



DATE: 11/8/2018

**ISSUE SUMMARY:**     **Concept 3 Update**

**FROM:**            Charlotte Nash, TAQC Chairman

**IMPORTANCE:**

ARC has recently completed the *2018 Concept 3 Update*, the regional transit vision for a connected Atlanta region. The study began in December 2016 and concluded in October 2018.

*Concept 3* is the Atlanta region's long-range transit vision for system expansion. Originally adopted in 2008, *Concept 3* was updated in 2012 and, again, in 2018. *Concept 3* was developed through a collaborative, multi-year effort involving the region's transit operators and local government stakeholders.

*Concept 3* contains a total of 61 projects from Fulton, Cobb, Gwinnett, and DeKalb Counties. The projects include heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, express bus, bus rapid transit, and arterial rapid transit.

The 2018 *Concept 3* update represents a shift in the update process; a new evaluation framework for regional transit planning was developed. The update examined transit planning tools and recommended a scalable methodology for evaluating projects using web-based tools. Each project in the plan was evaluated using the newly developed rubric, which relies on seven project evaluation measures that correspond with ARC's regional planning priorities.

*Concept 3* lays the groundwork for a Regional Transit Plan for the 13-county region covering Cherokee, Clayton, Coweta, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale, and it will support the work of the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (ATL).

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Adoption of *Concept 3*.

**A RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
ADOPTING THE 2018 UPDATE TO CONCEPT 3**

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of 20 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to federal requirements, the Atlanta Regional Commission conducts multimodal, regional-level planning studies as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process, the results of which are considered for incorporation into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016-2018 the Atlanta Regional Commission conducted the *2018 Concept 3 Update* – pursuant to the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program for the Atlanta Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the *2018 Concept 3 Update* has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from MARTA, SRTA, Gwinnett County, Cobb County, and Fulton County; and

**WHEREAS**, the *2018 Concept 3 Update* has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from the ARC Transportation and Air Quality Committee and the Transportation Coordinating Committee, comprised of representatives from FHWA, GDOT, GRTA, local jurisdictions, and other entities; and

**WHEREAS**, the *2018 Concept 3 Update* goals and objectives support The Atlanta Region's Plan's threefold vision of: Providing world-class infrastructure; Building a competitive economy; and Ensuring the region is comprised of healthy and livable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, policies and technical guidance from the *2018 Concept 3 Update* will be used in development of updates to *The Atlanta Region's Plan* to ensure the continued evaluation and implementation of transit projects; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the *2018 Concept 3 Update* as the guide for evaluating regional transit projects and establishing a baseline for the Regional Transit Plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Atlanta Regional Commission staff will provide technical assistance related to transit planning to local elected officials, transit agencies and local planning staff.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Atlanta Regional Commission will use *2018 Concept 3 Update* as one source of input into the Regional Transportation Plan.