



DATE: February 9, 2018

**ISSUE SUMMARY: February 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4**

**FROM:** Charlotte Nash, Transportation & Air Quality Committee

**IMPORTANCE:**

TIP Amendment #4 was developed to:

- 1) Program funding commitments from the 2017 Project Solicitation under the Atlanta Urbanized Area sub-allocation of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) – Urban, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program
- 2) Reflect financial changes to projects in the Major Mobility and Investment Program (MMIP)
- 3) Address project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively

For additional information on the amendment: [www.atlantaregional.org/amendment](http://www.atlantaregional.org/amendment)

A primary purpose of this amendment is to reflect recommendations for projects and project phases to be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Additional information on the project solicitation recommendations and process is available at: [www.atlantaregional.org/projectsolicitation](http://www.atlantaregional.org/projectsolicitation).

Regarding the required conformity determination for the TIP amendment:

1. ARC determined that the changes reflected in Amendment #4 do not require a new technical evaluation for conformity. ARC provided this information to the adjacent Cartersville-Bartow MPO, also in the Atlanta Nonattainment Area.
2. A follow-up TIP Amendment (#5) will be processed in May 2018 to reflect project recommendations that require modeling. This will require a separate TIP action.
3. Prior to the formal public comment period, ARC received concurrence as required through the Interagency Consultation process that the conformity determination for Amendment #4 does not necessitate a new regional emissions analysis.

Pursuant to the ARC Community Engagement Plan, a 30-day public comment period was conducted from December 18, 2017 to January 16, 2018. Comments received, and responses to those comments, were provided to TCC, TAQC and the ARC Board prior to action being taken.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** ARC approval



**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING:**

**February 2018 Transportation Improvement Program  
(TIP) Amendment #4**

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Atlanta Metropolitan Transportation Planning Area which includes all or parts of twenty counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act) and the Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1990 require the MPO to develop and adopt a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that conforms with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016-2017, ARC developed a Project Evaluation Framework to guide the process for a project solicitation and accepted applications through May 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, projects were evaluated during the Summer and early Fall of 2017 with draft recommendations announced in December 2017;

**WHEREAS**, a conformity determination was made on The Atlanta Region's Plan RTP/TIP on March 16, 2016, by the US Department of Transportation in consultation with the US Environmental Protection Agency, which determined based on The Atlanta Region's Plan Conformity Determination Report, that The Atlanta Region's Plan RTP and TIP conform to the requirements of the Clean Air Act under 40 CFR Part 93 for the 8 hour ozone 2008 standards (15 county nonattainment area) and particulate matter 2.5 standard (22 county nonattainment area); and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Region has since been redesignated as a maintenance area for both the ozone and particulate matter standards; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC did not perform a technical evaluation as no changes to the scopes and schedules of certain non-exempt status projects were proposed as part of this amendment process; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to releasing the amendment for a formal public comment period, ARC received concurrence through the Interagency Consultation process that Amendment #4 consists of changes that did not necessitate a new technical evaluation for conformity, and

*For approval by TCC, TAQC, and ARC Board in February 2018.*

**WHEREAS**, Amendment #4 to the Atlanta Region's Plan RTP/FY 2018-2023 TIP was developed consistently with the requirements of 23 CFR 450.316 and in adherence with the participation processes and guidelines outlined in the ARC Community Engagement Plan as follows:

- Notice of such an amendment was published in a legal organ for a 30-day public comment period from December 18, 2017 to January 16, 2018.
- Interested parties were provided the opportunity to comment on the amendment through the ARC website; and
- Results of this public comment period were provided to the Transportation Coordinating Committee, the Transportation & Air Quality Committee and the ARC Board for consideration.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the Amendment #4 to The Atlanta Region's Plan RTP/FY 2018-2023 TIP, as defined above; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission authorizes staff, with approval of the Chair of the Atlanta Regional Commission, to make non-substantive technical corrections to the final documents as necessary;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission accepts staff recommendations for the project solicitation and directs staff to prepare a follow-up TIP Amendment – to be processed in May 2018 – to incorporate the remaining project solicitation recommendations that require conformity modeling; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission directs the staff to continue the regular reporting on The Atlanta Region's Plan management and implementation.