



DATE: August 12, 2026

ISSUE SUMMARY: Adoption of the 2026 Regional Development Plan

FROM: Samyukth Shenbaga, Managing Director, Community Development Department

IMPORTANCE:

State law (Georgia Planning Act of 1989, O.C.G.A. 45-12-200; 50-8-1 et seq.) and related Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) rules (Chapter 110-12-6) require ARC, as a state-designated Regional Commission, to develop a Regional Development Plan (RDP) for the 11-county planning area and to update it every five years. The RDP was last updated and adopted in 2021.

The RDP is a high-level policy guide for Metro Atlanta local governments and leaders on key regional issues including land use, quality of life, infrastructure, economic development, natural resources, and intergovernmental coordination. The plan documents challenges and assets, goals and policies, and implementation actions for these critical issues as they relate to the future of the Atlanta Region.

Beginning in early 2025, ARC leadership and staff have conducted an extensive effort to develop the required update to the RDP. The ARC Board conducted a first read and public hearing on the new RDP at its May 13, 2026 meeting and approved transmittal of the draft to Georgia DCA, which approved it on July 27, 2026.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approval of the Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Update to the Regional Development Plan is recommended.

WHEREAS, Georgia DCA on July 27, 2026 completed its review and approved the 2026 RDP Update as being compliant with the Regional Planning Requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ARC Board hereby adopts the 2026 RDP Update; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARC Board directs staff to report regularly on the status of the review and any follow-up actions needed to advance the implementation of the 2026 RDP Update.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on August 12, 2026.

Charissa White, Manager of Board Affairs and Legal Clerk

**A RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
ADOPTING
THE 2026 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE**

WHEREAS, since 1952 the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has developed and advanced regional plans for the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, these plans include the Regional Development Plan (RDP) for the eleven-county area, as well as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the nineteen-county area; and

WHEREAS, the RDP must be prepared pursuant to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and in accordance with the minimum standards established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA); and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Georgia DCA adopted revisions to Chapter 110-12-6, Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning (“Regional Planning Requirements”); and

WHEREAS, ARC has prepared the 2026 RDP Update as part of its ongoing unified regional planning and strategic vision to guide sustainable economic and population growth over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 RDP Update seeks to support the region’s long-term prosperity by promoting healthy, safe, livable communities; making strategic investments in people, infrastructure, and mobility; preserving natural resources; and supporting a competitive economy; and

WHEREAS, the plan reflects ARC’s commitment to conserving and protecting critical environmental and historic resources, greenspace, water and air quality, and other essential natural assets while managing growth responsibly; and

WHEREAS, ARC has incorporated regional and local growth policies consistent with Local Government Comprehensive Plans as required by state rules; and

WHEREAS, ARC has prepared the 2026 RDP Update – including the Regional Resource Plan, Regional Work Program, and Local Government Implementation components – for submission pursuant to DCA’s Regional Planning Requirements; and

WHEREAS, the ARC Board has conducted all required public hearings and has reviewed the draft 2026 RDP Update for consistency with state standards and regional priorities; and

WHEREAS, the ARC Board on May 13, 2026 approved transmittal of the 2026 RDP Update to Georgia DCA for required review; and