

**Transportation and Air Quality Committee**  
***Kerry Armstrong, Acting Chair***

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**10:30 AM – 1:30 PM**  
**Online Meeting Notes**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Mr. Kerry Armstrong	Commissioner Ryan Bowlden
Mr. Greg Cantrell	Mayor Andre Dickens
Commissioner Lisa Cupid	Commissioner Marcello Banes
Mr. Jim Durrett	Mr. Rudy Bowen
Mayor Vince Williams	Ms. Martha Martin
Ms. Jannine Miller	Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Ms. Tamara Hayes	Commissioner Oz Nesbitt
Mayor Rochelle Robinson	Commissioner Paul Poole
Commissioner Harry Johnston	Commissioner David Thompson
Ms. Liane Levetan	CEO Michael Thurmond
Mayor Vince Evans	Mayor Rusty Paul
Mayor Eric Dial	Commissioner Chris Yancey
Mr. Tread Davis	Commissioner Romona Jackson Jones
Mr. Paul Radford	
Commissioner Nicole Love Hendrickson	
Mayor Mike Mason	
Commissioner Alfred John	
Commissioner Carlotta Harrell	
Commissioner Robb Pitts	
Commissioner Lee Hearn	
Commissioner Jeff Turner	

## 1. Welcome

Kerry Armstrong, ARC Board Chairman, greeted the committee and welcomed them to the May joint TAQC and Board meeting. He provided some guidelines on conducting in person and virtual meetings during current pandemic moment as well as etiquette for attending meetings.

Anna Roach, ARC Executive Director, welcomed the committee members and provided a brief update on the signing of a transit memorandum of understanding.

Mr. Armstrong introduced Jim Jaquish, ARC, to manage ARC Board public comments; no comments were received. John Orr, ARC, managed TAQC public comments:

### **TAQC Public Comment Period**

Sally Flocks introduced herself as the founder and former director of PEDS. She encouraged the ARC Board and TAQC committee members to make climate change a priority when making decisions about regional investments. She complemented the investment in regional electrification and discouraged investments in roadway widenings.

## 2. ARC Board Business

- **Chairman's Comments** – Kerry Armstrong, ARC, provided some updates on ARC business, including recent awards, ConnectATL conference, and other upcoming events. See ARC Board minutes for full details.
- **Consent Agenda** – Mr. Armstrong requested a motion to approve the consent agenda and March 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes; no objections were raised and the agenda was adopted.
- **Oath of Office to New Board Members:** Michael Caldwell, City of Woodstock, was sworn in as a new ARC Board member.

## 3. Discussion/Information Items

- **IIJA Engagement Strategy**

Anna Roach, ARC, provided an introduction to the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) and ARC's approach to informing members about opportunities provided by the act. She outlined many of the increases in programs and funding amounts included in the Federal bill.

ARC's approach to the IIJA will be informed by a consultant-led strategic plan. She established four pillars that ARC will pursue to support member jurisdictions in pursuing IIJA funds: Educate; Communicate; Prepare; and Advise. ARC will be providing ongoing education and a regional toolkit to provide real time updates on IIJA programs. A webinar series will launch in June 2022 to provide additional information as well as upcoming opportunities to meet with ARC staff for advice on pursuing funds.

She introduced a panel of local subject matter experts – Chris Brady, Commonwealth Research Associates; Andrew Heath, GDOT; Collie Greenwood, MARTA; John Orr, ARC; and Jean Hee Barrett, ARC – who will provide additional information on IJIA opportunities.

Mr. Brady provided a broad overview of the IJIA (i.e. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)). The bill will contain nearly \$1.2 trillion of funding for both transportation and broader infrastructure investments. Mr. Brady walked through a recent history of transportation funding and some details of how funding will operate within IJIA; see presentation for details. Three key policy focus areas in IJIA will be – Equity; Climate; and Workforce Development. The bill will contain over 240 programs relevant to the ARC region and Mr. Brady anticipates that ARC will be important to accessing federal funds.

Commissioner Lisa Cupid, Cobb County, asked for more information on the term “shovel ready” versus “shovel worthy.” Mr. Brady clarified that previous funding sources (such as ARRA) were not seen as being as efficient as possible so current Federal programs are reevaluating how priority projects can be most effectively supported.

