



May 11, 2022

Woodstock Mayor Michael Caldwell Sworn into ARC Board

The Atlanta Regional Commission swore in City of Woodstock Mayor Michael Caldwell, who will serve as the mayoral representative from Cherokee County. The 41-member board oversees the agency's efforts to improve quality of life in metro Atlanta and plan for the region's successful future.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – Introduction

ARC Executive Director Anna Roach provided an overview of the historic opportunity afforded to the Atlanta region by the federal \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law passed by Congress late last year. She emphasized ARC's key ongoing role in helping educate, communicate, prepare, and advise local officials about the IIJA. Upcoming opportunities include:

- Small group meetings
- Content at ConnectATL Summit in August 2022
- Regional toolkit at atlantaregional.org/iija
- ARC Webinar series, starting in June

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#) (pdf)

IIJA – National Impact

Chris Brady, president of Commonwealth Research Associates, provided a look at the IIJA's national impact. Highlights of his presentation include:

- Big transportation 'winners' are transit, which receives \$108 billion, a 64% increase in funding nationally, and passenger and freight rail, which receives \$102 billion, a 561% increase.
- Many entities, such as cities, counties, MPOs, and non-profits, are able to apply for federal funds directly, but because many lack resources to compete successfully, partnering, prioritization, and coordination is a must.
- Entities who apply for funding through the IIJA should take into account the administration's key objectives: promoting equity, climate resiliency, and workforce development.
- ARC is uniquely qualified to help position our local governments for success in discretionary program application.

More information:

- [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) Overview](#) (pdf)

IIJA – State Impact & Funding Priorities

Andrew Heath, Deputy Chief Engineer at GDOT, discussed the impact of the legislation from a statewide perspective. He said the law provides funding in four broad categories, or buckets:

- Existing formula funds
- New formula funds
- Discretionary funds
- Policy & Programs

He provided an in-depth look at new funding opportunities, including:

- The **carbon reduction formula program**, which will provide \$40.5 million a year to Georgia for uses that include traffic monitoring and management, advanced transportation and congestion management technologies, connected vehicle deployment, and transportation demand management.
- **"PROTECT" formula programs**, which provides about \$46 million a year to Georgia for projects that connect ports to other modes, strengthen and protect evacuation routes, and for certain public transportation uses.
- A **bridge formula program** that provides \$45 million per year to the state to replace, rehab, preserve, protect, and build bridges.

- And a program to provide more than \$120 million to Georgia for the construction of EV “Alternative Fuel Corridors.” The state must develop an EV Charging Infrastructure Plan by Aug. 1, 2022.

More information:

- [GDOT Presentation](#) (pdf)

IIJA – Transit Impact

Collie Greenwood, Interim General Manager of MARTA, provided highlights of the legislation’s impact on transit funding opportunities in metro Atlanta. The IIJA provides \$1.4 billion in federal transit funding in Georgia over five years for capital and operations, maintenance, and buses and bus facilities. This represents a 30% increase over previous formula funding levels.

The law also provides new discretionary funding opportunities, including station accessibility, rail vehicle replacement, safety improvements, and inter-city passenger rail.

Greenwood mentioned several 2022-23 projects that may be eligible for IIJA funding support, including Five Points station transformation, Campbellton Community Investment Corridor, Clifton Transit Corridor, GA 400 Express Lane Transit, Stonecrest Mobility Hub, and Clayton Southlake BRT.

More information:

- [MARTA Presentation](#)

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- **Strategic Relations Subcommittee:** Chair, Eric Dial (Mayor, Town of Tyrone); Vice Chair, Amol Naik (Citizen District 4)
- **Advisory Committee on Aging:** Co-Chair, Romona Jackson Jones; Co-Chair, Lois Ricci
- **Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board:** Co-Chair, Randy Hayes; Co-Chair, Angelia O’Neal (Citizen District 5)

- **Community Resources Committee:** Chair, Nicole Hendrickson (Chair, Gwinnett County Commission); Vice Chair, Patti Garret (Mayor, City of Decatur)
- **Transportation & Air Quality Committee:** Chair, Mike Mason (Mayor, City of Peachtree Corners); Vice Chair, Lisa Cupid (Chair, Cobb County Commission)
- **Urban Area Security Initiative:** Chair, Jeff Turner (Chair, Clayton County Commission)

More information:

- [ARC 2022 Officers, Committee & Governance Sub-Committees \(PDF\)](#)
- [ARC News Release](#)

Treasurer's Report: January 2022

ARC Board Treasurer Bob Reeves presented the December Treasurer's report. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$70,849. The estimated fund balance at the end of calendar 2022 is \$7,967,982

More information:

- [Treasurer's report](#)

ARC Board Approves TIP Amendment #4

The Atlanta Regional Commission Board approved an update to the region's Transportation Improvement Program that includes more than \$10 million to fund 17 [Livable Centers Initiative](#) (LCI) projects across the metro region.

