



DATE: February 20, 2020

ISSUE SUMMARY: **2020 Recommendations of the ARC Board Engagement Taskforce**

FROM: Mayor Eric Dial, Board Engagement Taskforce, Chair

As metropolitan Atlanta continues to grow and change, the importance of the Atlanta Regional Commission increases as well. The 39-member Board, comprised of both elected officials and citizen representatives, represents a diverse set of perspectives reflective of the communities of the region. Ensuring that there is board engagement and representation from the entire region during times of critical discussions and ARC decision-making is vitally important to the well-being and future of the 10-county Atlanta region.

To enhance ARC Board engagement, the ARC Chairman charged a Board taskforce to examine existing committee structures, governance documents and the alignment of ARC structures and processes. The Chairman strongly suggested, and the taskforce diligently made the sincerest effort, to invite input, where possible and when appropriate, from non-task force Board colleagues, and from key ARC staff.

The 2020 ARC Board Engagement Taskforce recommendations are structured as follows:

The Taskforce identified five (5) key areas that could promote greater levels of Board member engagement:

- *Accountability* – the process by which Board and Committee members hold themselves or are held accountable for attending and participating in the ARC governance process;
- *Logistics* – the set of activities (e.g. parking, voting, receiving notices and minutes) necessary for Board and Committee members to participate as part of the governance process;
- *Substance* – the subject matter presented to and taken up for consideration by the Board and Committee members;
- *Structure* – the reporting and authority relationships between and among the governance processes of the Board and committees; and
- *Scheduling* – the arrangement of meeting dates and times of the Board and committees.

ACTION REQUIRED: Adoption by the ARC Board of the 2020 Board Engagement Taskforce proposal is recommended.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
2020 Recommendations of the ARC Board Engagement Taskforce**

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission has observed that the region is growing in population and complexity at an ever-increasing rate; and

WHEREAS, the evolving landscape of political, social, economic, and general welfare of the lives of our citizens, organization and institutions require us to be vigilant and intentional in the ways we adapt to emerging realities; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is a recognized regional influencer dedicated to taking every measure to ensure that elected and citizen members of our board are full participants in the deliberations and decisions that arise in ARC committees and Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Recommendations of the ARC Board Engagement Taskforce includes considerations meant to enhance:

- Accountability to the ARC governing process of each of its members, both public and citizen;
- Logistics of assembling, deliberating and deciding on the key issue affecting our region; and
- Substantive aspects of timing, presentation format and rationale for the consideration of issues to be taken-up by both committees and the whole Board;
- Structure of committees so as not to be duplicative, thus adding to the relevance of each governing authority; and
- Scheduling of meetings to optimize the time and attention required for each member to participate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the 2020 Recommendations of the ARC Board Engagement Taskforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARC authorizes staff to take all necessary administrative actions to administer and implement the 2020 Recommendations of the ARC Board Engagement Taskforce.