



Atlanta Regional Commission

**Transportation & Air Quality Committee**  
***Charlotte Nash, Chairman***

**Thursday, June 14, 2018**  
**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**ARC Harry West Room**

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Charlotte Nash, Chair  
Commissioner Romona Jackson Jones  
Commissioner Buzz Ahrens  
Commissioner Eric Maxwell  
Mayor Eric Clarkson  
Commissioner Robb Pitts  
Mr. Kerry Armstrong  
Ms. Liane Levetan  
Mr. Mark Mathews  
Mr. Mike Houchard  
Mayor Rochelle Robinson  
Commissioner June Wood  
Mr. Tread Davis  
Mayor Eric Dial  
Ms. Cindy VanDyke  
Mayor Clark Boddie  
Commissioner Todd Levent  
Mr. Rich McDonald

**Members Absent:**

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms  
Commissioner Jeff Turner  
Commissioner Marcelo Banes  
Commissioner Kevin Little  
CEO Michael Thurmond  
Mr. Jim Durrett  
Commissioner Pat Graham  
Commissioner Oz Nesbitt  
Commissioner Dave Carmichael  
Mr. Mark Burkhalter  
Ms. Donna Sheldon  
Ms. Martha Martin  
Commissioner Al Smith  
Mayor Nancy Harris  
Commissioner Mike Boyce

## **1. Welcome / Acceptance of April 12th TAQC Meeting Summary / Public Comment period**

Commissioner Charlotte Nash, TAQC Chair, called the meeting to order and asked if there were any comments on the draft 4/12/18 TAQC Meeting Summary and hearing none, declared the summary accepted as previously distributed.

Nicole Miller from Douglas County addressed the committee. Miller is part of DCPAC. Miller shared that she feels the county is not ready to handle the financial burden of a transit system. Miller also reiterated at past meetings that citizens have addressed issues they had with the process.

Commissioner Nash, TAQC Chair, thanked Cindy VanDyke, GDOT, for her dedicated service on the TAQC committee and congratulated her on her retirement. Cindy provided thankful closing remarks and welcomed Paul Tanner as her replacement.

TAQC members Mayor Rochelle Robinson, City of Douglasville and Commissioner Ramona Jackson Jones, Douglas County, along with Vice Chairman Kelly Robinson introduced their college interns and noted they would be working on various government initiatives including transportation.

## **2. FIRST READ: “Safe Streets” for Walking and Bicycling**

Byron Rushing, ARC, provided a status update and background information on the “Safe Streets” action plan. Rushing said he will return with an action resolution in July. The “Safe Streets” action plan came at a good time to build upon existing efforts and address the increase in pedestrian crashes. The 2016 Walk, Bike, Thrive Plan highlighted safety as a priority. State and MPO performance measures adopted last year also focused on improving bicycle and pedestrian safety. These efforts coincided with an increase in pedestrian crashes last year.

Rushing presented a summary of the plan’s contents. Rushing explained that the action plan is centered around ARC’s implementation role. The plan aims to address safety to enable more people to bicycle and walk. The plan also aims to address that walking and bicycling is not equitably distributed around the region.

Rushing summarized the eight critical steps to achieving safe streets:

1. *Set a target for zero fatalities by 2030.* The plan emphasizes implementing strategies that will reverse the current trend. Rushing noted the numbers are up more than expected for this year. Tackling the top ten crash locations will be important for reversing the trend.
2. *Embrace a safe system approach.* The aim is to rethink how we address traffic safety and to change the system so that we eliminate the opportunity for accidents to occur.
3. *Identify risks, demand, and policy priorities.* The action plan offers a data driven approach to determine where to focus resources. The risk assessment map for the region includes variables such as speed, number of lanes, crosswalk locations, lighting, crash locations, transit utilization and equitable target areas.
4. *Use evidence-based counter measures to eliminate risks.* The plan includes examples of infrastructure and design features that can improve safety.

5. *Focus regional funding on safety.* The plan focuses on how the MPO can direct funding to improve safety in the region.
6. *Support better projects.* The plan includes goals and objectives focused on best practice examples and safety related technical assistance for local governments. The risk assessment map also supports better projects.
7. *Champion complete streets implementation.* Champion complete streets through project design and encouraging development and land use regulations that compliment complete streets. Programs such as Smart Cities and the LCI program can also help advance safety goals.
8. *Improve data collection, crash analysis and evaluation.* The plan recommends future research and analysis that will help eliminate fatal and serious crashes.

Byron Rushing covered the next steps in the process. Rushing said the next step for staff is to develop safety counter measures. GDOT provided funding to review best practices in safety design and to develop counter measures as graphics and informational tools. The counter measures will address urban, suburban and rural contexts that are applicable to the entire region. This planning effort is the last piece of the Walk, Bike, Thrive Plan. Rushing invited TAQC members to become involved in this process if they have ideas or concerns. Mike Houchard, Citizen District 6, asked if we have the crash locations available by county. Rushing confirmed we have the data available that can be shared for analysis and integrated into future CTP plans.

Commissioner June Wood, Henry County, commented that the new law preventing texting while driving will hopefully reduce crashes. Rushing noted that police are now being asked to log if a driver was texting while driving. Hopefully the new law and reporting will help reduce bicycle and pedestrian crashes.

