

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 5, 2021 Meeting Summary
On-Line Meeting

TCC Members or Alternates Present:

ARC	John Orr	GRTA/SRTA	Jamie Fischer
ATL	Cain Williamson	Gwinnett	Vince Edwards
Atlanta	Jason Morgan	Henry	Sam Baker
Barrow	---	MARTA	---
Cherokee	Jim Wilgus	Newton	---
Clayton	---	Paulding	Ann Lippmann
Cobb	Laura Beall	Rockdale	John Moretto
Coweta	---	Spalding	Brian Upson
DeKalb	Sylvia Smith	Walton	---
Douglas	Miguel Valentin	MD-1	---
EPD	Gil Grodzinsky	MD-2	---
Fayette	Phil Mallon	MD-3	---
Forsyth	John Cunard	MD-4	---
Fulton	---	MD-5	---
GDOT	Charles Robinson	MD-6	James Miller

Advisors (Non-voting):

CBMPO	---
GHMPO	---
GDOT I'modal	---
EPA	---
FHWA	---
FTA	---

February 5, 2021 Meeting Summary

John Orr, Chair

1. Welcome; Meeting Summary Review & Public Comment

John Orr, ARC, greeted the committee and welcomed them to the meeting. He clarified that there will not be any action items at today's meeting and walked through the agenda with the TIP Amendment #2 *first read* as well as updates on local CTPs and regional Safety Targets. The January 22, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

There were no public comments.

2. TIP Amendment #2 (FIRST READ)

Jean Hee Barrett, ARC, presented an overview of Amendment #2 for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She reviewed local and federal funding sources, the 2019 solicitation process and technical evaluation, the approval process in ARC and partner agencies, the previous TIP Amendment #1, and changes in TIP Amendment #2.

Ms. Barrett announced that the next TIP solicitation process is likely to occur in Q4 2021. She advised local sponsors to begin reviewing plans and projects that may be eligible for federal transportation funding. She added that updates to the evaluation process and application are being developed and they will be implemented in the next solicitation round. She cautioned that ARC will likely implement an application limit in upcoming solicitations to restrict the number of applications allowed from each jurisdiction.

Ms. Barrett provided some details for a few projects in Amendment #2. She gave a brief overview of the SR 81 widening, the Metropolitan Parkway Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) route, and SR 139 / Mableton Parkway trail. Some other projects include I-75 commercial vehicle lanes, SR 316 grade separation, Villa Rica bypass, and SR 14 bridge upgrade. Finally, she gave a detailed explanation of several changes to the I-85 interchange at SR 42 (North Druid Hills Road). See presentation for more details.

Ms. Barrett concluded with the TIP Amendment schedule and next steps. She reiterated that public comment period is open until Feb 11, 2021, and a public hearing will occur on February 10, 2021, at the TAQC meeting. Once TAQC takes action, likely in March 2021, ARC will forward the amendment information to federal agencies for review.

Question: Sam Baker, Henry County, asked if during the 2021 project solicitation local governments will be expected to submit a new list of projects for funding? What happens to all the projects local governments submitted in response to the 2019 TIP solicitation that were not funded?

- Patrick Bradshaw, ARC, responded that ARC expects to open another project call towards the end of this year or early next year. There is not currently a long-term surface

transportation bill so hence the uncertainty. He stated that local governments will be free to resubmit any projects again.

- Jean Hee Barrett, ARC, encouraged local governments to re-assess priorities and have discussions with elected officials to ensure that submitted projects are as accurate as possible.

Question: Phil Mallon, Fayette County, asked whether projects that have received scoping or PE funding will have a chance to be re-evaluated prior to new construction funding.

- John Orr, ARC, stated that local governments will have an opportunity to update schedules, budgets, cost estimates, and other funding details.

3. South Fulton CTP

David Haynes, ARC, introduced Keli Kemp with Modern Mobility Partners to provide an overview of the new South Fulton CTP plan. Ms. Kemp introduced the project team as well as the public jurisdictions located within southern Fulton County. She provided an overview of CTP plans generally, including the goal of having a prioritized list of transportation projects that can inform future SPLOST or TIP funding opportunities.

