

**Transportation and Air Quality Committee**  
*Charlotte Nash, Chair*

**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**ARC Harry West Room**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Commissioner Charlotte Nash	Commissioner Jeff Turner
Commissioner Romona Jackson	Commissioner Robb Pitts
Commissioner Harry Johnston	Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
Commissioner Randy Ognio	Mr. Kerry Armstrong
Mayor Eric Clarkson	CEO Michael Thurmond
Ms. Liane Levetan	Mayor Nancy Harris
Mr. Mark Mathews	Commissioner Oz Nesbitt
Mr. Mike Houchard	Commissioner Mike Boyce
Commissioner June Wood	Ms. Donna Sheldon
Mr. Tread Davis	Mayor Clark Boddie
Mayor Rochelle Robinson	Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Mayor Eric Dial	Mr. Jeff Lewis
Commissioner Paul Poole	Commissioner Donald Hawbaker
Mr. Paul Tanner	Commissioner Marcello Banes
Mr. Jim Durrett	Commissioner Kevin Little
Commissioner Laura Semanson	Ms. Martha Martin
Mr. Rich McDonald	Commissioner Pat Graham

### **1. Welcome – Acceptance of January 9, 2020 TAQC Meeting Summary; Public Comment period**

Charlotte Nash, TAQC Chair, asked if there were changes to the meeting summary. Hearing no additional comments, the summary was accepted as presented. Commissioner Nash asked for public comments. There was no public comment.

### **2. Action Item – Issue Summary and Resolution for the Atlanta Region’s Plan/RTP Update**

John Orr, ARC, gave an overview of the public comments received on the RTP update as well as the schedule for adoption of the plan. 667 comments were received, mostly regarding the schedule for construction of transit projects. Mr. Orr noted that ARC cannot override local priorities and funding decisions. He also pointed out the many comments that highlighted the importance of walking and bicycling projects, asking ARC to prioritize funding those. While the RTP is being taken to the ARC Board for adoption on February 26, 2020, this version does not include results from the TIP solicitation, which are expected to be added in an administrative modification later this spring.

Commissioner Nash asked for a motion to approve, which was made by Jim Durrett, MARTA, and seconded by Tread Davis, DCA. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Regional Commuter Survey**

Casey Sloan, ARC, presented results from the 2019 Regional Commuter Survey, which is conducted as part of the regional TDM program, Georgia Commute Options. The goal of the survey is to understand commute travel patterns, motivations and barriers to alternative mode use, and awareness and usage of commute options programs and services. The survey used a random address-based sample within the 19-county region, and results were weighted to match employee distribution, also taking into consideration race and age distributions. Mr. Sloan shared that 310,000 postcards were mailed out, and there were 5,100 full responses. Some high-level results show that many people live near where they work, and that length of commute is a significant factor in the decision to change home or work location.

Mr. Sloan highlighted some broad perceptions respondents have, including that, while most agreed that traffic congestion is a significant problem, far fewer think that air quality is an issue. Additionally, many reported that their commute has worsened in recent years. While 76% of commute trips are still made by single occupancy vehicle, 34% of respondents reported having taken an alternative mode to work at least once a week. This includes teleworking, which continues to grow in popularity. Compared to previous surveys in 2007 and 2014, fewer people telework full-time, but more telework occasionally, and many would be interested in the option if their employer had a formal program in place. Respondents who recently started using an alternative mode were asked about their motivation to do so, as well as personal benefits they saw after switching. Cost was the highest motivator in making that change, but the most commonly named benefit was avoiding stress. Mr. Sloan also noted that while barriers to using an alternative mode varied by mode, free parking at the workplace, and therefore low cost of driving alone, was a key factor.

The full technical and public reports on the survey are now available on the [ARC website](#), and an online data portal will be available during Q1 or Q2 of 2020.

Mike Houchard, ARC Citizen District 6 Representative, asked for clarification on the level of detail in geographic breakdown. Mr. Sloan explained that the data can only be broken down by county (in the case of the five core counties) or major region for the remaining counties (Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast).

Tread Davis asked if the survey shows that more people are living and working in nodes around the region. Mr. Sloan said that the survey doesn't get to that level of detail as specific home and work addresses are not included. Mike Alexander, ARC, noted that ARC can pull that data if there is interest.

