



DATE: December 14, 2022

ISSUE SUMMARY: REGIONAL SAFETY STRATEGY

FROM: Mike Mason, Chair, Transportation & Air Quality Committee

IMPORTANCE:

The Atlanta Regional Commission's **Regional Safety Strategy** (RSS) is a safety action plan that establishes a regional approach to eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes that is data-informed, pro-active, and aggressive. The **RSS** offers guidance for regional funding priorities and local decision making, identifying high risk roadways, and infrastructure solutions to address safety issues.

Federal legislation and rulemaking under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires performance management targets that encourage state DOTs and MPOs to focus the use of federal transportation funds on projects which address national transportation safety goals. The ARC board has directed staff to investigate the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the metropolitan region and recommend an appropriate course of action for the agency to follow in improving safety outcomes in our transportation system for all users, with the long-term goal of eliminating in fatalities and serious injuries.

The **RSS** expands previous regional plans by determining regional safety focus areas, establishing a Vision Zero goal within a Safe System framework, promoting evidence-based countermeasures, providing guidance on determining future federal performance targets, and informing regional funding priorities.

ACTION REQUIRED: First Read



A Resolution Adopting the Regional Safety Strategy

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is a Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission created pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-80, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 50-8-93 designates such a commission to be the planning agency for comprehensive transportation planning under the administrative requirements of the United States Department of Transportation; and

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, federal law requires metropolitan transportation planning agencies to “provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will ... increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users”;

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, as an MPO, the Atlanta Regional Commission is required to set annual safety performance targets in coordination with the state DOT for expected roadway fatalities and serious injuries on public roadways

WHEREAS, ARC supports the implementation of “safe system” principles and proven safety countermeasures on every roadway and with any project receiving federal funds;

WHEREAS, the ARC board has directed staff to “recommend an appropriate course of action for the agency to follow in improving safety outcomes on our transportation system for all users”;

WHEREAS, the *Regional Safety Strategy* provides data-informed strategies to determine high-risk roadways, guidance on implementing proven safety countermeasures, proactive trends for setting performance targets, and regional priorities for MPO formula funding with the goal of reducing and eliminating fatalities and serious injuries in metropolitan Atlanta;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the attached *Regional Safety Strategy* as a policy guide for transportation safety and general transportation planning in the Atlanta Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARC directs staff to utilize the guidance in the Regional Safety Strategy to improve the safety and mobility of our transportation system for all users, set proactive safety targets for the region, prioritize funding recommendations for projects that meaningfully enhance safety outcomes, and to update the strategy periodically as needed to respond to ongoing trends and incorporate new research.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on January 11, 2023.

Charissa White-Fulks, ARC Executive Assistant/Board Secretary