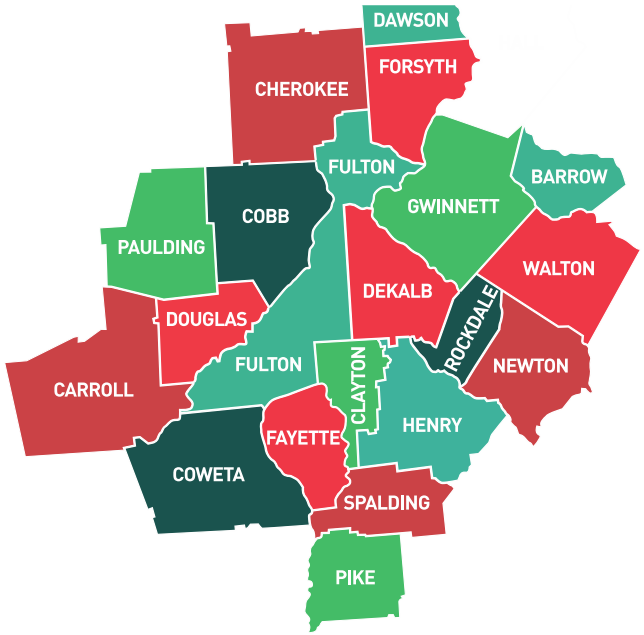
Overview of the Federal Transportation Planning Process



John Orr
Manager, Transportation Access and Mobility Group

Goals for Today's Discussion…

- What is a "metropolitan planning organization?"
- What is the role of Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC)?
- What are some the primary tasks we collectively work together on?

Note: Very high-level overview provided today. We will follow-up with members individually to provide a more comprehensive overview and to introduce key staff from ARC and other agencies (such as GDOT).

ARC

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

- The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) required by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, which formed an MPO for any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000.
- Every "urbanized area" over 50,000 in the nation has an MPO for regional transportation planning.
- ARC is designated by the Governor and the region's elected officials as the MPO for the Atlanta region.
- **GDOT, transit operators and any government in the Atlanta region cannot receive federal transportation funds unless federal planning requirements are met**.
- These transportation regulations and laws are periodically updated in transportation reauthorization bills: Current bill is called "FAST Act."

ARC

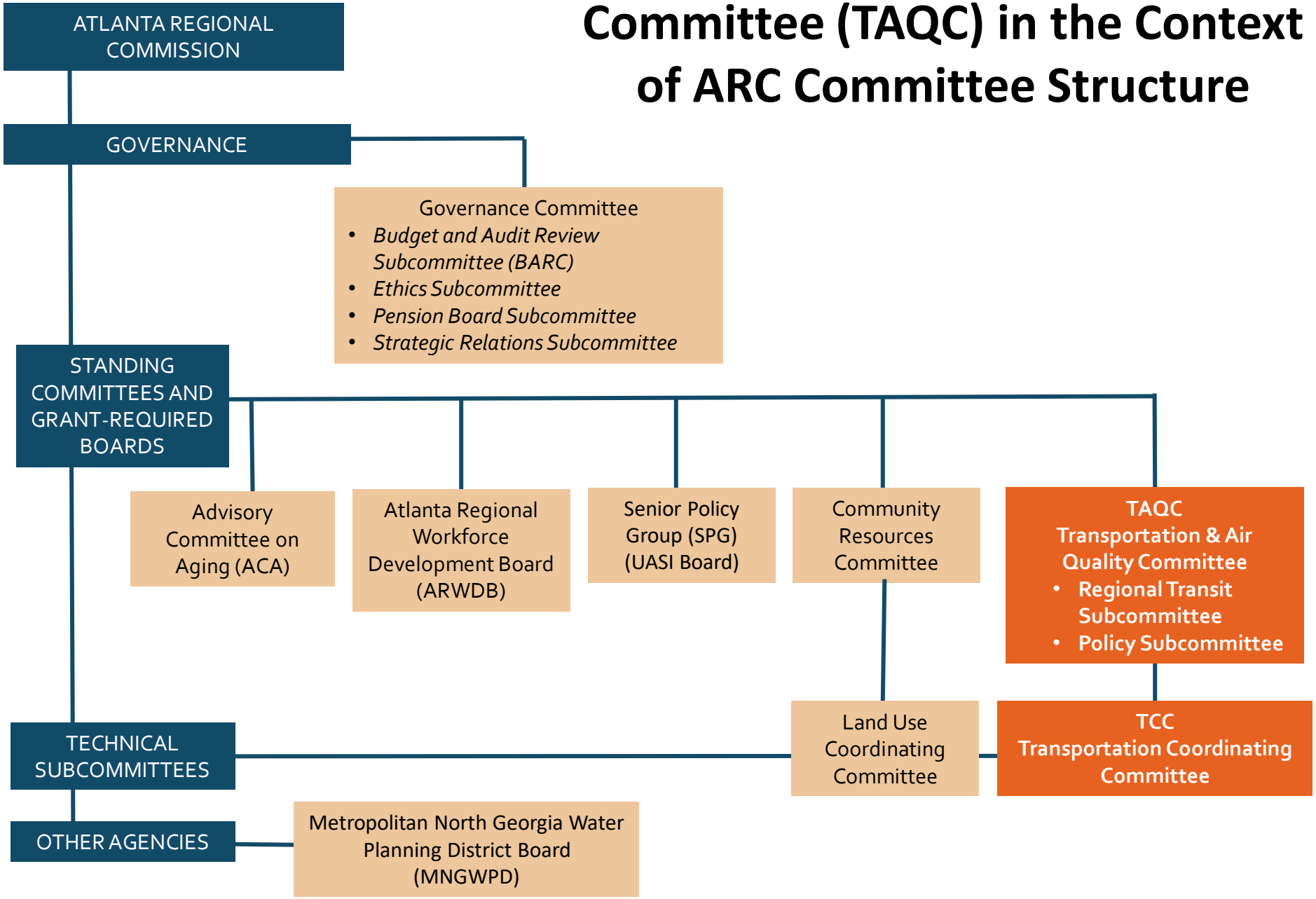
The MPO Includes All, or Parts, of 20 Counties

