Atlanta Regional Commission

DATE: November 12, 2026

ISSUE SUMMARY: *Statewide Transportation Safety Targets*

FROM: Carlotta Harrell, Transportation and Air Quality Committee Chair

DESCRIPTION: Federal legislation and rulemaking under MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation), and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) establish performance management requirements to ensure state Departments of Transportation (DOTs), and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOS) focus the use of federal transportation funds on projects which address national transportation goals.

GDOT established statewide targets for 5 measures related to safety on September 30, 2026. MPOs are required to establish targets for these measures within their planning areas by March 29, 2027. MPOs may establish targets by either: 1) agreeing to plan and program projects which contribute toward the accomplishment of the state DOT targets, or 2) committing to a separate quantifiable target for their planning area.

As with the 2026 targets, ARC agrees to support the accomplishment of the 2027 statewide safety targets established by GDOT. ARC will also set region-specific aspirational targets to guide funding and policy decisions. ARC will continue to review the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region with a Safe Systems approach in accordance with the ARC Regional Safety Strategy and suggest appropriate measures to mitigate and lower severe crashes that result in fatalities and injuries within the region with a long-term goal of Vision Zero. Staff will report periodically to ARC committees and the Board on their progress and to receive additional direction on any preliminary recommendations.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval

Atlanta Regional Commission

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TARGETS

WHEREAS, , the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of 19 counties; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation and rulemaking under MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation), and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) establish performance management requirements to ensure state Departments of Transportation (DOT) and MPOs focus the use of federal transportation funds on projects which address national transportation goals; and

WHEREAS, State DOTs are required to establish performance targets and assess performance for safety, pavement condition, bridge condition, reliability, congestion and air quality; and

WHEREAS, the statewide safety targets for 2027 are as follows:

- Number of fatalities – 1,367 annually
- Rate of fatalities – 1,130 per 100 million vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries – 7,712 annually
- Rate of serious injuries – 6,322 per 100 million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 1,008 annually

WHEREAS, GDOT established these statewide targets for 2027 via the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) annual report, submitted on September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, GDOT set the statewide targets using five-year rolling averages for each measure, and set an 80-year target for Vision Zero; and

WHEREAS, MPOs are required to establish targets for these measures within their planning areas within 180 days after the state DOT establishes and reports statewide targets, and

WHEREAS, MPOs may establish targets by either: 1) agreeing to plan and program projects which contribute toward the accomplishment of the state DOT targets, or 2) committing to a separate quantifiable target for their planning area, and

WHEREAS, the 180-day deadline for ARC to establish targets is March 29, 2027; and

WHEREAS, ARC recognizes the challenges of setting statewide targets and believes it can best assist GDOT by identifying the causes and locations of the most critical safety issues in the Atlanta Region and focusing ARC's efforts and resources on those issues, and

WHEREAS, ARC agrees to support GDOT's targets and adopt the following region-specific aspirational safety targets for 2027:

- Number of fatalities – 508 annually
- Rate of fatalities – 0.793 per 100 million vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries – 3,358 annually
- Rate of serious injuries – 5,244 per 100 million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 550 annually

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ARC will ensure that its planned and programmed projects and funding contribute to the accomplishment of statewide safety targets established by GDOT, support the region-specific aspirational safety targets, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC will continue to review the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region with a Safe Systems approach in accordance with the ARC Regional Safety Strategy, and suggest appropriate measures to mitigate and lower severe crashes that result in fatalities and injuries with a long-term goal of Vision Zero.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC staff will only recommend transportation projects from ARC's discretionary funding if those projects reduce the number of fatalities and injuries in the region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ARC staff will report periodically to the appropriate ARC committees and the Board on progress and to receive additional direction as may be necessary.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on November 12, 2026.

Charissa White, Manager of Board Affairs & Legal Clerk