

Transportation and Air Quality Committee
Charlotte Nash, Chair

Thursday, November 12, 2020
10:30 a.m. – Noon
Online Meeting

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

1. Welcome; Acceptance of October 15, 2020 meeting summary

Chair Nash called the meeting to order. There were no objections to the October 15th meeting summary, so it was adopted as presented.

Public Comment Period

There was no request for public comment.

2. 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (ACTION ITEM)

John Orr, ARC, outlined the major tasks ARC completed in 2020 and would be working on in 2021. Completed in 2020 included the Atlanta Region's Plan, the Chattahoochee RiverLands Study, TSMO/ITS Architecture and the Regional Transit On-Board Survey. Planning areas to be highlighted with ARC's 2021 UPWP include safety, Transportation Demand Management, freight and goods movement, as well as advancing transportation technology.

Jannine Miller, GDOT Planning Director, said that her agency looks forward to working with ARC with the Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update.

Commissioner Ognio inquired about the upcoming committee date meetings during 2021. Orr responded that TAQC meetings would be moved to the first Wednesdays of the month going forward.

Commissioner Wood made a motion for approval and Tread Davis seconded. The action item was approved unanimously.

3. Incorporating Resilience into Atlanta's Data-Driven Transportation

Abby Marinelli, and Tejas Kotak, both of ARC, gave a briefing on how resiliency was being incorporated into ARC's transportation planning process. Through a FHWA Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Program grant, a tool called City Simulator was developed to forecast resilience for the Atlanta region. A case study using this tool was shown that showed potential vulnerabilities in the Intrenchment Creek drainage basin in Southeast Atlanta.

John Orr added that ARC was appreciative of 100% federal funding to develop the tool.

Mike Houchard asked if counties that are prone to flooding could use the tool to concede concessions from developers. Orr said ARC is planning to incorporate the tool results into ARC's CTP studies. Houchard said it could be a long-range efficiency tool. Orr followed that it would require some overhead for local communities. Marinelli added it can be data intensive though using the tool is straightforward. Orr added that ARC would follow up with TCC members with what inputs would be needed.

Commissioner Semanson asked if this tool could be used by the county members. Orr said that while the ArcGIS based tool is housed at ARC, it could be available to others. Marinelli added that some of the learning curve could be becoming more familiar with ArcGIS. Semanson said that one potential application could be for EMS to model different scenarios.

Chair Nash inquired the availability of the tool for those jurisdictions who already have the input data. Orr answered that ARC could assist with the learning curve. Nash said it could help understand impacts on jurisdictional water and sewer systems. Marinelli added that the tool can model undersized culverts and what those impacts would be. Nash said that perhaps it could help understand overflows at the treatment plants.

Commissioner Wood stated that the tool overlaps transportation, land use, and stormwater planning. She continued that it could be a benefit for citizens and look forward to how it may be implemented in the future.

4. Regional Transit On-Board Survey

Guy Rousseau, ARC, updated the work activities regarding the Atlanta Regional Transit On-Board Survey that occurred in 2019. The survey included all mature transit operators within the ARC modeling area. Those included Cherokee Area Transportation System (CATS), CobbLinc, Gwinnett County Transit (GCT), Hall Area Transit (Gainesville Connection), and the regional XPRESS service in addition to MARTA.

The main reason the survey was conducted was to provide information such as travel patterns and demographics of transit riders to update ARC's Regional Activity-Based Travel Demand Forecasting Model. The sampling goal of at least 10% of all bus and rail ridership in the region was met. This resulted in over 40,000 questionnaires completed

Survey results can be viewed at <https://atlregional.github.io/ActivityViz/>.

5. Other and Committee Introduced Items

John Orr announced that David Haynes, ARC, had updated local government sales tax receipts under the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Local and State Transportation Revenues on the TAQC section of ARC's website.

6. Announcements

John Orr recognized all members who would not be returning next year. Chair Nash said she would miss the working partnerships that continue to advance projects in the region. Mike Houchard thanked the ARC staff for professional work during his 12 years of service. Commissioner Wood appreciated the last four years working with Nash and valued how ARC helped Henry County with land use and transportation planning. Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Semanson also appreciated being members of the committee.

7. Adjourn

Chair Nash subsequently adjourned the meeting.