



DATE: May 12, 2016

ISSUE SUMMARY: **Walk. Bike. Thrive!: A Regional Vision for a More Walkable, Bikeable, and Livable Metropolitan Atlanta**

FROM: Mike Alexander, *Director*, Center for Livable Communities

IMPORTANCE:

ARC has recently completed the 2015 update to the Atlanta Region Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways Plan (Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan). The study area encompasses the 20 county Atlanta transportation planning area. The Steering and Advisory and Committees for the study included representatives from the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Atlanta Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force (which is comprised of representatives from local governments, bicycle and pedestrian interest groups, federal and state agencies, and the general public), the project's Equity Advisory Committee, and numerous public comments.

Key recommendations from the study include:

- Use data-driven analysis to link active transportation investments to regional benefits for safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness to;
- Strategically target investments for bicycle and pedestrian projects to those areas best suited to mode shift and to those jurisdictions which have demonstrated a commitment to developing and funding local-scale bicycle and pedestrian projects;
- Promote and emphasize the importance of walking- and bicycling-friendly communities through prioritization and planning at the local level;
- Lead the region to move towards Vision Zero policies to eliminate traffic deaths and encourage incorporation of safety elements into both roadway design and marketing efforts;
- Implement a Regional Trail Network Strategy to close identified network gaps in the regional trails system and strategically expand the network of regionally significant trails;
- Incorporate the concepts of complete streets into planning, design, and construction of all future roadways to ensure bicycle and pedestrian accommodation;
- Use regional and community equity as a lens to maximize the benefits of active transportation investments;
- Emphasize the importance of safe, convenient, and comfortable local networks for making walking, bicycling, and transit everyday activities.

These recommendations will be used in development of future Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIPs). The final report is posted at <http://www.atlantaregional.com/bikeped>.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Adoption of findings from the Atlanta Region Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways Plan: *Walk. Bike. Thrive!*

**A RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
ADOPTING 2015 ATLANTA REGION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN:**

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of 20 counties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal requirements, the Atlanta Regional Commission conducts bicycle and pedestrian planning studies as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process, the results of which are considered for incorporation into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and

WHEREAS, in 2015-2016 the Atlanta Regional Commission conducted an update to the Atlanta region bicycle and pedestrian plan – entitled Walk. Bike. Thrive!: A Regional Vision for a More Walkable, Bikeable, and Livable Metropolitan Atlanta – pursuant to the 2015 and 2016 Unified Planning Work Programs for the Atlanta Region; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Atlanta Regional Commission adopted the Atlanta Region Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways Plan, 2007 as a policy guide replacing the Atlanta Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Walkways Plan, 2002 for future planning and implementation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, Walk. Bike. Thrive! has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from the Atlanta Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force comprised of representatives from local governments, bicycle and pedestrian interest groups, federal and state agencies, and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Walk. Bike. Thrive! consists of the goals and objectives supporting the regional goal of developing bicycle and pedestrian transportation systems as part of an integrated transportation system as well as descriptions of policies and programs recommended to be implemented throughout the Atlanta Region; and

WHEREAS, Walk. Bike. Thrive! has been evaluated by appropriate technical and review processes consistent with adopted procedures; and

WHEREAS, preliminary policies and technical guidance from the Walk. Bike. Thrive! were used in development of *The Atlanta Region's Plan* to ensure the continued evaluation and implementation of bicycle and pedestrian projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts Walk. Bike. Thrive!: A Regional Vision for a More Walkable, Bikeable, and Livable Metropolitan Atlanta as the policy guide for bicycle and pedestrian planning in the Atlanta Region.

Draft for approval by TCC on 5/6, TAQC on 5/12 and ARC Board on 5/25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission will use Walk. Bike. Thrive! as input into the development of future Regional Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission authorizes the Chairman of the Transportation and Air Quality Committee to appoint a Task Force to assist ARC staff in implementing the Walk Bike Thrive! plan recommendations, including: refining the Regional Trail Network Strategy Concept with benefits and costs of a regional trail network as well as segment prioritization for implementation over the life of the plan; building a program to support Walk-Friendly and Bike-Friendly Communities across the region; developing a regional Active Transportation Resource Center; and other tasks as needed to implement the plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission directs its staff to prepare and distribute to appropriate individuals, organizations and agencies documents describing the Walk. Bike. Thrive!