What are some of the primary roles of the Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC)?

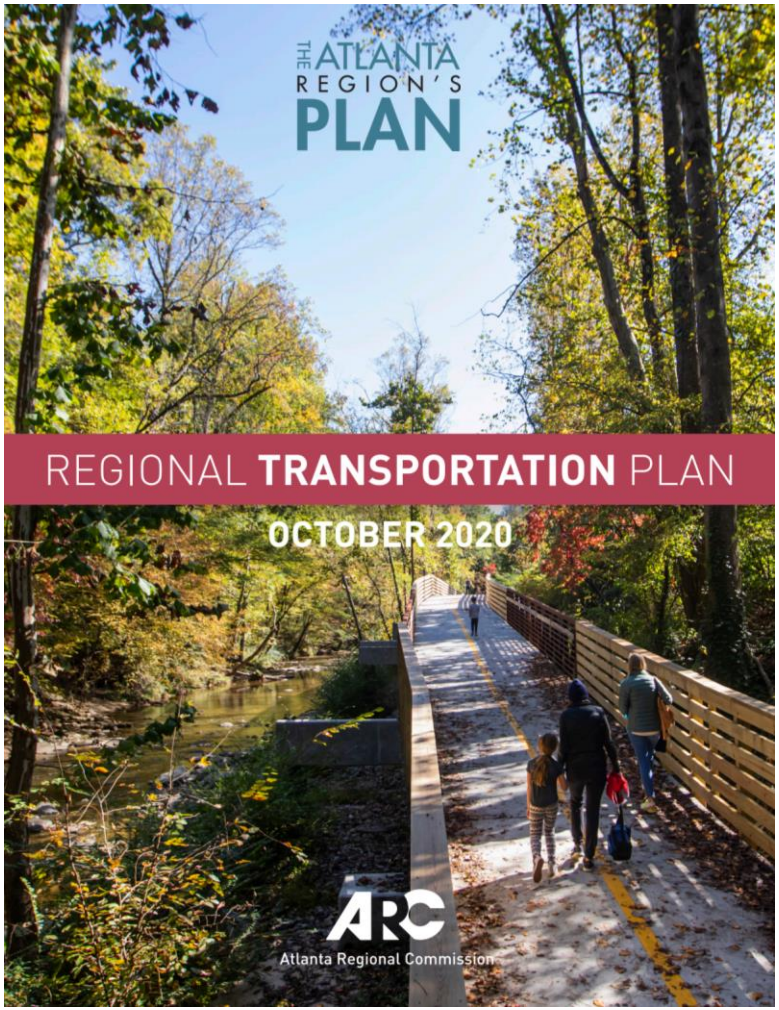
- Review and approve the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including all modes of transportation:
  - Have a minimum 20-year time horizon
  - Must be "financially constrained." The plan cannot have more in project costs than are forecast to be available.
  - Cannot violate federal air quality requirements.
- Maintain a shorter-range (4-6 year) Transportation Improvement Program. This is similar to the Capital Improvement Programs that local governments have for budgetary purposes.
- Approve an annual Unified Planning Work Program.
- <u>Monitor the impact of RTP on air quality – this is a federal requirement.</u>
- Review and take action on policies and special plans covering a wide variety of transportation topics (safety, transit expansion vision, etc.).

