



DATE: August 7, 2020

ISSUE SUMMARY: CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER GREENWAY STUDY

FROM: Mike Alexander, Director, Center for Livable Communities

IMPORTANCE:

ARC has adopted a regional vision for walking, bicycling, and trails titled *Walk. Bike. Thrive!* That plan recognizes that walking and bicycling are important for a great region and that greenway trails are a popular and accessible location for many people to travel by foot or bike. ARC has also adopted a regional trails plan, titled *Envisioning a Regional Trails Network*, that promotes regional-scale greenway trail corridors and connections.

The metropolitan Atlanta region has a long history of planning for trails, parks, and conservation along the Chattahoochee River. In 2018, Cobb County adopted a county greenway trail plan that included segments along the river. The City of Atlanta's *Atlanta City Design: Aspiring to the Beloved Community* likewise includes new river parks and greenways. And the Trust for Public Land's Chattahoochee River program has promoted greenway and conservation efforts along the river for over thirty years. Finally, ARC has managed the MRPA river protection program for decades and funded a number of local trails in jurisdictions adjacent to the river.

Given these efforts, ARC, TPL, Cobb County, and the City of Atlanta, with support from Gwinnett County and dozens of river stakeholders, came together in 2018 to craft a vision for 100-miles of connected trails, parks, and public spaces along the river. The result is the Chattahoochee River Greenway Study, titled *The Chattahoochee RiverLands*, which has been crafted to promote a seamless public realm along the river while promoting a safe and connected corridor, a common ground for everyone, an ecological refuge for the region, and a living legacy of conservation and education.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER GREENWAY STUDY**

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of 20 counties; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation states that “every transportation agency ... has the responsibility to improve conditions and opportunities for walking and bicycling”;

WHEREAS, ARC supports the implementation of a Regional Trail Network to connect communities and transportation corridors throughout metropolitan Atlanta;

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Atlanta Regional Commission adopted a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan titled “Walk. Bike. Thrive!” with recommendations to “lead the development of the regional trail system in partnership with state and local government agencies and non-profit organizations focused on trails;”

WHEREAS, the Chattahoochee River Greenway Study, titled “Chattahoochee RiverLands,” has been developed in conjunction project management leadership from the Trust for Public Land, Cobb County, and City of Atlanta, with support from Gwinnett County;

WHEREAS, the “Chattahoochee RiverLands” was developed in conjunction with dozens of river stakeholders, hundreds of public participants, and regular public forums;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the Chattahoochee River Greenway Study, titled “Chattahoochee RiverLands” as a vision for a connected greenway trail and public realm along the Chattahoochee River in the Atlanta Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARC directs staff to utilize the guidance in the “Chattahoochee RiverLands” to improve the safety and mobility of our transportation system for all users; to prioritize the goals, recommendations, and projects identified in the study; and to work with the study’s Project Management Team, Chattahoochee Working Group, and river stakeholders to implement the plan.