2022

ARC

Atlanta Regional Commission

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM & BUDGET

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022

INDEX OF ELEMENTS

RESEARCH & ANALYTICS

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 1 - RESEARCH & ANALYTICS

MISSION

The Atlanta Regional Commission is responsible for anticipating the future needs of the Atlanta Region and developing strategies for meeting them. Forecasts of future population and employment distributions are important resources for fulfilling this goal. This element is devoted not only to developing such forecasts but also to producing and maintaining the database of current and historical information that is a necessary foundation for accurate assessments of the future. An increasing focus of our work is leveraging partnerships in the development and deployment of online data tools to ease data access, developing innovative spatial and tabular data visualizations to facilitate understanding of the data, and performing detailed custom analyses that include narrative "storytelling" to inform application of the data. These products and promotion of their use seek to increase community understanding and policy applications of the data produced by the agency.

The geospatial technology developed and maintained as part of and in parallel with the above products are assets not only for ARC but also for the entire community. All Element 1 activities are managed so as to maximize the general usefulness of all the Commission's products by providing timely support and engaging the community to work together on some of the region's most pressing issues.

GOALS

- Be a global leader in government innovation, dedicated to improving the lives of those we serve through the exploration and adoption of bold and creative solutions.

- Promote a culture of intrapreneurial innovation throughout the Atlanta Regional Commission and our region.

- Provide unique small-area population and employment data sets that serve as a foundation for the work of the ARC.

- Support local decision-making by developing and maintaining models to produce forecasts for long-range planning activities, including Regional and Local Transportation and Development Plans.

- Act as a go-to regional resource for demographic, economic, and geospatial data and analysis, providing research assistance to our key audiences, including serving as am analytic resources and repository of 2020 Census data.

- Expand our knowledge through the research and analysis of emerging technologies.

- Serve as a community resource by producing or aggregating, visualizing, analyzing and explicating demographic and economic data sets to help internal and external customers better understand and drive positive change in the environments and neighborhoods in which they work.

- Be entrepreneurial by providing custom research products and tools targeted to support the work of our local governments and community partners to foster more equitable, livable communities.

- Continue to manage and expand the offerings of the Neighborhood Nexus program, enhancing that program's visibility to ARC's audiences to support regional data needs.

- Be a leader in the innovative use of data visualization and analysis by building state of the art tools including custom web portals and mapping applications.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Develop the 2022 major jurisdiction population estimates for 11 member counties, in support of the ARC dues calculations.

- Develop and/or provide regional, county, and small area economic data (including at-place employment estimates by industry and 3rd party data on wages and other indicators) for planning use.

- Collect, maintain, and develop regional base data, including but not limited to the street data set, community facilities, city boundaries, and local government spatial data for planning purposes.

- Continue as needed to conduct and support data collection, analysis, and promulgation of COVID-19-related spatial and economic data.

- Maintain and enhance a state-of-the-art Open Data Portal to provide geospatial and tabular data for use in development of apps and for "seeding" software platforms.

- Use the REMI Policy Insight/TranSight regional forecast model(s) in forecasting and policy evaluation.

- Refine the PECAS spatial economic allocation model, integrated with the travel model, for use in scenario modeling to inform pending updates to The Atlanta Region's Plan.

- Maintain and enhance data visualization tools, including small-area spatial data visualization, including Tableau dashboards, Venngage infographics, asset mapping, ArcGIS Server-published services, updates to the ArcGIS Online platform, web and mobile mapping applications; and web-based snapshot development.

- Enhance and maintain the DataNexus spatial visualization and data analysis tool.

- Continue to implement—in collaboration with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, and the United Way—data development and organizational capacity building that informs regional decision-making and advances equity; continue custom data analyses and database development assistance for external and internal clients; develop data literacy resources and trainings.

- Continue to feed content to and develop new ways to communicate information through the 33 Degrees North blog, as well as other Research & Analytics, Neighborhood Nexus, and ARC social media outlets.

- Continue to produce a regionally useful Metro Atlanta Speaks Survey.

- Launch the Atlanta Regional Commission's Emerging Technologies Roundtable to expand our knowledge through the research and analysis of emerging technologies, better preparing our agency and region for events that have the potential to strongly disrupt how we live and work in the region.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- 1A – Data and Research Integration
- 1B – Geospatial Technology and Analysis
- 1C – Data Resource and Information Partnerships

1A – DATA AND RESEARCH INTEGRATION

PURPOSE

This work provides a broad and consistent base of demographic, economic and land-related information to support the Commission's comprehensive and specific functional plans, implementation strategies, and policies. Data and analyses from the group directly contribute to the role of the agency as an innovation hub for our region. ARC-provided estimates and forecasts are critical elements in the transportation, land use, and natural resources work programs and serve as assets for workforce and economic development programs. The resulting statistical profiles of the Atlanta region are also widely used by other public agencies, non-profits, local governments and the private sector.

The data and analyses that the group produces help define the assets of the region, assist in accurate community self-identification, provide the foundation for creation of a regional identity, and reduce barriers to cohesive regional planning efforts that would develop opportunities for and leverage achievement of more equitable outcomes. In 2022, the group will work to further refine estimation procedures, continue to explore additional platforms for land use modeling, and coordinate with the transportation modeling teams to ensure even better model set integration.

DELIVERABLES

- Take a lead regional role in the processing and analysis of 2020 Census and American Community Survey data products, including refinement of previously released redistricting datasets and ongoing experimental summary tables; continue to develop access engines (including data dashboards) and visualizations of key variables.
  - **STATUS: In the first half of 2022, 2016-2020 American Community Survey (released in late 2021) was processed and uploaded to Open Data and to DataNexus. We continued to share 2020 Census redistricting data with local jurisdictions and external clients on request. Numerous blog posts with visualizations and analysis of newly released Census data were produced and published on the 33N website. 20-County and 100 Metros dashboards were updated with the new Census data. Important note: 2020 ACS 1-year data was not released below the state level, and more detailed data release from the 2020 Decennial Census is still pending and will be greatly limited (from previous issues) this cycle.**

- Using new methodologies in tandem with Census Bureau and other baseline data, develop major jurisdiction-level estimates of population as of April 1, 2022 for the Region, its counties, and the City of Atlanta. Provide 2022 small-area estimates of population and housing for the Region, its counties, cities, superdistricts, census tracts and traffic analysis zones (TAZs) as needed.
  - **STATUS: 2022 major jurisdiction population estimates have been completed for use (in July) in setting 2023 dues. ESRI data is available as of June 2022 for smaller-areas and is provided to member jurisdictions on request.**

- Provide and/or develop the most current possible regional, county, and small-area economic data (including at-place employment data, real estate information, and standardized parcel and zoning data) as benchmarks to forecasting and input to economic development and workforce planning efforts. Acquire base file(s) and produce small-area employment estimates.
  - **STATUS: 2020 and 2021 employment base-files were acquired in early 2022. 2020 small-area estimates by sector, for the MPO area, were begun in April and will be completed**

by the end of the summer. These data will be used as a baseline for small-area forecasts that will be produced in the latter months of 2022 or early 2023. Significant progress (50-60% completion) has been made to date on creating a standardized regional parcel database. RAG continues to provide internal and external clients commercial and residential real estate market data, as enabled under license—new datasets have been acquired in 2022 (MarketNSight and Infutor, see below)

- Support regional decision-making by maintaining the REMI Policy Insight/TranSight regional forecast model(s) and by acquiring/ updating/ developing other models as needed.
  - **STATUS: The REMI TranSight model has been updated and used as the key input to development of the new Series 17 regional forecast (see below item). Investigation of the eREMI and REMI Household Modules has continued.**

- Maintain, update, analyze as needed, and enhance the adopted regional and small-area forecast; use the PECAS spatial economic allocation model in policy scenario analysis; continue collection of most current regional and small-area data in preparation for updating forecasts.
  - **STATUS: The production of a (new) Series 17 forecast effort is a primary effort in 2022. In the first half of 2022, RAG completed the regional forecast, by convening the Technical Advisory Committee, presenting initial model runs and gathering feedback on them, modeling alternate scenarios, and developing a preferred alternative. Background data collection and preparation for the small-area forecast (based on the regional totals) is 75% complete. The latter half of the year will focus on producing draft small-area forecasts.**

- Continually explore and track acquisition of outside data series (from third-party vendors) across divisions and department to identify new opportunities to drive policy debate and leverage effective application of data in existing policy discussions.
  - **STATUS: In the first half of 2022, the group acquired two new private-sector resources: MarketNSight and Infutor, that have added already to understanding and analysis of the single-family and general property market. These data will contribute to the refinement of the Regional Housing Strategy and to land use model calibration.**

- Serve as the go-to regional resource for demographic and economic analysis by updating existing *Regional Snapshot* reports and producing other custom analyses. Maintain and update the 33 Degrees North blog (and other social media channels and outlets) with those and other products, including weekly posts and special features. Produce *33 Degrees North*-e-newsletters. Integrate elements of blog post data with the Open Data Portal and What's Next website.
  - **STATUS: The group continues to receive and fulfill (on average) about ten internal and external data requests every week. Research & Analytics has averaged almost two blog posts a week thus far in 2022 and has grown LinkedIn followership from around 750 to 1,300 while maintaining and growing Facebook and Twitter channels. Staffing gaps has limited us to publishing two newsletters this far in 2022. There is regular integration/ overlap/ cross-fertilization of the Open Data Portal and What's Next website with 33N content. Though final publication and promotion of Regional Snapshots has slowed with increased staff turnover, drafts have generally been completed on a monthly schedule.**

- Address specific data needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic, to include data gathering; custom models, analyses and presentations, and on-demand response to local member government information requests.
  - **STATUS: RAG has maintained the COVID-19 data hub, continued to develop blog posts and datasets as needed at the regional level, and tracked the course of the pandemic daily to source presentations for and data requests made by internal and external clients.**

- Continue to refine existing strategies for marketing and performing fee-for-service work to external clients; analysis "tools" involve REMI and third-party data products.
    - **STATUS: Custom studies are in process or complete (in 2022) for DeKalb Entertainment Commission; Partnership Gwinnett; Discover DeKalb; and Sound Diplomacy. In the latter part of 2022, we will work on developing cost-recovery strategies for the labor data tools from which we are fulfilling many involved, time-consuming requests.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Local governments of the Atlanta Regional Commission, as well as the governments of the nonmember counties that are included in the forecast study area; State agencies such as the Georgia Department of Labor, Office of Planning and the Budget, GDOT, and GRTA; other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

COST CENTERS

- 201AA – Data and Research Integration
- 201AT – Data and Research Integration – Transit

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ELEMENT 1 – RESEARCH & ANALYTICS

1B – GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY AND ANALYSIS

PURPOSE

The Research & Analytics Group (RAG) maintains and enhances ARC's enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS) and Geospatial Technology, key tools in turning large and varied datasets into information by allowing constituent governments, local policy decision-makers, and other internal partners to access, manipulate, visualize, and analyze data. ARC's geospatial capabilities continue to drive innovation across the agency and region, as more and more of our GIS resources are being disseminated online via easy-to-use interactive tools including our Open Data Portal. Our online visualization tools further enhance ARC's standing as a leader in data visualization and analysis, including state-of-the-art web tools and custom portals.

