



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

DATE: June 7, 2019

**ISSUE SUMMARY: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2019**

FROM: Charlotte Nash, Transportation & Air Quality Committee

IMPORTANCE:

As part of a continuous effort to increase public involvement and general outreach in the transportation planning process, the Atlanta Regional Commission has developed an update to the *Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan*. The Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan serves the following three purposes: 1) as a regional planning community engagement guide for the public; 2) as the official participation policy for transportation planning for ARC; and 3) as an ARC response to the U.S. Department of Transportation directive to develop a participation plan for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). (23 CFR § 450.316)

This plan has been redesigned into a series of modules with simplified, visually appealing graphics to illustrate the transportation planning process. The primary purpose of the proposed changes is to: 1) reflect FAST Act planning language, 2) ensure consistency between MPO and state STIP definitions for TIP amendments and administrative modifications, and 3) provide a refreshed community-based plan exemplifying best state of practice in community engagement.

A 45-day official public review and comment period was held from April 12 to May 27, 2019. No comments requiring substantive changes were received.

ACTION REQUIRED: ARC Approval.



A RESOLUTION ADOPTING:

Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan 2019

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission, pursuant to the Georgia Code Section 50-8-80 et seq., is the agency responsible for comprehensive regional planning, including transportation and land use planning for the ten-county Atlanta Region; and

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

WHEREAS, the current surface transportation reauthorization – Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) - requires development, adoption and implementation of a transportation participation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is committed to carrying out its responsibilities in a manner that provides ample opportunities for early, ongoing and meaningful involvement by federal, state and local government representatives, the private sector and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted the original *Atlanta Region Transportation Public Involvement Plan* on November 27, 1993, and updates or amendments in May 1999; February 2001; October 2002; January 2006; December 2006; September 2008; August 2012; June 2014; and

WHEREAS, as part of a continuous effort to increase public involvement and general outreach in the transportation planning process, the *Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan* has been redesigned into a series of modules with simplified, visually appealing graphics to illustrate the transportation planning process. The primary purpose of the proposed changes is to: 1) reflect FAST Act planning language, 2) ensure consistency between MPO and state STIP definitions for TIP amendments and administrative modifications, and 3) provide a refreshed community-based plan exemplifying best state of practice in community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the regional community engagement plan update was evaluated by the appropriate technical and review processes, including a 45-day formal public review period; and

WHEREAS, the proposed regional community engagement plan update **did not receive comments** that require substantive changes to the draft document during the public review period.

For approval by TCC on 6/7, TAQC on 6/16 and ARC Board on 6/26/19

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan, 2019 update.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission directs staff to begin efforts immediately to implement the provisions of the 2019 update of the Regional Transportation Community Engagement Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, staff is authorized to make non-substantive changes to wording in this document to reflect the titles of federal transportation reauthorization bills and other regulations that govern the planning process, including updating maps of planning and air quality conformity boundaries, or names of ARC committees and transportation planning groups, as needed.

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