



**DATE:** March 13, 2024

**ISSUE SUMMARY:      STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TARGETS**

**FROM:**      Carlotta Harrell, Transportation & Air Quality Committee

**IMPORTANCE:**

Federal legislation and rulemaking under MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) and the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) established new performance management requirements to ensure state DOTs and MPOs focus the use of federal transportation funds on projects which address national transportation goals.

GDOT is required to establish statewide targets for five safety measures on an annual basis through submittal of their state Highway Safety Improvement Program. MPOs are required to establish targets for these measures within six months, with the deadline for the 2024 targets being February 27, 2024. MPOs may establish targets by either: 1) agreeing to plan and program projects which contribute toward the accomplishment of the state DOT targets, or 2) committing to a separate quantifiable target for their planning area.

As with the 2023 targets, ARC agrees to support the accomplishment of the 2024 statewide safety targets established by GDOT. ARC will also set region-specific aspirational targets to guide funding and policy decisions. ARC also directs staff to continue conducting additional investigation into the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region with a Safe Systems approach in accordance with the ARC Regional Safety Strategy, and suggest appropriate measures to mitigate and lower serve crashes that result in fatalities and injuries within the region with a long-term goal of Vision Zero. Staff will report periodically to ARC committees and the Board on their progress and to receive additional direction on any preliminary recommendations.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approval



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

## **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TARGETS**

**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 legislation and rulemaking under MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) and the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) established new performance management requirements to ensure state Departments of Transportation (DOT) and MPOs focus the use of federal transportation funds on projects which address national transportation goals; and

**WHEREAS**, State DOTs are required to establish performance targets and assess performance in 12 areas; and

**WHEREAS**, five of the required performance targets relate to the safety of the transportation system:

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) established statewide targets for 2024 for these five measures via the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) annual report, submitted in August 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, GDOT set the statewide targets using five-year rolling averages for each measure, as required by USDOT; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 targets are to maintain the five-year rolling average below these values based on observed data from 2019-2023:

- Number of fatalities – 1,680 annually
- Rate of fatalities – 1.360 per 100 million vehicles miles traveled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries – 8,966

- Rate of serious injuries – 7.679 per 100 million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 802 annually

**WHEREAS**, MPOs are required to establish targets for these measures within their planning areas within 180 days after the state DOT establishes and reports statewide targets, and

**WHEREAS**, the 180-day deadline for ARC to establish targets is February 27, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, MPOs may establish targets by either: 1) agreeing to plan and program projects which contribute toward the accomplishment of the state DOT targets, or 2) committing to a separate quantifiable target for their planning area, and

**WHEREAS**, the numbers and rates of fatalities and serious injuries have increased in recent years and the five-year rolling averages used by GDOT anticipate a continuation of those undesirable trends, and

**WHEREAS**, the 5-year rolling averages of fatalities in the MPO region is trending upwards at 6% and serious injuries are trending upward at 10%, and

**WHEREAS**, ARC recognizes the challenges of setting statewide targets and believes it can best assist GDOT in reversing recent upward trends in overall fatalities and injuries within the MPO by identifying the causes and locations of the most critical safety issues in the Atlanta Region and focusing ARC's efforts and resources on those issues, and

**WHEREAS**, ARC will set these region-specific aspirational targets for 2024 based on a 5% reduction from the trends of observed data from 2019-2023

- Number of fatalities – 662 annually
- Rate of fatalities – 1.141 per 100 million vehicles miles traveled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries – 3,707 annually
- Rate of serious injuries – 6.373 per 100 million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 444 annually

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Atlanta Regional Commission agrees to plan and program projects and funding which contribute toward the accomplishment of statewide safety targets established by GDOT and the ARC-specific aspirational targets.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the ARC also directs staff to continue conducting additional investigation into the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region with a Safe Systems approach in accordance with the ARC Regional Safety Strategy, and suggest appropriate measures to mitigate and lower severe crashes that result in fatalities and injuries with a long-term goal of Vision Zero.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff will report periodically to ARC committees and the Board on their progress and to receive additional direction on any preliminary recommendations before a formal course of action is approved.