LCI is a grant program that assists local jurisdictions in transforming their communities into more vibrant, walkable places that offer increased mobility options and support community health and economic opportunity.

The LCI projects included in this round of funding include:

- Transforming a stretch of Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta into a "shared space" to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists and create a livelier street-level environment.
- Reimagining Douglasville's Fairburn Road from a high-speed roadway into a green street with hundreds of additional trees, street parking, and space for foot and bike traffic alike.

- Extending the Silver Comet Trail into Powder Springs to further connect the Cobb County community to critical services throughout the county by expanding access to the largest trail in metro Atlanta.

More information:

- [ARC News Release](#)
- [Issue Summary and Resolution](#)
- [TIP Amendment 4 Project List](#)

Budget and Audit Review Subcommittee – 2020 Single Audit

Bob Reeves, chair of ARC's Budget and Audit Review subcommittee delivered a presentation about the 2020 Single Audit. He reported that the agency has completed its federally required single audit of its accounts, and that auditors issues an unmodified opinion.

More information:

- [Issue Summary and Resolution](#)

Model ARC Students for 2021-2022 Deliver Class Presentations

The 2021-2022 Model ARC students presented their final class projects to the board. During their time at MARC, the high school students from across metro Atlanta:

- Learned about flood resiliency in Sandy Springs
- Explored the Fairburn Community Garden
- Took deep dives into community engagement, communications, land use & transit/mobility, and creative placemaking.

More information:

- [Model ARC Presentations](#)

State of the Region's Economy

Mike Carnathan, Senior Manager of ARC's Research & Analytics Group, presented on state of the region's economy. Key points included:

- Atlanta's job market recovery is one of the strongest among its peers.

- Despite this recovery, a good amount of financial stress remains in the region.
- Inflation in metro Atlanta is highest among its peer metro areas, driven by rising motor fuel and vehicle costs.
- Wages have increased in some sectors, primarily lower-wage, consumer-focused industries, but wages have not kept up with inflation.

More information:

- [Regional Snapshot: Checking in on Metro Atlanta's Economy](#)

Local Leadership Housing Committee - Briefing

Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson, Gwinnett County, presented on the newly formed Local Leadership Housing Committee. ARC has formed a Local Housing Action Committee consisting of 13 county commissioners and mayors who are committed to addressing the worsening state of housing affordability in metro Atlanta. The committee members will have honest and detailed conversations about the challenges they face in tackling housing issues in their jurisdictions and sign a shared commitment and set of actions to address those challenges.

Local Housing Action Committee members are:

- Committee Chair: Nicole Hendrickson, Chair, Gwinnett County Commission
- Committee Co-Chair: Rob Garcia, Pinnacle Financial Partners
- Lisa Cupid, Chair, Cobb County Commission
- Harry Johnston, Chair, Cherokee County Commission
- Carlotta Harrell, Chair, Henry County Commission
- Patti Garrett, Mayor, City of Decatur
- Lynn Deutsch, Mayor, City of Dunwoody
- Rochelle Robinson (ARC Vice-Chair), Mayor, City of Douglasville
- Joy Day, Mayor, City of Jonesboro
- Rusty Paul, Mayor, City of Sandy Springs
- Vince Williams, Mayor, City of Union City
- Ted Terry, Commissioner, Super District 6, DeKalb County

More information:

- [ARC Presentation: Local Housing Action Committee Briefing](#)

Emerging Technologies Roundtable – Briefing

ARC established the Emerging Technologies Roundtable in 2021 to provide a forum for subject matter and issue experts from the Atlanta region to explore the impact of emerging technologies on how we will live, work, and travel over the coming decade and beyond. The

inaugural meeting was held on Nov. 19, 2021 and explored two emerging technology topics: Transportation technology and Artificial Intelligence.

More information:

- [ARC Presentation](#)

Upcoming:

- Next Board Meeting – May 11, 2022
- LINK Austin: May 4-7, 2022