DELIVERABLES

- Refine innovative new tools to store, manipulate, disseminate and display data, such as maintaining the Spatial Database Engine (SDE) enterprise data management system, enhancing our state-of-the-practice Open Data Portal (including the COVID-19 Data Hub), and developing complex geospatial automations through Esri ModelBuilder and Python scripting.
  - **STATUS: Monthly maintenance has been completed for development and production spatial databases. Updated spatial database data loading script. Processed and published nearly 1,000 data layers from latest US Census American Community Survey release to the ARC Open Data Hub. Updated and improved ARC Open Data Census Directory. Continual content and Open Data Hub interface improvements including quarterly Transportation Improvement Plan updates, Regional Bikeway Inventory 2022 publication, Neighborhood Nexus DataNexus embed, 100 Metros Dashboard publication and Metro Atlanta Racial Equity Atlas publication. Upcoming data processing and publication include ARC Population and Employment estimates, GA Milestones and Maternal Health.**

- Collect, maintain, enhance, and/or develop digital inventories of key regional infrastructure, including up-to-date city boundaries, community facilities, annexations, community improvement districts, planning studies and the vast amount of local government spatial data necessary for the development of regional planning, forecasting and modeling efforts (REMI, PECAS, etc.).
  - **STATUS: Local area data collection is complete for 2022, as is Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS) work. Background parcel and real estate rent and vacancy data collection for PECAS is 75% complete. Community improvement district boundaries updated on a rolling, and/or as-needed basis.**

- Continue working with Neighborhood Nexus to seed the technologies used in providing custom insights to clients.
  - **STATUS: GIS staffers have assisted and continue to assist directly with interactive mapping and spatial analyses that serve as components to almost all Nexus custom insights projects. Continual enhancements to Open Data hub generate the "raw material" to resource Nexus project work.**

- Update LandPro, a key element of spatial data that feeds our modeling work.
  - **STATUS: Research & Analytics staff are testing new applications and parcel datasets with the goal of semi-automating the LandPro update. To date, preliminary parcel and NLCD data processing and experimentation are complete. A more official kick-off meeting will occur later this year. A fairly simple process is being developed that should allow for efficient**

production of a first draft for review and subsequent refinement.

- Collaborate with key stakeholders for shared learning; position ARC as a go-to resource for spatial data and application development, including continued outreach efforts through the Atlanta Region Geospatial Community.
  - **STATUS: The Atlanta Region Geospatial Community has held two meetings thus far in 2022: (a) February 9, with an agenda including Census BAS, PUMA & CQR Update by Paul DiGirolamo, ARC; Collaborative Data Acquisition debrief from NearMap Pilot; and a presentation on Equity data and mapping on the BeltLine; (b) June 16, with agenda including a poster gallery, presentation lightning rounds, and two main presentations-- "Introducing DataNexus" presented by Tommy Pearce and Mike Carnathan, and"Toward a Data Maturity Assessment for Georgia Cities" by Tommy Pearce. Two additional meetings are planned for 2022—one on September 1 and one TBD.**

- Continue partnering with the Georgia Geospatial Information Office.
  - **STATUS: ARC Research & Analytics joined our recurring call with the Office of the Georgia GIO on June 22. Discussion topics included Imagery purchase challenges, Next Gen 911 Grant, the GIO's project development, COVID/DCH work and intern needs, State CIO update and an update on the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority (GECA), which has a desire for all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to have a cyber security assessment related to 911 elements. Research & Analytics is scheduled to meet with the GIO one per month for the remainder of 2022.**

- Support agency-wide technology and analysis goals through research, testing and application of new technologies including geospatial hardware, software and processes as well as installation and support of Esri software.
  - **STATUS: Research & Analytics shared a potential solution in the form of robotic process automation (RPA) to repetitive data entry tasks within ARC's Aging and Independence group. RAG continues to support ARC in researching EV, Electrification, Drone and eVTOL technology, as well as leading the Emerging Technologies Roundtable where we work with regional subject matter experts to understand the possible impacts of new technologies on our region. Research & Analytics also provided support for several dozen internal ESRI-related requests.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Atlanta Region Geospatial Community, GeoTAC (*Georgia* Geospatial Technical Advisory Committee, formerly *GISCC*), the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Geospatial Information Office and local governments.

COST CENTERS

- 201BA – GIS Administration
- 201BE – GIS Enterprise
- 201BT – GIS Transportation
- 201BS – GIS Transit

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ELEMENT 1 - RESEARCH & ANALYTICS

1C - DATA RESOURCE AND INFORMATION PARTNERSHIPS

PURPOSE

To enhance ARC's standing as the go-to place for data and information, ARC partners with key community organizations to ensure greater use of our data analyses and products while gaining access to additional data. ARC's data resources often bridge the gap among organizations not used to collaborating with one another. These activities strengthen ARC's position as the regional forum to solve problems.

A key partnership is Neighborhood Nexus, which is an online community intelligence system that helps leaders transform data into decisions that drive policy solutions. Neighborhood Nexus is a collective impact model, in that it aligns the resources of key regionally-thinking organizations to further the goal of growing a culture of data-informed decision-making. Neighborhood Nexus' data holdings currently include more than 6,000 variables at different levels of geography. In addition to providing these data, Neighborhood Nexus also develops and hosts a variety of tools to help users analyze data, including a mapping and visualization platform that allows users to analyze multiple variables on the same screen, deeply enhancing understanding of the dynamics of neighborhoods. We have also built in-house capacity in analytics, data science, and visualization, and are recognized regionally for that expertise.

DELIVERABLES

- Adapt programs and deliverables to meet regional social sector needs. New initiatives include Real- Time Insights, Metro Atlanta Racial Equity Atlas, and a community impact team to inspire and inform equity-advancing action in the region.
  - **STATUS: The community impact team is established and currently consists of a Community Impact Officer, training consultant, and Lead for America fellow. The team has developed a data training curriculum and piloted it twice to build data capacity of nonprofit professionals across the state. The team has also created a monthly "Up to Data" newsletter that helps readers approach data and cites recent additions to the Real-Time Insights page on our site. The first version of the Metro Atlanta Racial Equity Atlas is 90% complete and will be soft-launched at the MLK Center in late July.**

- Secure resources for ongoing operational support for Neighborhood Nexus to better resource the programs of the organization.
  - **STATUS: Nexus has received operating support from Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, United Way of Greater Atlanta, Microsoft, and the Fitzgerald Foundation. Additional project-specific funding has come from the CDC Foundation, Dobbs Foundation, and United Way. Additionally, earned revenue from consulting projects continues to support the work.**

- Develop capacity-building services for nonprofits and government agencies, to include training programs on data fluency, a resource library, and data consultations.
  - **STATUS: Nexus has developed a framework, curriculum, and workbooks for nonprofit professionals to become more comfortable with data and increase organizational usage of data. The curriculum has been piloted with Get Georgia Reading members across the state and is currently being packaged for a wider audience.**

- Continue to enhance the new web-based platform, Data Nexus, by improving user experience and support, and adding analytic elements and visualization features. Grow the pipeline of projects providing custom insights.
  - **STATUS: Data Nexus undergoes continuous improvement based on user feedback and updated branding. It is a critical component of community trainings and data requests.**

- Continue long-term data partnership contracts with current partners.
  - **STATUS: We have scaled the number of active projects this year, and increasingly are incorporating formal maintenance contracts for future data and feature updates.**

- Support internal partners in the agency with the development and effective use of data visualization tools and practices.
  - **STATUS: RAG and Nexus have created dozens of data visualizations for the Office of the Director, the Aging and Independent Services group, the Community Development group, and the Workforce and Business Services group. Support via direct data revision has also been provided.**

- Produce a more efficient mixed-mode Metro Atlanta Speaks Survey that maintains regional impact and local relevance. Explore additional ways to integrate survey efforts and results in agency community outreach activities.
  - **STATUS: The Metro Atlanta Speaks (MAS) 1.0 effort, as characterized by the mixed-mode survey, is evolving this year and next into a broader community engagement effort with a more flexible survey platform that will enable more frequent and targeted (panel) opinion-gathering from a wider range of regional partners. Planning and beginning fundraising for the effort has occurred in the first half of 2022. Pilot surveying and initial panel building will occur in the second half of 2022.**

- Support, in partnership with the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC), of the Federal Highway Administration's REVAMP. Assist GARC, acting as subcontractor to the Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS) and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) contract, in providing management of, and technical development for, the validation and verification of statewide street attributes.
  - **STATUS: During the first half of 2022 Research & Analytics' GIS continued the REVAMP Phase 2 "Bucket 1" data collection, which consists of school zones, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, turn lane arrows and on-street parking for areas within one mile of a school and/or incorporated areas (depending on element). Progress made included completed final QC and edits for Douglas and Rockdale Counties; Completed pre-processing, data collection and final QC/edits for Cherokee and Fayette Counties; Completed pre-processing, data collection and initial QC of Forsyth County; completed pre-processing and started data collection for Gwinnett County; Did the pre-processing and project setup for Clayton and Cobb Counties, which are being completed by Southern GA RC under the REVAMP Gap Services Agreement. We also continued collection of "Bucket 2" speed limit signs on Federal-Aid-Eligible roads in Henry and Douglas Counties. Gwinnett County and all of DeKalb and Fulton Counties are remaining geographies for the work, as well as digitization of speed limit signs for the remaining nine counties. Phase 2 is due to be completed in Fall of 2022.**

- Continue to respond to COVID-related requests from our nonprofit partners.
  - **STATUS: The volume of such requests has slowed greatly with the pandemic nearing the endemic stage. RAG and Nexus no longer publish a weekly report on COVID indicators, but do respond to virus-related requests when needed.**

- Build and maintain data tools for key partners: United Way's Child Well-Being Index, Learn4Life, TransFormation Alliance, Equity at Work, ARCHI , GEEARS, Get Georgia Reading
  - **STATUS: Dashboards and other data visualizations have been updated in 2022 (to date) for**

the United Way, Learn4Life, ARCHI, and GEEARS, and Get Georgia Reading. Maintenance contracts are a focus of the evolved Nexus business plan. The Atlanta Beltline and Invest Atlanta has emerged as likely additional longer-term partners.

