



**January 11, 2023**

#### **Fayetteville Mayor Edward Johnson Sworn in as ARC Member**

City of Fayetteville Mayor Edward Johnson took the oath of office as a new board member of the Atlanta Regional Commission. He is the Fayette County mayoral representative, succeeding Tyrone Mayor Eric Dial.

#### **Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQC) Approves ARC Regional Safety Strategy**

The Atlanta region's Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQC) approved 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

### **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Preview**

John Orr, Director of Transportation Planning at ARC, delivered a presentation about a major update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update taking place through January 2024. The MTP will program about \$173 billion in transportation funding in metro Atlanta through 2050. ARC is required to update the MTP every four years, providing an opportunity for regional policymakers to reset regional policy and priorities. The previous major update was approved in 2020.

The MTP update will reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has greatly affected how we live and work in metro Atlanta. A board work session is scheduled in April to discuss alternative future scenarios and potential regional disruptors.

A discussion followed. Comments included:

- Concerns that workforce shortage was impacting construction projects, which may impact timing and cost of projects.
- Need to build in flexibility because of the rise of remote work, which is having a dramatic impact on where people live and work.
- Need conversations around crime and how that will impact economic prosperity and growth.
- Metrics should include 'leading indicators' that contribute to success, such as transit ridership and density of development.

More information:

- ARC Presentation: [Metropolitan Transportation Plan \(MTP\) Update](#)

### **Urbanized Area Briefing**

John Orr, Director of Transportation Planning at ARC, delivered a presentation about changes the U.S. Census has made to the Atlanta Urbanized Area, which is based on the 2020 Census results. The change is based on housing density and other factors and forms the basis of the multi-county MPO planning area. The Atlanta urban area population has increased from 4,515,419 in 2010 to 4,999,259 in 2020. The precise urban area boundary has not been released but is expected later in January.

- ARC Presentation: [Metropolitan Planning Area \(MPA\) Changes](#)

### **IIJA Update**

John Orr, Director of Transportation Planning at ARC, provided an update of ARC activities related to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). He outlined the strategic goals of the initiative, which include:

- Providing ARC with the structure, process and information to drive regional benefit from IIJA grant opportunities.
- Helping ARC to promote and incentivize regional coordination.
- Providing local jurisdictions with the information to be effective in grant applications.
- Demonstrating and improving ARC's value to the region.

The presentation included a discussion of how the federal government prioritizes competitive grant applications and a look ahead at some of the key grants being released in coming months. A key date is Feb. 28, when Raise Grant applications are due.

- ARC Presentation: [IIJA Update](#)

### **Local Governments Recognize for Green Communities Certification**

ARC recognized six local governments for certifying through the agency's Green Communities program for demonstrating leadership in sustainability practices. The 2022 honorees are:

- **City of Chamblee** – Upgraded to Platinum
- **City of Decatur** – Recertified Platinum
- **City of Suwanee** – Upgraded to Silver
- **Cherokee County** – Upgraded to Silver
- **Fulton County** – Upgraded to Gold
- **Gwinnett County** – Recertified Platinum

More information:

- ARC News Release: [ARC Recognizes Six Green Communities for Continued Commitment to Sustainability](#)