ARC

Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC) in the Context of ARC Committee Structure



Example TAQC Focus Area: Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)



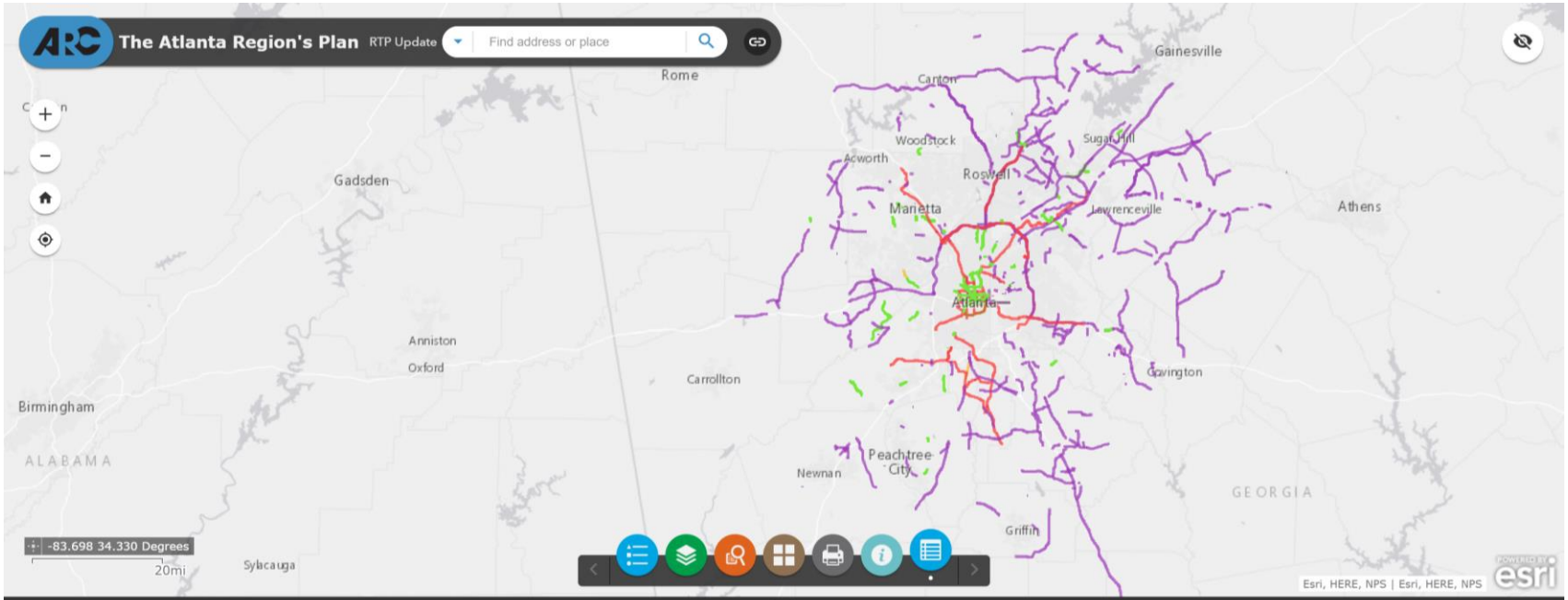
www.atlantaregional.org/rtp

OUR VISION

Atlanta is one of the world's most dynamic metropolitan areas, competing globally on the strength of our diverse population, robust economy, myriad cultural assets, and attractive lifestyles. We will **win the future** through intensive collaboration that honors and leverages the uniqueness of our communities.