PARTNERSHIPS

Atlanta Regional Commission jurisdiction: local governments of the Atlanta Regional Commission, as well as the governments of the nonmember counties that are included in the forecast study **Neighborhood Nexus core partnership**: ARC, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and United Way of Greater Atlanta
Nexus advisory board affiliations: core partners (as listed above), Annie E. Casey Foundation, Emory University, Georgia State University, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Georgia Bankers Association, Nebo Agency, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, University of South Carolina, ATLytiCS, Georgia Tech, Partnership for Inclusive Innovation, Google, UPS, Fulton County Juvenile Court, Weissman, Georgia Technology Authority, Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Junior League of Atlanta, Horizons Atlanta
Program partners and clients: Invest Atlanta, Enterprise Community Partners, ARCHI, Partnership for Southern Equity, Learn4Life, TransFormation Alliance, CareerRise, Sartain Lanier Foundation, Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, Get Georgia Reading Campaign, GEEARS, Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), Georgia Municipal Association, Cobb Community Foundation, Georgia Food Bank Association, Atlanta BeltLine Inc, United Way of Coastal Georgia, Junior League of Atlanta, MAX Workforce, United Way of Greater Atlanta, LISC Atlanta, YMCA of Greater Atlanta Neighborhood Nexus is the regional member of the National Neighborhood Indicator Partnership

COST CENTERS

- 201CN – Neighborhood Nexus Project-Operations
- 201CD – General Data Development
- 101CM – REVAMP Mapping Project
- 201CS – Metro Atlanta Speaks Survey

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
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ELEMENT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MISSION

ARC is the Regional Commission (RC) and Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission (MAPDC) under the applicable Georgia laws. ARC has broad authority to undertake planning and services to support local governments. Under the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and an annual contract with Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), ARC is required to undertake certain planning activities. Element 02 outlines this required work and a substantial number of programs and training to support local governments and regional planning in metro Atlanta.

Georgia DCA updated the statewide planning rules for Regional Commissions in 2017. DCA regional planning rules require ARC to complete a Regional Plan with many specific elements. These elements included a Regional Resource Plan, Minimum Standards for Local Government Implementation and a detailed Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) coordinated with local government Comprehensive Plans. In 2012, Georgia DCA contract requirements required that local governments have the option of receiving Comprehensive Plan development services from ARC at no additional cost. ARC has assisted the majority of local governments in updating their local Comprehensive Plans since 2012 and will continue to do so in upcoming years.

Since 1999, ARC has provided substantial planning resources through the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI). Local governments and Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) in the Atlanta region have undertaken a variety of visioning, planning, and strategic implementation activities for their communities through this program. Through the LCI program, ARC also provides ongoing staff support and funding to communities that are undertaking transportation projects and related implementation activities. Element 02 continues the LCI program and staff support to support new development and build transportation investments in town centers, activity centers and transit station areas.

Element 02 provides resources to provide training and leadership development opportunities to build a network of regionally informed public, private, nonprofit and civic leaders. ARC annually undertakes the Community Planning Academy (CPA), the Regional Leadership Institute (RLI), and the Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA) program. ARC will support regional stewards who seek to strengthen and transform the Atlanta region through the 2022 LINK trip. The Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC) program, which provides high school youth with opportunities to learn about regional issues and build leadership skills, will also be managed by this group.

Element 02 includes staff to conduct Reviews of Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) and other review and comment work as well as reviewing local Comprehensive Plans, Short Term Work Programs and Capital Improvement Elements (CIE's required for Impact Fees). The annual Georgia DCA contract also required keeping up to date information for governments in the Atlanta region.

Element 02 allows ARC to continue providing staff and technical support to the Transformation Alliance in its mission to promote equitable transit-oriented development around MARTA train stations. Element 02 also provides resources to support implementation of regional greenspace and housing planning.
ARC has undertaken implementation of an Economic Competitiveness Strategy since 2012 to convene, coordinate and collaborate with the region's economic development professionals and stakeholders. ARC updated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in 2017, called CATLYST, and in 2021 began the update process of the CEDS which will be completed in 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic has

impacted the economy of the Atlanta region, and ARC continues to aid local governments in responding and mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 in 2022.

ARC provides communities and organizations with arts leadership development programming, competitive funding to implement public art projects, and data to make sound decisions regarding a healthy arts community. ARC adopted a new Arts, Culture + Creative Placemaking Strategic Plan in 2019 with the goal of helping guide the agency's role and priorities in arts and culture. Implementation activities will be undertaken in 2022.

ARC and public/private regional partners created the Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance in 2014 to support planning and coordination of economic development in the Hartsfield- Jackson International Airport Area. In cooperation of the Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance, ARC developed a Blueprint for the airport area in 2015, and this cooperation will continue in 2022, with an updated Blueprint to assist the area in diversify its economic base and provide land use and development strategies

GOALS

- Implement The Atlanta Region's Plan through programs and assistance to local governments.
- Support growth and innovation in the region's centers through the LCI program.
- Provide technical assistance to cities and counties that help them implement their long-range plans.
- Coordinate actions to manage the region's historic, cultural and environmental resources.
- Support the continued development of regionally informed leaders at all levels.
- Coordinate with local governments and other planning partners to develop programs to address housing issues at the regional level.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- Provide technical support to local governments to help respond to economic impacts of COVID- 19.
- Continue to administer LCI program and implement program changes with a strong focus on supporting transit-oriented development and downtown redevelopment.
- Seek continued improvement of the agency's leadership programs – LINK, RLI, ALMA and MARC.
- Re-evaluate and revamp the RLI program to be implemented in 2023.
- Support local governments through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) with plan writing, facilitation, implementation assistance trainings, and other capacity building activities.
- Review DRIs, CIEs, and Comprehensive Plans.
- Undertake implementation activities for updated Resource Plan.
- Provide assistance to local governments in updating their Comprehensive Plans
- Begin an update to the Aerotropolis Blueprint

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- 02A – Regional Planning Activities
- 02B – Regional Plan Development Implementation
- 02C – LCI Program

- 02D – Economic Development
- 02E – Regional Leadership Development
- 02F – Arts & Culture
- 02G – Transformation Alliance

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ELEMENT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2A – REGIONAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

PURPOSE

This sub-element provides resources for completing certain tasks required by the Georgia Planning Act administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) through Local and Regional Planning Rules and an annual contract that funds elements of the ARC work program. These tasks include planning assistance to local governments, support to complete Comprehensive Plans, review Capital Improvement Elements (required for local Impact Fees) and Developments of Regional Impact (DRI). ARC assists Georgia DCA with the collection of information as well as participation in other work as requested.

ARC is required to provide assistance to local governments to complete their Comprehensive Plans, if requested, under DCA rules for the Georgia Planning Act. ARC has completed plans for numerous municipalities and counties within the Atlanta region and will work with approximately local governments in 2022 to complete their Comprehensive Plan

ARC undertakes regional planning responsibilities for many issues including coordination with local governments, economic development coordination, resource planning, historic preservation, housing issues and arts/culture.

DELIVERABLES

- Upon request complete basic Local Comprehensive Plans.
  - **STATUS: Completed four local comprehensive plans and initiated 9 new plan updates.**

- General technical assistance to support local implementation of The Atlanta Region's Plan.
  - **STATUS: Completed technical assistance through CDAP and other programs to 10 local jurisdictions. Initiated technical assistance to 6 local jurisdictions. Undertook 4 housing forums and 6 housing task force meetings. Provided grants to Aerotropolis Alliance and Career Rise as part of the CARES act funding received.**

- Conduct Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) reviews.
  - **STATUS: Completed 27 DRIs with 20 in the pre-review stage.**

- Continue implementation activities for the updated 2020 Regional Resource Plan.
  - **STATUS: Initiated a greenspace preservation study with the City of Atlanta and Dekalb County. Completed an urban agriculture plan for the City of East Point and initiated one for the City of Alpharetta.**

- Conduct Area Plan Reviews (APR).
  - **STATUS: No area plan reviews were received for review thus far in 2022.**

- Undertake local planning activities that support coordination amongst municipalities on key regional issues, e.g. housing, transportation, natural resources, and economic development.
  - **STATUS: Provided funding to Aerotropolis Alliance to undertake a multijurisdictional study in south suburban communities for future land use and transportation planning. Funded LCI study for Old National Highway to explore new**

transportation options and develop an economic development strategy for the corridor. Initiated a greenspace preservation study with the City of Atlanta and Dekalb County.

