

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 | 1:00 PM

Joint ARC Board & Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC) Meeting

Minutes

ARC Conference Center | 229 Peachtree Street NE | Atlanta, GA 30303

The meeting agenda with all presentations and references can be found at:

www.atlantaregional.org/board

I. Call ARC Board Meeting to Order – *Michael Caldwell*, Vice Chair

II. Pledge of Allegiance — *Michael Caldwell*, Vice Chair

III. Chairman's Comments — *Michael Caldwell*, Vice Chair

- SR 971 Presentation to Anna Roach, ARC Executive Director & CEO, from State Senators John Albers and Sonya Halpern. The commendation recognized her commitment to improving quality of life for metro Atlanta residents.
- ARC's 2026 LINK Trip leaves the week of August 17.
- State of the Region 2026 date shared (Wednesday, November 4th) at Georgia World Congress Center. Theme is "Opportunity Rising" and RSVP cards provided to members for completion.
- HB 297 passed, staff working with stakeholders to update bylaws
- Legal Oath of Office updated to be more condensed.
- Economic mobility day long summit recap.
- FIFA World Cup recap – ARC working behind the scenes for a successful and safe event.
- TIP Session recap

IV. Oath of Office by New Board Member(s):

- A. **Mayor Brandon Hembree**, City of Sugar Hill
- B. **Marvin Nesbitt Jr.**, ARC Citizen District 4

V. Consent Agenda — *Michael Caldwell*, Vice Chair

- A. ARC Open Records Officer
- B. ARC Assistant Secretary

APPROVED

[ARC Board Meeting recess]

The ARC Board meeting will recess, and the Joint ARC Board & TAQC meeting will convene.

[Joint Meeting convene]

VI. Call Joint ARC Board & TAQC Meeting to Order — *Michael Caldwell*, Vice Chair

VII. Public Comment for Joint Meeting

VIII. Consent Agenda — *Michael Caldwell*, Vice Chair

- A. May 13, 2026 Joint TAQC & ARC Board Meeting Summary

APPROVED

IX. Joint Discussion/Information Items – *Michael Caldwell*, Vice Chair

- A. Transportation Carbon Reduction Plan
Jon Philipsborn, Climate and Resilience Manager

Summary: The Atlanta Regional Commission is developing a Transportation Carbon Reduction Plan, focusing on identifying best projects and policies to reduce transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions across the 19-county MPO region. This Plan will have direct opportunities to influence the creation of co-benefits including reduced congestion, improved health and environmental outcomes, and economic mobility; and is strongly aligned with other ARC plans, including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan, and ARC's housing initiatives. In addition to developing Prioritized Regional Strategies and Policies, a Carbon Reduction Quick Guide for Local Governments will provide usable, near-term recommendations. Funding for this Plan has been provided via Congressionally Directed Spending from Representative Lucy McBath, and work is being split between ARC staff and a consultant team led by Clean Cities Georgia.

- Overall, greenhouse gases are declining, while transportation emissions are increasing.
- Emissions can still be managed while we support a strong regional economy, focused on

growth.

- The document can be tailored for use by local governments.
- The plan will include traditional metrics that have been monitored for decades as well as feature more public health aspects.

More information:

- [Transportation Carbon Reduction Plan](#)

B. 2026 TIP Briefing

Michael Haire, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning

Summary: The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a list of federally funded transportation project phases over a short-range planning horizon. Periodically, ARC holds a competitive call for projects which allows local jurisdictions to apply for a portion of ARC's sub-allocated federal funds for which they have programming authority over. This process is known as the TIP Solicitation, and applications were accepted for this most recent round through January of 2026. A draft list of funding recommendations has been developed, and staff will provide an overview of the process and a broad summary of the recommended awards. Additionally, staff will provide an update on the in-development FY 2027 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

- \$89.2 million invested in projects across the region. 43 different projects received awards from ARC.
- Continuing to expand the Beltline and trails across the region.
- Six types of investments: trails, transportation maintenance projects, bike/ped, transit, TSMO, studies.
- Spotlight: The Stitch, Tara Boulevard, and construction funding for MARTA's multipurpose hub.

More information:

- [2026 TIP Briefing](#)
- [2026 TIP Solicitation](#)

[Joint Meeting recess]

The Joint ARC Board & TAQC meeting will adjourn, and the ARC Board meeting will convene.

[ARC Board convene]

X. ARC Board Action Items – Michael Caldwell, Vice Chair

A. Consumer Price Index: Adjustment to Annual Dues

James Husserl, Chief Financial Officer

Summary: Review and discussion of a proposed regional dues increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), consistent with ARC's enabling legislation. The discussion will include the need for additional local funding to address rising operating costs, maintain required matching funds for federal grants, support essential non-federally funded programs, and sustain board initiatives and legislative activities.

- Dues were last increased in 2022.
- Annual jurisdictional dues make up about 6% of the ARC's annual budget. Around 90% comes from state and federal grants.
- Dues are based on each four-year population index. Raise dues by 10 percent.

APPROVED

[Consumer Price Index Proposal](#)

B. 2026 Population Estimates

Moshe Haspel, Data Science Administrator, Research & Analytics

Summary: Each year, the ARC is required by state law to produce population estimates for member counties and the City of Atlanta, for the purpose of assessing dues for the following year. Adoption of these estimates is required by the end of August. Staff provide an overview of the 2026 population estimates for 2026 and present them for adoption by the Board for assessment of 2027 dues.

- Population is growing but at a slower pace and is not a trend unique to Atlanta.
- Population is now 5.3 million residents. New jobs are available but becoming flat.
- Measured by growth number of building permits and the changes in mix of single and multi-family permits.

APPROVED

More information:

- [2026 Population Estimates](#)

C. Regional Development Plan (RDP)

Samyukth Shenbaga, Managing Director, Community Development

Summary: The Regional Development Plan (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. Following an 18-month effort to develop the five-year update to the RDP, the ARC Board conducted a first read and public hearing on the RDP at its May 13 meeting and approved transmittal of the draft to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which approved it on July 27.

APPROVED

[Regional Development Plan](#)

XI. ARC Board First Read – Michael Caldwell, Vice Chair

A. Housing Strategy

Sharon Carney, Principal, HR&A

Samyukth Shenbaga, Managing Director, Community Development

Kristin Allin, Regional Housing Planning Coordinator, Community Development

Summary: ARC staff presented the draft Regional Housing Strategy, a blueprint for addressing metro Atlanta's housing affordability challenges through coordinated regional action. The presentation will cover key findings from a regional housing analysis, recommended housing goals, and an implementation framework with priority initiatives for the 11-county region. Board members will have the opportunity to provide feedback ahead of formal adoption in September.

- The challenge: The region is building homes, just not at the prices households need. Only 25% of the demands for households making less than \$55,000 will be met.
- Three goals: build for intentional growth, close affordability gap, and activate vacant and underutilized properties.
- Did not have time to get to the 10 Housing Actions of the presentation and will be picked up during the next meeting.

More information:

[Housing Strategy Presentation](#)

XII. Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings

August 18 – 22: LINK 2026 – Mexico City

2nd Wed: September 9 (ARC Board/TAQC)

November 4: State of the Region 202

