



DATE: December 4, 2019

ISSUE SUMMARY: REGIONAL WORKBOOK FOR COMPLETE STREETS

FROM: Charlotte Nash, TAQC Chairman

IMPORTANCE:

ARC has adopted a regional vision for walking and bicycling titled *Walk. Bike. Thrive!* That plan recognizes that walking and bicycling are important elements of a great region, but that safety and comfort are significant barriers to people choosing to walk, bicycle, or ride transit. ARC has also adopted a safety action plan, titled *Safe Streets for Walking and Bicycling*, that promotes a “safe system” approach to transportation planning using evidence-based safety measures and complete street designs.

In June 2018, ARC directed staff to recommend an appropriate course of action for the agency to follow in improving safety outcomes on our transportation system for all users, with the long-term goal of slowing and eventually reversing recent upward trends in fatalities and serious injuries. This *Regional Workbook for Complete Streets* serves as a supporting resource to ARC’s walking and bicycling plan to help the region assess complete street investments and for local governments to develop complete streets projects.

The workbook is organized around evidence-based strategies to typical questions about locating or developing complete streets in metropolitan Atlanta. The workbook is not intended to be a guide or regulation but a reference document for planning efforts. As a reference, ARC directs staff to update the workbook periodically to respond to planning questions or incorporate new research as needed.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
REGIONAL WORKBOOK FOR COMPLETE STREETS**

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, the U.S. Department of Transportation states that “every transportation agency ... has the responsibility to improve conditions and opportunities for walking and bicycling”;

WHEREAS, federal law requires metropolitan transportation planning agencies to “provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will ... increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users”;

WHEREAS, ARC supports the implementation of Complete Street principles on every roadway and with any project receiving federal funds;

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Atlanta Regional Commission adopted a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan titled “Walk. Bike. Thrive!” with recommendations to “focus investments ... where the built environment already supports walking and biking for short trips” and to “pursue a strategy of relentless incrementalism to increase the walkability and bikeability of the region’s lower-density residential neighborhoods and auto-oriented corridors”;

WHEREAS, the ARC board has directed staff to “recommend an appropriate course of action for the agency to follow in improving safety outcomes on our transportation system for all users”;

WHEREAS, the “Regional Workbook for Complete Streets” is organized around evidence-based strategies to typical questions about locating or developing complete streets in metropolitan Atlanta;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the “Regional Workbook for Complete Streets” as a policy guide for transportation planning in the Atlanta Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARC directs staff to utilize the guidance in the “Regional Workbook for Complete Streets” to improve the safety and mobility of our transportation system for all users and to update the workbook periodically as needed to respond to planning questions or incorporate new research.