

Atlanta Regional Commission Invites Public Comment on Amendment #1 to the FY 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) will open a public review and comment period on October 1, 2012 for an amendment to be made to the region's FY 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The TIP is the mechanism by which federal, state and local funds are approved for all significant transportation projects and programs in the region. The FY 2012-2017 TIP comprises the first six years of the Atlanta region's long range PLAN 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP provides a blueprint to guide the region's transportation decisions and must cover a minimum of 20 years. As the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for an 18-county* region, ARC is responsible for developing and updating the TIP and RTP to meet federal planning requirements and address local needs. By definition, an amendment to the TIP also constitutes an amendment to the RTP.

The purposes of this amendment are to:

- document the technical analysis that confirms the region's current long range transportation plan is in conformity with new federal clean air requirements.
- incorporate scope changes to six projects which have occurred as they proceed through the design and engineering process, to ensure that environmental clearances are not delayed and the projects can stay on schedule.
- address other programming issues of a time-sensitive nature on a limited number of other projects
- lay the foundation for a plan update in 2013 which will incorporate updated assumptions on long-term growth and revenue.

The amendment will involve a new air quality conformity determination by the United States Department of Transportation on the FY 2012-2017 TIP and 2040 RTP. The most recent previous

conformity determination on the TIP and RTP was made on September 6, 2011.

A full copy of the proposed list of changes is available on the ARC website at www.atlantaregional.com/tip or by calling (404) 463-3272.

The public review and comment period will run through October 30, 2012. ARC must receive comments prior to midnight on this date in order to be considered in the official record of comments. A summary of all comments received during the period and responses to those comments will be presented to ARC's technical and policy committees and the ARC Board for their consideration before taking action on the amendment.

Opportunities for review and comment on the amendment will be on the Transportation Improvement Program website: www.atlantaregional.com/tip. There, the public can find detailed tables of changes as well as the conformity determination report to be submitted to the US Department of Transportation and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The website will provide a mechanism for the public to provide comment. The public can also provide comment verbally at 404-463-3272 or by fax at 404-463-3254 or through TTY at 404-463-3272. If the public needs special assistance in understanding the contents of this amendment, please call ARC at 404-463-3272.

The ARC TIP public involvement process is being used to satisfy the public participation requirements of Section 9 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC Section 5307) for ARC, CATS, CCT, Douglas County Rideshare, Gwinnett Transit, Henry County Transit, MARTA, Spalding County, and Xpress. These Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements pertain to public involvement in the development of the Program of Transit Projects (POP) proposed for funding under the FTA Section Urbanized Area Formula Program. The FY 2013 POP is included in the proposed amended FY 2012-2017 TIP. If there are no comments received or changes made, this draft application for federal fiscal year 2012-2017 Program of Transit Projects will become the final application.

Please address your written comments on the proposed amendment to:

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Fax: (404) 463-3254
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All other inquiries related to the regional transportation planning process should be addressed to Judith Dovers, Atlanta Regional Commission, transportation@atlantaregional.com or (404) 463-3272.

*Barrow (partial), Bartow (partial), Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton (partial), Paulding, Rockdale, Spalding (partial), and Walton (partial).