

ARC COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOW-UP

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

March 15, 2018 Meeting Notes

Members Present:

Commissioner Jeff Turner, Chair
Commissioner Buzz Ahrens
Mr. Kerry Armstrong
Mr. Christopher Tomlinson
Mr. Sonny Deriso
Ms. Carol Comer
Mr. Jim Durrett

Members Absent:

Mr. Mark Burkhalter
Commissioner Pat Graham
Commissioner Eric Maxwell
Commissioner Todd Levent
Commissioner Keith Ellis
Commissioner Kevin Little
Commissioner Al Smith
Commissioner Oz Nesbitt
CEO Michael Thurmond
Commissioner Rob Pitts
Commissioner Romona Jackson Jones
Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
Commissioner Charlotte Nash
Mr. Doug Hooker
Ms. Elizabeth O'Neill
Mayor Lori Henry
Mr. Donald Hawbaker
Mayor Clark Boddie
Commissioner June Wood

The committee did not have a quorum, but it was held for informational purposes.

1. Welcome, Chair's comments, Public comment period

Chairman Jeff Turner called the meeting to order. There was no public comment.

2. Legislative Update, Scott Haggard

Mr. Scott Haggard, ARC, gave an overview on the proposed regional transit bills currently under discussion in the Georgia General Assembly. House Bill 930 and Senate Bill 386 both propose a new governance framework for the Atlanta region and create a mechanism for local governments to establish an additional one cent sales tax that would be allocated toward new transit. HB 930 also proposes two transit funding mechanisms: an additional airport sales tax and a ride hailing tax. Both the Senate and House bills passed by an overwhelming majority on crossover day.

Senate and House Transportation Committees have met to review the legislation from the other chamber, and both bills have passed out of committee. ARC expects that both bills will be heard on the House and Senate floors on Monday, March 19th. Each of the bills are expected to go to Conference Committee before a final version is released.

3. Regional Transit Vision

Ms. Lori Sand, ARC presented on the status of the Regional Transit Vision (RTV) Update. The RTV Update builds on Concept 3, the region's transit vision that was adopted in 2008.

The RTV Update process intends to update the Concept 3 document and investigate a suite of tools that can be used to evaluate future transit projects.

The RTV Update contains 61 total projects that were reviewed by the stakeholder committee. The project list includes 26 arterial rapid transit projects, eight light rail transit projects, eight commuter rail projects, six streetcar projects, five heavy rail projects, five bus rapid transit projects, and four commuter/express bus projects.

An evaluation framework based on ARC's TIP Evaluation Criteria was used to evaluate all 61 projects. Using Remix and Conveyal, the projects were all evaluated for reliability, network connectivity, asset management, cultural and environmental uses, social equity, land use compatibility, and employment accessibility.

The Fulton County Transit Master Plan projects were also evaluated according to the framework. Each project was given a preliminary quartile ranking against the entire universe of projects.

The next steps are the finalization of mode definitions, development of the plan document, technical documents, and project sheets.

4. Fulton County Transit Master Plan

Mr. Bingaman, HNTB, presented on the eight-month Fulton County Transit Master Plan development process that included coordination with Fulton County, 14 cities and stakeholder members. The process included extensive public outreach, including 30 public meetings and 12 special population groups, community events, over 2,400 online survey responses, and meetings with numerous government agencies.

Through outreach, the plan identified key guiding principles for North and South Fulton. While needs differ between the two, the same priorities resonate with residents from both areas. Each potential transit project was evaluated based on the current/projected needs of each corridor, the feasibility for modes on each corridor, and how well each mode/corridor supports the identified guiding principles. The plan development process also focused on educating decision makers on the differences between modes.

A market-based scenario and a ½ cent sales tax scenario were developed as part of the process. The market-based scenario included heavy rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, arterial rapid transit and local bus while the ½ cent scenario focuses on bus rapid transit and arterial rapid transit. The County Commission and Fulton County Mayors consented to enacting legislation that allows up to a ½ cent sales tax to fund transit enhancements and extensions in Fulton County. Bus rapid transit/arterial rapid transit will be the basis for locally-funded improvements. It also includes local funding buckets for last mile connectivity, bus stop improvements, and rail station updates.

5. Announcements

Ms. Lori Sand announced that the Regional Bus Stop Signage Project is approaching a major milestone; the RFP will be released next week.

DeKalb County is beginning a transit master planning process.

Handouts supplied in advance on the ARC website: (www.atlantaregional.org/rtc)

- 3/15/18 RTC Agenda
- 11/9/17 RTC Meeting Notes and Summary
- Presentations
 - Regional Transit Vision
 - Fulton County Transit Master Plan