



DATE: February 2019

ISSUE SUMMARY: STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TARGETS

FROM: Charlotte Nash, Transportation & Air Quality Committee

IMPORTANCE:

Federal legislation and rulemaking under MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) and the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) established new performance management requirements to ensure state DOTs and MPOs focus the use of federal transportation funds on projects which address national transportation goals.

GDOT is required to establish statewide targets for five safety measures on an annual basis through submittal of their state Highway Safety Improvement Program. MPOs are required to establish targets for these measures within six months, with the deadline for the 2019 targets being February 27, 2019. MPOs may establish targets by either: 1) agreeing to plan and program projects which contribute toward the accomplishment of the state DOT targets, or 2) committing to a separate quantifiable target for their planning area.

As with the 2018 targets, ARC agrees to support the accomplishment of the 2019 statewide safety targets established by GDOT. ARC also directs staff to continue conducting additional investigation into the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region and recommend an appropriate course of action for the agency to follow in improving safety outcomes on our transportation system for all users, with the long-term goal of slowing and eventually reversing recent upward trends in fatalities and serious injuries. Staff will report periodically to ARC committees and the Board on their progress and to receive additional direction on any preliminary recommendations.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TARGETS

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of 20 counties; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation and rulemaking under MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) and the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) established new performance management requirements to ensure state Departments of Transportation (DOT) and MPOs focus the use of federal transportation funds on projects which address national transportation goals; and

WHEREAS, State DOTs are required to establish performance targets and assess performance in 12 areas; and

WHEREAS, five of the required performance targets relate to the safety of the transportation system:

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) established statewide targets for 2010 for these five measures via the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) annual report, submitted in August 2018; and

WHEREAS, GDOT set the statewide targets using five-year rolling averages for each measure, as required by USDOT; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 targets are to maintain the five-year rolling average below these values:

- Number of fatalities – 1,655 annually (for the period of 2015-2019)
- Rate of fatalities – 1.31 per 100 million vehicles miles traveled (VMT) (for the period of 2015-2019)

- Number of serious injuries – 24,324 annually (for the period of 2015-2019)
- Rate of serious injuries – 18.9 per 100 million VMT (for the period of 2015-2019, a reduction of 3% from the 2012-2016 baseline rate of 19.6 per million VMT)
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 1,126 annually (for the period of 2017-2021)

WHEREAS, MPOs are required to establish targets for these measures within their planning areas within 180 days after the state DOT establishes and reports statewide targets, and

WHEREAS, the 180-day deadline for ARC to establish targets is February 27, 2019; and

WHEREAS, MPOs may establish targets by either: 1) agreeing to plan and program projects which contribute toward the accomplishment of the state DOT targets, or 2) committing to a separate quantifiable target for their planning area, and

WHEREAS, establishing reasonable and feasible targets requires access to high quality data, an exhaustive analysis of the data, a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process, and the authority to commit funds to projects and programs which will produce significant results, and

WHEREAS, the numbers and rates of fatalities and serious injuries have increased in recent years and the five-year rolling averages used by GDOT anticipate a continuation of those undesirable trends, and

WHEREAS, ARC recognizes the challenges of setting statewide targets and believes it can best assist GDOT in reversing recent upward trends in overall fatalities and injuries by identifying the causes and locations of the most critical safety issues in the Atlanta Region and focusing ARC's efforts and resources on those issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission agrees to plan and program projects which contribute toward the accomplishment of statewide safety targets established by GDOT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARC directs staff to conduct additional investigation into the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region and recommend an appropriate course of action for the agency to follow in improving safety outcomes on our transportation system for all users, with the long-term goal of slowing and eventually reversing recent trends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff will report periodically to ARC committees and the Board on their progress and to receive additional direction on any preliminary recommendations before a formal course of action is approved.