Paul Radford, TheATL, asked if there is a fear of clawbacks as cities have seen with ARRA funds. M. Brady confirmed that all federal laws will permit clawbacks and future bills may change funding assumptions.

Tread Davis, ARC Board, asked whether there is a “pony” in the bill for metropolitan Atlanta rail investments. Mr. Brady confirmed that there will be funding available under a competitive program.

Mr. Heath delivered some insight into IJIA / BIL from the Georgia Department of Transportation’s perspective. He addressed existing formula funds, new formula funds, discretionary funds, and new policies and programs. He provided Georgia-specific fund amounts and walked through a number of existing and new funding sources, including Surface Transportation, Transportation Alternatives, Carbon Reduction Program, PROTECT (resiliency), bridges, Electric Vehicle charging, and several others; see presentation slides for specific details. He cautioned that details are emerging constantly and to rely on GDOT or ARC for assistance with details.

Mr. Greenwood spoke on how MARTA is approaching the IJIA and upcoming transit investments in the region. Manjeet Ranu, MARTA Chief of Capital Programs, Expansion & Innovation, spoke on formula funding levels, program eligibilities, and available discretionary formula; see presentation slides for specific details. Mr. Ranu walked through some specific projects upcoming in FY 22-23, including partnerships with the City of Atlanta and Fulton, Dekalb, and Clayton Counties.

Commissioner Cupid, Cobb County, asked how non-member counties can access funds with MARTA. Mr. Ranu outlined several areas that MARTA is coordinating with Cobb County on adjacent transit projects.

Liane Levetan, ARC Board, was pleased to see the Emory line included on the project list. She inquired about how the funding from Dekalb County will operate. She wanted to know how soon that project will be completed. Mr. Ranu stated that MARTA is continuing to work through a preferred alignment.

Mr. Orr presented an overview of Federal transportation funding. He began with the differences between formula and discretionary funding, including significant increases in annual amounts. He walked through basic funding processes on how Federal sub-allocation and TIP programming operates. He highlighted the increase in discretionary grants and programs related to climate change planning, carbon reduction, congestion mitigation, resiliency, safe and healthy streets, transportation technology, rail transit, and others; see presentation slides for specific details.

Mr. Orr provided some insight on how to maximize competitive funding opportunities. He suggested prioritizing requests, developing multi-agency partnerships, identifying existing matching capabilities, designating a point person to manage applications, place emphasis on equity, climate change, resilience, and workforce development. He concluded with an anticipated schedule of upcoming funding opportunities and an overview of ARC resources for competitive grants.

Jim Durrett asked whether Georgia Power and electricity providers are involved in talking about vehicle electrification. Mr. Orr and Mr. Heath both confirmed that Georgia Power and EMCs are involved in planning.

- **Overview of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5 (FIRST READ)**

Ms. Roach introduced the first read of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5 and Jean Hee Barrett, ARC, to provide an overview of the process. Ms. Barrett walked through ARC's structure and its role as a Federally-designated MPO. She stressed that TAQC is the MPO board for the metropolitan region and oversees the development of the TIP. She provided updates on program funding, including Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives (TA); see presentation for specific details.

Ms. Barrett shared information on TIP Amendment #5. She stated that this is a financial amendment related to the IIJA transportation bill. The amendment will include several new programs – a new pilot program for regional bus electrification; MARTA clean bus procurement; Cobblinc ADA system improvements; MARTA Clayton Transfer Center upgrades. Other changes include: GDOT bridge upgrades; SR 6 truck-friendly lanes; and SR 92 continuous flow intersection at South Fulton Parkway.

Ms. Barrett asked TAQC members to review the list and contact her with questions or concerns. The amendment will have a ten-day public comment period from May 5-18, 2022.

Committee and board actions will occur on June 3 (TCC) and June 8 (TAQC). Amendment documentation and approval are anticipated for late June 2022.

Ms. Roach encouraged TAQC members to attend the June 8 meeting to adopt the amendment. There were no questions from the committee members.

#### **4. Closing Remarks**

Chairman Armstrong asked if there were any other committee introduced topics. There were none.

#### **5. Adjourn**