



Transportation & Air Quality Committee

Charlotte Nash, Chairman

Thursday, April 12 , 2018

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

ARC Harry West Room

Members Present:

Commissioner Charlotte Nash, Chair
Commissioner Buzz Ahrens
Mayor Eric Clarkson
Ms. Liane Levetan
Mr. Mark Mathews
Mr. Tread Davis
Commissioner Todd Levent
Mr. Jim Durrett
Ms. Martha Martin
Mr. Rich McDonald
Ms. Cindy VanDyke

Members Absent:

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
Commissioner Donald Hawbaker
CEO Michael Thurmond
Commissioner Jeff Turner
Commissioner Pat Graham
Commissioner Marcelo Banes
Commissioner Kevin Little
Commissioner Oz Nesbitt
Commissioner Eric Maxwell
Mr. Mark Burkhalter
Ms. Donna Sheldon
Commissioner Robb Pitts
Commissioner Al Smith
Mayor Nancy Harris
Commissioner Romona Jackson Jones
Commissioner Mike Boyce
Mayor Eric Dial
Mayor Rochelle Robinson
Mayor Clark Boddie
Commissioner June Wood
Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Mr. Mike Houchard
Mr. Kerry Armstrong

1. Welcome / Acceptance of March 15th TAQC Meeting Summary / Public Comment period

Commissioner Nash, TAQC Chairman, called the meeting to order and asked if there were any comments on the draft 3/15/18 TAQC Meeting Summary and hearing none, declared the summary accepted as previously distributed.

2. Convene a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Receiving Public Comment(s) on TIP Amendment #5

Commissioner Nash declared public hearing open. Five members of public signed up for public comment. Commissioner Nash reminded speakers of the two-minute time limit.

1. Renee Fuller on behalf of Ann Jones Gyner, Commissioner District 4 (?).
2. Dawn Ray Leonard, resident and co-chair of Douglas County's People's Action Committee.
3. Heather Dennis, resident and chairperson for People's Action Committee.
4. Kathy Beverage, on behalf of Kelly Honey, member of People's Action Committee.
5. Roy Sparks, resident of Douglas County.

Commissioner Nash if there were more comments – there were not. Commissioner Nash closed the public hearing after no one responded to a call for any more comments. Commissioner Nash provided the link for public comment and stated comments will be accepted until April 24th.

Questions:

XXX: Question about process – what do we require from a jurisdiction for an application?

John Orr: We absolutely require local governments include a resolution that indicates the maximum amount of funding and a commitment to provide a match This is now a standard part of the application.

XXX: What percent of the people of Douglas county are opposed to the CMAQ grant?

John Orr: We have not conducted that survey. We are aware of both residents in opposition and residents in favor. We do not have a precise percentage.

XXX: Any chance Douglas County is going to conduct a straw poll for their citizens?

John Orr: I do not know of plans to conduct such a poll. We have been in conversations with staff and officials. They are aware of the differences of opinions.

XXX: The [Douglas County CMAQ] application appears to be in order, correct?

John Orr: Yes. The committee accepted the recommendations from the project solicitation as part of Tip Amendment #4. Staff reviewed the application and recommended it be included in TIP Amendment #5.

3. FIRST READ Issue Summary and DRAFT Resolution for TIP Amendment #5

Jean Hee Barrett, ARC introduced a Draft Resolution for TIP Amendment #5. She explained the TIP includes a variety of projects, including non-exempt projects, TSPLOST/SPLOST projects, and model coding cleanup. The TIP also includes new federal and/or state funded projects such as Xpress service expansion and CobbLink weekend transit service. Ms. Barrett went into detail on the potential Douglas County fixed route public bus service operating assistance, including the rationale for this system such as reaching essentials services and employment centers, and the proposed operating hours. Ms. Barrett also shared a map of the four proposed routes and detailed the connections they make. Ms. Barrett concluded by sharing the schedule for public comments, the public hearing, committee and board action, and GRTA action.

Questions:

XXXX: Do you have a timeline for this project?

John Orr: If the funding is awarded, the county would have to prepare their formal applications with FTA, which would require public hearing on the proposed routes and fares. Roughly after the 1st of the year would be the soonest we could foresee this happening.

XXXX: Are the communities aware of what they have to do?

John: Since they do currently operate an FTA service they are familiar with the process. The fixed route will require more work though. It is about a year long process.

XXXX: Is ARC in contact with these entities to see if they are progressing?

