

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
July 22, 2022 Meeting Summary
On-Line Meeting

TCC Members or Alternates Present:

ARC	John Orr	GRTA/SRTA	Jamie Fischer
ATL	---	Gwinnett	Jerry Oberholtzer
Atlanta	Michelle Wynn	Henry	Sam Baker
Barrow	---	MARTA	---
Cherokee	Jim Wilgus	Newton	Chester Clegg
Clayton	Keith Rohling	Paulding	Ann Lippman
Cobb	Laura Beall	Rockdale	Brian Allen
Coweta	Jenny Runion	Spalding	Brian Upson
DeKalb	Sylvia Smith	Walton	Joe Walter
Douglas	Miguel Valentin	MD-1	---
EPD	Gil Grodzinsky	MD-2	---
Fayette	Phil Mallon	MD-3	---
Forsyth	Tim Allen	MD-4	Stanley Merantus
Fulton	David Clark	MD-5	---
GDOT	Charles Robinson	MD-6	---

Advisors (Non-voting):

CBMPO	Tom Sills
GHMPO	---
GDOT I'modal	---
EPA	---
FHWA	Ann-Marie Day
FTA	---

June 3, 2022 Meeting Summary
John Orr, Chair

1. Welcome; June 3, 2022 Meeting Summary & Review

John Orr, ARC, greeted the committee and welcomed them to the meeting.

There were no public comments.

2. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Discussion on Recently Released Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

David Haynes, ARC, explained the funding opportunities related to the Federal Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. He detailed the programs that are currently open U.S. Department of Transportation Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022). Those programs are: The Bridge Investment Program, Safe Streets and Roads for All, the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, and the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. The order in which these programs were listed both coincides with the most money available for each, but also the order in which the submittal deadlines need to be completed.

During the middle of the presentation David asked Byron Rushing, ARC, to step in a discuss a specific part of the presentation. This had to with the fact that local sponsors needed local action plans to apply for implementation grants, and Byron went on to discuss how the ARC's regional plan fits into this definition. He further explained that the local governments need to have a framework of their own instead of just solely deferring the Atlanta Regional Plan.

Each of the NOFOs were further broken down and links were provided for each program after the presentation was completed.

Jim Wilgus of Cherokee County provided comments from the attendees. He reminded everyone that regarding the Safe Streets NOFO, only one application can be submitted.

John discussed that a working IIJA Implementation group was being formed consisting of several volunteers from TCC members with goal of facilitating further discussion and gaining local perspectives on the best way to leverage IIJA.

Kyetha Clark, from Cumberland CID, had a question about getting involved with the working group even though Cobb County is their sponsor. John answered, saying he wanted to limit the working group to the public sector for the time being, but he surely wants to add the CIDs to the discussion as well, and will follow up with that in the near future.

2. TIP Solicitation Update

Patrick Bradshaw, ARC, provided an overview of the 2022 TIP solicitation process and those recommendations should be coming down pretty soon. He further gave a quick rundown on last year's TIP process. Over 140 applications in total. Were submitted.

Patrick further emphasized that initial recommendations are close to being released, with these initial recommendations being shared with TCC, TAQC, GRATA, GDOT, and all project applicants who submitted during the 2022 TIP solicitation. The release of these recommendations is on track for the early part of August.

No questions from meeting attendees.

3. Regional Safety Strategy Discussion

Byron Rushing, ARC, updated TCC members on the Regional Safety Strategy Discussion at 1:07:50. Mr. Rushing reiterated that the Regional Safety Strategy's purpose was to primarily understand the safety trends in the region, and from there pivot from historical crash data into what we think is a more important process moving forward, which is identifying risks associated with travel in the region.

Mr. Rushing further stated that the goals of the Regional Safety Strategy is being proactive in achieving safety and building a safe transportation system for all users of all modes in metropolitan Atlanta.

Mr. Rushing gave an update on the progress of the strategy by stating that he was in the last month or two of developing the safety strategy report and finalizing the visualization for it. Stakeholder input on the front-end is mostly finished. A final report is expected in August, with adoption in September is currently the schedule that's being held. Mr. Rushing further solicited more feedback as the final touches to the report are being added.

Phil Mallon, Fayette County, made a comment regarding leveraging the safety strategy plan for funding opportunities and how he feels it would be a good use of funds, specifically in the cleaning and clearing up of right-of-ways. Mr. Orr asked a follow up question to Mr. Mallon regarding how big of an issue is it in terms of accident trends at certain types of locations. Mr. Mallon responded that it is the case in the unincorporated parts of the county, and clearing right-of-way is an expense that the county normally doesn't fund. They're starting to, but it is an expensive proposition for them. Mr. Mallon was interested in finding out what counties have the same issues, and Mr. Orr asked any others to weigh in on the matter. Keith Rohling of Clayton County, and Brian Allen of Rockdale County both agreed with Mr. Mallon's sentiments.

Mr. Orr closed out this part of the presentation by reminding attendees that there will be more discussions on this in the future, and ultimately any final product will be taken back to TCC members for future actions.

4. Critical Upcoming Planning Activities

Mr. Orr gave a look ahead on the important planning activities that's coming up on the rest of the calendar year. He wanted to highlight three studies that are getting very close to beginning either procurement or actual work. The first plan that was discussed was the Regional Freight Plan, with work activities expected to begin in August.

Daniel Studdard, ARC, began the discussion by stating how excited he was to see this plan come close to coming under contract. He solicited members for input since this is a bigger effort than the last regional update in 2015 and 2016. His expectation is that they'll go a little more in depth with members this time, so he asked everyone to start thinking about their individual freight needs both in general as well as specific project level needs that you may have because he wants to document it.

Mr. Orr gave a brief update on the Regional Electrification Plan. The ARC is working with GDOT to get the funding contract, and they're doing all they can to get an RFP issued very quickly, but it still may take a couple of months before it goes out. Mr. Orr also emphasized that local participation would be critical on this plan as well. He finished by adding that staff member Maria Roell would probably be project manager on this item.

Mr. Orr gave an update on the Human Service Transportation Plan. He began by saying that staff member Sidney Douse would take the lead on the project, and that it is an MPO requirement that will be one of the primary transit planning requirements going forward. Getting an appropriate budget in place for this plan is a critical step that was further reiterated to members.

Mr. Orr gave more updates on IJJA support and mentioned that Deloitte is assisting the ARC implementing support for the overall bill. He mentioned Matthew Bartlett as ARC's main contact with Deloitte.

Mr. Orr closed by letting everyone know that work activities are underway for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. Mr. Orr reminded members that a new plan update would be brought forward to them for review and action in January 2024. He also pointed out that the immediate work that is currently being carried out is updating the policy framework, updating population and employment forecasts, education and outreach, and community engagement as well.

6. Other Items and Announcements

- Morgan Bray was introduced as new Executive Assistant for TAMG.
- John informed TCC that staff member Lizzy Sandlin will be leaving the agency to attend graduate school.
- John also informed TCC that staff member Aries Little will also be leaving the agency to take a position at the FTA.
- Information was shared regarding the ConnectATL Summit.
- Former staff member Jared Lombard was also recognized after he took a position with the FHWA. FHWA Planning Lead Ann-Marie Day also gave comments.
- Talk of possible in-person TCC meeting on Aug 4th. Sam Baker commented that a possible conflict with another potential meeting could happen that day. Jamie Fisher brought up another conflict as well. Jim Wilgus said that Thursdays are bad for Cherokee County, and Michelle Wynn and Miguel Valentine also brought up concerns on Thursday meetings going forward.

7. Adjourn