- Coordinate as necessary on historic preservation forums and issues.
    - **STATUS: No historic preservation forums were conducted in the first half of 2022.**

PARTNERSHIPS

This sub-element will be coordinated with local government officials, partner organizations, other Regional Commissions, staff from ARC's Research and Analytics, Natural Resources, Transportation Access and Mobility, Aging and Independence, and Workforce Solutions, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

COST CENTERS

- 202ARC – Regional Planning Coordination
- 202ART – Regional Planning Coordination
- 202ARP – DCA- Regional Planning
- 302ARP – DCA- Regional Planning

2B –REGIONAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

PURPOSE

This subelement provides for update and implementation of the Atlanta Region's Plan. ARC develops the Regional Plan under Georgia DCA rules adopted in 2017 to promulgate the 1989 Georgia Planning Act. As the Regional Commission, ARC completes a Regional Development Plan and ensures the plan is coordinated with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as well as local government planning activities. This sub-element supports the coordination in terms of planning activities and forecasting for the RTP.

ARC adopted an update to the Atlanta Region's Plan in 2021 along with creation of a 5-year program to guide implementation activities. ARC will be reviewing and revising the regional policy framework for the regional plan in 2022. This policy framework will serve as the foundation for future updates of the Atlanta Region's Plan, including the RTP, RDP, and CEDS.

There are several implementation activities contained within the regional plan's 5-year work program. ARC also outlines and evaluates annually how the agency and local governments have undertaken implementation. Implementation activities include:

- Coordination amongst local governments through a monthly Land Use Coordinating Committee (LUCC) meeting of local government planning staff. This also provides support to the Community Resources Committee (CRC) of the ARC Board.

- Technical assistance program for municipalities and non-profits called the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) that will continue to work with communities in 2022. This technical assistance program provides local implementation the policies and goals identified in the Atlanta Region's Plan.

- Community Planning Academy that provides training for advisory boards and commissions.

- Continue to undertake a quarterly Regional Housing Forum event with a group of partner organizations. ARC also convenes a quarterly regional housing task force meeting that includes housing authorities and planning officials.

- ARC will work with individual cities and counties to implement the Regional Housing Strategy through various planning and leadership development programs. The strategy was developed in 2019 as part of ARC's efforts to implement a key element of the regional plan to tackle housing and transportation issues in the metro.

- Convene elected leadership to develop consensus on action plan to support housing affordability.

The Regional Resource Plan provides the framework for ARC's work undertaking natural, urban agriculture, cultural and historic resource protection activities. Updates to the Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) and Development Guide provide coordination with local governments and direction on the types of development that are encouraged in various locations across the region.

Implementation activities undertaken as part of the Resource Plan implementation include:

- Technical assistance to local government on creating local food systems and supporting urban agriculture. ARC will continue to provide assistance to 1-2 local governments in 2022.

DELIVERABLES

- Promulgate the Atlanta Region's Plan through meetings and coordination with local governments, non-profits and state departments.
  - **STATUS: Conducted a total of 30+ meetings with local governments to talk about local planning and discuss the Atlanta Region's Plan.**

- Support RTP process and development of forecasts.
  - **STATUS: No activities undertaken in the first half of 2022.**

- Provide technical assistance through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP).
  - **STATUS: Finalized 7 CDAP studies selected through the 2021 call for projects in South Fulton, Tucker, Fairburn, Locust Grove, Sandy Springs, Atlanta, and Douglas County and initiated 5 projects in 2022 in the cities of Atlanta, Villa Rica, Henry County, Cobb County, and Gwinnett County**

- Support the creation of a sustainable regional food system by supporting local governments through local food plans and partnering with external agencies to fund implementation.
  - **STATUS: Completed an urban agriculture plan for the City of East Point and initiated one for the City of Alpharetta. Funded through a partnership with the Foodwell Alliance.**

- Lead activities and provide administrative support for the LUCC.
  - **STATUS: Conducted 4 LUCC meetings that included site visits, discussion of the CEDS update, and other relevant land use and transportation planning activities.**

- Provide staff and administrative support for CRC
  - **STATUS: Conducted as needed.**

- Develop a new Regional Policies to guide future regional plan work.
  - **STATUS: Initiated a process to create a new policy framework and anticipated to the completed in the fall. ARC staff from all groups as well as executive team members involved in development, with three meetings conducted through first half of 2022.**

- Conduct quarterly housing forums and housing task force.
  - **STATUS: Conducted 2 housing forums and 3 task force meetings this year.**

- Host several convenings of elected leaders through the Local Government Leadership Housing Action Committee.
  - **STATUS: Conducted 6 meetings of the LLHAC to discuss a variety of topics related to tackling housing affordability. 2 more meetings to be conducted in remainder of the year.**

PARTNERSHIPS

This sub-element will be coordinated with local government officials, ARC staff in Research and Analytics, Transportation and Mobility, Natural Resources, CRC members and the LUCC participants.

COST CENTERS

- 202BAP – CD Technical Assistance Program
- 202BHS – ARC Housing Strategy and Implementation
- 202BPL – Regional Development Plan Implementation
- 202BTP – Land Use and Transportation Planning Coordination
- 202BTT – Land Use and Transit Planning Coordination

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ELEMENT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2C – LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE (LCI)

PURPOSE

This subelement provides the resources to conduct the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program. Since 1999, the LCI program has been the primary program that ARC has undertaken to promote greater development and supportive services in urban centers across the region. LCI provides local governments and CIDs funds for small area - land use/transportation plans and funds for construction of transportation projects. The program promotes new mixed-use development in activity and town centers as well as MARTA rail station areas.

As the MPO, ARC annually allocates $1,800,000 for planning studies and has committed $600 million of transportation project funds through between 2000-2050 for the LCI program. The program has been very successful as evidenced by national awards and biannual LCI Implementation Reports. Since 1999, LCI plans have been undertaken in 127 communities and an additional 151 supplemental studies have been awarded to LCI communities to help implement their plans.

The LCI program is one of the primary mechanisms in the region to undertake Transit Oriented Development (TOD) planning. Master plans for 36 of the 38 MARTA stations have been prepared through the LCI program. Through fiscal year 2020, $157 Million has been spent on 74 LCI projects that provide transit enhancement or bicycle and pedestrian access to transit rail stations or bus stops (including MARTA, CobbLinc and Gwinnett County Transit). ARC also coordinates extensively with MARTA, local governments and other partner organizations to conduct TOD planning.

ARC provides substantial support to local governments to design and build transportation projects that support the LCI goals of creating complete streets and expanding multi-modal access to the region's employment and town centers and corridors. ARC staff provides implementation assistance to local governments, Georgia DOT and FTA on permitting and coordinating all aspects of project development for projects funded through the LCI program.

$293 million of LCI funds have been distributed to 128 transportation projects in 64 LCI communities.

DELIVERABLES

- Continue the LCI program focused on supporting existing and future transit investment and existing town centers.
  - **STATUS: Initiated 9 LCI studies selected through the 2022 call for projects and finalized planning studies selected in 2021.**

- Solicit project ideas through a combined LCI and CDAP call for projects.
  - **STATUS: Undertook 20+ meetings to discuss several LCI and CDAP project ideas with local GOVERNMENTS and other potential project sponsors. Open house held in February to provide information and seek questions. Website updated to help potential applicants in developing project ideas.**

- Continue to solicit LCI project ideas and fund projects that closely align with new priorities.
  - **STATUS: Initiated 9 LCI studies selected through the 2022 call for projects and finalized planning studies selected in 2021.**

- Continue to provide implementation support including planning and regulatory assistance as well as funding transportation projects in LCI communities
  - **STATUS: 2021 LCI Infrastructure Call for Projects: Applications received in July 2021. Recommendations issued in late 2021, TAQC & GRTA approval in first half of 2022. Coordinated with sponsor and GDOT to authorize PE funds by June 2022. 2022 LCI Infrastructure Call for Projects: Received applications in Dec 2021, conducted evaluation as OUTLINED in the TIP Prioritization Framework document, conducted outreach to sponsors to clarify timeline and budgets and finalized project recommendation list. 2022 LCI STUDY application round: Opened application in January, awarded in April, contracting and scoping underway. Work and technical assistance also continues with existing studies and infrastructure projects.**
- Develop new marketing materials to showcase the impact of the LCI program has had on the Atlanta region.
  - **STATUS: No new marketing materials were developed in the first half of 2022.**
- Track completed LCI transportation projects, new developments, and supportive local actions.

PARTNERSHIPS

This sub-element will be coordinated with local government officials, GDOT, consultants, ARC staff, Community Resources Committee (CRC), Land Use Coordinating Committee (LUCC) and partner organizations.

COST CENTERS

- 102CAS – Livable Centers Initiative (Subgrants)
- 202CAT – Livable Centers Initiative (Program Management)
- 202CAS – Livable Centers Initiative (Subgrants)

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ELEMENT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2D – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

Element 2D provides resources for ARC staff to undertake an update and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), currently branded CATLYST. The Strategy meets the region's responsibilities as the Economic Development District (EDD) but also has provided a regional forum for public and private entities to collaborate across local jurisdictional boundaries around regional goals. ARC staff will continue to convene, coordinate, and actively participate in initiatives with economic development professionals and stakeholders from across the region during 2021, and begin an update to the CEDS. ARC staff will convene regional stakeholders and align the CEDS update with an update to the Regional Development Plan to have a unified regional economic and development plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the regional economy. With support from the US Economic Development Agency, ARC has received funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. ARC will assist local communities with technical assistance in developing strategies to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and support their local economies. As a part of this work, ARC will partner with the Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance, to develop an update to their Blueprint to focus on economic and development strategies for the Atlanta airport area. This Blueprint will help the airport area communities with a sub-regional economic strategy.

