

Transportation and Air Quality Committee
Charlotte Nash, Chairman

Thursday, September 10, 2020
10:30 a.m. – Noon
Online Meeting

Members Present	Members Absent
Commissioner Charlotte Nash	Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
Commissioner Romona Jackson	Mr. Paul Radford
Commissioner Harry Johnston	CEO Michael Thurmond
Commissioner Randy Ognio	Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor
Mayor Eric Clarkson	Commissioner Oz Nesbitt
Mr. Mark Mathews	Commissioner Robb Pitts
Mr. Mike Houchard	Mr. Greg Cantrell
Commissioner June Wood	Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Mr. Tread Davis	Mr. Jeff Lewis
Commissioner Laura Semanson	Ms. Martha Martin
Mr. Rich McDonald	Commissioner Marcello Banes
Commissioner Mike Boyce	Commissioner Kevin Little
Commissioner Jeff Turner	Commissioner Pat Graham
Mayor Rusty Paul	Mr. Jim Durrett
Ms. Janine Miller	Commissioner Paul Poole
Mayor Vince Williams	
Mayor Rochelle Robinson	
Ms. Liane Levetan	
Mayor Rey Martinez	
Mr. Kerry Armstrong	
Mayor Eric Dial	

1. Welcome; Acceptance of August 13, 2020 meeting summary

Chairman Nash called the meeting to order. There were no objections to the August 13th meeting summary, so it was adopted as presented.

Public Comment Period

There was no request for public comment.

2. TIP Amendment #1 (ACTION ITEM)

Patrick Bradshaw, ARC, provided an overview of the First Read and briefing of TIP Amendment #1 to the Atlanta Regions Plan that was made in July with GRTA, ARC Committees and the ARC Board in August. The First Read includes recommendations from the 2019 TIP Solicitation and upcoming FY 2021 TIP Solicitation. There was one public comment during the 20-day public comment period which also had a public hearing during the August TAQC meeting. This month the ARC Board, Committees and GRTA will consider this Amendment for approval. Upon approval it will go to FHWA and the USDOT EPA. Upon an approved conformity determination an update to the TIP and RTP list will be done no later than mid-October.

Mr. Bradshaw noted that the one major public comment was a partner/agency request to change the financials on the McGinnis Ferry Road Interchange in Forsyth County. The request is to move the local match on the construction and utility phases to be replaced with a state match along with a minor increase in the federal funding commitment on the utility phase of approximately \$1.5 million. Details on this request is available on the public comment report on ARC's website: atlantaregional.org/Amendment.

Mayor Williams made a motion for approval. Commissioner Semanson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was approved.

3. Strategic TSMO Plan and ITS Architecture Update (Action Item)

Maria Roell, ARC, provided an overview of the plan along with the plan goals and outcomes. The team completed several supporting resources that are available on ARC's website which includes regional technology that's already in place in the region, data governance best practices report, ITS architecture update, a pilot project screening assessment and the local agency deployment guide.

Ms. Roell noted that creating a regional TSMO strategic plan encompassed an assessment of where we are today, compared with the best practices nationally, and to the vision that created the goals and outcomes. The results of the assessment helped identify the strengths and opportunities which helped the team focus on the gaps in the strategic initiatives.

Additionally, short-term, mid-term, and long-term steps were created to get to the strategic vision. The three initiatives outlined include: 1) strengthening TSMO planning and institutions, 2) enhancing data sharing and management, 3) and encouraging TSMO innovation. Each of these initiatives comes with several actions and each action then has a

checklist for short, mid, and long-term actions. All the documentation pertaining to the strategic plan and supporting documents are available on ARC's website.

Mike Houchard made a motion for approval. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was approved.

4. Update on Human Services Transportation (HST) Planning

Sidney Douse, ARC, provided an update on the Atlanta Regional Demand Response Implementation Plan. Mr. Douse noted that back in October the name changed from Demand Response Coordination to Implementation. Mr. Douse noted that the plan, which is federally required by the FTA, was completed in 2017 and the goal of the plan is to develop a menu of local regional tactics that would better coordinate mobility with a focus on human services. HST by definition focuses on the transportation needs primarily of low-income individuals with disabilities and limited English proficiency, and older adults.

An RFP for a study was released in the spring/summer of last year and the kickoff was last fall. The study will seek to address the need for additional coordination between paratransit and county demand response system operators which is identified in the plan. Additionally, an advisory committee began working on developing stakeholder interviews and progress has been made in stakeholder engagement and the completion data compilation. Mr. Douse mentioned a variety of tasks are underway such as looking at emerging and future models of regional coordination and new mobility options (e.g. Uber and Lyft).

