



DATE: 14 January 2026

ISSUE SUMMARY: STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TARGETS

FROM: Carlotta Harrell, Transportation & Air Quality Committee Chair

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.

Georgia Department of Transportation (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 2026 targets being February 27, 2026. 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 2025 targets, ARC agrees to support the accomplishment of the 2026 statewide safety targets established by GDOT. ARC will also set region-specific aspirational targets to guide funding and policy decisions. ARC will also direct staff to continue conducting additional investigation into the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region with a Safe Systems approach in accordance with the ARC Regional Safety Strategy and suggest appropriate measures to mitigate and lower severe crashes that result in fatalities and injuries within the region with a long-term goal of Vision Zero. 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 (ARC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of 19 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 twelve (12) areas; and

WHEREAS, five (5) 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 2026 for these five (5) measures via the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) annual report, submitted in August 2025; and

WHEREAS, GDOT set the statewide targets using five-year rolling averages for each measure, as required by the United States Department of Transportation, and set an 80-year target for Vision Zero; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 statewide targets are:

- Number of fatalities – 1,547 annually
- Rate of fatalities – 1.245 per 100 million vehicles miles traveled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries – 8,103
- Rate of serious injuries – 6.408 per 100 million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 1,312 annually

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, 2026; 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, the 5-year rolling averages of fatalities in the MPO region is showing a downward trend since 2021; and

WHEREAS, ARC recognizes the challenges of setting statewide targets and believes it can best assist GDOT 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, and

WHEREAS, ARC agrees to support GDOT's targets and maintain these region-specific aspirational targets for 2026

- Number of fatalities – 629 annually
- Rate of fatalities – 1.084 per 100 million vehicles miles traveled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries – 3,522 annually
- Rate of serious injuries – 6.054 per 100 million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 422 annually.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ARC will ensure that its planned and programmed projects and funding contribute to the accomplishment of statewide safety targets established by GDOT, and support the ARC-specific aspirational targets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC will continue conducting additional review of the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region with a Safe Systems approach in accordance with the ARC Regional Safety Strategy, and suggest appropriate measures to mitigate and lower severe crashes that result in fatalities and injuries with a long-term goal of Vision Zero.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC staff will only recommend transportation projects from ARC's discretionary funding if those projects reduce the number of fatalities and injuries in the region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC staff will report periodically to the appropriate ARC committees and the Board on progress and to receive additional direction as may be necessary.

For approval by TAQC on 1/14; ARC Board on 1/14

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on January 14, 2026.

Charissa White-Fulks, ARC Board Assistant Secretary