DELIVERABLES

- Implement an update to the CEDS and continue to support for the Regional Marketing Alliance and the implementation of the Regional Housing Strategy.
  - **STATUS: The CEDS update is underway and will be completed by December of 2022, in compliance with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) deadline. ARC continues to support the Regional Marketing Alliance through monthly meeting and periodic consultant/site selector event participation as well as annual dues. A main topic of the CEDS update is the impact of the cost of housing in the region. The Regional Housing Strategy will be used as a reference and strategies and actions to mitigate this issue will be included in the CEDS update.**

- Provide technical assistance to local governments to mitigate economic impacts from COVID- 19 and to support their economies to become resilient to future pandemics.
  - **STATUS: A toolkit addressing gentrification and displacement of small businesses is near completion. This includes a planning report and interactive website. The toolkit will assist communities with assessing their current situation and providing resources to small businesses and the development community to support and maintain small businesses.**

- Support local governments and regional planning efforts to complete appropriate grants or other technical support from the Economic Development Administration.
  - **STATUS: The Atlanta Regional Commission provided letters of support, data, and other resources to communities and organizations as requested.**

- Develop an Economic Strategy Blueprint for the Atlanta Aerotropolis Area to strengthen the airport area economy and to diversify its economic base to make it resilient to future pandemics.
  - **STATUS: Blueprint 2.0 is underway, with the assistance of POND (a consulting firm). This will be completed by the end of 2022. Catalytic sites have been defined and preliminary**

recommendations have been drafted. Additional funds were provided by Clayton County to further explore strategies.

PARTNERSHIPS

Area chambers of commerce, elected officials from the eleven-county Atlanta region, local government economic development departments, business organizations, educational institutions in the Atlanta region, and various representatives from the private sector are all partners in this effort.

COST CENTERS

- 002DRE – Economic Development
- 202DRS – ED Administration
- 002DRC – ED CARES Act Program

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ELEMENT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2E – REGIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

Regional leadership programs are designed to build collaborative relationships between public, private, nonprofit and civic leaders from across the Atlanta region. These programs are also focused on educating and developing regional stewards who will make a significant contribution to strengthen and advance the interests of the Atlanta region.

The 2022 LINK trip will bring 110 top executive leaders from all sectors of metro Atlanta to another to the Austin, TX region. This trip will provide an opportunity for Atlanta leaders to hear from their peers in this region, learn from their successes and challenges, and consider potential strategies to employ in the Atlanta region.

The 2022 Regional Leadership Institute will be held in Savannah and will be comprised of 50 established leaders representing diverse perspectives, communities and sectors. The RLI program will feature discussions of metro Atlanta's challenges and opportunities, leadership development exercises, and chances for leaders to connect and build new relationships. RLI graduates are charged with returning to metro Atlanta energized to make a difference in their communities and the region. In 2022, ARC will also lead a process to reimagine and refresh the program and implement changes in the following year.

In 2022, the Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC) Program will continue to challenge high school youth will meaningful sessions and exercises on a broad range of regional issues, while giving them opportunities to sharpen their leadership skills. MARC will build on its history of shaping the next generation of our region's leaders. Continuing from the 2020-21 program, MARC will incorporate a hybrid virtual and physical classroom model. This shift has proven to be an educational, experiential enhancement for both connecting with and educating this group of young leaders.

Several additional enhancements will be made in the 2022 year of the leadership programs. The LINK visit will leverage local lessons from the Austin, TX region to drive action and change on related stories in metro Atlanta. Specific connections will be on issues of transportation/transit, affordable housing and racial equity. Intentional, thoughtful leadership development components will continue to be introduced in the MARC program, giving participants better opportunities to sharpen their leadership skills while learning about the region. The 2022 RLI program will continue to emphasize racial equity and local, collective impact on policy issues.

DELIVERABLES

- Develop and implement the 2022 LINK trip.
  - **STATUS: Staff successfully programmed and delivered a 2022 LINK trip to metro Austin, TX from May 5-7, 2022. 130 regional leaders participated in the program to study key regional public policy issues, bringing learnings back to the Atlanta region, while strengthening connections between one another and between the two regions.**
- Develop and implement the 2022 Regional Leadership Institute (RLI).
  - **STATUS: Staff is developing curriculum and planning the 2022 Regional Leadership**

Institute (RLI) planned for September 2022. A thorough review of program applications took place from Jan through Jun and the RLI cohort was announced in Jun 2022.

- Re-evaluate RLI program and create new program changes to be implemented for 2023 program.
  - o **STATUS: Staff conducted an extensive SWOT analysis of RLI including a review of various future scenarios for an updated program. Research and recommendations on program changes for RLI 2023 led to a revamped RFP for new locations for RLI in 2023. The Legacy Lodge and Lanier Islands was chosen as a new location for Fall of 2023.**

- Develop and implement the 2022 MARC program.
  - o **STATUS: Staff held several rounds of meetings with program SME's to revise and build out curriculum for the 2022-2023 MARC program. After an extensive review of applications received, students selected for the 2022-2023 program were notified in May and program preparations are underway for an August 2022 kickoff.**

- Implement enhancements to the programs to ensure that they build effective, regionally minded leaders who will navigate change successfully.
  - o **STATUS: All leadership programs continue to undergo an ongoing review with enhancements consistently being developed and implemented based on program participant and staff evaluations. Programs continue to evolve to be more cost-effective as well as to bring increase impact on moving forward on regional coordination and improved quality of life.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners in these programs are civic leaders from the public and non-profit sectors, business leaders from various fields, elected and appointed local government officials from the Atlanta region, and alumni of the programs.

COST CENTERS

- 202EOL – RLI Program

- 202EKP – LINK Program

- 202EMP – MARC Program

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ELEMENT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2F – ARTS & CULTURE

PURPOSE

ARC supports arts and cultural organizations throughout metro Atlanta in several key ways. Since taking over the work of the Metro Atlanta Arts & Culture Coalition in 2012, ARC has leveraged its existing planning and service work in the region to highlight the perspective and resources of the arts and culture community, while showing the interconnected nature of this work.

The Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA) program has convened and educated more than 600 arts leaders on issues that build a stronger arts community and draw connections to topics such as education, economic development and cultural equity. This program continues to provide a valuable link between the arts and culture community, and ARC's long-range planning and service delivery work.

The Regional Public Arts Program has granted four communities with funds to complete unique and meaningful art pieces that represent local character. And the series of Cultural Forums brings national arts discussions to our region in ways that allow local leaders to connect and collaborate to strengthen our network of relationships and organizations.

For the first time in 2019, the ARC undertook an effort to develop the agency's strategic plan for arts, culture and creative placemaking. This work yielded recommendations for actions within the agency as well as ideas for how ARC may strengthen the arts and culture ecosystem across the region. This plan will be implemented through an internal team of ARC staff and a host of civic volunteers from the 11-county region.

DELIVERABLES

- Develop and implement the 2022 ALMA program.
  - **STATUS: The 2022 ALMA program officially began on February 16, 2022, and concluded on May 18, 2022, with two of the five total sessions held virtually, and the remaining sessions taking place in person. This year, the ALMA program included partnerships with three community-based organizations working in communities that have been most negatively impacted by COVID to develop arts and culture-focused recommendations for planning projects.**

- Undertake at least two cultural forums (virtual or live, pandemic providing) per year around topics of regional importance on a regular basis.
  - **STATUS: A proposal for the Fall Arts Forum to be a follow up from the ALMA 2022 group projects is in a holding position pending the approval of an integrated ALMA-CDAP program in 2023.**

- Continue to integrate arts and culture planning with other long-range planning and community service work of the ARC. Highlight connections and implementation strategies around The Atlanta Region's Plan, CEDS and other agency initiatives.
  - **STATUS: Staff have been meeting regularly with the Aging & Independence Services group regarding community engagement for the Live Beyond Expectations Regional Strategic Plan. We suggested releasing a Request for Qualifications for an artist-led and -facilitated community engagement plan and are supporting the RFP process.**

- Work with Community Development to include arts and culture in LCI, CDAP and other planning programs, including employing artists to conduct community engagement.
    - **STATUS: Staff have redesigned ALMA and designed a new Community Planning through Arts and Culture initiative to embed arts and culture as a process and mechanism to foster inclusive and equitable community engagement. We are applying the lessons we are learning through ALMA to support our Community Development colleagues in considering how our group's community engagement practices can center underrepresented community members by focusing on arts and culture and working with artists.**

- Create opportunities to foster innovation within the creative industries and develop cross- sector collaboration.
    - **STATUS: Through the ALMA redesign and the new Community Planning through Arts and Culture initiative, we support artists and creatives who are interested in community-engaged practice or community planning with a structured learning experience in cross-sector collaboration. These programs will also build internal experience and capacity with working with artists in the planning process.**

- Implement the agency's Arts, Culture + Creative Placemaking Strategic Plan and track its progress online.
    - **STATUS: We conduct regular evaluations of the progress, outcomes, and impact of our work and will share these in our team annual report, which will be posted online at the end of the year.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners in these programs are leaders from the public, private and non-profit arts and culture community, the philanthropic community focused on supporting arts, culture and education, the business community and local governments, along with multi-state and national organizations for partnering and research development.

COST CENTERS

- 202FOA – Arts & Culture Planning and Assistance

2G –TRANSFORMATION ALLIANCE

PURPOSE

The work to be accomplished is in support of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) sub- element, TransFormation Alliance. All the necessary services provided in this subgrant contract will support the study of programs and projects within the TransFormation Alliance service area which includes the 5- county metro Atlanta Region.

As major new investments in transportation and community development are made, the TransFormation Alliance (TFA) wants to ensure that zip code no longer determines destiny. By creating a "New Atlanta Way" for transit community development investments, the TFA seeks to shift the current inequitable trajectory of development and policy decision-marking of our region. This New Atlanta Way will be underpinned by racial equity which is responsive to people within impacted communities through arts and culture-base community engagement, data informed problem solving, and authentic conversations which can shape improved health and climate outcomes.

In 2022, TFA will retain the People/Policy/Capital Framework. This approach captures TFA's project list, moving from data collection and program development to execution of projects and/or systems change and influence strategies.

