

Transportation Equity Advisory Group Meeting Notes

August 1, 2017

“If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there”

Review of Proposed Objectives & Tactics:

- Mostly the group was OK with proposed information, but had many comments with further details regarding the tactics
- Maybe include an objective calling out economic opportunity/economic inclusion in transportation

General Comments:

- **Definitions:**
 - o Equity: What does equity mean? We must work with a share definition in order to focus our efforts. ARC should have a definition of what the agency means when it references “equity” and also “transportation equity”. Perhaps this group could serve as a review for ARC’s equity definition and vision incorporated into the ARC Regional Equity Playbook under development.
 - o Vulnerable Populations: Vulnerable vs. disadvantaged: they are different but also overlap, we need to address both, but should we address them differently? Disadvantaged could be considered “intentional” based on policies, avoidance, lack of investment. Vulnerable could be considered “non intentional” like elderly, populations with disabilities, children. Are children included in vulnerable populations definition? Will child safety be a topic?
 - o Going deeper, more detailed: Generally, the group would like to make a list of topics that need further definition in order to realize action and progress. The group is not interested in “just talk”.
 - o Statement of Intent: Can we define who this group is? What this group wants to accomplish? We should be specific/explicit in our intentions.
 - o How do we consider the dynamic nature of inequity/inclusion and investments?
- **Metrics:**
 - o How will the group measure its own success?
 - o What type of metrics should be analyzed related to regional equity? Specific to transportation?
 - o Are these metrics connected by to funding decisions? (Like ARC’s own project selection process for competitive funding?)
 - o What exactly is this group trying to influence?
- **Economic opportunities:**
 - o Contracting with businesses of color is a major concern and was brought up several times
 - o It is necessary to see infrastructure beyond just physical creations. Infrastructure in its broadest sense are ways to leverage how transportation problems are solved in ways

that create further economic opportunities? Where is the focus on training? On developing business opportunities? On connecting the pipeline?

- Should we look to connect with other groups and initiatives? Like workforce development agencies? What about ARC's CATLyst economic development strategy?
- (when we consider the transportation planning agencies that will be at the table, should there be a thought to who should be represented, so that it is a person connected to the business development/enterprise arenas, and not just the long-range planning staff)
- Corporate America: What exactly should this group do to connect with these entities?

- **Other topics for group:**

- Safety: Will safety in general be a topic? Some populations are more at risk is. Have to walk more, live next to a high speed road, etc)
- Transit: Sometimes when people say "transportation" it does not really include public transit. Is there work to be done at State Legislature? There was a resolution passed in the House in March to establish a committee regarding transit. Transit can get lost if it is housed under the transportation umbrella, how can we make sure the group's identity clearly indicates interest in all forms of transportation?
- Information Clearinghouse: How do we develop some type of open portal with information on current initiatives happening and where? (related to transportation & community, equity, addressing poverty, economic opportunities)
- Research: What type of info and assistance could ARC's research team provide to help this group?

- **Consolidation and Promotion of Group Work:**

- How is the group going to "advertise" itself to be *the* group people come to regarding equity?
- How will the group fit into the ARC formally established committees (like Transportation Coordinating Committee, Transportation & Air Quality Committee)
- Is there a relationship to transportation funding decisions and this groups' efforts?
- Can this agency broker connections between agency partners and equity partners to communicate external work and further equity efforts?
- In order to do these things, the group needs to establish a "collective" voice. What are the touch points everyone can agree upon?
- Should the group create position papers to establish intent around each objective identified?

- **Working with Transportation Partners:**

- We plan on inviting members from partner planning agencies

- **Working with Elected Officials:**

- Do elected officials know about this group yet? There was a suggestion to wait until the group has solidified its identity and then host some type of event for them
- How does this group connect with "C level" staff at ARC?

Headlines for Visioning Exercise: "What headline would the AJC have in 2025 about the Transportation Equity Group's Work?"

- Equity Group “Really” Achieves Equity: True Equity is Achieved! No One Was Left Behind
- Metro Atlanta Goes From “Worst to First”!
- High Occupancy Transit System Goes Operational Throughout Atlanta Region
- ATL Reclaims Maynard Jackson’s Vision
- Equity Achieved for Metro Atlanta: Everything for Everybody
- Greater Atlanta Eliminates Poverty: Crime at an All-Time Low
- Metro Atlanta Realizes “The Beloved Community”
- ARC Solves Traffic Problems: 15 Minute Commute for Everyone
- Atlanta is #1 for Best Public Transportation System
- Transit Investments are Used to Minimize School Commutes
- Metro Atlanta “Connects the Dots” for Equity

In order to meet this vision, what questions must be answered? What information is needed?

- What are the initiatives in the region pushing for transportation equity?
- What organizations are engaged?
- What transportation initiatives are being invested in that provide opportunities for transportation equity? What projects are on the table now and in the future?
- Who is the community and what do they need?
- What position are we starting from? Do we have a baseline? (common to the entire group?) Can this help us identify our current (collective) assets around the table?
- What are our gaps in capacity? And information? How do we quantify that? (This will also help us track our success)
- How can we influence corporate America/ What is the business case for this group? What are our points of leverage and influence?
- Why is there no transportation plan for South Atlanta? Why are there no transit investments south of I-20?
- What are the policies in place that create the barriers to growth and equity? (Both intended and unintended)

Is there a proposed group structure?

- Should there be individual committees within the group?
 - o No, everyone should be at the table for these discussions, but if someone is not interested in a specific topic they can just choose not to attend that meeting

Potential Next Steps:

- Need to define who we are
- Need to define equity? What does it look like? What do we want?
- Need to define who we want to help
- Need to define who and what we are trying to influence?
- Who has the influence?
- Should we write a Need’s Assessment within the group to show progress/ program evaluation/quantify gaps, including an assessment of social capital
- Consider who else needs to be at the table
- Look at existing policies that create intentional or unintentional barriers

- Should we write a series of position papers related to each group objective to make sure we are constantly working on an agreed-upon mission