



DATE: November 12, 2025

ISSUE SUMMARY: Adoption of the 2025 Public Participation Plan

FROM: Carlotta Harrell, Transportation and Air Quality Committee Chair

IMPORTANCE:

As part of a continuous effort to improve coordination and increase public participation in the transportation planning process, ARC has recently completed an update of the Public Participation Plan (the “Plan”). The Plan has been updated in response to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s directive to develop a participation plan for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). (23 CFR 450.316)

The Plan serves the following three main purposes: 1) it updates the Atlanta Regional Commission’s (ARC) strategy for public participation; 2) it updates ARC’s procedures for agency consultation and public participation for MPO core deliverables; and 3) it offers a set of preferred tactics and metrics to assist with streamlining and aggregating public participation efforts around the Atlanta region.

A robust stakeholder engagement strategy, including stakeholder focus groups, was employed during the Plan update. Partner agencies were consulted to ensure procedures for the MTP/TIP were comprehensively updated, with special attention given to ensuring consistency between MPO and State STIP definitions for TIP amendments and administrative modifications. Feedback from stakeholder engagement and agency consultation was used to inform Plan strategies and procedures. A 45-day official public review and comment period for the Plan was held from September 3, 2025 to October 18, 2025.

The Plan will be used to guide public participation activities for future Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) at the regional level. Plan strategies may also be used in the development of Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTPs) and other related local and regional planning efforts. The 2025 Plan documentation is available on the ARC website at <https://atlantaregional.org/what-we-do/transportation-planning/community-engagement/public-participation-plan-2025-update/>.

ACTION REQUIRED: Adoption of the 2025 Public Participation Plan.



A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is a Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission created pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-80, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 50-8-93 designates such a commission to be the planning agency for comprehensive transportation planning under the administrative requirements of the United States Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, ARC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of nineteen (19) counties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal requirements (23 CFR 450.316), ARC is required to develop a participation plan for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, the ARC adopted the original *Atlanta Region Transportation Public Involvement Plan* on November 27, 1993, and updates or amendments in May 1999; February 2001; October 2002; January 2006; December 2006; September 2008; August 2012; June 2014; June 2019; and February 2025; and

WHEREAS, the *2025 Public Participation Plan* has been developed to update the procedures for agency consultation and public participation for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MPO)/Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and Public Participation Plan (PPP); and

WHEREAS, partner agencies and the public were consulted during the development of the *2025 Participation Plan*, including a 45-day formal public review and comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Plan was developed consistently with the requirements of 23 CFR 450.316 and in adherence with the participation processes and guidelines outlined in the ARC Public Participation Plan as follows:

- Notice of the availability of the draft Plan was published in a legal organ for a 45-day public comment period from September 3, 2025 to October 18, 2025.
- Interested parties were provided with the opportunity to comment on the amendment through the ARC website.
- Results of this public comment period were provided to the Transportation Coordinating Committee, the Transportation & Air Quality Committee and the ARC Board for consideration; and

For approval by TCC on 11/7; TAQC and ARC Board on 11/12

WHEREAS, the *2025 Public Participation Plan* has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from the Transportation Coordinating Committee, comprised of representatives from Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, local jurisdictions, and other entities; and

WHEREAS, the *2025 Public Participation Plan* directly supports ARC's adopted strategic vision of creating "One Great Region".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the *2025 Public Participation Plan* as the strategic and procedural guide for transportation public participation in the Atlanta Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission will use the *2025 Public Participation Plan* to guide stakeholder engagement for the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan MTP/Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on November 12, 2025.

Charissa White-Fulks, ARC Executive Assistant/Board Secretary