

Joint ARC Board and Transportation & Air Quality Meeting

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

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*

The Vice Chairman noted the upcoming LINK trip to the DMC (Washington, D.C. metro area)

IV. ARC Board Action Item — *Michael Caldwell, Vice Chair*

A. Tung Q. “Tim” Le was nominated to serve as a non-voting ARC Board member representing the state Department of Community Affairs.

V. Oath of Office by New Board Members

The following individuals took their Oath of Office to be sworn in as new ARC Board members: Tung Q. “Tim” Le, DCA Appointee; John William Bowers, ARC Citizen District 1; Megan Harris, ARC Citizen District 11

[ARC Board Meeting Recess]

[Joint ARC Board – TAQC Meeting Convene]

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

VII. Public Comment for Joint Meeting

None

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

A. May 14, 2025 Joint TAQC & ARC Board Meeting Summary
Approved

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

A. Passenger Rail Station Alternatives Study Kickoff

Tejas Kotak, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning

Tejas provided an overview of the Passenger Rail Study, which seeks to identify a location in downtown Atlanta that offers improved customer service, ADA-accessibility, and multimodal connections for rail travelers.

A survey and interactive map will be open until October. A draft plan will be released in December, with anticipated ARC Board approval in early 2026.

- [ARC Presentation](#)
- [ARC News Release](#)

B. 2050 MTP/FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment 5

Michael Haire, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning

This is an overview of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 5. The amendment will advance projects from the federally recognized Long Range years into the TIP years, update general cost estimate increases to federal-aid projects beyond the threshold for an administrative modification, and conduct changes to projects that impact air quality conformity. This amendment requires the modeling of air quality to ensure the updated projects maintain conformity with the region's air quality standards. A 30-day public comment period is expected.

- [ARC Presentation](#)

[Joint Meeting recess]

[ARC Board convenes]

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

A. 25 Year LCI Update Report

Lauren Blaszyk, Planning Administrator, Community Development

In 2024, ARC celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program, partnering with a consultant team led by Gresham Smith to create the LCI

25 Year Impact Report. It provided a look back at program accomplishments and identifies opportunities for improvements, taking into account data driven metrics with extensive stakeholder feedback.

Community Development Department staff provided a high-level overview and highlights from the full report.

- ARC Presentation: <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/arc-lci-25-year-impact-report-august-board-meeting-final-1.pdf>
- ARC Resolution: <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/lci-25-year-impact-report-resolution.pdf>

B. 2025 Population Estimates

Jim Skinner, Data Analysis Administrator, Research & Analytics

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 provided an overview of the 2025 population estimates for 2025 and present them for adoption by the Board for assessment of 2026 dues.

- ARC Presentation: <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/pop-estimates-final-edits-072825-002.pdf>
- ARC Resolution: <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/adoption-25memo-population-estimates-august6final-002.pdf>

XI. ARC Board Discussion/Information Items — Michael Caldwell, Vice Chair

A. Regional Population and Job Growth

Jim Skinner, Data Analysis Administrator, Research & Analytics

Staff provided a data review of the region’s recent population, housing unit, and employment growth trajectories. Key points include:

- The Atlanta region is still growing
- The region faces challenges to future growth, like all other regions
- We are very well positioned, relative to other “peer” areas, for growth
- We have to plan more, now (than we have before), to get the growth that we want

More information

- [ARC Presentation](#)

B. Water Supply Litigation Update & Overview

Danny Johnson, Managing Director, Natural Resources

Lewis Jones of Jones Fortuna Law Firm provided an overview of metro Atlanta's shared water resources, a four-decade history of defending metro Atlanta's access to these resources in the courts and Congress and outlining the key challenges that remain.

- [Presentation](#)

C. Housing Update

Samyukth Shenbaga, Managing Director, Community Development

ARC provided an overview of the scope of housing plans across the region, an update on the Regional Housing Strategy, and a demonstration of the Metro Atlanta Housing Strategy toolkit. The overview included a list of common housing goals across the region:

- Increase Affordable Housing Supply
- Diversify Housing Types
- Preserve NOAH / Prevent Displacement
- Build Housing Near Transit and Jobs
- Remove Regulatory Barriers (zoning, permitting)
- Support Senior and Accessible Housing
- Expand Local Capacity & Public-Private Partnerships

More information

- [ARC Presentation](#)

XII. Executive Director's Report – *Anna Roach*, Executive Director & CEO

- [ARC Presentation](#)

[Adjourn]