



Atlanta Regional Commission



Board and Governance Committee Summary

January 13, 2021

NOTE: As per ARC bylaw revisions adopted in December 2020, the ARC Board is now following a bi-monthly schedule, while the Governance Committee maintains a monthly meeting schedule. This meeting summary is designed to streamline the reporting process for ARC Board and Governance Committee meetings. Items covered only in the Governance Committee are at the bottom of the recap.

Chairman's Comments: 2021 Outlook

[Presented at ARC Board Meeting and Governance Committee]

ARC Board Chairman Kerry Armstrong welcomed new board members and provided highlights of some of the key projects and programs that the agency will be working on in 2021. This includes:

- A new board and committee meeting structure designed to streamline our operations and support board engagement on the critical issues facing the Atlanta region. The ARC Board now meets the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and December.
- ARC's Workforce Group is responding to the economic crisis by launching a second phase of a targeted outreach program to better reach job-seekers and employers and connect them to the services and supports they need to thrive.
- The Aging and Independence Services Group will focus this year on implementing its Live Beyond Expectations Strategic Plan, which seeks to address the inequities that create large disparities in life expectancy across our region. In 2021, this work includes publishing our first annual "life expectancy scorecard," which will evaluate progress in measures that affect life expectancy in metro Atlanta.

- This year, ARC's Transportation Access & Mobility Group will be developing an update to the regional Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, in the first quarter of 2021 that will fund about \$100 million in transportation projects across the region.

Aging & Independence Services' Annual Report Shows How Group Empowers Older Adults, Even During Pandemic

Aging & Independence Services Managing Director Becky Kurtz shared highlights from the group's 2020 [annual report](#), which illustrates the value of the services that are offered throughout the 10-county metro area. Highlights from the 2020 annual report include:

- **61,056 people** were services through the interactive programs and services of Empowerline, the agency's public-facing resource that links people with trusted community services and healthcare providers to help them live their best lives.
- **20,847 people** received counseling from certified professionals.
- **22,580 people** received home and community-based services such as meals, personal care, homemaking, transportation, and activities in senior centers.
- **751,667 meals** were delivered to 6,588 individuals who cannot leave their homes...and during the COVID-19 pandemic between April-November, **117,954 emergency home-delivered meals** went to 2,637 individuals.
- [Aging & Independence Services 2020 Annual Report](#)
- If you'd like a presentation to your community, please contact Becky Kurtz at BKurtz@atlantaregional.org.

Two Metro Atlanta Communities Join Green Communities "Starter" Program to Promote Regional Sustainability

Kelsey Waidhas, Sustainability Coordinator with the Natural Resources Group, gave an update on the [New Leaf Program](#). The program is designed for those metro Atlanta communities interested in increasing their sustainability, but unable to commit in full to the ARC Green Communities Program, a voluntary certification program that helps local governments implement measures that will reduce their environmental impact. The City of Tucker and Henry County both joined New Leaf in 2020. In total, five communities are working on New Leaf initiatives.

- [Presentation: New Leaf Program](#)

Latest News on the Economic Impact of COVID-19

[Presented at ARC Board Meeting and Governance Committee]

Mike Carnathan, managing director of ARC's Research & Analytics group, discussed the impact of the pandemic on the region's economy. Highlights include:

- Employment levels in almost every economic sector remain well below pre-pandemic levels, with exception of the trade, transportation and utilizes super sector.
- Small business are still struggling, but most economists are more in their forecasts – though the recovery time is expected to take a while.
- The biggest lesson learned so far: the pandemic and economic crisis has exposed the structural weaknesses in our region that has meant people of color have experienced the greatest negative impacts.
- The shape of the recovery is looking to be “K” shaped – that is, certain people and business sectors will recover quickly, while others are in much worse shape and take longer to recover.
- Metro Atlanta has suffered economically, but not as much as some other large metro areas.
- [Presentation: What we Know \(or Think We Know\) About the Economic Impact of COVID-19](#)

ARC's Workforce Group Collaborates with Regional Partners to Address Economic Crisis

[Presented at ARC Board Meeting and Governance Committee]

Rob LeBeau, managing director of ARC's Workforce Development group, gave a presentation on the ways that ARC and other workforce agencies in the region are responding to the economic crisis. He highlighted the collaborative work that the five workforce boards in the region are undertaking to help serve job-seekers and employers.

- Presentation: [WorkSource Atlanta Regional](#)

Announcements

- Applications are now being accepted for this year's Livable Centers Initiative and Community Development Assistance Program. [More information](#)

Governance Committee Recap

- Treasurer's Report
 - ARC Board Treasurer Bob Reeves presented the December Treasurer's report. The estimated fund balance as of Dec. 31, 2020 was \$5,499,495.
 - [Treasurer's report presentation](#)

Next Committee Days:

- Jan. 27: Advisory Committee on Aging
- Feb 10: CRC, TAQC, Governance

Next Board Meeting:

- March 10, 1:30 p.m.