

Transportation and Air Quality Committee
Mike Mason, Vice-Chair

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
10:30AM - Noon
Online Meeting Notes

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

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1. Welcome; Acceptance of October 13, 2021, TAQC Meeting Summary

Mike Mason, TAQC Vice-Chair, greeted the committee and welcomed them to the meeting. Hearing no comments from TAQC members, the October meeting summary was accepted as submitted. Vice-Chair Mason asked John Orr, ARC, for any written public comments. There were none.

2. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Planning

Roz Tucker and Sabrina Mallett, ARC, presented the Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan scheduled to occur between the third quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2023 with the program's goal of reducing single occupancy travel in the region. Program benefits include reduced congestion, emissions, and travel costs as well as improved access to employment, labor, safety, and travel options. The main objectives of the plan's focus group meetings would be to better understand the transportation challenges of the program participants, test awareness and understand of the current program and strategies, and to identify areas where the program can better address needs of the participants.

Forsyth Commissioner Cindy Mills asked if there is the potential to fund a pilot program to house workshare in a historic building in the county that would take cars off the road. Tucker answered that the best opportunity would be through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program as well as potentially through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) and Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) programs.

Tammy Hayes, GA EPD, asked if the recent passage by the US House of the Invest in America Act would mean more construction in the future. Orr responded in the affirmative with programs that would focus on travel reduction and managing remote working.

Kathy Zahul, GDOT, explained that her agency has been concerned that the drop in traffic during the pandemic could lead to a reduction in receipts from the gas tax. Traffic during the peaks has been observed to be sustained longer but less intense than pre-pandemic. Mini peaks have also been observed due to the increased impact of flex work, telework, and freight deliveries. Zahul expected the makeup of traffic would continue to evolve, especially with the addition of connected vehicles in the future.

TAQC members feedback will inform a future TDM Coordinating Committee workshop on plan goal setting. For any additional comments, please email smallett@atlantaregional.org.

3. TIP Amendment #3 (ACTION ITEM)

Patrick Bradshaw, ARC, gave an update for ARC's most recent conformity amendment. In addition to Major Mobility Investment Program project changes, four new projects were added. Those include the I-75 at SR 20 DDI in Henry, new cd lanes along I-85 between McGinnis Ferry

Road and SR 317 in Gwinnett, a new multiuse trail between Northlake and downtown Tucker, and updates to the I-75 at Bethlehem Road new interchange.

Vice-Chair Mason then asked for a motion to approve TIP Amendment #3. Jim Durrett made the motion and a second was provided by Mayor Rusty Paul. TIP Amendment #3 was approved unanimously.

4. 2022 Unified Planning Work Program and 5303 Grant Application (ACTION ITEM)

John Orr provided a summary of ARC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) work activities in 2022. A main task is beginning work on the next Regional Transportation Plan update. Other activities include the Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan, the Regional Safety Study, the Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update, the Regional Household Travel Survey, the Human Services Transportation (HST) Plan Update, and the Regional Electrification Plan in addition to prior year programs.

Vice-Chair Mason then asked for a motion to approve the 2022 UPWP. Paul Radford made the motion and a second was provided by Jim Durrett. The 2022 UPWP was approved unanimously.

5. Planning Safety Targets and Safety Study Update

Tejas Kotak and Byron Rushing, ARC, gave a presentation of the 2022 Safety Performance Targets. USDOT requires GDOT and ARC to set targets for safety performance measures based on five-year averages for the number of fatalities, the rate of fatalities, the number of serious injuries, the rate of serious injuries, and the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Data for each of the measures from the past five years was presented for the ARC region and statewide.

For more information, please contact Tejas Kotak at tkotak@atlantaregional.org or Byron Rushing at brushing@atlantaregional.org.

6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Solicitation Reminders

John Orr and Jean Hee Barrett, ARC, gave an update on the current TIP Solicitation that ends on December 2nd. Programs available for this solicitation include Surface Transportation Block Grant Urban Program, CMAQ, and Transportation Alternatives Program for financial years 2023 through 2025. A briefing will be given at the next meeting on how much funding will be available at the close of the solicitation for infrastructure and study applications. Before the recommendations, ARC will meet with GDOT, especially with applications that involve state facilities, and with ATL staff to ensure consistency with the ATL Regional Transit Plan.

Paul Radford asked if the 20% local match needed from awarded solicitations can come from American Rescue Plan Act money. John Orr responded that it could be a permissible use.

7. Other Staff Items

John Orr gave an update on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which was passed by the House on November 5th. When passed by the President, most current programs should see a 20

to 50 percent increase in funding. The US DOT will also have significantly more funding through discretionary programs. More information will follow in future TAQC meetings.

8. Other Committee Introduced Items

None.

9. Announcements

None.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Vice-Chair Mason.