

ARC COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOW-UP

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

January 8, 2016 Meeting Notes

TCC Members or Alternates Present:

<i>ARC</i>	John Orr	<i>Forsyth</i>	John Cunard
<i>Atlanta</i>	Jonathan Lewis	<i>Fulton</i>	Roussan Francois
<i>Barrow</i>	Darrell Greeson	<i>GDOT</i>	Matthew Fowler
<i>Bartow</i>	--	<i>GRTA</i>	Jamie Fischer
<i>Cherokee</i>	Geoff Morton	<i>Gwinnett</i>	Alan Chapman
<i>Clayton</i>	Bill Andrews	<i>Henry</i>	Stacey Jordan
<i>Cobb</i>	Eric Meyer	<i>MARTA</i>	---
<i>Coweta</i>	Tavores Edwards	<i>Newton</i>	---
<i>DeKalb</i>	---	<i>Paulding</i>	George Jones
<i>Douglas</i>	Randy Hulsey	<i>Rockdale</i>	Miguel Valentin
<i>EPD</i>	Gil Grodzinsky	<i>Spalding</i>	BJ Martin
<i>Fayette</i>	--	<i>Walton</i>	Joe Walter

Advisors (Non-voting):

<i>CBMPO</i>	--	<i>FHWA</i>	--
<i>GHMPO</i>	Sam Baker	<i>FTA</i>	--
<i>GDOT I'modal</i>	---		

Other Attendees

Kristen Berry, Atlanta Aerotropolis CID	Chris Haggard, City of Johns Creek
Kaycee Mertz, GDOT	Julia Billings, GDOT
Henry Green, GDOT	Megan Weiss, GDOT
John Crocker, City of Roswell	Quinton L. Spann, GDOT
Claudia Bilotto, WSP/Parson's Brinckerhoff	Maggie Maddox, VHB
Michelle Wright, City of Douglasville	Tyler Martin, Atlanta Beltline, Inc.
Shaun Green, Atlanta Beltline, Inc.	Anna Shoji, AECOM
Allie Velleca, AECOM	Chip Burger, AECOM
Courtney Frisch, City of Roswell	Michael Kray, Jacobs
William Moore, College Park	Audra Rojeh, Jacobs
Vanessa Levingston, Cobb County Resident	

Actions Taken: None

1. Welcome, Acceptance of 11/20/15 TCC Meeting Summary, Public Comment Period

John Orr, ARC, called the meeting to order. Orr asked if there were any comments on the draft 11/20/15 TCC Meeting Summary and hearing none, declared the summary accepted as previously distributed.

There was a request for public comment at this meeting. William Moore from College Park's Engineering Department commented on the (potential) Fulton County TSPLOST. Speaking on behalf of South Fulton, he noted the meetings and discussions are going well. Mr. Moore encouraged staff of other cities in Fulton County to gather up in support.

2. Atlanta Region's Plan/RTP Update

David Haynes announced that we are in the public comment period now through January 14th. There are two Public Information Open Houses scheduled for January 14th at ARC. The Public Hearing will be held next Thursday at TAQC.

Final edits will be made following the close of public comment. On February 5th the plan will be presented to TCC for approval. The TIP will go to GRTA for approval in March.

Two things that will be different in the final version: (1) discussion on the FAST Act will be inserted; (2) the fiscal component will be updated.

Discussion was held on how the toll fees to be collected from the managed lanes will be used. Matthew Fowler, GDOT, responded that the funds will go mainly towards maintenance and operations, as the managed lanes are not expected to pay for themselves.

Discussion was held on how the FAST Act will affect the budget. It was noted that the most significant change will be that freight funding now has a dedicated funding source.

3. Atlanta Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan Recommendations

The Walk. Bike. Thrive! Atlanta Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will be brought for action to TCC on February 5th as well as RTP.

Byron Rushing presented on the plan, noting that the plan centered on addressing two questions: (1) how do we capitalize on the region's success; and, (2) how do we address the region's challenges?

The plan is broken into 3 components: Recommendations, Assessment of Regional Travel Patterns and Existing Conditions, and Public Input Report. All three components are available at <http://atlantaregional.com/transportation/bicycle--pedestrian>.

Rushing highlighted the public input process, such as formal meetings and the intercept surveys throughout the region. Various perspectives were captured throughout the region.

The recommendations in the plan are organized by regional and local emphasis. This approach allows for better evaluation of what areas are best suited for investment for federal dollars vs local dollars.

John Orr emphasized that this not a project level plan because that would be better suited for CTPs. The plan serves as policy document. Next year, ARC will be looking at the RTP to assess how bicycle and pedestrian projects are being captured for federal dollars and if that can be improved.

4. Overview of the FAST Act

John Orr provided an overview of the FAST Act and how it will impact the region. It is a 5 year authorization bill that includes \$305 billion for highways and transit programs. This is the first multi-year transportation authorization since 2005.

Georgia will see about a 14.7% increase through 2020. Important to note, highway funds in FY15 and FY16 increase by 4-5% and each year after will be smaller but continued growth through FY2020. FTA funds will also be increasing over time, which will be a change for the region.

The National Highway Performance Program will receive most of the funding. The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, previously STP-Urban funds, will increase over the life of the bill, as well as safety and CMAQ funding. \$206 million was allotted for National Freight Program, which is a new program. The TAP program was frozen at existed funding levels.

The Nationally Significant Freight & Highway Projects Program will be administered through an application process for freight related projects of national significance. \$4.5 billion has been allotted over 5 years in this program. Applicants can be states, MPOs, combo of states, etc.

Transit will have a 20% increase in New Starts in 2016 then flat through 2020. The federal match has been decreased from 80% to 60% which is in step with what has been happening in practice. Buses and bus facilities program funding increases by 62.5%.

There was continued emphasis on project delivery and environmental streamlining. ARC is ahead of the curve a bit here. One such provision allows states to substitute their environmental laws for NEPA. Georgia DOT is looking at what this would mean for the state.

There was discussion and clarification as to whether the increase in the buses/bus facilities problem will be allocated by formula. It will be a formula fund though there will be some discretionary component.

A question was also asked if ARC knows and can disclose which counties are looking to seek the Transportation Act SPLOST option. Currently Fulton and DeKalb County are discussing the potential option. These are the only two counties that qualify in 2016; the rest will have to wait until 2017. DeKalb can also look at amending its HOST.

5. Announcements

- FTA Sections 5307, 5337, 5339 Regional Suballocation Policy Development – January 22nd 2016 10:00 a.m.
- The Atlanta Region's Plan Open House – January 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- The Atlanta Region's Plan Public Hearing – January 14th at 10:30 am
- Meeting times will change – TAQC from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. RTC will be meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- Jane Hayes, Director for Center of Livable Communities will be retiring. Mike Alexander has been appointed as the new Director and will begin transitioning into the role beginning February 1st in anticipation of Jane's March departure.

Handouts supplied at meeting:

- Atlanta Region's Plan/RTP Highlights

Handouts supplied in advance on ARC website (www.atlantaregional.com/tcc)

- Agenda + Presentations