DELIVERABLES

- Continue to support the Tucker Avenue affordable housing development, design, and build.
    - **STATUS: Completed support to project in first half of 2022.**

- *Executive committee* will continue to advance capital strategies for redevelopment projects within target geography
    - **STATUS: No new actions identified in first half of 2022.**

- Continue to work with other health leads in other SPARCC cities to advance a collective Federal Health Equity agenda
    - **STATUS: TFA has participated in the creation of the new National Equitable Future Alliance or NEFA (potential SPARCC 3.0) model with other SPARCC Site Leads since October 2021. TFA has worked collectively with the other five (5) cities to develop a national workplan and present this work to existing SPARCC funders, while simultaneously shopping the model to other prospects. These efforts are ongoing with biweekly meetings and communications.**

- Identify and cultivate funder champions for sustainability
    - **STATUS: Continued to pursue potential funding opportunities although no new sources of funding have been identified to date.**

- Continue to administer TFA's Community Grants to neighborhood associations and organizations
    - **STATUS: TFA has voted to fund two capital projects in 2022, the Guild's Ground Cover project and Joel Dixon's Urban Oasis Development. TFA's Capital Champion Enterprise is also working closely with East Point Quads to position them to also receive funding in the fall of 2022. The Executive Committee has also agreed to use Arts & Culture champion stipend funds to contribute to MARTA's Bus Network Redesign Initiative, vowing to contribute arts & culture components significant to place and community.**

- Develop a streamlined and transparent mechanism for evaluating potential new SPARCC Capital projects
  - **STATUS: TFA and its Executive Committee members are currently carrying out this programmatic work, while TFA Staff has agreed to support the completion of the EE Tool with a match contribution of $6,000 to pay contractor for web development. Upon completion, staff will solicit the tool to local developers, for profit organizations, and government agencies. The EDIT (PSE) tool will be used as a part of TFA's community engagement for upcoming MARTA ETOD projects. Much of this work is set to begin in the second half of the year.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership of 35 government agencies, businesses, and nonprofits, national philanthropic funders and foundations, LIIF, Enterprise Community Partners, Kendeda Fund, Greater Atlanta Community Foundation.

COST CENTERS

- 102BTA – TransFormation Alliance

NATURAL RESOURCES

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022

ELEMENT 3 – NATURAL RESOURCES

MISSION

The mission of this element is the planning and protection of natural resources in the Atlanta Region. This is accomplished through forecasting future needs and impacts and by developing projects, programs and policies that meet needs. It also provides support for the planning initiatives of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

GOALS

- Protect the Region's primary drinking water sources including the Chattahoochee River, Lake Lanier, and Allatoona Lake.

- Monitor ACT/ACF litigation and U.S. Congressional activities, and coordinate related activities and manage legal and technical assistance

- Encourage and assist the Region's governments in reducing environmental impacts and demonstrate leadership on sustainability.

- Assist the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District through staff support of the District Board, committees, councils and the District Plans and programs.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Monitor Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa/Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACT/ACF) interstate water conflict and coordinate related regional activities.

- Operate the Chattahoochee River/Lake Lanier Information Management System.

- Assist local governments, as requested, in water-related issues such as nutrient reduction planning to prevent harmful algal blooms and multi-jurisdictional water-supply watershed protection agreements.

- Conduct Metropolitan River Protection Act reviews and provide assistance to governments and public.

- Provide planning staff for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

- Complete work on the update to the District's Water Resource Management Plan.

- Provide technical assistance to metro communities to assist with implementation of the District's Water Resource Management Plan.

- Manage and provide assistance to the Regional Toilet Rebate Program.

- Manage the District's education program, including the Clean Water Campaign and the My Drop Counts education campaigns, and the Water Drop Dash Race and Water Festival.

- Staff the Green Communities Program to encourage and assist local governments to reduce overall environmental impact and create green communities by identifying "green" measures and activities.

- Staff the Sustainable Connections Internship Program to connect college and university students in the Atlanta region who are interested in careers in sustainability with local governments and nonprofits in need of sustainability programming assistance.

- Continue work on the Climate Conscious Communities program to recognize cities and counties that are actively planning to mitigate the effects of a changing climate and working to reduce their communities' contribution to the problem.

- Work with The Conservation Fund, American Rivers, and other stakeholders to continue working on water management issues in the Upper Flint River basin by engaging the appropriate parties to implement catalyst projects guided by the Finding the Flint Vision.

- Continue work to assess water supply resilience as part of District's long-range water supply planning.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- 03A – Water Resources
- 03B – Environmental Management
- 03C – Chattahoochee Corridor
- 03D – Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

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ELEMENT 3 – NATURAL RESOURCES

3A – WATER RESOURCES

PURPOSE

The Atlanta Regional Commission provides water supply coordination activities related to the ACT/ACF River Basins Interstate Water Allocation conflict, manages the Chattahoochee River/Lake Information Management System, and provides assistance to local governments on water issues.

DELIVERABLES

- Monitor ACT/ACF Interstate Water Allocation litigation and U.S. Congressional activities and coordinate related activities and management of legal and technical assistance.
  - o **STATUS: Staff continued to monitor litigation and Congress activities, including two lawsuits in the ACF basin (both at the 11th Circuit) and one lawsuit in the ACT basin (in DC District Court). Staff also continued to monitor the Water Resources Development Act and Appropriations bills, especially Commerce, Justice and Science / Energy and Water. Staff worked with Georgia's delegation to make sure they were aware of potential risks to water supply.**

- Operate the Chattahoochee River/Lake Lanier Information Management System.
  - o **STATUS: Staff provided twice-weekly projections for releases from Buford Dam and Morgan Falls Dam in support of the River/Lake Lanier Information Management System throughout the first half of 2022. Staff also coordinated the collection of data from utilities that withdraw directly from the Chattahoochee River as well as the dissemination of time-sensitive information related to changes in withdrawal forecasts or in the releases from either dam.**

- Assist in the implementation of State Water Plan.
  - o **STATUS: ARC/MNGWPD staff participated in five regional water council meetings across the State in the first half of 2022.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Local water utility managers; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division; U.S. Geologic Survey; The Georgia Power Company

COST CENTERS

- 203ARM – River/Lake Management System
- 203AWS – Water Supply Coordination, Data and Reviews
- 703AWW – Technical Assistance Contracts

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ELEMENT 3 – NATURAL RESOURCES

3B – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

The Atlanta Regional Commission helps to protect and improve the Region's environment by providing technical assistance for multi-jurisdictional efforts such as Finding the Flint as well as other special environmental projects as needed. This sub-element also provides for the Group's involvement in DRI reviews and other environmental management projects.

DELIVERABLES

- Conduct DRI and other miscellaneous reviews and local assistance.
    - **STATUS: Reviewed and commented as necessary on water supply watersheds, stream buffers, and stormwater on 27 DRIs and 8 Out-of-Region DRIs as well as on relevant Natural Resources, Community Facilities and Intergovernmental Coordination issues for 9 City and County Comprehensive Plan and related documents in the first half of 2022. Also reviewed 102 State buffer variance requests and other reviews as needed in the first half of 2022.**

- Assist local governments, as requested, in water-related issues such as nutrient reduction planning to reduce harmful algal blooms and multi-jurisdictional water-supply watershed protection agreements.
    - **STATUS: The Lake Lanier Water Quality Initiative (Project) was conceived to decrease pollutant loading to Lake Lanier and its watershed through 2026 by implementing best management practices (BMPs). To assist in this effort, the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts, in partnership with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center requested State Fiscal Recovery funding to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. While no funding was awarded, this effort brought partners together to continue addressing harmful algal blooms in the watershed and will be ready for reapplication when future funds become available.**

- Assist Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) and participating local and state agencies with implementation of the Clean Water Campaign.

    - **STATUS:**
    - **Clean Water Campaign: The Clean Water Campaign Activities and Summary Report was developed for local governments' MS-4 reports and distributed in late May. Updating of existing Clean Water Campaign and My Drop Counts marketing materials continued. Education and outreach materials were distributed to partners. The District shared the art files for brochures and giveaways with out-of-region and out-of-state peer organizations and local governments, furthering efforts to build our brand and reputation nationally.**

    - **My Drop Counts: District staff managed the My Drop Counts water conservation pledge for home and businesses. To date, over 3,800 pledges to conserve water have been made by residents across the state using our program. The District continues to work with a consultant to coordinate a media strategy and secure in-kind media coverage focused on the My Drop Counts Business and Individual Pledges. Education and outreach materials were distributed to partners.**

- o **Video Contest:** This year's annual High School Video Contest was based on the EPA WaterSense Better Bathrooms campaign and the viral TikTok "Devious Licks" challenge. Students were asked to create 30-60 second PSA-style videos about how to encourage water conservation at school. In total, 85 students from across the District submitted 31 video entries. The winning videos were recognized at the District's Governing Board meeting in June, and were also distributed on social media and shared across the region. This year, District staff partnered with TelevisaUnivision and ran an advertisement for the contest in the weeks leading up to the due date. The District and TelevisaUnivision are also developing an interview and spotlight with the team that took first place in Spanish.

- o **Photo Contest:** District staff continued to advertise the Annual Water Reflections Calendar Contest, which ends in September of each year.

- o **Essay Contest:** Topic and advertising development for the annual Middle School Essay Contest will begin in the second half of 2022. The topic and contest will be released in August.

- o **Other Children's Education:** The District continues to provide robust children's programming. As a follow-up to last year's partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting and Georgia's Water Live program, District staff created a video for GPB's "Camp GPB", all about the water cycle, stormwater, and wastewater treatment. The District also created accompanying lesson plans for the activities depicted in the video. In 2022, the Children's Water Festivals returned. The Northern Children's Water Festival was hosted at Johns Creek Environmental Campus/Garrard Landing Park with over 200 students in attendance. The Southern Children's Water Festival was planned for the Shamrock-Blaylock Reservoir in Clayton County but was ultimately cancelled due to severe weather warnings.

- o **Other Related Activities:** The District continues to update the cleanwatercampaign.org and mydropcounts.org websites to reflect current information. The District continues to increase its presence and improve its outreach potential on social media. The District continues to build community partnerships through its contests, events, and initiatives. Due to COVID-19 social distancing measures, the District shifted many of its outreach and education activities to virtual platforms but is now starting to see some of those activities and programs shift to hybrid in-person and virtual platforms.