### **3. ACTION ITEM: Issue Summary and Resolution for the Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study**

Daniel Studdard, ARC, presented an update on the Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study. A first read of the study resolution was presented in March. Studdard noted the assessment concluded during a time where parking challenges continue to evolve. Electronic logging regulations started in December with ticketing taking effect this past April. The winter holidays will really test the new system as more packages are delivered that time of year.

Studdard recapped that the assessment inventoried the number of private spaces by county in the Atlanta region. Fulton County has the most parking spaces in the region. There is little to no parking in many of the inner counties surrounding Fulton County. This lack of parking causes a lot of drivers to stop and park before entering the region. This situation can result in drivers parking illegally and risk being fined. The survey of truck drivers in the Atlanta region found drivers spend the following amount of time looking for parking:

- 51% spend greater than an hour
- 41% spend 30 min to an hour
- 6.5% spend 15-30 minutes
- 1.3% spend less than 15 minutes

Studdard explained that many drivers start before the AM commuting peak which causes them to end up finishing during and contributing to PM peak congestion.

Studdard reviewed strategies available to improve truck parking in the Atlanta region. The strategies include expanding the parking supply, developing truck parking policies, developing truck parking partnerships, and sharing information on parking availability. Studdard explained that FHWA continues to research the issue and publish informational materials intended to help MPOs and local governments act on issues such as freight planning, parking, and zoning requirements. Studdard noted improving issues like truck parking and congestion in the region is important because it can increase the attractiveness of independent operators deciding to accept loads in the region.

Commissioner June Wood, Henry County, noted the importance of having a coordinated parking effort in the region.

Tread Davis, Georgia DCA, asked if we know what percent of trucks in the region are stopping for deliveries and what percent are passing through. John Orr said it can vary between 40-80% depending on the corridor. Interstate 75 has a lot of pass through traffic traveling between Florida and the Midwest. Cindy VanDyke noted about 75% of trucks entering Georgia are heading to metro Atlanta.

John Orr noted the study was a high priority item over the last year. Orr said this effort was a study and that next steps will be follow up with to help identify guidelines, best practices and templates to help local governments plan for when large industrial developments come to their area.

Mayor Rochelle Robinson, City of Douglasville, asked if there could be recommendations to help reduce stigmas surrounding truck stop crime. Studdard noticed truck drivers are more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators. Studdard noted Jason's Law came about because of a driver being murdered. Studdard noted our follow up best practices research can touch on these issues addressing topics such as entry/exit regulations, lighting, surveillance, law enforcement support, etc.

Mayor Clark Bodie, City of Palmetto, motioned to approve the resolution and Liane Levetan, ARC Citizen District 7, seconded. The motion to approve the Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study passed with unanimously.

Commissioner Ramona Jackson Jones, Douglas County, asked if there are specific examples and site layouts and best practices that would be presented to the TAQC group. Studdard confirmed that the best practices research that ARC will bring back the group will address these issues.

Commissioner Nash and Doug Hooker, ARC, thanked Studdard for his enthusiasm and effort in this groundbreaking report.

#### **4. ACTION ITEM: Issue Summary and Resolution for TIP Amendment # 5**

Jean Hee Barrett, ARC, presented the resolution to adopt TIP amendment five. The 30-day public comment period ran from March 26 until April 24. The GRTA Board granted a conditional approval on May 9 contingent upon all other approval votes passing. The TCC voted to approve the resolution on June 8. The TAQC is asked to vote today. The ARC Board will vote on June 27. Air quality conformity determination is expected in June or early July.

Barrett noted a first reading of the resolution was in April. The amendment projects are all listed on the website and include 2017 TIP solicitation projects, TSPLOST projects and a cleanup of the regional travel demand model.

Barrett said seventy-two comments were received on the amendment. Seventy-one of those comments were related to CMAQ funding in Douglas County that would add fixed-route bus service. The one comment not related to Douglas County was focused on light rail service in the City of Atlanta. Barrett noted the public comment report is on the amendment website.

John Orr added that this amendment is closing out the project solicitation started last year. Orr added that many comments were provided on transit in Douglas County. Orr reiterated that Douglas County staff if awarded CMAQ funds would be seeking public input to determine and finalize the exact locations of routes.

Liane Levetan, ARC Citizen District 7, motioned to approve the resolution for TIP Amendment five. Commissioner Todd Levent, Forsyth County, seconded the motion. The TAQC voted to approve the resolution with no objections.

#### **6. Other and Committee Introduced Topics**

Commissioner June Wood, Henry County, thanked David Haynes and Commissioner Nash for coming to Henry County to educate the public about HB 930 and the formation of the ATL authority.

Mayor Rochelle Robinson thanked ARC for their work on the Douglas County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Mayor Eric Clarkson, Metro Atlanta Mayor's Association, noted the two Georgia Smart Communities Challenge grant winners in the region. The City of Chamblee will focus on the use of shared autonomous vehicles and their access to the Chamblee and Doraville stations while Gwinnett County will focus on using technology to improve safety and mobility along a 20-mile section of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard.

#### **7. Announcements**

None

Adjourn

**Handouts supplied at meeting:**

- 06/14/18 TAQC Agenda

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

- 06/14/18 TAQC Agenda
- Issue Summary and Resolution – TIP Amendment #5
- Presentations:
  - TIP Amendment #5 Presentation and Resolution
  - Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study and Resolution
  - “Safe Streets” for Walking and Bicycling Action Plan and Resolution (First Read)