John: Yes.

Commissioner Nash: Some details have not been figured out at this point given that funding has not been awarded, but they are likely having conversation about expectations.

Davis: I assume that air quality modeling has been completed?

Commissioner Nash: Yes.

4. Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) Implementation Updates

Matthew Fowler, PTP, GDOT provided an update on GDOT'S MMIP, specifically the express lane access points. The update included background information such as delivery roles, a review of prioritization factors and the prioritization process, and next steps.

Highlights include: HNTB is currently creating *Developing Express Lane Network implementation & Operations Manual* for GDOT which serves as the baseline for future project-specific decisions; the build out of express lanes is expected to finish in 2028; a January 2018 map of the entire express lane network with potential access points; and an overview of next steps including finalizing the Manual, general engineering consultant selection, and pre- and post-let activities.

Questions:

Eric Clarkson: Can you explain how transit and express lanes complement each other?

Matthew Fowler: Express lanes can support BRT, and co-locating access points with transit stations creates logical connections.

Eric: With managed lanes and capacity and transit, how has that worked in Gwinnett – is that still possible? Do managed/express lanes become as congested?

Matthew: The lanes will be priced such that lanes are moving.

Eric: There is still congestion in managed lanes. I want to understand alternatives and have reliable service. If express lanes do get congested and you use them for rapid transit, can you still provide certainty?

Matthew: Express lanes provide greater certainty than other general-purpose lanes.

Eric: We are discussing our options for better transit connectivity in Cobb County. Are managed lanes going to be a great option for BRT or will we fail to guarantee a certainty of time to customers? I want to be able to answer those questions in our local discussions.

Matthew: I think we will be able to price these such that you will have a far more reliable trip than you do today and that it will be a very attractive trip to make.

XXX: One project in tip amendment was Akers Mill – does that relate to MMIP?

Matthew: It relates to the overall north corridor but it is not directly related and not considered a GDOT MMIP, though it serves the same purpose.

XXXX: I understand access point prioritization and selection is an iterative process - why did the Akers Mill project need to be amended when it's under construction right now?

Matthew: Access points to express lanes will evolve over time. It is common to retro-fit as development patterns and demand changes. Akers Mill is just the first example of this that we have encountered.

Commissioner Nash: Is there anything you'd like to add?

XXXX: I am excited to see the progress. It has been a lot of work to get us to this point.

5. ATL Legislation Discussion

John Orr reviewed major points related to the new legislation. Christopher Tomlinson will be The ATL's Executive Director. ARC will work with planning partners to facilitate what this new organization means to counties, transit entities, local governments, and others. ARC's core responsibility will be maintaining Concept 3 Regional Vision for the thirteen-county area identified in The ATL. ARC will need to expedite their work and feedback on the regional vision as we update it throughout the summer. ARC will be working to better understand the bill with its partners.

Mike Alexander: We are committed to supporting this work in any way that becomes necessary moving forward. We have new tools to develop Concept 3 and can provide a lot of support. We are in the right place at the right time. We would like to Commend Commissioner Nash and Scott Haggard, ARC.

Questions and comments:

Liane Levetan: I'd like to commend Commissioner Nash.

Tread Davis: I second that. This is a great opportunity for our region. I would hope that our process is timely and well-prioritized to address the real options and trade-offs that exist. I would like to see what the staff is dealing with ahead of time.

Jim Durrett: There is concern for what this might mean for MARTA. But MARTA was at the table during the creation of this legislation. There will be cooperative work to offset any unintended consequences and provide the best transit possible.

Buzz Ahrens: The process to get the board established will be challenging and difficult given the timeline.

6. Other and Committee Introduced Topics

None.

7. Announcements

John Orr: Welcomed and introduced two new planning staff in the Transportation Access + Mobility Group – Andrew Spiliotis and Aileen Daney. Also, Mike Alexander has been working to streamline internal functions. Lori Sand and Shayna Pollock will be coming to the

transportation team from mobility services. Expect more interactions from them as transit may dominate future discussions.

Adjourn

Handouts supplied at meeting:

- 04/12/18 TAQC Agenda

Handouts supplied in advance on ARC website (<http://www.atlantaregional.com/taqc>)

- 04/12/18 TAQC Agenda
- Issue Summary and DRAFT Resolution – TIP Amendment #5
- The ATL Authority District Map
- Presentations:
 - Tip Amendment #5
 - MMIP Implementation Update