

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

April 21, 2023 Meeting Summary

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

TCC Members or Alternates Present:

ARC	John Orr	GRTA/SRTA	Jamie Fischer
ATL	Cathy Gesick	Gwinnett	Vince Edwards
Atlanta	---	Henry	Sam Baker
Barrow	---	MARTA	---
Cherokee	Jim Wilgus	Newton	Chester Clegg
Clayton	Keith Rohling	Paulding	Ann Lippmann
Cobb	Laura Beall	Rockdale	Brian Allen
Coweta	---	Spalding	---
DeKalb	Sylvia Smith	Walton	Joe Walter
Douglas	---	MD-1	---
EPD	Gil Grodzinsky	MD-2	---
Fayette	Phil Mallon	MD-3	---
Forsyth	---	MD-4	April McKown
Fulton	---	MD-5	---
GDOT	Charles Robinson	MD-6	James Miller

Advisors (Non-voting):

CBMPO	---
GHMPO	---
GDOT F'modal	---
EPA	---
FHWA	---
FTA	---

April 21, 2023 Meeting Summary
John Orr, Chair

1. Welcome; April 7, 2023 Meeting Summary Review & Public Comment

John Orr, ARC, greeted the committee and welcomed them to the meeting. The April 7, 2023 meeting minutes were approved. Mr. Orr reminded attendees that all materials and presentations are posted on the ARC TCC website.

There were no public comments.

2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

John Orr, ARC, provided an update on the ongoing Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He provided an overview of the 2023 plan schedule, with tracks for community engagement, documentation, and technical analysis with an anticipated end date in early 2024.

Mr. Orr recapped the discussion that occurred and feedback that was received from the joint TAQC / ARC Board meeting on April 12, 2023. He stated that climate change and resiliency will be a primary focus for ARC's efforts, which will incorporate both statewide climate efforts as well as a new grant totaling \$1 million from EPA. Gil Grodzinsky, EPD, provided a brief perspective on the federal climate grant and the state EPD's expectations for the regional conversation that may evolve from that grant. He summarized how different agencies will be developing concurrent plans and positioning the state and region for competitive outcomes around addressing climate issues. He stated that more details will be forthcoming on those efforts.

Mr. Orr continued with the upcoming schedule for calendar years 2024 and 2025 and how the MTP effort will be evolving from a limited plan update this year (CY2023) and into a broader update due in 2026. He addressed upcoming Federal and Regional priorities, including: the advancement of "workforce development" as part of transportation projects; equity within transportation planning via the Justice40 initiative; and climate and resilience efforts, including carbon reduction. He summarized new funding sources that may be associated with priority Federal issues, including RAISE, EVCI, Safe Streets, and PROTECT grants; many of these issues are tied to resiliency and climate issues. See presentation slides for specific details.

Mr. Orr continued with a review new regional growth forecasts and how shifting populations will impact regional outcomes by 2050. Declining growth rates will influence social needs and regional resources while shifting racial mixes will increase diversity and impact regional politics.

He also stated that economic trends will change based on industry shifts and will have a dramatic impact on regional growth. He continued with growth projections for counties within the region and how those patterns may differ from recent decades. He continued with some information on changes in regional travel patterns during the recent post-pandemic years and how changes in commuting, transit ridership, and other modes may impact future regional transportation projects.

Jamie Fischer, GRTA/SRTA, asked for some additional information on regional growth and congestion assumptions. Mr. Orr clarified the source of several data sets and offered to connect Ms. Fischer with ARC's Research & Analytics staff for more clarity.

Mr. Orr continued with some information on changing regional growth and development patterns. He continued with a summary of growth trends in climate-friendly industries including manufacturing, how post-pandemic travel patterns have affected regional patterns, and how changing development patterns may effect office centers, retail, and multi-family housing distribution.

Tom Sills, Bartow County MPO, asked for clarification on how several of his area's green industries are not being accounted for. Mike Alexander, ARC, clarified that the building trends shown are only drawn from a specific dataset that may not account for every local permit.

Mr. Alexander continued the presentation with a summary of regional development and Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) trends over the past several decades. Kyung-Hwa Kim, ARC, provided a brief explanation of the agency's new VisionEval modeling efforts which will provide county-level insights into alternative strategies on planning metrics. Mr. Orr concluded with a brief summary of recent International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report findings on changing global temperatures, sea level rise, and the potential consequences for urban migration and growth patterns.

Phil Mallon, Fayette County, thanked Mr. Orr and the ARC staff for the informative presentation and asked for more details on each of the topics presented. Mr. Orr agreed to that suggestion. Liz Sanford, ARC, stated that additional discussion on these issues would be a foundation of ARC's committee engagement strategy moving forward.

Gil Grodzinsky, EPD, asked for some additional clarification on the carbon emission assumptions within the VisionEval projections. Mr. Orr promised to get clarification and follow up with TCC members at a later meeting.

Mr. Orr concluded by asking any TCC members to contact him or ARC's Research & Analytics Division staff with additional questions on regional or local growth projections. See presentation slides for specific details.

3. Quadrennial Certification of the MPO Process

John Orr, ARC, provided a brief update on ARC's MPO certification process. He shared a link to the 2023 certification website, including an online form which allows committee members and the general public to provide feedback directly to the Federal Highway Administration for Federal agency review. He also stated that the agency will be hosting a public meeting at ARC on May 23, 2023

Jared Lombard, FHWA, stated that the MPO certification is very important for how the agency and federal agencies (FHWA and FTA) assess regional planning efforts. He encouraged all TCC members to provide feedback on the certification. John Crocker, FTA, echoed that sentiment and encouraged participation.

Liz Sanford, ARC, stated that ARC staff will follow up with direct links to the feedback form and certification schedules.

The website link: <https://atlantaregional.org/certification>

4. Other Items & Announcements

- Jean Hee Barrett, ARC, reminded all TCC members to request needed letters of support from ARC three weeks prior to any grant deadlines. ARC needs time for internal review and processing.
- Ms. Barrett stated that there will be a TIP training hosted at ARC on Friday, May 19, 2023. All TCC members and local governments are welcome to attend that training for information on how projects move through ARC's TIP process. Agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.
- Jaimie Fischer, GRTA / SRTA, stated that Aileen Daney will be leaving that agency soon and a new TCC alternate will be assigned to the committee moving forward.
- Kofi Wakhisi, ARC, stated that Byron Rushing will be leaving ARC in April 2023.
- Tejas Kotak, ARC, asked for any local governments to alert him to necessary data needs for Safe Streets for All or other Federal grants as early as possible. ARC can support

those grants via providing data, letters of support, or insight into regional trends and policies.

- Gil Grodzinsky, EPD, stated that EPD will be recommending changes to state air quality regulations, to be discussed at a public meeting – Stakeholder Meeting to Discuss Potential Changes to the State's Inspection and Maintenance Program Discussion: May 17th 2:30-4:30PM (via Zoom)
- Michelle Wynn, City of Atlanta, asked for updates on CFI grants. John Orr, ARC, stated he will be providing updates at a future TCC meeting.
- Daniel Studdard, ARC, stated that public outreach will be starting for the regional freight plan soon. He asked anyone from TCC or local governments to reach out to him to provide input on regional freight needs.

5. Adjourn