



Atlanta Regional Commission

## **Meeting Summary**

**Strategic Relations Committee**  
**Eric Dial, Chair**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2020**  
**1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**  
*Virtual: Microsoft Teams*  
**Atlanta Regional Commission**  
**229 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100**  
**Atlanta, GA 30303**

### **In Attendance**

**Eric Dial, Chair**  
**Julie Keeton Arnold**  
**Mike Houchard**  
**Clair Muller**  
**Bob Reeves**  
**Betty Willis**

- 1. Welcome and Public Comment** **Mayor, Eric Dial**
- 2. State of the Region Breakfast Overview** **Malika Reed Wilkins, PhD, ARC**

Dr. Wilkins provided an update on the State of the Region Breakfast plans that are underway for the annual breakfast event, scheduled for Friday, November 13. This year's theme is *Finding Courage* with key components to include:

- A virtual Coffee Hour with Talk Circle, match making and crowd sourcing
- Expo Village for SORB Sponsors and ARC programs
- Metro Atlanta Speaks Live Panel
- "Courage Chats" – Breakout Sessions
- Post SORB – Finding Our Courage Campaign and much more.

Ms. Wilkins was pleased to announce that there are three presenting sponsors, with other sponsor commitments, and that the event is shaping up nicely.

**atlantaregional.org**

International Tower  
229 Peachtree St, NE | Suite 100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

### 3. Strategic Communication Plan Update

Malika Reed Wilkins, PhD, ARC

Dr. Wilkins provided an update on the Strategic Communication's Plan. ARC has partnered with HL Strategy to develop a strategic communications plan for 2020-2025 to support and amplify the programs, projects, and products of the ARC for the benefit of metro Atlanta. The Strategic plan will help ARC improve its reach and reputation as an audience-advocate through communications that are centered on agency-wide disciplines and distributed strategically and efficiently.

### 4. Government Affairs Update

John Bayalis, ARC

John Bayalis provided an update on the legislative activities. The following topics were highlighted:

#### **FAST Act**

- Expires 9/30
- No 5-year reauthorization will move this year
- Most likely scenario is a 1-year extension at FY 20 levels
- May see WRDA get rolled into this extension as these are the two least-contentious issues now.
- WRDA passed out of House T&I Committee earlier in the summer with broad bi-partisan voice vote

#### **COVID Relief**

- Senate vote today on "skinny" relief bill (\$500B versus earlier \$1T package)
- Will not pass, will serve as a possible starting point for further negotiations with House
- Includes \$300/week unemployment benefit extension through 12/31
- PPP infusion
- Liability protections for schools, businesses, and health care
- House will still campaign for larger package that includes up to \$1T for state and local revenue shortfalls (passed HEROES in May covering \$3T+)
- White House has indicated it may be willing to go up to \$1.5T for a total package but we will have to wait and see where this all goes.

#### **Continuing Resolution/Federal Budget**

- No budget for FY 21 will emanate this year.
- Continuing Resolution is coming; probably more than one, but the first one will appear prior to 9/30 and may or may not include COVID relief
- First CR likely to go through 12/31; second will be necessary to cover the first few months of the year as whichever administration we are working with gets calibrated.

**State**

- Special Session may be convened after Election Day

**Please note: The ARC Board Meeting will be held on  
Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.