



DATE: October 11, 2023

ISSUE SUMMARY: **USDOT Report - 2023 Quadrennial Certification of the
Atlanta Transportation Management Area (TMA)
Planning Process**

FROM: Mike Mason, Chair, Transportation & Air Quality Committee

IMPORTANCE:

As the MPO for a 20-county region, ARC must meet all federal metropolitan transportation planning processes. Every four years, the agency is subject to a review by USDOT to determine if those requirements are being met.

USDOT has completed the Certification Review Report and no corrective actions were identified. The planning process has been certified for another four years. ARC received several commendations for outstanding work. Several recommendations were also made to strengthen certain aspects of the agency's work and all are either already being addressed or will be addressed at the appropriate point in the next plan development cycle.

USDOT staff presented an overview of the process and key findings to TAQC and the Commission at a joint session on October 11, 2023. ARC staff provided multiple briefings to TCC throughout the process.

USDOT does not require official approval of the report by the MPO to complete the certification process. This resolution acknowledges receipt of the report by the Commission and represents a commitment to implement its recommendations.

ACTION REQUIRED: ARC acceptance



**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE USDOT REPORT- “2023
QUADRENNIAL CERTIFICATION OF THE ATLANTA
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) PLANNING
PROCESS”**

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is a Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission created pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-80, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 50-8-93 designates such a commission to be the planning agency for comprehensive transportation planning under the administrative requirements of the United States Department of Transportation; and

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

WHEREAS, the Atlanta MPO area comprises a population greater than 200,000, which classifies it as a Transportation Management Area (TMA); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 134(k); and 49 U.S.C. 5303(k), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must jointly certify the metropolitan transportation planning process in TMAs at least every four years; and

WHEREAS, the certification review consists of three primary activities: an advance review of planning products provided by the MPO, a site visit, and preparation of a Certification Review Report that summarizes the process and offers findings; and

WHEREAS, ARC provided all requested planning products to FHWA and FTA on February 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the site visit was conducted on May 23-25, 2023, was attended dozens of ARC staff over the three-day period, and also included the opportunity for policy officials to meet with the review team to offer their insight; and

WHEREAS, a draft report was provided to ARC on August 21, 2023, and staff reviewed and provided comments to the review team on August 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a final report was provided to ARC on September 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the report states that ARC is meeting all the federal metropolitan transportation planning requirements, with no corrective actions identified, and is certified for another four years; and

WHEREAS, the report also commends for ARC for several initiatives and procedures which represent a national best practice; and

WHEREAS, the report also makes several recommendations to continue strengthening ARC's work in certain areas; and

WHEREAS, ARC staff and officials were provided a briefing of the report on October 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the report provides a fair and thorough assessment of ARC's work, and the recommendations therein offer helpful and actionable insight;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission accepts the Certification Review Report, as attached; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission directs the staff to implement the recommendations of the report and provide the Commission with periodic updates on the progress made.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on October 11, 2023.

Charissa White-Fulks, ARC Executive Assistant/Assistant Board Secretary