Atlanta Regional Commission

Atlanta Regional Commission

ONE great REGION

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 | 1:00 PM

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

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 Joint ARC Board & TAQC Meeting to Order — *Andre Dickens*, Chair

II. Pledge of Allegiance — *Andre Dickens*, Chair

III. Public Comment for Joint Meeting

IV. Chairman's Comments — *Andre Dickens*, Chair

V. Consent Agenda — *Andre Dickens*, Chair

A. September 9, 2026 Joint TAQC & ARC Board Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

VI. Joint First Read – *Andre Dickens*, Chair

A. 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) ***(10 mins)***
Michael Kray, Planning Coordinator, Transportation Planning

Summary: The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is ARC's annual statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within the Atlanta metropolitan planning area. The UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds.

- This document represents about $27 million worth of regional planning and research activity for 2027.
- For Riding Forward, the regional trails plan, this represents a $1.2 million effort for

planning regional trails and bicycle facilities. There are also two major travel surveys that are going to be ongoing in 2027: ARC's household travel survey and its transit onboard survey, both used to update ARC's travel demand model.

MORE INFORMATION

- 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

B. FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) / 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment 7 ***(10 mins)***
    - Public Hearing for FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) / 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment 7

Michael Haire, Planner, Principal Transportation Planning

Summary: The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a list of federally funded transportation project phases over a short-range planning horizon. ARC has developed a draft of the new FY 2027-2030 TIP, which underwent a public comment period throughout the month of October. Additionally, this TIP update will be accompanied by Amendment #7 to the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), as project changes are being made in both the short-range and long-range plans. Included in these updates are the awards from the 2026 TIP Solicitation, which is the process through which ARC programs it's regionally suballocate federal funds on projects in the region, as well as federal funding awards from GDOT's competitive project call. An informational presentation on the TIP Solicitation was provided in August. The plan updates to the TIP and MTP are intended to facilitate the following: 1) addition of new projects that are considered either exempt or non-exempt from air quality conformity analysis, 2) the deletion of projects that are considered either exempt or non-exempt from air quality conformity analysis, 3) project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively, 4) the programming of federal funds on a project phase for the first time, 5) the moving of projects from the TIP to the MTP, or from the MTP to the TIP, 6) the updating of project details that impact air quality conformity, or 7) the updating of project details that do not impact air quality conformity.

- The draft TIP underwent public comment throughout October.

- ARC received $564 million in program funds, with $89.2 million awarded to 43 regional projects, which includes study awards that look at concepts for new future projects.

- Recent projects have included the Tara Boulevard safety improvements and a partnership with the Atlanta Beltline by assisting in the building of a pedestrian bridge on the West Side Trail.

MORE INFORMATION

- 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

VII. Joint Discussion/Information Items – *Andre Dickens*, Chair

A. I-285 Top End Express Lanes Status Update ***(10 mins)***
Jannine Miller, State Planning Director, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

Summary: Jannine Miller provided an update on the I-285 Top End Phase 1 procurement, which is scheduled for award at the GDOT Board meeting the following day. The same update was also presented to the GDOT Board Committee.

- Atlanta has the third-fastest growing traffic congestion in the country. The express lanes are an effort to improve driving down the corridor for the 250,000 vehicles that use it every day.

- The contract was awarded to a private developer to construct 47 lane miles on the top end of Henderson Road in DeKalb County, all the way westbound to just past Northside Drive and a small segment on 400 (phase 1).

- *Key milestones*: development period (Dec. 2026–Dec. 2028); financial close (Q1/Q2 – 2029); construction completed (2036 - 2037)

MORE INFORMATION

- I-285 Top End Express Lanes

B. Trails and Bike Facility Planning Update ***(10 mins)***
Eric Meyer, Planning Coordinator, Transportation Planning

Summary: ARC staff briefed the Board on *Riding Forward*, the unifying banner for three interrelated trail and bicycle plans advancing under a single regional vision: the Regional Trail and Bicycle Facilities Network Plan (all 19 MPO counties), the South Metro Trail and Bicycle Facilities Network Plan, and the Flint River Trail Plan, a signature corridor reconnecting Atlanta's Southside communities to the Beltline. Building on ARC's *Walk. Bike. Thrive!* plan, *Riding Forward* frames trails and bikeways as short-distance mobility infrastructure and advances the region's active transportation, safety, equity, and economic competitiveness goals, feeding directly into MTP 2055 and the TIP. Staff presented the initiative's purpose, phased engagement approach, progress to date, and the path toward adoption in 2028.

- The average household spends around 15% of their household income on transportation, and even higher if you're in lower quintiles. This plan can save residents a significant amount of money and help with upward mobility.

