Atlanta Regional Commission

DATE: November 12, 2026

ISSUE SUMMARY:
2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND APPLICATION FOR 5303 FUNDS

FROM: Carlotta Harrell, Transportation & Air Quality Committee Chair

IMPORTANCE:

Federal regulations require the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that discusses the planning priorities facing the metropolitan planning area and describes all metropolitan transportation and transportation-related air quality planning activities anticipated within the area regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting activities. The UPWP must be developed cooperatively with the State, public transit operators and other planning partners.

The 2027 UPWP is structured as follows:

- ARC Adoption Resolution and Federal Highway Administration Approval Letter
- Narrative overview of the purpose and organization of the UPWP, information on ARC's planning boundaries and organization structure, and the regulatory framework for metropolitan transportation planning
- Appendix 1 – 2027 MPO Work Program Summary (from the ARC Annual Work Program and Budget (2027), which describes ARC's transportation-related work activities for 2027 and is also scheduled for adoption on November 12, 2026)
- Appendix 2 – Relation of ARC Work Activities and Cost Centers to Federally Required Metropolitan Planning Factors
- Appendix 3 – 2027 MPO Work Program Budget Details
- Appendix 4 – Partner Agency Transportation Planning Activities & Studies
- Appendix 5 – Supplemental Information / ARC Organizational Structure and Planning Process

The draft 2027 UPWP was provided to planning partners and the public for review from October 5, 2026 to October 31, 2026. Relevant and appropriate comments received were incorporated into the final document prior to approval.

Per the Georgia Department of Transportation grant administrative procedures, this resolution also authorizes ARC to submit an application for Section 5303 metropolitan planning funds appropriated to the MPO.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Adoption of the 2027 UPWP and authorization of the submittal 5303 application is recommended.

Atlanta Regional Commission

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C. SECTION 5303

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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 nineteen (19) counties; and

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require the MPO to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that discusses the planning priorities facing the metropolitan planning area and describes all metropolitan transportation and transportation-related air quality planning activities anticipated within the area regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2027 UPWP was developed pursuant to federal requirements in a cooperative manner with the State, public transit operators and other planning partners; and

WHEREAS, the 2027 UPWP includes the following:

- Excerpts from the ARC's Annual Work Program and Budget (2027) to be adopted by ARC on November 12, 2026, that describe ARC's transportation-related work activities for calendar year 2027;
- Transportation planning accomplishments from the previous year (2026) and objectives for the upcoming year (2027), reflecting input from each of the counties within the planning area as well as the City of Atlanta, public transit operators, and state planning partners; and
- All federally funded transportation planning studies programmed in the new FY 2027-2030 TIP (also scheduled for adoption on November 12, 2026); and
- Additional key regionally significant transportation planning studies to be undertaken by other state, regional, and local agencies using non-federal financial resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Section 5303 grant application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Atlanta Regional Commission authorizes staff to take all necessary administrative actions to administer and implement the 2027 Unified Planning Work Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Anna Roach, Atlanta Regional Commission Executive Director, is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Atlanta Regional Commission with the Georgia Department of Transportation, to aid in the financing of a technical study grant pursuant to Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act, and in accordance with all state and federal requirements associated with use of those funds, to implement specific items of the FY 2027 ARC Unified Planning Work Program.

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

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Charissa White, Manager of Board Affairs & Legal Clerk

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