



**DATE:** December 8, 2021

**ISSUE SUMMARY:      Approval of 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report**

**FROM:**      Keri Stevens, Community Development Group

**IMPORTANCE:**

Federal regulations require ARC, as an Economic Development District (EDD), to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years and provide an Annual Report. The current CEDS was approved in 2017 and is known as CATLYST Regional Competitiveness Strategy.

The CEDS brings together the public, private, non-profit and education sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. A CEDS must be the result of a continuing economic development planning process developed with broad-based and diverse public and private sector participation and must set forth the goals and objectives necessary to solve the economic development problems of the region and clearly define the metrics of success. The 2021 CEDS Annual Report outlines the implementation measures and successes pursuant to the CATLYST Strategic Framework.

There are no statutory or regulatory changes to the 2017 CEDS.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approval of the 2021 CEDS Annual Report is recommended.

**RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
TO APPROVE AND SUBMIT THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY (CEDS) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ADMINISTRATION**

**WHEREAS**, since 1952 the Atlanta Regional Commission has developed and adopted regional plans for the Atlanta region; and

**WHEREAS**, The Region's Plan addresses the comprehensive needs for the eleven-county area; and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and associated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the eighteen county area, and

**WHEREAS**, ARC developed a regional unified plan and strategic vision for The Region's Plan and has sought comprehensive approaches to accommodate economic and population growth sustainably in the Atlanta region during the next 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, ARC seeks to improve the region's quality of life, improve and maintain infrastructure, support job creation and economic progress for all areas of metro Atlanta;

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce has designated ARC as the Economic Development District for the eleven-county region;

**WHEREAS**, the EDA requires ARC as an Economic Development District to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region every 5 years and provide an Annual Report;

**WHEREAS**, during 2017, ARC completed the required CEDS, known as CATLYST Regional Competitiveness Strategy, which convened regional partners to implement the Regional Competitiveness Strategy through a collaborative process that brought together multiple stakeholders in the public, private and non-profit sectors;

**WHEREAS**, the final CATLYST Strategy supports the goals of The Region's Plan and meets the federal Economic Development Administration's requirements for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS);

**WHEREAS**, the EDA requires the Board to approve and submit a CEDS Annual Report;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission supports the CEDS Annual Report for the CATLYST Regional Competitiveness Strategy for submission to the Economic Development Administration.