Ms. Kemp provided details on priorities identified within the plan – including emphasis areas of connectivity, access, safety, public health, economic impact, etc. – as well as local perspectives on values. She gave an overview of how the study accounts for emerging technologies including automated vehicles, smart signals, and vehicle to vehicle communication. She also highlighted ways that the plan addresses changes based on corridor types, including route prioritization and context-sensitive design elements. Finally, she discussed railroad corridors and at-grade crossing locations for both access and safety.

Julia Billings, Modern Mobility Partners, continued the presentation with an overview of transit access and conditions within the study area. The plan reviewed transit service and frequency as well as location and quality of transit stops. Ms. Billings provided an overview of how the plan dealt with COVID-19 impacts, including public engagement and local funding uncertainty. David Haynes, ARC, interjected with some regional perspective on COVID-related funding trends.

Question: John Orr, ARC, asked whether the plan had considered electric charging infrastructure.

- Keli Kemp, MMP, stated that technology is improving for EV batteries to charge faster and the charging rates are decreasing quickly. She stated that there should be a strategic analysis of the whole region to best improve charging opportunities and reduce range anxiety.

Question: Sam Baker, Henry County, asked whether the South Fulton CTP offers any lessons for the upcoming Henry County CTP.

- Keli Kemp, MMP, stated that very early issue and priority identification was key to get quick and responsive buy-in from local jurisdictions and residents. Providing live streams

and virtual access to public meetings greatly widened the plans reach, both before and during COVID.

- Julia Billings, MMP, stated that having multiple options for accessing the meetings and plan materials was very helpful. Getting elected officials to broadcast the meeting details was also helpful.
- David Haynes, ARC, stated to make sure that the work scope and kickoff meeting include flexibility and adaptability. Conditions can change and team members need to be prepared to be nimble.

Mr. Haynes concluded the presentation with an overview of ARC's CTP program. The program began in 2005 and is accessible to every county in the region on a rotating basis. CTPs provide the foundation for a region's Long-Range Transportation Plan and TIP. Early years in CTPs should be fiscally constrained but later years may be more aspirational. He discussed some of the mandatory elements of CTPs (see presentation) as well as some of the locally-driven optional elements. He concluded with a schedule of recent and upcoming CTPs.

4. Discussion on Safety Targets and Setting Aspirational Targets

Mr. Orr provided some background on ARC's requirement to establish regional safety targets. Tejas Kotak, ARC, provided an update on the region's safety performance measures and how the region can move towards aspirational target setting. He reviewed the federal, state, and regional requirements for setting safety targets, including requirements in the federal FAST Act and how ARC responds to GDOT-established targets.

Mr. Kotak provided an overview of the process and implications of target setting, including how the MPO coordinates with GDOT on reviewing recent numbers and responding to trends. He complimented GDOT on the Numetric platform and recent updates to crash reporting statistics. He clarified that FHWA does not monitor MPO target setting directly. He summarized recent targets and target setting processes including the differences between 2020 and 2021 GDOT target setting.

Mr. Kotak walked through 2021 targets for GDOT / statewide and the related MPO / regional proportions for those targets. He outlined strategies for adopting "aspirational" targets, including various levels of annual reductions in safety outcomes. He provided with some insight into proportional elements of state and local road "contributions" to regional safety numbers. He concluded with some next steps on how ARC will continue to explore these issues in the Regional Safety Strategy and other programs.

Question: Jamie Fischer, GRTA/SRTA, asked whether the 5% annual reduction stated in the presentation related to specific elements in the TIP?

- John Orr, ARC, stated that project prioritization and project development would both factor into that reduction and would be explored in the upcoming Regional Safety Strategy.
- Byron Rushing, ARC, gave an eloquent response about how the large and intimidating challenges of regional safety planning will be explored in the upcoming plan.

Question: Sam Baker, Henry County, asked whether access to injury data in "Numetrics" from GDO is accessible to counties? What county-level injury data is available?

- Tejas Kotak, ARC, clarified that Numetric is a dashboard that pulls data from GEARS but makes it available much more readily.
- Numetric link: <https://gdot.numetric.net/crash-data#/>
- Contact information:
 - Sam Harris at GDOT to help get access (SHarris@dot.ga.gov)
 - Audra Engle at Numetric (audraengle@numetric.com)

5. Other Committee Introduced Items

- None.

6. Announcements

- Mr. Orr announced an upcoming Regional Trails Webinar on February 23, 2021, that will feature ARC's new regional trail plan map as well as feature several great local projects: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6043412198791507984>

7. Adjourn