

**Transportation and Air Quality Committee**  
*Mark Mathews, Chair*

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**  
**10:30AM - Noon**  
**Online Meeting Notes**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Mr. Kerry Armstrong	Commissioner Marcello Banes
Mr. Mark Mathews	Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
Ms. Jannine Miller	Commissioner Pat Graham
Commissioner Carlotta Harrell	Mr. Rudy Bowen
Mayor Eric Clarkson	Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Mayor Mike Mason	Mayor Rey Martinez
Ms. Martha Martin	Commissioner Paul Poole
Mayor Vince Williams	CEO Michael Thurmond
Commissioner Cindy Mills	Commissioner Jeff Turner
Mr. Paul Radford	Mayor Rochelle Robinson
Mr. Tread Davis	Commissioner Oz Nesbitt
	Mayor Rusty Paul
	Commissioner David Thompson
	Commissioner Lee Hearn
	Mr. Greg Cantrell
	Mr. Jim Durrett
	Commissioner Robb Pitts
	Ms. Tamara Hayes
	Ms. Liane Levetan
	Mayor Eric Dial
	Commissioner Harry Johnston
	Commissioner Romona Jackson Jones
	Commissioner Nicole Love Hendrickson
	Commissioner Lisa Cupid

## Transportation and Air Quality Committee

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### **1. Welcome; Acceptance of August 11, 2021, TAQC Meeting Summary**

Mark Mathews, TAQC Chairman, greeted the committee and welcomed them to the October TAQC meeting. Hearing no comments from TAQC members, the August meeting summary was accepted as submitted. Chairman Mathews asked John Orr, ARC, for any written public comments. There were none.

### **2. GDOT Planning Update**

Jannine Miller, GDOT Planning Director provided an update on GDOT's freight planning and other items of interest. Ms. Miller gave a review of the State Strategic Plan that was approved earlier this year by the Governor and the State Transportation Board along with a brief update on the upcoming Freight Plan.

Ms. Miller summarized Georgia's Economic Development Results for FY 2021. Announcements were made by private companies that (expanded or located in Georgia) that \$11 billion was invested in the state during July 2020 thru June 2021. More than half (or 57%) in facilities that are logistics-enabled.

Additionally, Miller gave the Freight and Logistics Planning vision and mission along with strategies for investment. The strategies include a focus on rail grade crossing safety, economic development, and a focus on technology. GDOT expects 77% growth in manufacturing by 2050 based on projected Growth State Product and freight intensity trends.

The State Freight and Logistics Plan will focus on private sector stakeholder engagement, direct collaboration with ARC, a review and update of Georgia's State Freight Network, among other items. The priority is to keep freight moving fluidly, safely, and efficiently. Ms. Miller concluded her presentation noting that GDOT anticipates its completion of the plan by the fourth quarter next year and also ensuring that the plan is delivered on time to FHWA.

### **3. 2022 Unified Planning Work Program and 5303 Grant Application (1<sup>st</sup> Read)**

John Orr, ARC, provided an overview of the upcoming major UPWP work activities. This work program goes into the contracts with GDOT that talks about what will be done for the coming year. The plan goes before TAQC for a 1<sup>st</sup> Read normally around this time of year and then there's action in November along with a grant application for planning.

One of the major focus areas include responding to COVID, specifically understanding the responses to post pandemic and how it has impacted travel. This will be incorporated into the next Regional Plan Update which is due by February 2024. A new item for next year for advancing transportation technology is the Regional Electrification Plan. Another is the modernization of PLANIT. This Project Database Modernization initiative is a critical tool that

ARC use to manage the finances in the TIP along with the status of projects. The ConnectATL Technology Summit, which is led by ARC's mobility management team will be in person next year. This summit provide opportunity to collaborate on technology initiatives that will impact transportation. Additional work activities include studies requiring consultant assistance, such as the TDM Plan, Regional Safety Study and the Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update.

Finally, there will be a continuation of the Livable Center Initiative (LCI), the County Transportation Plan Program (CTP) and the Freight Cluster Area Planning Program. The UPWP must include any studies that have federal planning funds. Therefore, ARC will work with local staff to make sure those studies are included. If anyone have questions on any of the items that was covered or suggestions, please contact John Orr.

#### **4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Solicitation**

John Orr noted that a decision was made, in consultation with others, to expedite getting a project solicitation underway this quarter. Due to all the activity in Washington, the infrastructure bill could lead to additional funding. Hopefully we will be able to get some action later this fall.

Patrick Bradshaw, ARC, provided an update on the TIP Solicitation application process. Project sponsors should have received notification via email last week of the application open date of October 1, 2021, and a close/due date of December 2, 2021. After December 2nd, ARC staff will be reviewing applications for completion to make sure all data items are appropriately filled out to move into the KDP2 process. Then there will be an application review meeting with GDOT to check for deliverability and any issues in addition to a meeting with the ATL Authority staff to discuss transit projects. A technical review process will then take place to ensure that the funding recommendations are reached. Initial recommendations are expected to be around late Spring 2022. The final recommendations are expected in the Summer of 2022.

Tejas Kotak, ARC, provided an overview of the project evaluation framework changes in terms of how projects are scored. Some of the changes include affordable housing metric added to equity score; green infrastructure for resiliency score; air quality and safety have additional checks; and new TSM&O Technology project type. Patrick Bradshaw, noted that the solicitation website is a one-stop shop for all information regarding the solicitation. If sponsors have questions or issues, they are encouraged to reach out to ARC staff.

#### **5. Transportation and the COVID Pandemic – Where are we today?**

John Orr provided a snapshot of the transportation system use and its impact from COVID. There is a direct relationship between COVID case levels and travel. The trends are moving in a positive direction. Key points included that July employment levels for the region returned to pre-pandemic levels and in early August, schools reopened to in-person learning. Additionally, daily traffic volumes range from 5-10% below pre-pandemic levels. Congestion during the morning peak travel period is still below pre-pandemic levels for most corridors. MARTA ridership is slowly increasing, but still below pre-pandemic levels. In closing ARC will

continue to monitor travel conditions and will come back with a more thorough presentation and update later in October.

#### **6. Other Staff Items**

There will be a Transportation Safety Workshop on October 20, 2021. Also, due to there not being a quorum Mr. Orr recommend that he consult with GDOT and see if there are time sensitive items that necessitate a meeting and provide a follow-up with the committee.

#### **7. Other Committee Introduced Items**

None.

#### **8. Announcements**

Doug Hooker, ARC Executive Director shared with the committee that one of their planners Elizabeth Sandlin who was attending a conference was injured. Lizzy was hospitalized along with City of Atlanta planners.

#### **9. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Matthews