Mr. Douse provided a summary of the technical meeting/workshop breakout groups and that there will be breakout groups in the upcoming meeting later this month. The breakout groups worked on a variety of regional challenges such as a growing HST population, lack of resources and qualified drivers with ADA training. Take aways from the breakout groups included a regional need for a trip planning app, grant application assistance and more education around the FTA 5310 program.

Mr. Douse announced that they were recently awarded a Committee Transportation Associate America (CTAA) grant. This grant will assist the team with trip planning needs such as mobility, demand technology and trip exchange platforms.

5. ATL Authority Regional Transit Plan Update

Aileen Daney, the ATL, provided an update and a snapshot of the ATL bond list. The ATL board approved on September 3, 2020 a recommended project list that included nine different projects for state funding. The nine projects were derived from the 2019 ARTP and had to meet a number of criteria in order to be considered for the bond list. The criteria include alignment to the ATL governing principles, being regionally significant, as well as being able to meet the five year spend down period for state funding.

Ms. Daney also provided an overview of the ATL Regional Transit Plan. This plan fits into a larger, regional planning process and is considered to reflect the local transit needs of the

residents for the 13-county ATL region and is updated annually. Additionally, the presentation highlighted the schedule, call for projects, plan level evaluation results and district downloads for the public outreach efforts.

Ms. Daney also provided an overview of public outreach efforts during COVID-19. Efforts have consisted of a combination of virtual engagement and adopted engagement similar to what GDOT has done for their projects. The ATL is building a virtual open house where a person can look at different boards, interactive stations, and media comments. The ATL is also hosting live meetings with staff on-hand to answer questions. The ATL is also creating a media campaign #ATLTransitPlan and #PublicComment so that the public can interact with them and provide their feedback on Twitter and Facebook in addition to the ATL website. Additional steps include leaving flyers on seats on high occupancy routes, informational boards at high traffic stations, increasing press releases, developing a media toolkit for regional partners to share their channels and a text message campaign. The ATL is hosting six open house meetings that will include a brief presentation and a Q&A. The meetings will be paired by districts and one overall meeting with a mix of afternoon and evening sessions.

An interim update will be shared with the ATL Board and the Planning Committee in October on the district downloads, fact sheets and document templates so that they can get a look and feel of the ARTP in 2020. In November, the ATL will provide a full summary of the public outreach efforts including all comments received and a draft plan will be developed. In December, the ATL Board will take action to approve the document.

6. Update on Regional Sales Tax Receipts

Mr. David Haynes provided an update on the local and state transportation revenues to determine whether there is a need to adjust TIP projects, scopes, schedules, and budgets as a result of COVID-19. David also provided information on SPLOST and TSPLOST distribution that was made at the end of August (collected in July) by the state Department of Revenue.

In general, all 20 counties were on the plus side for revenues. SPLOST on average dedicated about 53% of their collections to transportation and when TSPLOST is added that total jumped up to 61%. Regional collections are down about 20% from January through July. The main takeaway is that the 2020 collections continue to be stronger than the original forecast. Year-to-date the state appears to be down by 4% compared to last July but overall.

7. Other and Committee Introduced Items

There were no committee-introduced items.

8. Announcements

Mr. John Orr noted that the financial trends will be discussed with TAQC so that the committee can move ahead to finalize the TIP recommendations and take action.

Mr. John Bayalis, ARC provided a legislative update on the federal reauthorization package that governs our transportation spending (or FAST Act) which is set to expire on September 30th. There is likely be a one-year extension FY 2020 FAST Act funding levels that would presumably be past sometime prior to September 30th. Additionally, the Water Resources Defense Act reauthorization which was past by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee earlier this summer has passed out of this committee by voice vote.

The Senate will be voting on a Skinny COVID-19 Relief Package which is about 500 million dollars less than the one the senate introduced about a month ago. It is likely this bill will not pass but that there will be more negotiations on a short-term Continuing Resolution. The CR will likely go through the end of December and a second CR to fund the government through the early Spring.

Jean Hee Barrett, ARC, noted that a link was provided on the chat box to the SRTA's website for the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank and Loans grant application which is will be open through October 23rd. This grant is managed by SRTA and not ARC.

Upcoming TIP training classes will be split into two days. Save the date for upcoming trainings held on October 1, 2020 from 1:30-4:00pm and on October 7, 2020 from 1:30-4:00pm.

Aries Little is a new staff member at ARC. Aries will be in the Implementation section and will be the jurisdiction liaison for N. Fulton cities and Forsyth County. An email was sent out with her contact information and an updated jurisdiction liaison map will be sent out as well.

9. Adjourn

Chairman Nash subsequently adjourned the meeting.