

ARC Board and Governance meeting: July 14, 2021

New ARC Board Members from Forsyth Sworn In

Cindy Mills, Chair of the Forsyth County Commission, and Troy Brumbalow, Mayor of the City of Cumming, took the oath of office to become official members of the ARC Board. The two joined the board following the addition of Forsyth County to ARC, which took effect on July 1.

ARC Board Approved Regional Transit Safety Targets

The ARC Board approved update to the Regional Transit Safety Performance Targets, which is federally required. The update considers four main factors: fatalities, injuries, safety events, and system reliability. The update sets a range of safety performance targets for the following modes: fixed route bus, demand response, commuter bus, light rail, and heavy rail.

- Issue Summary and Resolution: [Regional Public Transportation Safety](#)

ARC Board Approves Regional Demand Response Implementation Plan

The ARC Board approved the Regional Demand Response Implementation Plan, which covers Human Services Transportation (HST). The goal of the federally required plan update is to develop a menu of local and regional tactics to improve mobility in the Atlanta region. The key recommendations include: establish consistent ADA eligibility and rider policies; better coordinate ADA transfers; and intergrate DRT into regional trip planning.

- Issue Summary and Resolution: [Regional Demand Response Implementation Plan](#)

Atlanta Chamber's ATL Action for Racial Equity

Katie Kirkpatrick, President and CEO of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, provided an overview of the Chamber's ATL Action for Racial Equity. More than 250 companies have signed on to the effort, which began in February 2021. The program includes a "Corporate Policies Playbook" that serves as a guide to help execute the racial equity initiative within an organization, determine where an organization is on the journey, and as a resource to help organizations become educated on racial equity actions.

- Presentation: [Driving Equity in the ATL](#)

Climate Change and Planning for Adaptation

Mike Alexander, Senior Director of the Center for Livable Communities, presented on climate change and planning for adaptation. As metro Atlanta is expected to become wetter and hotter over the next 80 years, Alexander said the region must prepare for this in effective and cost-efficient ways, and it is

critical to invest in infrastructure to improve resiliency. ARC staff will be engaging with board members to develop long-term regional goals and programs to address climate change.

- Presentation: [ARC Climate Change and Planning for Adaptation](#)

Update on ARC Board citizen district redistricting process and local elections

Mike Alexander, Senior Director of the Center for Livable Communities, provided an overview of the ARC Board Citizen Member redistricting and election process. The Board's 15 Citizen Districts are updated every 10 years upon release of the decennial Census counts. That is now expected in August. This year's process is complicated in that the boundaries must incorporate Forsyth County, which joined ARC on July 1. Alexander provided the following timeline

- Aug. 16, 2021: 2020 Census data is released (this is a target date, the timeline would shift depending on the exact date the data is released)
 - Nov. 16: Deadline for the state Legislature to adopt a citizen district map
 - Dec. 8: ARC Board holds citizen member elections
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- Presentation: [Citizen District Boundaries Update](#)

ARC Adopts Protocols for Return of In-Person Committee and Board Meetings

ARC Executive Director Doug Hooker provided an overview of the agency's plans to have staff return to the office and for board meetings to return to being in-person. ARC staff are expected to return to the office after Labor Day. About 30 employees have volunteered to return this week for a month-long pilot, working two days a week from the office.

ARC board and committee meetings will return to in-person meetings in August, though public comments will continue to be heard virtually. Board and committee members may access all ARC meeting spaces on meeting days. Board members will follow the same protocols as ARC staff and be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination; those not able to provide proof of vaccination must wear masks while at ARC offices.

- Presentation: [Recommendations for ARC Board Members In-Office Protocols](#)

Update on Arts Program, Including First All-Virtual Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta Program

Marian Liou, ARC's community engagement and arts program manager, presented on the agency's arts program. She provided an overview of the agency's arts plan, the importance of arts in the region and regional planning process, and this year's ALMA Workshop. The workshop brought together a diverse group of local artists, planners and local officials to collaborate on real-world projects. The goal: embedding arts and culture in ARC community planning projects.

- Presentation: [Arts Program Update](#)

IDEA: Equipping Our Staff With the Tools They Need to Better Serve the Region

Malika Wilkins, Senior Director of the Center for Strategic Relations, delivered a presentation about the agency wide IDEA effort – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism. IDEA is designed to foster an inclusive workplace where everyone feels valued and respected and embraces diversity in all forms to assist staff in serving our region’s diverse communities and achieve our regional goals. Next steps include: development of a three-year plan; evolution strategy values statement development; and organic growth and development.

- Presentation: [IDEA: Equipping Our Staff With the Tools They Need to Better Serve the Region](#)

Doug Hooker announcements:

- ARC Board Portal is Now Active: <https://atlantaregional.org/board-committee-portal/>
- The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging will honor ARC’s Aging and Independence Services with a 2021 Aging Innovations Award for our diabetes coaching program.