- Atlanta Region's Plan Policy Framework

Projects in the Regional Transportation Plan Can Be Viewed On-line



ARC Regional Transportation Plan

Options | Filter by map extent | Zoom to | Clear selection | Refresh

ARCID	Fact Sheet PDF	Project Group	Project Type	Location	Status	Project Description	Extents	Sponsor	GDOT PI	Existing Lanes	Proposed Lanes
GW-184B	http://documents.184B.PDF	Roadway	Roadway / Interchange Capacity	Gwinnett County	Programmed	SR 316 - NEW INTERCHANGE	AT DROWNING CREEK ROAD	GDOT	13901	N/A	N/A
FT-041	http://documents.041.PDF	Roadway	Roadway / General Purpose Capacity	Forsyth County	Long Range	CROSSROADS ROAD WIDENING	FROM SR 400 TO JOT EM DOWN ROAD	Forsyth County	0	2	4

https://garc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/

Example TAQC Focus Area: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

BROWSE BY TOPIC BROWSE BY TYPE

TIP Project Solicitations

POSTED IN: TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

The Atlanta Regional Commission will hold a solicitation for TIP project funding proposals during the summer of 2019. Federal funding from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), which includes the setaside for Transportation Alternatives, ARC's Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program will be awarded to implement projects which support the goals and objectives of the Atlanta Region's Plan.

Sponsors may apply for federal funding to add new projects to the TIP, supplement funding for existing TIP projects and submit proposals for studies and related initiatives which do not result in the construction of physical infrastructure.

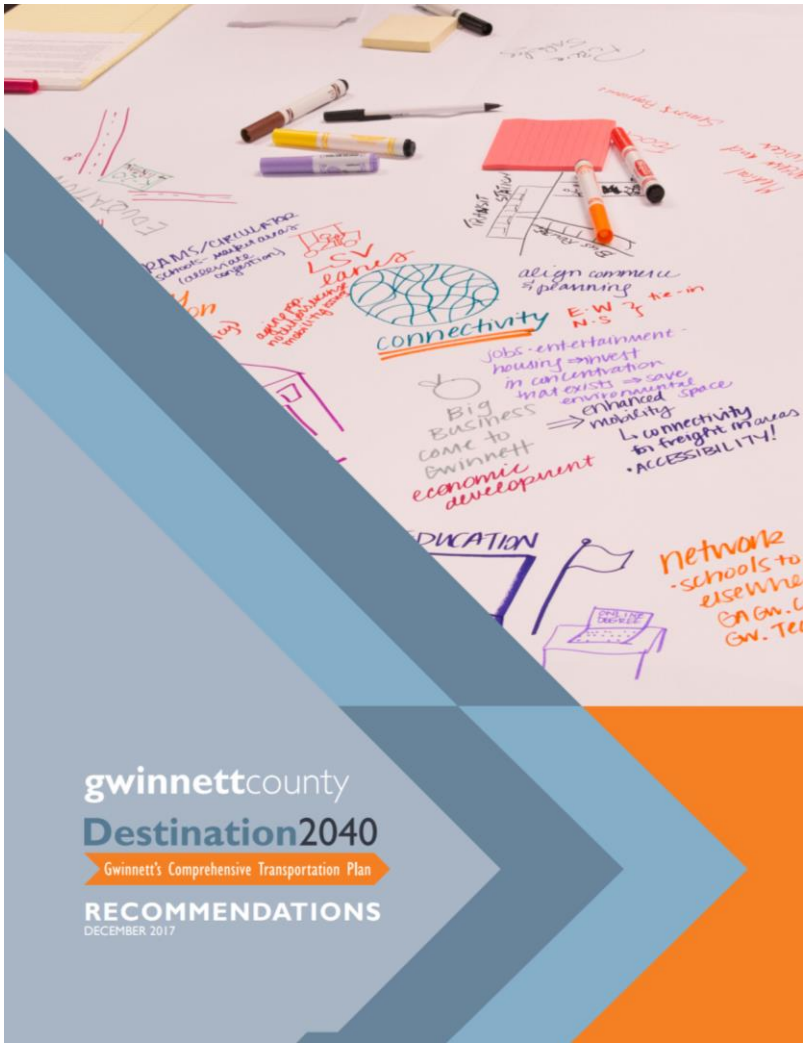
2019 TIP Solicitation – Recommendations

Initial staff funding recommendations for the 2019 TIP solicitation may be found below, organized by federal program funding category. At this time all recommendations are limited to FY 2021:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding recommendations
  - STBG-funded study recommendations

- Area of great interest to policymakers
- During a typical year there are 2-3 TIP "Amendments" and other "Administrative Modifications"
- ARC works closely with regional agencies to administer the TIP.
- GDOT, ATL, MARTA coordination is essential

Special Note About the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Programs



Moving Forward…

- Much more to follow in the future on process and discussion on transportation priorities.
- Will be contacting TAQC members or admins to schedule individual briefings on the process. Note: We normally include the TCC member for your community, as well.

Please contact me anytime:

John Orr
jorr@atlantaregional.org
Cell: 770-317-3539