- The three interconnected plans includes the Regional Plan, a comprehensive plan that feeds the MTP and TIP; the South Metro, a deeper, six-county study with specific alignments and delivery pathways for the under-served south; and the Flint Riverway, a quarter-mile corridor plan from East Point to Spalding County.

MORE INFORMATION

- Trails and Bike Facility Planning Update

[Joint Meeting recess]

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

VIII. ARC Consent Agenda — *Andre Dickens*, Chair

A. ARC Governance Revisions: ARC Standards of Ethical Conduct ***(10 mins)***
Eric Johnson, Chief Legal and External Affairs Officer, Office of Legal and External Affairs

Summary: The Board considered a resolution adopting a revised Standards of Ethical Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy, replacing ARC's current policy. Developed with inputs from the ARC Ethics Subcommittee and Governance Committee, and presented for a first read to the Board on September 9, the final policy has incorporated any comments received, as appropriate. Board approval is requested via consent agenda, which will enable implementation next steps in the coming months.

APPROVED

MORE INFORMATION

- ARC Standards of Ethical Conduct

IX. ARC Board Action Items — *Andre Dickens*, Chair

A. 2026-2031 Live Beyond Expectations Plan ***(7 mins)***
Becky Kurtz, Senior Managing Director; Director, Area Agency on Aging

Summary: After engaging with neighborhoods with low average life expectancy for the past 5 years, the Aging & Independence Services Department proposed to build on its learnings for the next 5 years as described in this plan. The plan a) recommends actions for local governments and other partners, b) proposes continued research and stakeholder engagement in neighborhoods, and c) proposes leveraging of resources – all with the aim of supporting longevity. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Advisory Committee on Aging on August 26, 2026.

- The plan seeks to understand more deeply the neighborhoods with the lowest longevity.

- Recommendations for three main categories of neighborhood challenges were presented: housing, transportation, and community services and support. The plan for 2026–2031 incorporates plans for each of these, and continuing to measure longevity and health outcomes at the neighborhood level.

APPROVED

MORE INFORMATION

- 2026–2031 Live Beyond Expectations Plan

B. 2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report ***(5 mins)***
Keri Stevens, Planning Administrator, Community Development

Summary: The Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Economic Development District (EDD) by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Federal regulations require ARC, as an EDD, to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years (adopted in 2022) and provide an Annual Report approved by the ARC Board, including a resolution. The 2026 CEDS Annual Report outlines the implementation successes and initiatives for 2026.

- The CEDs team continues to host forums to discuss priorities and implementation for economic development, with a particular focus on housing.

- Two board members, Dr. Alika Anderson Henry and Alfred John, will be CEDs board champions.

APPROVED

MORE INFORMATION

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

X. ARC Board Discussion/Information Items — *Andre Dickens*, Chair

A. Housing Strategy Update – Part 2 ***(30 mins)***
Samyukth Shenbaga, Managing Director, Community Development
Kristin Allin, Regional Housing Planning Coordinator, Community Development

Summary: ARC staff will present the final portion of the Regional Housing Strategy: Housing Forward 2035, a blueprint for addressing metro Atlanta's housing affordability challenges through coordinated regional action. Building on the presentation and discussion begun at the August 12 Board meeting, staff will complete the presentation of the Strategy, including its recommended housing goals, ten proposed actions, and implementation framework with priority initiatives for the 11-county region.

- The goals of Housing Forward 2035 are to build strategically for intentional growth, targeting 367,000 homes by 2035, close the existing affordability gap by targeting a 50% reduction in that affordability gap for low-income households, and activate vacant and underutilized properties.

- Proposed 10 different actions to address questions and concerns from the board, connecting it back to ARC priorities.

APPROVED

MORE INFORMATION

- Housing Strategy Update

B. Proposed Census Rule Update & Regional Implications ***(10 mins)***
Ann Carpenter, Chief Research & Innovation Officer, Office of Research & Innovation

Summary: Staff provided an update on the U.S. Census Bureau's proposed changes to Census residence criteria and demographic data collection and discuss potential implications for ARC programs, regional planning, federal funding, and data availability.

- On September 10, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau proposed their new rule, called the Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions.

- There are three changes. The count would exclude anyone who's not a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident and would redefine the usual residence of where people are counted, based on a weighted average of where you are most over a three-month period. It also would exclude counting data on race.

APPROVED

MORE INFORMATION

- Proposed Census Rule Update

XI. Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings
October 21: BARS
November 4: State of the Region 2026
Reminder: The November Joint Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12
November 12: ARWDB, GOV Com