



Atlanta Regional Commission



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

**August 22, 2018**

### **ARC Report: Metro Atlanta Adds 75,800 People in Past Year, Population Tops 4.55M**

Mike Carnathan, Manager of ARC's Research & Analytics Group, presented the 2018 Population Estimates for the 10-county Atlanta region. The data showed that the region grew by 75,800 people from April 2017 to April 2018, the second-most since the end of the Great Recession. The region's total population is 4.55 million. In sheer numbers, the region's largest counties added the most people: Fulton (17,750), Gwinnett (16,700), DeKalb (10,630) and Cobb (8,000). The rate of growth was strongest in the region's outer counties, led by Cherokee (2.87%), Henry (2.53%), Rockdale (1.95%) and Fayette (1.93%). The city of Atlanta also continued its strong growth, adding 10,100 people. The ARC Board approved the 2018 Population Estimates.

More information:

- [Regional Snapshot: 2018 Population Estimates](#)
- [What's Next ATL Blog Post](#)
- [ARC News Release](#)

## ARC Regional Bike-Ped Safety Plan Helps Local Governments Reduce Serious Injuries and Deaths

The Atlanta Regional Commission Board approved a regional plan designed to help local governments improve safety for people walking and bicycling. Byron Rushing, ARC's Bicycling & Walking Program Manager, presented the plan. The plan, [Safe Streets for Walking & Bicycling](#), provides a range of strategies to reduce serious injuries and deaths. The issue has taken on greater urgency in recent years, as the number of collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists in the Atlanta region has risen sharply, from 1,778 in 2006 to 2,900 in 2015, a 63% increase. The goal, Rushing said, is to encourage local governments to include bike-ped safety enhancements in every transportation project, especially those that they submit to ARC each year for regional funding assistance, and to help ARC prioritize the list of projects that receive federal dollars.

More information:

- [Safe Streets for Walking & Bicycling](#)
- [ARC News Release](#)

## Aging & Independence Services Update

Becky Kurtz, Manager of ARC's Aging & Independence Services Group, provided an update on funding and programmatic initiatives.

- **Additional Federal Funding:** In March, Congress increased appropriations to the Older Americans Act, which provides local funding for services to older adults including meals, transportation, and legal services. This summer, the Atlanta Area Agency in Aging received its additional allocation -- \$3 million, a 16 percent increase. ARC is working with the 10 county-based and three region-wide service providers to identify the largest unmet needs within their networks and disseminated funding to improve and expand service delivery to each provider.
- **Behavior Health Pilot Program:** ARC has entered into a multi-year contract with the Atlanta Housing Authority to continue the innovative work begun as a behavior health pilot program. The new arrangement will allow dedicated Aging & Disability Services staff to continue to coach older people and persons with disabilities living in 11 high rise apartments to improve outcomes for individuals who behavior health issues. The pilot program demonstrated a reduction in tenant encounters with law enforcement, hospital admissions and evictions. ARC is exploring opportunities to expand the program to other areas of the region.

## Announcements and References

- ConnectATL: A Summit on the Future of Mobility is **Friday September 7, 2018** at the Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center at 8 a.m.
- ARC Annual State of the Region Breakfast is **Friday, November 2, 2018** at the Georgia World Congress Center, 7:30 a.m.
- Georgia Association of Regional Commissions Annual Training Conference is Nov. 7, 2018 in Savannah.
- Next Commission Meeting: **Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018** at 1 p.m.