



Atlanta Regional Commission



## Board and Governance Committee Summary

*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.*

**March 10, 2021**

### **ARC Committee Appointments & Housing Subcommittee**

ARC Board Chairman Kerry Armstrong announced that he has made the following officer and committee appointments for 2021:

- **ARC Officers:**
  - Vice Chair – Rochelle Robinson (Mayor, Douglasville)
  - Secretary – Romona Jackson Jones (Chairwoman, Douglas County)
  - Treasurer – Bob Reeves (Citizen District 3)
- **Governance Committee:** Kerry Armstrong, Chair; Rochelle Robinson, Vice Chair
- **Budget and Audit Review Subcommittee:** Bob Reeves, Chair
- **Ethics Committee:** Romona Jackson Jones, Chair
- **Pension Board of Trustees:** Kerry Armstrong, Chair
- **Strategic Relations Subcommittee:** Chair, Eric Dial (Mayor, City of Tyrone)
- **Advisory Committee on Aging:** Co-Chair, Romona Jackson Jones
- **Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board:** Co-Chairs Randy Hayes, Eric Dial
- **Community Resources Committee:** Chair, Felicia Moore (President, Atlanta City Council)

- **Transportation & Air Quality Committee:** Chair Mark Matthews (Citizen District 14); Vice Chair Mike Mason (Mayor, City of Peachtree Corners)
- **Urban Area Security Initiative:** Chair, Keisha Lance Bottoms (Mayor, City of Atlanta)

### **Housing Subcommittee Formed to Tackle Housing Affordability and Stability**

Chairman Armstrong also announced the creation of a Housing Subcommittee that will be part of the Community Resources Committee. This committee will consist of mayors and county commission chairs who are motivated to address housing issues in their communities. Members will seek to have frank conversations about barriers they face to tackling housing affordability, hear from a diversity of stakeholders about their concerns and needs, and commit to a list of shared priorities to tackle housing affordability in their jurisdictions.

The Housing Subcommittee will be co-chaired by Nicole Hendrickson, Chair of the Gwinnett County Commission, and Rob Garcia, a former Citizen Member of ARC who serves as Atlanta president of Pinnacle Financial Partners.

### **Treasurer's Report : March 2021**

[Presented at ARC Board Meeting and Governance Committee]

ARC Board Treasurer Bob Reeves presented the December Treasurer's report. The estimated fund balance as of Feb. 28, 2021 was \$5,497,494

- [Treasurer's report presentation](#)

### **CSR Update: ARC Strategic Communications Plan and Annual Partners**

Malika Reed Wilkins, Senior Director of the Center for Strategic Relations, presented on several key topics. She provided an update on ongoing efforts to develop an ARC strategic communications plan, which aims to position ARC as the region's most-trusted source for the data, tools, and resources to address the region's challenges. She also informed the board about the agency's 2021 Annual Strategic Partners: Georgia Power, Uber, and Delta Air Lines.

- [Strategic Relations Presentation](#)

### **ARC Board Approves Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program Amendment**

The Atlanta Regional Commission Board approved an amendment to the FY 2020-2025 [Transportation Improvement Program](#), or TIP, which programs federal and state funding for transportation projects across metro Atlanta. ARC works closely with officials in cities and counties in the 21-county Atlanta region and partner planning agencies to reflect the most up to date information in the TIP and ensure that the project list meets local priorities. This amendment involves changes to project cost estimates and schedules.

- [Presentation](#)
- [ARC News Release](#)

### **New MRPA Fee Structure Approved**

The ARC Board approved updates to the Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA) fee structure. MRPA creates a 2,000-foot land and water protection buffer along the Chattahoochee River Corridor and limits land disturbance, impervious surfaces, and development in floodplains in the corridor. Currently, fees are charged only when someone submits a development application to ARC for full review. Increasingly, however, ARC conducts “vulnerability category reevaluations” based on new site condition information involving features which directly impact vulnerability—at no charge. The proposed update would phase in fee increases over two years, starting in July 2021, and add a smaller fee for vulnerability category reevaluation. This is the first fee increase since 1985.

- [MRPA Review Fee Structure Change Presentation](#)

### **2021 Regional Development Plan Update Adopted**

The Board voted to adopt the 2021 Regional Development Plan (RDP) update. This update describes the growth vision of the region, provides policy guidance for ARC programs and programming, provides input for the Regional Forecast, and provides recommendations to local governments about future growth. The RDP is part of The Atlanta Region’s Plan, the agency-wide comprehensive plan to “win the future” through world-class infrastructure, support for a competitive economy, and establishing healthy, livable communities. The RDP is required to be updated every five years.

- [Regional Development Plan – March 2021 Update](#)

### **Coordinated Regional Workforce Initiatives Help Job-Seekers and Employers**

Rob LeBeau, manager of ARC’s Workforce Solutions Group, and John Helton, executive director of Atlanta Career Rise, presented on the collaborative, regional focus of WorkSource Metro

Atlanta and highlighted innovations designed to better serve job-seekers and employers, including:

- A new website, ATLworks.org, that is now being used by all five WorkSource agencies in metro Atlanta to provide information for job-seekers and employers and make the onboarding process for services much easier.
- A targeted, multi-platform outreach campaign to promote ATLworks.org that includes digital ads, billboards, messages on bus shelter and at rail stations, and flyers and brochures. It's already proving successful, with sign-ups up by more than 200%
- A common application form that is much more user-friendly. In the past, each of the five workforce boards in metro Atlanta used different applications that were challenging to fill out.
- A series of webinars to help job-seekers developed during the pandemic. All Career Resource Centers remain closed.
- A collaboration between WorkSource Metro Atlanta and Atlanta Career Rise through the Metro Atlanta Industry Partnerships, which works on capacity-building for employer-led industry partnerships This collaboration works in new ways to source workers; offers virtual regional career fairs (one at Aerotropolis attracted 1,000+ candidates). Apprenticeships and trainings also provided (AMR ambulance service is an example)
- [Presentation](#)

### **ARC Legislative Update**

[Presented at ARC Board Meeting and Governance Committee]

John Bayalis, intergovernmental affairs manager, presented an update on state and federal legislative issues. Highlights include:

- HR130, which realigns Forsyth County to the Atlanta Regional Commission, passed the House with unanimous approval and now heads to the state Senate
- The state House adopted a budget that includes increased funding for behavioral health, home- and community based services, and improvements to the Bankhead MARTA station.

### **Executive Director updates and announcements:**

[Presented at ARC Board Meeting and Governance Committee]

- The 2021 LINK trip will take place in Chicago on Oct. 27-30. All board members are automatically invited to participate. The Chicago visit was initially planned in May 2020 but was rescheduled due to the pandemic. Our goal is to send new invitations early next month.
- ARC has received the first phase of a \$9.3 million contract from the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a [“Complete Trip-ITS4US” project](#) designed to improve transportation for older adults and people with disabilities. The project will provide detailed information and step-by-step navigation tailored for user’s specific needs, along with a range of other features geared to improve trip efficiency and safety. The pilot project will be developed over the next two years and will focus on residents in Gwinnett County.

**Next ARC Committee Days:**

- March 24: Advisory Committee on Aging
- May 12: CRC, TAQC, Governance

**Next Board Meeting:**

- May 12, 1:30 p.m.