



December 14, 2022

Joint Meeting of the Transportation & Air Quality Committee and ARC

Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQC) Hears First Read of ARC Regional Safety Strategy

The Atlanta region's Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQC) heard a first read of the Regional Safety Strategy, which will guide ARC and its partners in proactively achieving safety goals and building a safe transportation system for all users in the Atlanta region. The Regional Safety Strategy aims to advance safety in a unified way, shift toward a more proactive approach, and address rising severe crash trends and maximize impact of increased funding.

The strategy proposes a "Safe System" approach that changes processes and practices. For example, the traditional approach aims to prevent crashes, improve human behavior, control speeding, and act reactively based on crash history. The Safe System approach aims to prevent death and serious injuries, design for human mistakes and limitations, reduce speeds, and proactively identify and address risks.

More information:

- ARC Presentation: [ARC's Regional Safety Strategy](#)
- [Regional Safety Resolution](#)
- [Regional Safety Strategy](#) – Plan Document

TAQC, ARC Board Approve TIP Amendment #6

The Atlanta Regional Commission Board and Transportation & Air Quality Committee each approved an update to the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that allocates \$235 million in federal funds for 77 transportation projects across metro Atlanta.

The list includes 35 roadway improvements, 25 bicycle-pedestrian trails, eight transit projects, and nine planning studies. The projects require a local match of at least 20% and were selected through a collaborative solicitation process designed to meet the priorities of local communities and improve mobility in the Atlanta region.

More information:

- ARC Presentation: [The Atlanta Region's Plan TIP/RTP Amendment #6](#)
- [ARC Resolution](#)

ARC Board, TAQC Approve Unified Planning Work Program

The Atlanta Regional Commission Board and Transportation & Air Quality Committee each approved the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which details the planning priorities facing the Atlanta metropolitan planning area and describes all anticipated metropolitan transportation and transportation-related air quality planning activities. The UPWP is developed cooperatively with the state, public transit operators and other planning partners.

- [UPWP Presentation](#)
- [UPWP Issue Summary & Resolution](#)
- [UPWP Plan](#)

ARC Board Approves Update to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The ARC Board approved an update to the region's [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (CEDS), which aims to foster economic prosperity across metro Atlanta, with an emphasis on equity, resiliency, and addressing the needs of the region's underserved communities. The Atlanta Regional Commission, which serves as the federal Economic Development District for the 11-county region, updates the CEDS every five years. The CEDS update includes the following goals:

- Position equity as the foundation for regional and local economic development initiatives
- Foster business innovation by supporting the development of small and mid-sized businesses
- Ensure the global and national competitiveness of the regional economy
- Build on previous CEDS successes to promote the economic resiliency and prosperity of all residents, with a renewed focus on equity

More information:

- [CEDS Presentation](#)
- [CEDS Annual Report](#)
- [CEDS Issue Summary & Resolution](#)

ARC Board Honors Lois Ricci, Co-Chair of ARC's Advisory Committee on Aging

The ARC Board adopted a resolution honoring the life of Dr. Lois J. Ricci, long-time advisor to the Atlanta Regional Commission and co-chair of the ARC Advisory Committee on Aging, who passed away on November 4, 2022. The Advisory Committee on Aging requested the resolution honoring Dr. Ricci's impactful life and her service to ARC.

- [ARC Resolution](#)

ARC Board Approves 2023 Budget and Work Program

The ARC Board adopted the 2023 Budget and Work Program. The 2023 budget is set at \$113.2 million and includes the following strategic initiatives:

- Implement the first phase of a comprehensive performance management structure linking programmatic and department-level metrics to organizational outcomes.
- Pursue supplemental funding opportunities and working with state partners to ensure matching funding amounts are sufficient to leverage federal resources.
- Establish a fully staffed Office of General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer and a new purchasing unit.
- Identify, lead, and pursue funding opportunities associated with the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act.
- Conduct a new Compensation and Equity Study.

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)
- [Issue Summary & Resolution](#)
- [2023 Budget & Work Program](#)

Presentation on Climate Change in Metro Atlanta and Georgia

Dr. Marshall Shepherd, Director of the Atmospheric Sciences Program at the University of Georgia, delivered a presentation on “Georgia, Climate Change, and an Evolving Metro Atlanta.”

He talked about changing weather patterns over time – what was extreme temperatures in the 1950s are average today. He also discussed the need to update and strengthen our infrastructure: Rainstorms are heavier today, but our storm water infrastructure is often designed for 1950s strength.

As a nation, Dr. Shepherd said we’ve moved from an “is this happening” mindset to a “what’s going on” discussion. We’re seeing more extreme cold and heat events, more extreme droughts, and heavier rain fall, he said. Climate is changing in part because of us. Hope, or let’s wait and see, is no longer a viable risk mitigation and resiliency strategy.

