



Joint ARC Board and Transportation & Air Quality Meeting

October 11, 2023

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Complete Quadrennial Certification Report **(Joint Discussion/Information Item; ARC Board Action)**

Jared Lombard, a community planner with the FHWA, shared that the FHWA and FTA completed a joint certification review for the Atlanta Regional Commission's metropolitan transportation planning process. No corrective actions were identified. ARC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for metro Atlanta, is subject to this review every four years. The review included a site visit.

The federal review team issued recommendations for improvements around the following products and processes: Transportation Improvement Program, congestion mitigation process, participation plan, Title VI and ADA, and MPO agreements and structures.

The review team commended ARC's efforts develop the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act resource database to assist communities in identifying opportunities for funding. The team also commended ARC for its use of data visualization, dashboards, and plan graphics to ensure that elected officials and the public understand complex issues and actions in the Atlanta region.

The ARC Board approved a motion to accept the FHWA Quadrennial Certification Report.

More information:

- [FHWA Certification Presentation](#)
- [FHWA Certification Issue Summary and Resolution](#)

Georgia Mobility and Accessibility Planner (G-MAP) **(Joint Discussion/Information Item)**

Kofi Wakhisi, a planning administrator in ARC's Transportation and Mobility Department, discussed the Georgia Mobility and Accessibility Planner (G-MAP). G-MAP is a mobile trip planning app being developed through a grant provided through USDOT's ITS4US-Complete Trip Deployment Program.

Through G-MAP, users receive customized turn-by-turn travel directions based on their specific disability or travel needs. The app will initially be deployed in Gwinnett County. The ITS4US research technology project is administered by ITS JPO (Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office).

Jordan Hall of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia shared that it will benefit underserved communities, people with disabilities, older adults, limited English proficiency (LEP) communities, low-income populations, and individuals with more than one type of disability.

The app provides key trip information, such as whether a sidewalk has curb cuts, to enable independent travel. More information:

- [G-MAP Fact Sheets](#)
- [Georgia Mobility and Accessibility Planner \(G-MAP\)](#)

Joint First Read on Unified Planning Work Program **(Joint First Read)**

ARC Planning Administrator David Haynes, shared information on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). ARC prepares the UPWP each year to document metropolitan transportation planning activities performed with federal, state, and local transportation funds in the 20-county metropolitan transportation planning area.

The UPWP is developed in cooperation with the state, local governments, and public transportation operators and is designed to broaden the MPO's awareness of activities and plans that impact surface transportation. It also helps ensure that planned improvements are based on a common set of existing conditions and forecasts and that all key decisions affecting growth and development within the metropolitan area are coordinated, thus lessening the potential for duplicative or conflicting planning efforts of partner agencies.

The UPWP was posted for informal review and comment October 27 and will be brought to the board in November as an agenda item and taken to USDOT for approval. Highlights of the 2024 work program include:

- Completion and adoption of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (and the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Completion of an update to the Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan.
- Completion of the first phase of the Regional Electrification Plan (RTEP).
- Completion of an update to the regional Human Services Transportation (HST) Plan.

More information:

- [UPWP Draft Work Program](#)
- [TAQC UPWP Update](#)
- [UPWP and 5303 Issue Summary and Resolution](#)

Nominations Open for ARC Board Chair and Citizen District Representatives

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens was nominated for ARC Board Chair and accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received for the two-year term, which starts on Jan. 1, 2024. There will be additional opportunity for nominations in November, and candidates will be able to address the board.

Nominations are also being accepted for ARC citizen board members in districts 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, and 13. Board member Robb Pitts, the Fulton County Commission Chair, will hold a caucus of publicly elected board members to elect members to represent those districts for two-year terms that begin on Jan. 1, 2024. Members were asked to send nominations to ARC Board Secretary Charissa White-Fulks.

Executive Director's Report

Anna Roach, ARC Executive Director & CEO, briefed the board on agency activities. This included:

- The development of a new **performance management model**, which is being developed with support from Accenture and ARC's Human Resources Department. The new performance management model will be aligned with the agency's new strategic framework and individual department's KPI's and MIPs.
- An **employee engagement survey** was conducted this past summer to gauge employee satisfaction. Roach noted the high level of employee participation (87%) and several bright

spots, including 87% satisfaction among employees who have been at ARC less than a year and 78.5% overall satisfaction. To address concerns, a management action plan has been developed that may include a parental leave policy, funding to offset a portion of employee transportation costs, and a way for employees to present ideas and have them heard by senior leadership.

- The 2023 **LINK trip** to Montreal enabled metro Atlanta leaders to learn about the Montreal region, including the area's robust climate resilience efforts.
- The ARC website is being refreshed to make sure our new goals are highlighted and make the site more user-friendly and informative. The updates will be launched in late October.
- A snapshot of agency finances as of September 23.

More information:

- [Executive Director's Report](#)
- [Employee Survey Presentation](#)
- [ARC Site Update Presentation](#)

Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA) Corridor Plan Amendment Update (ARC Board Discussion/Information Item)

Jim Santo, a principal planner in natural resources at ARC, shared a staff proposal to add an amendment to the Chattahoochee Corridor Plan to exempt public water supply reservoir dams from a 35-foot height limit in the river 500-year floodplain. The exemption requires public hearings in each county. These have been scheduled and ads have been placed.

- [Revised Chattahoochee Corridor Plan Amendments Issues and Resolution](#)