- Staff the Green Communities Program to encourage and assist local governments to reduce overall environmental impact and create green communities by identifying "green" measures and activities.
  - o **STATUS: In May 2022, seven communities submitted applications for either recertification or upgrades. Staff have hosted four Network + Knowledge sessions this year that offered 1.0 Continuing Maintenance credits to AICP professionals in our cities and counties free of charge. Session topics included energy planning, green power, exploring solar in the community, and more. The Green Matters monthly newsletter was distributed to an audience of over 1,000 recipients.**

- Staff the Sustainable Connections Internship Program to connect college and university students in the Atlanta region who are interested in careers in sustainability with local governments and nonprofits in need of sustainability programming assistance.
  - o **STATUS: The nine 2021-2022 Sustainable Connections Internship Program (SCIP) interns completed their community projects in April and created posters that summarized their experiences and growth, which were presented outside of the May ARC Board meeting. Recruitment of interns and projects for the 2022-2023 SCIP concluded in May. In June, intern candidates participated in the first round of interviews with ARC staff for 8 internships with the following hosts: cities of Decatur, Doraville, East Point, Roswell, South**

Fulton; DeKalb County, Cobb County Water System; and the South Fulton Institute for Arts, Culture, and Environment. Intern applications were received from the following schools: Agnes Scott College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia. Final matches will be made in July following the community interview phase.

- Continue work on the Climate Conscious Communities program to recognize cities and counties that are actively planning to mitigate the effects of a changing climate and working to reduce their communities' contribution to the problem.
  - **STATUS: The Climate Conscious Communities program has been put on hold while ARC evaluates next steps in climate work for the agency. This task will change to be encouraging cities and counties to actively plan to mitigate the effects of a changing climate and work to reduce their communities' contribution.**

- Work with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council to apply for SolSmart Certification.
  - **STATUS: SolSmart Bronze state was achieved in the first half of 2022.**

- Work with The Conservation Fund, American Rivers, and other stakeholders to continue working on water management issues in the Upper Flint River basin by engaging the appropriate parties to carry out catalyst projects guided by the Finding the Flint Vision. Assist the Transportation and Mobility Group in offering the City Simulator Tool to local communities to assess flooding and heat island impacts to transportation and transit systems within watersheds across the Region.
  - **STATUS: Participated in bi-weekly Finding the Flint (FTF) Core Team meetings, attended additional meetings with the working group and community stakeholders. Supporting College Park in the final sale of the MARTA property on Willingham Drive for development of the Headwaters Nature Preserve, which is one of the FTF catalyst projects. Additionally, supporting the pursuit of Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act (GOSA) funding for Headwaters Nature Preserve construction. Reengaging with Delta Airlines on the Delta-Upper Flint Restoration and Park after taking a break due to COVID. Continued collaboration with Clayton County Office of Sustainability and Resilience in their pursuit of a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant for flood mitigation and resilient infrastructure in the Flint basin.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Internal partnership will involve the Community Development Group, Research & Analytics Group and the Transportation Access & Mobility Group. External partnerships will involve local governments, local universities, nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, the Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Department of Transportation and the MNGWPD.

COST CENTERS

- 203BSP – Special Projects (DRI review, Manual Training)
- 203BSU – Sustainability Programs

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 3 – NATURAL RESOURCES

3C – CHATTAHOOCHEE CORRIDOR

PURPOSE

One of the Atlanta Regional Commission's responsibilities is the protection of the Chattahoochee River by reviewing proposed developments and monitoring compliance with the protection measure standards of the Chattahoochee Corridor Plan, as required by the Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA). The purpose of these activities is to protect the Region's primary drinking water source as well as the scenic, recreational and natural resources of the river and its surrounding lands. This work program also provides for other river protection research, planning and education activities to promote greater public awareness of the river, the issues and problems facing it, and the need for its protection.

DELIVERABLES

- Complete all MRPA and Area Plan Reviews of submitted development applications.
  - **STATUS: Reviewed and completed 17 MRPA review applications in the first half of 2022. One application was still in review on June 30 and will close in July. Another application was required additional information and was not ready to open on June 30. Staff also worked with applicants on four reviews that had not been submitted by June 30. Staff determined that 5 proposed projects did not require reviews during the first half of the year.**

- Provide information on requirements, specific review issues and past review histories to applicants, local governments and the public.
  - **STATUS: Worked with applicants, consultants and local government staffs on current, pending, proposed and past reviews. Activities included conducting 12 category reevaluations and one evaluation for a Corridor property that did not have clear categories on the relevant vulnerability map, researching past reviews and researching and providing information for proposed reviews and other project proposals, including commenting on proposed bike and pedestrian paths in Sandy Springs and a proposed paddle and camp water trail in Atlanta, South Fulton and Chattahoochee Hills. Research, consultation and assistance averaged between 4 and 5 days a week.**

- Work with local governments to encourage enforcement of MRPA and to resolve violations of Corridor Plan standards.
  - **STATUS: Advised and worked with local governments on reported violations and other enforcement matters as needed, including resolution of impervious overages through the removal of paving and other surfaces, as well as the revegetation of excessively cleared areas.**

- Provide education on MRPA and river protection to interested groups.
  - **STATUS: Met and consulted with local governments as needed to discuss MRPA and Corridor Plan issues, including Douglas and Forsyth Counties and the cities of Johns Creek, Peachtree Corners, Roswell and Sandy Springs in the first half of 2022. Staff also answered questions and provided information as requested throughout the year.**

- Continue to provide critical MRPA input for development of the Chattahoochee Riverlands Study.
  - **STATUS: Staff participated in Chattahoochee Riverland Working Group meetings throughout the first half of 2022 and provided input as needed, including input on a proposed paddle and camp water trail in Atlanta, South Fulton and Chattahoochee Hills. Staff will continue attendance and provide input on MRPA as the Riverlands Study is implemented.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Internal partnership is with the Community Development Group. External partnerships include local governments, Trust for Public Lands, Georgia Mountain RDC and the National Park Service.

COST CENTERS

- 203CCR – Chattahoochee Corridor Reviews, Assistance and Education

3D – METROPOLITAN NORTH GEORGA WATER PLANNING DISTRICT

PURPOSE

Legislation passed in the 2001 Georgia Legislature created the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and gave ARC certain responsibilities relative to the staffing and planning work for the District. ARC will provide planning staff in 2022.

DELIVERABLES

- Provide administrative support to the District and meeting support of the Water District Board, Committees and Advisory Councils.
  - o **STATUS: Staff support was provided for two Board meetings, two Board Executive Committee meeting, one Board Finance Committee meeting, three Technical Coordinating Committee meetings, and two Joint Basin Advisory Council meetings.**

- Provide staff level review of requests to amend District Plans and facilitate the public process where requests are considered.
  - o **STATUS: No amendments were presented for consideration before June 30, 2022.**

- Provide technical assistance in support of the District-wide Water Resource Management Plan, including:
  - o Stormwater Model Ordinance training and implementation assistance
  - o Local stormwater monitoring data collection.
  - o Local wastewater planning
  - o Facilitation of and participation in multi-jurisdictional approaches on wastewater and watershed issues, including Lake Lanier water quality issues
  - o Support of local utilities to implement actions of the Plan.
  - o Providing a mechanism for review and oversight of the Plan's water conservation element
  - o Guidance and workshops for water conservation coordination including program planning
  - o Utility data collection and review
  - o **STATUS:**
    - o **Stormwater Model Ordinance Training and Implementation Assistance: Continuing to provide guidance to local jurisdictions about the District's stormwater model ordinances and the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (GSMM). This includes facilitating discussion regarding the design of certain practices in the GSMM and how they should be implemented in the field to meet the new runoff reduction criteria to improve water quality. Additionally, staff produced GA Stormwater Shorts, a video series on the GSMM webpage, to help practitioners understand elements of the GSMM.**
    - o **Local Stormwater Monitoring Data Collection: Continued coordination with Lake Lanier stakeholders including the Upper Chattahoochee Basin Group, Lake Lanier Association, The Water Tower, and local jurisdictions to better understand the sources of nutrients that are impacting the Chlorophyll-a exceedances at Lake Lanier monitoring stations. Reviewed a variety of initiatives to address the issue including grant funding and educational materials.**
    - o **Local wastewater planning: District staff coordinated with multiple local wastewater providers regarding their proposed infrastructure plans and studies and provided**

advice on how those efforts align with the District's Water Resource Management Plan requirements.

- o **Facilitation of multi-jurisdictional approaches on wastewater issues, including Lake Lanier water quality issues: District staff coordinated with stakeholders in the Lake Lanier watershed to set up a stakeholder meeting in the third quarter of the year.**

- o **Support Communities in District Plan Implementation: In preparation for EPD's District plan compliance audits, District staff conducted outreach to all communities under audit and provided one-on-one technical assistance on an as needed basis. Technical assistance materials were prepared and provided to interested communities and are organized and made generally available on the District's website. In addition, District staff met with Georgia EPD to provide information, context, and history on the District plan requirements.**

- o **Providing a mechanism for review and oversight of the Plan's water conservation element: District staff coordinated and led quarterly Technical Coordinating Committee and Basin Advisory Council meetings on proposed new Action Items under the plan update. This includes receiving and incorporating stakeholder input on Action Item redline updates. Presentations were given by District staff regarding this progress including changes and updates made as a result of the District Board retreat in February. At the most recent Board meeting in June, the District Board approved the release of the Plan update for public comment.**

- o **Guidance and workshops for water conservation coordination including program planning: District staff coordinated and led quarterly Technical Coordinating Committee and Basin Advisory Council meetings regarding the plan update. Staff presented to the District Board providing a suite of framed recommendations regarding the proposed Action Item updates at the District Board Retreat. District Staff have engaged with stakeholders on a variety of levels to receive and discuss stakeholder comments and feedback.**

- o **Utility data collection and review: District staff collected water withdrawal and wastewater discharge data for prior years to assess trends and monitor progress of water conservation and efficiency efforts.**

