DATE: May 12, 2016

ISSUE SUMMARY: Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update

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

IMPORTANCE:

ARC has recently completed the 2016 *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update*. The study area encompasses the 20 county Atlanta transportation planning area. The study began in April 2015 and concluded in May 2016.

Key findings and recommendations from the study include:

- Assessment of global, regional, and local freight trends, opportunities, and needs
- Analysis of recent growth at the Savannah Port, projected future growth related to the Panama Canal Expansion and the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, and how this may affect future freight movement in the Atlanta Region,
- Completion of a multi-modal freight systems review that analyzed freight tonnage, trip volumes, commodities, and related data as well as identification of freight cluster areas, intermodal facilities, and other key freight infrastructure within the Atlanta region,
- Development of freight performance measures,
- Identification of a freight infrastructure project list that strategically targets investments to those areas where they can have the most impact on freight movement in the Atlanta Region
- Recommendations for additional freight studies, strategies, and initiatives to supplement planned projects in the region and to maximize the use of existing infrastructure
- Identification of freight funding changes that are part of the federal FAST Act legislation passed in December 2015 and how these changes impact the Atlanta Region

These recommendations will be used in development of future Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). The 2016 *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* documentation is posted at http://www.atlantaregional.com/freight/.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Adoption of findings from the 2016 *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update*.

A RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION ADOPTING THE 2016 ATLANTA REGIONAL FREIGHT MOBILITY PLAN UPDATE

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 multimodal, regional-level 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 the *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* – pursuant to the 2015 Unified Planning Work Program for the Atlanta Region; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Atlanta Regional Commission adopted the *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan* as a policy guide for future planning and implementation of freight related facilities in the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission coordinated with other planning and engineering studies conducted by the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), local jurisdictions, and other entities; and

WHEREAS, the *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from the ARC Freight Advisory Task Force, comprised of representatives from FHWA, GDOT, Georgia Tech, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, railroads, major retailers, logistics companies, developers, and other private sector entities; and

WHEREAS, the *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from the ARC Transportation and Air Quality Committee and the Transportation Coordinating Committee, comprised of representatives from FHWA, GDOT, GRTA, local jurisdictions, and other entities; and

WHEREAS, the *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* goals and objectives support The Atlanta Region's Plan's threefold vision of: Providing world-class infrastructure; Building a competitive economy; and Ensuring the region is comprised of healthy and livable communities.

WHEREAS, preliminary policies and technical guidance from the *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* were used in development of *The Atlanta Region's Plan* to ensure the continued evaluation and implementation of freight related projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the 2016 *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* as the policy guide for freight planning in the Atlanta Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission will use the 2016 *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* as input into the development of future Regional Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as additional steps are needed to better integrate freight into the planning process, the Atlanta Regional Commission will continue to support the ARC Freight Advisory Task Force as it assists in implementing planning recommendations.