes to the Federal Transit Administration Formula were presented to the ARC board. Roughly \$170 million in FTA funding is distributed to our region each year. The 5307 Atlanta Urbanized Area program is disbursed based on a formula, of which ARC had a 0.5% share. With this update, the percentage distributed to the Atlanta region is now 1%, with 0.75% going to The ATL, and the remainder going to ARC.

Summaries of the 5337 State of Good Repair and the 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities programs were provided. This is the first read of the update; it will be presented to the Board again in August.

<https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/20190723-arc-board-regional-transit-policies-read-only.pdf>

- **Chattahoochee River Greenway Plan Moving Forward:** An update on the Chattahoochee River Greenway Study was presented. The \$1.5 million study is one of the most ambitious ever done at ARC, covering a 100-mile scope along the Chattahoochee River. ARC and its partners at the Trust for Public Land and SCAPE (Landscape Architecture) held public forums to solicit community input. A one-mile pilot site in Cobb County will be the Greenway's first area of focus. <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/chatt-riverlands-update-updated.pdf>
- **ARC's Communications Strategy Will Be Updated:** An update on the Center for Strategic Relations' creation of a Strategic Communications Plan was given at the July meeting. Communications plans for individual projects and initiatives are created and updated regularly, but the agency-wide communications plan has not been updated since 2004. The first phase of the plan is now underway and includes research and an audit of our existing communication tools. This phase is expected to last 3-6 months. The Board will continue to be apprised of CSR's progress.

#### **4. Monthly Meeting: August 28, 2019**

- **Board Adopted Resolution Approving 2019 Population Estimates:** The ARC board adopted a resolution approving the 2019 population estimates for the 10-county Atlanta region. Estimates show Metro Atlanta added 72,500 people in the past year, pushing the region's 10-county population to more than 4.6 million. Each of metro Atlanta's 10 counties saw population increases in the past year. <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/regional-snapshot/regional-snapshot-metro-atlanta-2019population>
- **Board Voted in Favor of Critical FTA Funding Changes:** The ARC board unanimously approved changes to the Federal Transit Administration Formula. Roughly \$170 million in FTA funding is distributed to our region each year. The 5307 Atlanta Urbanized Area program is disbursed based on a formula, of which ARC had a 0.5% share. With this update, the percentage distributed to the Atlanta region is now 1%, with 0.75% going to The ATL, and the remainder going to ARC.
- **ARC Board Approves Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal:** The ARC board unanimously approved the adoption of the Agency's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal. As a recipient of U.S. DOT funds totaling \$250,000 or more in a year, ARC must adopt a program to comply with federal requirements which seek to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts in FTA's transit programs and to

create a level playing field on which DBE's can compete fairly on DOT-assisted contracts. <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/draft-resolution-and-issue-summary-dbe-goal-2019-4.pdf>

- **Immersion Program Builds Relationships, Trust Between Law Enforcement and Metro Faith Communities:** The First Responder Immersion Program is a preventative program that has developed a framework to prevent bias-based interactions. Since its inception, the program has broken down barriers and opened doors of understanding between law enforcement and faith communities, while decreasing isolation of vulnerable populations, including Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and Christian groups.
- **Title VI Plan Update Better Reflects Full Scope of ARC Work:** A first read on the Title VI Plan Update was presented. As a recipient of federal funds and in accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ARC has developed a 2019 update to its Title VI Plan. This plan ensures nondiscrimination in the agency's public participation process. In previous versions, this plan has concentrated on ARC's Transportation work; updates in this version better reflect all of ARC's programs.  
<https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/title-vi-plan-update-2019-1.pdf>
- **Five Party Transit Agreement Presented for First Read:** A first read on the Five Party Agreement Update was presented. Federal rules governing metropolitan transportation planning require ARC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Atlanta region, to work with state agencies and transit operators to define their roles and responsibilities in the planning process and formalize that understanding in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). A new Five-Party MOA has been negotiated between ARC, ATL, GDOT, GRTA and MARTA — and all agencies are scheduled to take approval action in August or September 2019. <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/20190828-arc-board-five-party-agreement.pdf>

## **5. Monthly Meeting: September 25, 2019**

- **No Vote on Title VI Plan Update or the Five-Party Agreement Due to Lack of Quorum.**
- **Government Cuts Affecting Aging & Independence Services in Metro Atlanta:** The federal government is requiring state agencies to take a 4% cut in the fiscal year budget effective October 1. The cuts will impact Home and Community Based Services, including Nutrition Services. This includes services in the home such as meals, personal care, and homemaking, as well as community services such as transportation or meals and activities in senior centers.

- **Natural Resources Presents Several Key Updates:**

- On November 6, there will be an oral argument on *Water Wars* to be held on November 6 before the new special master in *Florida v. Georgia*. •
- **New Stormwater Ordinance:** sets requirements regarding how stormwater is managed after construction takes place. In October, the proposed ordinance goes up for a 30-day comment period. After it is approved by the governing board of the North Georgia Metro Water District, counties and cities must pass it.
- **Changes in Biosolids Management:** District utilities have experienced a sharp increase in the cost of disposal of biosolids. Recently, the landfill method of disposal caused a potentially-dangerous slope failure in Georgia and other parts of the country. As a result, many landfills have increased their tipping fees significantly.
- **Dry Conditions in Metro Atlanta:** It's dry across the entire metro region, especially in our southern counties. Although the EPD has made no declaration of a drought at this point, it is key to continue to talk about how to maintain our resilience in this region where we are prone to cycles of rain and drought.

## 6. **Monthly Meeting: October 23, 2019**

- **Results of Elections for Citizen-Members were Held on October 23, 2019:** The following have been elected to sit on the board beginning January 1 but will not be sworn in until January 22: Bob Reeves (district 3), Angelia O'Neal (district 5), Liane Levetan (district 7), Greg Cantrell (district 8), Kerry Armstrong (district 9), Julie Keeton Arnold (district 12), and Deanne Bonner (district 13).
- **The ARC Board adopted the 2019 update to its Title VI Plan.**  
<https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/title-vi-plan-update-2019-1.pdf>
- **The ARC Board approved the this five-party agreement among ARC, ATL, GDOT, GRTA, and MARTA.** <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/20190828-arc-board-five-party-agreement.pdf>
- **ARC 2020 Work Program and Budget Outlined:** ARC Executive Director Doug Hooker presented details of the agency's 2020 work program and budget. He noted the program aligns with the three main elements of the Atlanta Region's Plan: World-Class Infrastructure; Healthy, Livable Communities; and Competitive Economy. Doug Hooker also discussed the 2020 budget, which anticipates expenditures of \$92 million.  
<https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/strategic-plan-2020-finalvf.pdf>

- **Regional Workbook for Complete Streets Presented for First Read:** The workbook acts as a supplement to ARC’s Walk, Bike, Thrive! plan that supports the goal of helping the region become “one of the most connected and safest regions in the United States for walking and bicycling.” <https://atlantaregional.org/plans-reports/bike-pedestrian-plan-walk-bike-thrive/>  
<https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/arc-board-complete-streets-102319.pdf>
- **Metro Atlanta’s Best and Brightest Convene for the Regional Leadership Institute:** Experts and thought-leaders from a variety of subject-areas participated in the week-long summit in Savannah. RLI works on the assumption that our regional issues require both individual and collaborative action, providing the opportunity for leaders to come together and develop solutions that are holistic and interconnected. The next round of RLI applications opens in February.  
<https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/issue-and-summary-resolution-complete-streets-workbook-1.pdf>

**THE NEXT ARC BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2019.**