



ARC Board Meeting

January 10, 2024

New and Re-elected Board Members Sworn in

The Oath of Office was administered to the following ARC Board Members:

- Robert (Bob) Reeves Citizen Member, District 3
- Sara Ray, Citizen Member, District 5
- Liane Levetan, Citizen Member, District 7
- Greg Cantrell, Citizen Member, District 8
- Kerry Armstrong, Citizen Member, District 9
- Thomas (Tom) Meinhardt, Citizen Member, District 12
- Michelle Cooper Kelly, Citizen Member, District 13

Remarks from New Board Chair Andre Dickens

Chair Dickens told the board that he is humbled to take on the role leading the board as chair, especially as the first City of Atlanta Mayor to do so. He thanked former Board Chair Kerry Armstrong for his years of service to ARC and the Atlanta region.

Dickens previewed the year ahead for ARC and outlined upcoming events and several regional priorities for his two-year term as Chairman. These include:

- **Reconnecting the Region:** Work with ARC staff and local governments to best position the Atlanta region to win major federal infrastructure grants by adopting a unifying theme of 'reconnecting the region' in applications.
- **Emergency Preparedness Funding:** Seek an increase in emergency preparedness funding that the Atlanta region receives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the Urban Area Security Initiative, or UASI.
- **Health Care Access:** Address the vast disparities in ambulance response times for communities across the region, particularly in the South Metro area.

ARC BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Board Officers and Committee Appointments

The ARC Board approved Board officer and committee appointments made by Chair Andre Dickens. The appointments are:

- **ARC Officers:**
 - Vice Chair – Michael Caldwell (Mayor, City of Woodstock)
 - Secretary – Alfred John (Chair, Forsyth County Commission)
 - Treasurer – Nicole Hendrickson (Chair, Gwinnett County Commission)
- **Governance Committee:** Chair – Andre Dickens (Mayor, City of Atlanta), Vice Chair – Michael Caldwell
- **Budget and Audit Review Subcommittee:** Chair – Nicole Hendrickson; Vice Chair – Steve Stancil (Citizen Member District 15)
- **Ethics Committee:** Chair – Alfred John; Vice Chair – Lisa Cupid (Chair, Cobb County Commission)
- **Pension Board of Trustees:** Chair – Andre Dickens, Chair; Vice Chair – Michael Caldwell
- **Strategic Relations Subcommittee:** Chair – Amol Naik (Citizen Member District 4); Vice Chair – Rusty Paul (Mayor, Sandy Springs)
- **Advisory Committee on Aging:** Co-Chair – Mike Mason (Mayor, Peachtree Corners); Co-Chair – Govind Hariharan (non-ARC member)
- **Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board:** Co-Chair – Sara Ray (Citizen Member District 5; Co-Chair – Randy Hayes (non-ARC member)
- **Community Resources Committee:** Chair – Patti Garret (Mayor, City of Decatur); Vice Chair – Jeff Turner (Chair, Clayton County Commission)
- **Transportation & Air Quality Committee:** Chair – Carlotta Harrell (Chair, Henry County Commission); Vice-Chair – Harry Johnston (Chair, Cherokee County Commission)
- **Urban Area Security Initiative/Senior Policy Group:** Chair – Andre Dickens; Vice Chair – Lisa Cupid

More information:

- [ARC 2024 Officers and Committees List](#) (pdf)

2024 Board Calendar

The ARC Board approved the 2024 calendar, which sets the dates of annual meetings of the Board and standing committees.

- [2024 ARC Board Calendar](#) (pdf)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ARC Executive Director & CEO Anna Roach provided highlights of the agency's work in 2023. This included:

- Conducting a major update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Setting a record for the amount of discretionary federal funding sought; the agency has received \$70 million in transportation grants already and is waiting to hear about other applications.
- Conducting a highly successful full-scale UASI exercise to coordinate response from agencies across the region.
- Receiving a \$500K grant to conduct for health access study.
- Becoming the first MPO in the nation to flex transportation funding for workforce development. The program is still in initial phase, but we have identified \$1.2M to invest in the initiative, called Building Georgia.
- Developing our 2023 population estimate for the 11-county Atlanta region.
- Attracting more than 225 experts to health care and workforce summits.
- Refreshing our agency website to reflect this board's mission, vision and goals.

BOARD DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

ARC Recognizes Seven Green Communities for Commitment to Sustainability

The Atlanta Regional Commission announced that DeKalb County and the cities of Alpharetta, Brookhaven, Dunwoody, Johns Creek, Peachtree Corners, and Sandy Springs have been certified through the agency's [Green Communities Program](#) for demonstrating leadership in sustainability practices.

ARC developed the Green Communities Program in 2009 to certify local governments that invest in programs and policies that lead to a more sustainable region. The nationally recognized program showcases the many ways that local governments can reduce their environmental footprint.

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)
- [News Release](#)

A Regional Approach to Climate Action

Jon Philipsborn, Climate & Resilience Manager at ARC, delivered a presentation about the agency's climate & resilience work. The Climate & Resilience program comes amid two major trends that are occurring in the region: more extreme weather events (flash floods, intense rain events, extreme heat days), and an energy transformation that is underway driven by electrification.

Another major trend that is driving the work is an increase in federal funding available for climate action. This includes \$4.6B from the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. ARC has secured \$3 million already and has requests for another \$70 million in the pipeline, Philipsborn said.

As part of the agency's climate work, an Energy and Climate Council has been created that includes five ARC Board members: Lisa Cupid, Mark Mason, Patti Garrett, Amol Naik, and Tom Meinhart.

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)

2024 Legislative Outlook

John Bayalis, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, briefed the board on the outlook for the 2024 Georgia legislative session. He detailed legislation that ARC is watching in areas including aging services, housing, emergency services transportation, freight & logistics, MARTA, and workforce development.

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)

Aging: Live Beyond Expectations Update

Becky Kurtz, Senior Managing Director of Aging & Independence Services, provided an update on the Live Beyond Expectations planning effort, which focuses on disparities in life expectancy in the Atlanta region. Since 2020, the agency has been taking a deep dive into better

understanding low life expectancy in the region, focusing on 10 Census tracts, one in each of the 10 counties in the Atlanta Area Agency on Aging.

Kurtz detailed a robust public engagement process conducted to inform the planning effort, which included focus groups, webinars with elected officials, and stakeholder listening sessions. Top concerns that emerged include affordable housing, transportation, and community activities.

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)