



Atlanta Regional Commission

Transportation & Air Quality Committee

Charlotte Nash, Chairman

Thursday, March 14, 2019

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

ARC Harry West Room

Members Present

Commissioner Charlotte Nash, Chair
Mr. Mark Mathews
Mr. Mike Houchard
Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Commissioner June Wood
Mr. Eric Dial
Mr. Rich McDonald
Commissioner Laura Semanson
Mayor Clark Boddie
Mr. Paul Tanner
Ms. Martha Martin
Mr. Jim Durrett
Commissioner Harry Johnston
Mayor Rochelle Robinson
Commissioner Mike Boyce
Mr. Kerry Armstrong
Commissioner Randy Ognio
Commissioner Robb Pitts
Ms. Liane Levetan
Mayor Eric Clarkson
Mayor Nancy Harris

Members Absent

Mr. Tread Davis
Commissioner Marcelo Banes
Commissioner Kevin Little
Commissioner Eric Maxwell
Commissioner Romona Jackson Jones
Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
Ms. Donna Sheldon
Commissioner Oz Nesbitt
CEO Michael Thurmond
Commissioner Al Smith
Commissioner Jeff Turner
Mr. Mark Burkhalter
Commissioner Paul Poole
Commissioner Pat Graham
Commissioner Donald Hawbaker

1. Welcome; Acceptance of February 14, 2019 TAQC Meeting Summary Public Comment period¹

Chairman Nash called the meeting to order. Meeting summary accepted as presented. Chairman Nash called for public comment. There was no public comment.

2. TIP Amendment #7 Resolution and Issue Summary

Patrick Bradshaw, ARC, presented a first read on TIP Amendment #7. The amendment will include model coding changes, new projections and cost estimate increases beyond the threshold of administration modifications and changes to Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) projects.

The public hearing is scheduled for Friday April 5th at the TCC meeting. The public comment period is April 4 – 18. Approval will be requested by TCC on May 3, GRTA Board on May 8, TAQC on May 9 and the ARC Board on May 22. ARC will submit documentation to USDOT and EPA on May 9. A conformity determinization is expected late May / early June.

The amendment would add the following new projects:

- Summerhill Bus Rapid Transit (*BRT along Hank Aaron Drive / Capitol Avenue /Piedmont Avenue connecting the Arts Center MARTA station to the southern edge of Summerhill*)
- Gwinnett County SPLOST capacity projects
- New capacity project in Walton County (SR 20) from North Sharon Church Road to US 78 / SR 10

Tim Matthews, GDOT MMIP Program Manager, presented the update on the MMIP and the Amendment #7 MMIP managed lanes projects. MMIP projects include three interchange reconstruction projects, four express lane projects, three interstation widening projects and one commercial vehicle lanes project. The presentation included a video showing the future GA 400 managed lanes design. Amendment #7 adjustments include changes to scope, costs and financial forecasts.

3. Updates on Pending Transportation Bills Under Review

John Orr, ARC, presented an update on House Bill 511. Representative Kevin Tanner introduced HB 511. The bill recently passed out of the House. The bill would consolidate several existing transportation functions under the Department of Mobility and Innovation. The bill would move SRTA and The ATL under the department and create rural transit districts for the remainder of the state outside of The ATL region. The bill would dissolve GRTA and transfer its functions to the Department of Mobility and Innovation. Transit related functions from GDOT, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Community Health would all transfer to the new Department of Mobility and Innovation. Counties would also be allowed to put individual

¹ A 10-minute period for public comments is designated at the beginning of each regular TAQC meeting. Each commenter must sign up before 10:30 AM on the meeting date. Each speaker will be limited to two minutes. If the comment period expires before all citizens have an opportunity to address the Committee, citizens will be invited to provide their comments in writing.

TSPLOST referendums to vote. The bill would also tax ride share trips with a sales tax percentage where the proceeds would go to a statewide transit fund. The bill also has a grant program for metro Atlanta whereby three \$500,000 grants would be available to cover items such as workforce transit initiatives and technological advancements. The same grants would be made available to the rural areas of the state. There's also language in the bill that would allow Cobb County to join MARTA. House Bill 930 allowed this but only if Cobb County voted before November of 2019. House Bill 511 extended the timeline to 2021. ARC staff is keeping an eye on the bill as it moves forward.

4. Discussion on Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Planning and Integration with the TAQC Planning Process

Malika Wilkins, ARC, provided an update on Transportation Demand Management programs and their integration with the MPO planning process. ARC staff is emphasizing TDM planning as a critical plan implementation strategy. TDM planning can help reduce trips through programs such as ridesharing, increased transit use, walking, bicycling and teleworking. ARC also awards grants for employers to implement TDM programs in the greater Atlanta region. The Regional Framework Document (2016) proposed establishing a formal TDM committee within ARC to provide input on the region's TDM goals, policies, strategies and funding approaches. The proposed committee would meet bi-monthly and be a coordinating committee under the MPO's Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). ARC will be discussing committees at their upcoming board retreat. Ms. Wilkins concluded with a proposed schedule going forward and requested feedback.

5. Other and Committee Introduced Topics

None.

6. Announcements

Adjourn.