June Wood, TAQC Vice Chair, asked how the survey results will be integrated with The ATL's work. Mr. Sloan said that ARC will share the results with staff at The ATL, and staff are open to these conversations.

#### **4. 2020 Safety Targets and Regional Safety Strategy Update**

Aileen Daney, ARC, presented an update on ARC's work surrounding safety, including the Regional Safety Taskforce (RSTF), 2020 safety targets, and the upcoming Regional Safety Strategy. The RSTF was created in 2019 and is convened quarterly, with a diverse body of members. In its first year, the taskforce gave feedback on the TIP Project Evaluation Framework as it relates to safety and weighed in on the process of setting 2020 safety targets. Presentations were also given by MARTA, GDOT, The ATL, and CIDs. The RSTF is open to all.

Ms. Daney described the process, required by USDOT, by which state DOTs and MPOs set annual safety targets for the following performance measures:

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized injuries

She explained that MPOs can choose to concur with their state DOT targets, establish their own targets, or do both. In the past, ARC has concurred with GDOT targets, which are set by following a projection of each measure. Due to concern over concurring with a rising trend line, in 2020, ARC is both concurring with GDOT and creating targets specific to the 20-county area following GDOT's methodology. This means the region accounts for 43% of the state's fatality target, 44% of the state's serious injury target, and 56% of the state's non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Ms. Daney noted that this year's targets are an incremental step towards better safety targets, and that the data and needs assessment coming in the next year will help ARC move in that direction.

Mike Houchard asked how long it is expected to take until ARC reaches stricter safety targets. Ms. Daney shared that she hopes to present different numbers next year based on the recommendations from the Regional Safety Strategy.

Paul Tanner, GDOT, gave his support for ARC's pursuit of better safety targets, underlining the fact that GDOT follows the same methodology as many other states in order to continue to receive federal funding.

Randy Ognio, Fayette County Chair, asked when recommendations from the RSTF would be shared. Ms. Daney said that the RSTF has already been discussing changes to ARC's TIP Project Evaluation Framework, which will continue to be finetuned. Mr. Ognio also mentioned the important role of law enforcement in improving safety.

Liane Levetan, ARC Citizen 7 District Representative, asked about funding sources for safety improvements. Ms. Daney explained that this is a major goal of the Regional Safety Strategy, which will examine best practices at MPOs across the country. Mr. Orr noted that technology has a significant impact on crash reductions, the extent of which is still unknown.

Commissioner Wood asked if there has been a reduction of crashes since the implementation of the no texting law. Mr. Tanner shared that the data does not seem to show a significant reduction in crashes, but there has potentially been more throughput at intersections. Commissioner Wood also asked for the RSTF to offer recommendations for local governments to improve safety.

Ms. Daney also shared an update on the forthcoming Regional Safety Strategy, which will be based on the framework developed in Safe Streets for Walking & Bicycling and will be guided by the RSTF and the Transportation Equity Advisory Group. There is a need to understand best practices, assess current safety conditions, explore systemic safety factors, highlight high-crash corridors, and recommend improvements for ARC's planning, policies, and practices.

## **5. Upcoming Connect ATL Summit – March 31, 2020**

Melissa Roberts, ARC, presented on the Connect ATL Summit, happening on March 31, 2020 at the Georgia International Convention Center. Registration is open now, and early bird rates will be available through February 14, 2020. Ms. Roberts shared that there will be a plenary panel about industry perspectives on autonomous, connected, electric, and shared vehicles. The main themes of the event relate to data usage, relationships between the private and public sectors, and lessons learned across metro Atlanta.

## **6. Other and Committee Introduced Items**

Laura Semanson, Forsyth County Chair, recognized Commissioner Nash's State of the County address on February 12, 2020.

## **7. Announcements**

Commissioner Nash noted Mr. Tanner's retirement from GDOT this spring.

## 8. Adjourned

### **Handouts & Presentations:**

- 02-13-2020 TAQC Agenda
- 01-09-2020 TAQC Notes
- Issue Summary and Resolution: The Atlanta Region's Plan/RTP Update
- The Atlanta Region's Plan/RTP Update PowerPoint
- Regional Commuter Survey PowerPoint
- Safety Update PowerPoint