



ARC Committee Meeting

Transportation & Air Quality Meeting

Charlotte Nash, Chair

November 9, 2017

Members Present:

Commissioner Charlotte Nash, Chair
Commissioner Buzz Ahrens
Commissioner Eric Maxwell
Commissioner Donald Hawbaker
Commissioner Jeff Turner
Commissioner June Wood
Commissioner Mike Boyce
Commissioner Todd Levent
Mayor Eric Dial
Mayor Nancy Harris
Mayor Eric Clarkson
Mr. Tread Davis
Ms. Liane Levetan
Mr. Mark Mathews
Mr. Rich McDonald
Mr. George Jones

Members Absent:

Mayor Kasim Reed
Commissioner Romona Jackson Jones
CEO Michael Thurmond
Mr. Kerry Armstrong
Commissioner Pat Graham
Mr. Mike Houchard
Ms. Cindy Van Dyke
Ms. Martha Martin
Mayor Clark Boddie
Mr. Mark Burkhalter
Mr. Fred Daniels
Commissioner Kevin Little
Commissioner Al Smith
Mayor Rochelle Robinson
Commissioner Dave Carmichael
Commissioner Oz Nesbitt

Actions Taken:

2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Chairman Nash noted that even though there was not a quorum present, that ARC staff should present the resolution for Committee’s information. Mr. Orr noted that the UPWP had been previously presented to the TAQC in both September and October. The UPWP was reviewed by TCC on November 3 and unanimously recommended for review and action by TAQC. Chairman Nash noted that it would be desirable for those present to recommend forwarding the document to the ARC for action even though there was not a quorum. The UPWP was unanimously recommended by a vote of those members present for review and action by the ARC Board in December.

1. Welcome / Acceptance of October 12, 2017 TAQC Meeting, Summary / Public Comment period

Chairman Charlotte Nash called the meeting to order and asked for public comment. There was none. Chairman Nash asked for comments on the meeting summary from the committee. Hearing none, the summary was accepted as presented.

2. Update on the GRTA Xpress Program

Mr. Chris Tomlinson, SRTA Executive Director, provided an update on the Xpress program and next steps in the expansion of the program. Mr. Tomlinson noted that significant expansions were planned in the coming years – including close coordination with the expansion of the regional managed lanes system. Mr. Tomlinson indicated that in recent months, some organizational changes had occurred at SRTA and GRTA to streamline operations and functions.

Mr. Tomlinson provided highlights of the Express lane program and the expansion of park and ride lots in the region. Mr. Tomlinson also noted that the managed lane program would include a zipper lane on I-20 East in DeKalb County. Mr. Tomlinson noted that the airport area was the region's largest employment center and that potential strategies to expand service were being evaluated.

Mayor Harris inquired about the strategies that SRTA/GRTA has in place to market the overall Xpress service. Mr. Tomlinson noted that he had hired a marketing person that would be expanding the organization's outreach. Chairman Ahrens indicated that Cherokee County had decided to direct FTA 5307 funds to the Xpress program and noted that the service was adding value in his community.

3. Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

Mr. Byron Rushing indicated that the purpose of his presentation was to highlight the work to date for the Regional Bicycle and Safety Action Plan. Mr. Rushing shared information on the update regarding data analysis and strategies that will help ARC identify priority projects for regional safety outcomes.

Mr. Rushing noted the significant increase in crashes over time, including an assessment of contributing factors. Information on contributing factors include the number of lanes and the level of speeds for a facility. He indicated that staff and the consulting team will be

developing a map of the facilities in the region that rank high in these contributing factors for crashes and will follow-up at a future meeting.

Mr. Rushing also updated the group on the development of the regional trail network. He noted that several promising projects were submitted as part of the project solicitation. Mr. Orr noted that staff was still in a review of the projects, but several critical projects were submitted.

Chairman Turner noted that there did not appear to be a significant number of trail applications submitted by south-side communities as part of the solicitation. Mr. Rushing agreed and noted that ARC wants to see more applications coming from these communities and that a significant amount of local and regional planning work was underway. Ms. Levetan asked if staff was working with the PATH Foundation. Mr. Rushing indicated that staff was coordinating with the PATH Foundation but that the Foundation was a private entity and often needed to keep information confidential regarding potential expansion plans.

Chairman Nash noted that Gwinnett County is nearing the completion of a county-level study multi-use trails and that it would take significant resources to implement the plan.

4. Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study

Mr. Daniel Studdard presented the draft policy recommendations for the Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study. Mr. Studdard noted that staff would take the feedback from the discussion to adjust recommendations and that these would be finalized in the first quarter of 2018.

Mr. Studdard noted that in December, federal regulations will require the use of electronic logs for truck drivers. It is expected that this will require truckers to park more frequently and that the supply of truck parking in the region does not currently meet the existing and forecast demand. Mr. Studdard indicated that over 50% of truckers spend over one hour to find parking and that this regulatory change will likely lead to an increase in unauthorized parking in the region.

Mr. Studdard noted that the draft policy recommendations emphasize having staff do work to prepare model ordinances and further study these issues. Mr. Studdard indicated that it is staff's recommendation that both future Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTPs) and Freight Cluster Studies incorporate an assessment of truck parking within a community. Furthermore, Mr. Studdard noted that staff could also prepare model language for updates to ordinances to better handle the expected increase in truck parking required.

Chairman Wood noted that truck parking issues must also be studied at the state level. She inquired if the state has plans to expand parking. Mr. Studdard noted there were no current plans to do this statewide. Ms. Wood noted that increasing truck parking supply was important and that there needs to be truck parking both within and outside of the region.

Other examples of potential strategies to better manage truck parking were given, including pilot projects.

5. Other and Committee Introduced Topics

Chairman Maxwell indicated that the recent regional survey – Metro Atlanta Speaks - had created confusion among some citizens. Specifically, Chairman Maxwell noted that some people in his community had the impression that ARC was advocating for the expansion of transit into Fayette County. Mr. Maxwell noted that he had shared the results and purpose of the survey with some of his constituents, but they still had this impression. Mr. Maxwell noted that he wanted to express that he is not in favor of expanding transit in the community. Mr. Orr noted that expanding transit into Fayette County is not in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Orr noted that several sales tax referendums occurred in the region. Ms. Levetan and Mayor Clarkson indicated that a SPLOST passed in DeKalb County. Chairman Hawbaker said that a T-SPLOST did not pass in Spalding County and that this would impact their ability to do major projects.

Chairman Nash noted that it would be desirable for ACCG to do a survey of best practices for local referendums and that potentially a separate meeting could occur to share this information or that this could be an item on a future TAQC agenda.

6. Announcements

Chairman Nash noted that two guests were visiting ARC from the University of Seoul. Mr. Phillip Kim and Mr. Hunjae Ryu introduced themselves and indicated they were working with ARC staff on a variety of environmental issues, including noise planning.

There being no other businesses, Chairman Nash adjourned the meeting.