



Atlanta Regional Commission



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

**June 27, 2018**

### **ARC Board Adopts Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program**

Upon recommendation from the Transportation & Air Quality Committee, the Board unanimously approved Amendment #5 to the 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which included some \$400 million in new projects requested by cities and counties around the region during the 2017 project solicitation.

This amendment required a 30-day public comment period that ended during the June 14 TAQC meeting and addressed cost and programmatic changes, as well as changes to the travel demand model coding. Prior to the June 27 meeting, the Board heard public comment from three Douglas County citizens asking members not to approve the amendment due to perceived improprieties during the local project approval process for a new Douglas County bus service.

More information:

- [Issue Summary and Resolution for TIP Amendment #5](#)
- [Press Release: ARC Board Approves \\$400 Million in Transportation Projects across Metro Atlanta](#)

## **ARC Working to Make Streets Safer for Walking & Bicycling**

John Orr, Transportation & Access Group Manager, provided the ARC board with a first read of a regional action plan for reducing traffic fatalities in metropolitan Atlanta called Safe Streets for Walking & Bicycling. The plan is part of the recently adopted Walk. Bike. Thrive! bicycle and pedestrian vision. Based on newly-released federal guidelines for bike/pedestrian safety, and almost two years of research by ARC staff, the plan sets a goal of zero bike/ped fatalities in the Atlanta region by the year 2030.

Board members were reminded that when they adopted Walk. Bike. Thrive! in 2017, they instructed staff to “conduct investigations into the causes and location of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta region, and recommend an appropriate course of action for the Agency to follow in improving safety outcomes on our transportation system for all users.”

More information:

- [Safe Streets for Walking and Bicycling Action Plan \(First Read\)](#)
- [Safe Streets for Walking & Bicycling](#)

## **ARC Launches Empowerline – Services to Help Individuals Maximize Their Independence**

Becky Kurtz, manager of ARC’s Aging and Independence Services, announced the launch of Empowerline, a service designed to connect metro Atlanta’s older persons and individuals with disabilities to the information and supports they need to thrive and maximize their independence.

Empowerline, which replaces the Agewise Connection brand, enhances ARC’s existing information and referral service, providing an improved user experience, including:

- A fresh, modern website design that makes it easier for the public to navigate and find the information they are looking for.
- An engaging, innovative storytelling approach that helps users better understand the services and supports that are available to meet their particular needs.
- More inclusive branding and messaging to make it clear that services are also available to families, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities. More information:

More information:

- [Empowerline.org](#)
- [Welcome to Empowerline — short promotional video](#)

## **ARC Board Adopts Findings of Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study as Policy**

After a brief refresher of the study’s findings from Transportation & Access group manager John Orr, the Board unanimously adopted the study as a policy guide for addressing truck parking challenges in the region with the understanding that ARC staff will use the study’s findings as input into the future

development of local development and transportation plans and will provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions related to truck parking.

The Board had seen a more detailed report on the study at its March meeting and was voting on the study's adoption based on an affirmative vote from the Transportation & Air Quality Committee on June 14.

More information:

- [Presentation: Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study](#)
- [Issue Summary and Resolution: Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study](#)
- [Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan](#)

### **U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in Florida Vs. Georgia Water Case**

The Supreme Court of the U.S. ruled to remand the case back to the special master. As an organization, ARC is disappointed that this litigation will continue, but is confident that metro Atlanta's water use will ultimately be upheld by the court.

More information:

- [Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in Florida v. Georgia Water Case](#)

### **ARC Board Approves Resolution to Fight Hunger Among Older Individuals**

Clark Boddie presented a resolution to support the state Department of Human Services' plan to develop a regional coalition to address senior hunger. As the Area Agency on Aging, the ARC is charged with the development of a Regional Senior Hunger Coalition. The board approved a resolution to enter a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services to develop and implement a Regional Senior Hunger Coalition.

More information:

- [Resolution of Support and Authorization with the Georgia Department of Human Services as part of the State Plan to address Senior Hunger](#)

### **Resources Needed to Carry out 2020 Census**

Thurmond Tillman of the U.S. Census Bureau briefed board members on community needs as the 2020 Census approaches. As a critical undertaking that takes place every 10 years, the Census requires resources including employees, Complete Count Committees made up of community leaders, and space at the county-level to carry out the census. 2020 is the first year that the U.S. Census will be carried out online. Starting September 2018, hiring will begin for positions at the U.S. Census.

More information:

- [Presentation on forming 2020 Census Complete Count Committees](#)

## Public Comment

During the public comment period, three members of the Douglas County People's Action Committee expressed opposition to the TAQC vote pertaining to the proposed bus system in Douglas County. Specifically, members expressed concern that due diligence was not performed during the application process.

Liz Hausmann, Fulton County Commissioner representing District 1, thanked the board for ARC's support and technical assistance in bringing BRT to north Fulton County.

## Announcements and References

- Applications for the [Development of Excellence Awards](#) are now being accepted. The deadline is **Friday, August 10, 2018**.
- 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.
- Next Commission Meeting: **Wednesday, July 25, 2018** at 1 p.m.