



Atlanta Regional Commission



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

January 22, 2020

Atlanta Region's Plan Update Nearing the Finish Line

John Orr, Manager, Transportation and Mobility Group, presented the Atlanta Region's Plan/Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update to the Board for a first read. The last major update to the plan took place in 2016.

Nearly 700 comments were generated during the public comment period, which ended on Dec. 13. The plan programs \$173 billion plan through 2050. The bulk of the funding – 59% – will go toward maintenance and modernization, while 22% is provided system expansion.

Additionally, several major roadway capacity projects have been identified, and rapidly-changing transportation technology has been considered. The final update documentation is anticipated to be completed by Jan. 31 and will be presented to the ARC Board on Feb. 26.

- [Atlanta Region's Plan Presentation](#)

Special Master Hands Down Favorable Finding in Water Wars

Mike Alexander, Director of ARC's Center for Livable Communities, provided an update on the lawsuit involving the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) basin. The state of Florida filed suit against

Georgia seeking “equitable apportionment” of the waters of the basin, and the case went to the Supreme Court in 2018.

The Supreme Court’s Special Master issued a report on Dec. 1, 2019, that recommends the Supreme Court not grant Florida’s request for a decree equitably apportioning the waters of the ACF basin because the evidence has not shown harm to Florida caused by Georgia. The report also found Georgia’s water use to be “reasonable” and found Georgia’s water conservation measures to be “quite effective.”

- [Water Update presentation](#)

Aging & Independence Services’ Annual Report Shows How Group Empowers Older Adults

Aging & Independence Services Managing Director Becky Kurtz shared highlights from the group’s 2019 annual report, which illustrates the value of the services that are offered throughout the 10-county metro area.

Highlights from the 2019 annual report include:

- **146,076** people were served through **empowerline**, the agency’s public-facing resource that links people with trusted community services and healthcare providers to help them live their best lives.
- **38,887** people received counseling from certified professionals.
- **10,509** people received home and community-based services such as meals, personal care, homemaking, transportation, and activities in senior centers.
- But **3,896** people waited for publicly funded services at some point in the 2019 fiscal year, unable to access services when they needed them.
- [Aging & Independence Services 2019 Annual Report](#)

If you’d like physical copies of the report or a presentation in your community, please contact Becky Kurtz at BKurtz@atlantaregional.org.

Annual Legislative Breakfast Breaks in the New Session

John Bayalis, Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs, announced that a successful Legislative Breakfast was held on Jan. 16, 2020. Among the highlights: A panel of experts and two White House staffers discussed federal Opportunity Zones.

ARC Recognizes Four Communities for their Commitment to Sustainability

Kelsey Waidhas, Sustainability Coordinator with ARC’s Natural Resources Group, announced the 2019 [ARC Green Communities](#). These are local governments demonstrating leadership in sustainable practices. All winners earned certification points for sustainable measures implemented in their communities.

This year, four Green Communities honorees achieved the following certification levels.

- **City of Woodstock** – Recertified Gold
- **City of Dunwoody** – Upgraded to Gold
- **City of Sandy Springs** – Upgraded to Gold
- **City of Peachtree Corners** – Recertified Bronze

In metro Atlanta, 20 local governments — 13 cities and seven counties — are currently certified under ARC’s Green Communities program. Now in its eleventh year, it is the first program in the country to promote sustainability through a green certification for local governments at the regional level.

- [ARC Green Communities news release](#)

Announcements and References

- South Metro Development Outlook Conference, Feb. 20, 2020, Georgia International Convention Center
- Connect ATL Summit, March 31, Georgia International Convention Center, College Park, 8:30 a.m.
- 2020 ARC Board Work Session, April 16 – 17, 2020, Foxhall Resort, Douglasville
- Annual LINK Trip, May 6-9, 2020, Chicago
- ARC Annual State of the Region Breakfast, Friday, October 30, 2020, Georgia World Congress Center, 7:30 a.m.

The next ARC Committee Day is Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020.

The next ARC Board meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 at 1 p.m.