- Manage and provide assistance to the Regional Toilet Rebate Program.
    - o **STATUS: Staff managed the regional toilet rebate program and provided technical and customer service support to 21 water providers participating in the program. Mid-last year, the program switched to a single-tier rebate structure, offering a rebate value of $75 for toilets using 1.1 gpf or less. In the first six months of 2022, the program has rebated almost 100 Ultra-High Efficiency Toilet models, including 1 multi-family property.**

- Management of the District's education program, including public awareness, the Clean Water Campaign and the My Drop Counts Campaign elements, the Water Drop Dash 5K and Water Fest, targeted workshops and primary and secondary education programs.
    - o **STATUS:**
        - o **Water Drop Dash: The District partnered with Chattahoochee Nature Center in March to organize the tenth annual Water Drop Dash 5K, fun run and education fair focused on water conservation awareness. This year, the race was back to its pre-Covid route, and had both an in-person and virtual option for the 5K and Fun Run. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Water Drop Dash 5K, the District also offered a one-time virtual 10K. Well over 750 runners registered for the race, and over 600 people participated in-**

person. After the race, the District and several District utility and community partners hosted a post-race Water Festival. Over 600 runners and their families attended the festival and participated in water conservation demonstrations, received useful giveaway items like leak detection kits and toilet flappers, learned about Fix a Leak Week. The District also hosted its annual T-Shirt Design Contest. There were a total of 12 entries to the contest. The winning design was featured on the race t-shirts that each runner received.

- **Clean Water Campaign:** The Clean Water Campaign Activities and Summary Report was developed for local governments' MS-4 reports and distributed in late May. Updating of existing Clean Water Campaign and My Drop Counts marketing materials continued. Education and outreach materials were distributed to partners. The District shared the art files for brochures and giveaways with out-of-region and out-of-state peer organizations and local governments, furthering efforts to build our brand and reputation nationally.

- **My Drop Counts:** District staff managed the My Drop Counts water conservation pledge for home and businesses. To date, over 3,800 pledges to conserve water have been made by residents across the state using our program. The District continues to work with a consultant to coordinate a media strategy and secure in-kind media coverage focused on the My Drop Counts Business and Individual Pledges. Education and outreach materials were distributed to partners.

- **Video Contest:** This year's annual High School Video Contest was based on the EPA WaterSense Better Bathrooms campaign and the viral TikTok "Devious Licks" challenge. Students were asked to create 30-60 second PSA-style videos about how to encourage water conservation at school. In total, 85 students from across the District submitted 31 video entries. The winning videos were recognized at the District's Governing Board meeting in June and were also distributed on social media and shared across the region. This year, District staff partnered with TelevisaUnivision and ran an advertisement for the contest in the weeks leading up to the due date. The District and TelevisaUnivision are also developing an interview and spotlight with the team that took first place in Spanish.

- **Photo Contest:** District staff advertised the Annual Water Reflections Calendar Contest, which ends in September of each year.

- **Essay Contest:** Topic and advertising development for the annual Middle School Essay Contest will begin in the second half of 2022. The topic and contest will be released in August.

- **Other Children's Education:** The District continues to provide robust children's programming. As a follow-up to last year's partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting and Georgia's Water Live program, District staff created a video for GPB's "Camp GPB", all about the water cycle, stormwater, and wastewater treatment. The District also created accompanying lesson plans for the activities depicted in the video. In 2022, the Children's Water Festivals returned. The Northern Children's Water Festival was hosted at Johns Creek Environmental Campus/Garrard Landing Park with over 200 students in attendance. The Southern Children's Water Festival was planned for the Shamrock-Blaylock Reservoir in Clayton County but was ultimately cancelled due to severe weather warnings.

- **Other Related Activities:** The District updated the cleanwatercampaign.org and mydropcounts.org websites to reflect current information. The District expanded its presence and improved its outreach potential on social media. The District built community partnerships through its contests, events, and initiatives. Due to COVID-19

social distancing measures, the District shifted many of its outreach and education activities to virtual platforms but is now starting to see some of those activities and programs shift to hybrid in-person and virtual platforms.

- Implement a Septic System Impact to Surface Waters Study for Wet Weather.
    - **STATUS: The District awarded a contract to the University of Georgia Research Foundation to conduct the Wet Weather Septic System Impact to Surface Water Quality Study. A kickoff meeting was held in February 2022 and work is expected to be complete in 2023.**

- Complete the 5-year update to the District's Water Resource Management Plan.
    - **STATUS: In February, the draft Water Resource Management Plan was provided to the Governing Board, TCC, BAC, and regional water councils for review. District staff obtained feedback and obtained authorization from the District Governing Board to release the plan for public comment on June 1, 2022. The final draft will be presented to the Governing Board in December 2022 for final approval.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Member Governments of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District; Local water utility managers; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Georgia Department of Natural Resources; U.S. Geologic Survey; The Georgia Power Company, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

COST CENTERS

- 203DPL – Water District Support Activities
- 203DPE – Water District Education Program
- 203DP1 – Water District Support
- 203DDU – Water District Dues Activities

WORKFORCE

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022

ELEMENT 4 – WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

MISSION

The Atlanta Regional Commission serves as the fiscal and administrative agent, and workforce grant sub-recipient, for the Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board (ARWDB). As such, the ARC Workforce Solutions Group is charged with implementing the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) in a 7-county area, including: Cherokee, Clayton, Douglas, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale counties (known as Region 3, Area 7 as defined by the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development).

In implementing WIOA, the Workforce Solutions Group offers programs and services centered on meeting the needs of two primary customers: job seekers and businesses. These programs focus on demand-driven workforce solutions by providing data and resources to businesses seeking a skilled workforce, as well as providing employment services and training to dislocated workers, unemployed and low-income adults, and youth.

GOALS

- Provide WIOA programs and activities for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth to ensure a skilled and trained workforce that supports the regional economy.

- Manage Career Resource Centers throughout the region focused on supporting the needs of local job seekers by providing quality employment services including career advisement, job preparation and workshops, and referrals to training.

- Provide comprehensive services to the region's youth participants ages 16 – 24 who are seeking employment and education/training services (primarily out of school youth) through programs in each of the 7 counties.

- Coordinate with businesses to provide work-based learning through programs such as On the Job Training, Incumbent Worker Training, Customized Training, Workplace Fundamentals, Internships, and Apprenticeships.

- Work with the Georgia Department of Labor and other community resources to provide rapid response services for displaced workers at companies facing closure or downsizing.

- Develop and implement sector strategies within strategic industries including: healthcare, information technology, transportation/distribution/logistics, skilled trades, and advanced manufacturing.

- Work with the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development on strategic initiatives, case studies, and pilot projects to advance innovation in workforce development planning and services.

- Coordinate with the other four local workforce development boards in metro Atlanta to implement the regional workforce plan and other collaborative projects to support a more efficient and cohesive workforce system.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Provide administrative and staff support for the ARWDB and its committees. Hold at least four meetings of the ARWDB.
  - o **STATUS: The March 23rd and May 25th Board Meetings were held hybrid meetings, with the Executive Committee meetings taking place prior to these meetings. Quorum was not met for both meetings.**

- Maintain a system of Career Resource Centers for employment and training services, in addition to the mobile career center and mobile welding lab, providing access to workforce programs and services in all 7 counties in our service area. Participate in special projects such as job fairs and community events to extend ARWDB employment and training services beyond traditional service locations.
  - o **STATUS: The One Stop and Affiliate Career Resource Centers throughout our seven-counties provided in-person virtual services to individuals. In total, the centers provided services to 10,744 individuals in-person and virtually from January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The One Stop and Clayton Career Resource Centers conducted 55 employer/partner events from January 2022 through June 2022. The Mobile Career Lab remained shut-down due to maintenance issues. The mobile welding trailer has been inspected and is ready for its first class.**

- Provide employment and trainings services in both in-person and virtual formats to reach a broad customer base. Continue to enhance the regional customer website and access portal at ATLworks.org.

- Support the delivery of services for displaced workers at major companies facing closure or downsizing as the needs arise.
  - o **STATUS: Rapid Response activities were provided for the Atlanta Journal Constitution.**

- Continue to develop and enhance training opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment, such as those with disabilities and returning citizens.
  - o **STATUS: The Disability Employment Initiative grant ended in March 2019. However, we found the disability services valuable to our career centers and customers and continued to fund the coordinator's position. The coordinator worked with individuals seeking workforce programs and needing disability services. The coordinator continues to provide employment services to Ticket to Work Holders.**
  - o **Henry, Clayton, and Gwinnett correction facilities collectively held several welding training programs onsite at each location with positive outcomes. The Henry County Sheriff office hosted their first welding training program by partnering with ARC and Southern Crescent Technical College in February 2022 with five participants gaining entry level welding certifications.**

- Maintain a comprehensive system of youth programs in each of the 7 counties in the service area as guided by WIOA's fourteen required elements of youth services.
  - o **STATUS: The NextGen Program (NGP) continues to adjust services and activities to address the needs and the priorities resulting from COVID-19. NGP continues to provide services and activities (both virtual and in-person) to include, but not limited to, weekly professional development workshops, online employer orientations, work experience and in-home employment opportunities, online case management, entrepreneurship programs, company tours, inspirational speakers, professional meetings, team building exercises, academic enrichment, social and personal enrichment, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, health safety workshops, life skills training, mentoring, and supportive services. NGP continues to expand supportive services opportunities to youth in the areas of housing, utilities, food, mental wellness, counseling, and support groups. The use of both in-person and virtual platforms aid to increase the numbers of customer participations, classes being offered, and volunteers who**

assist with the programs. As NGP continues to work towards transitioning out of COVID-19, it is the intention to continue the virtual services at the same level as well as to enhance the in-person services.

- Enhance connections to local businesses in all seven counties and expand opportunities for adult and youth participants to receive work-based learning experiences through On the Job Training, Incumbent Worker Training, Customized Training, Workplace Fundamentals, Internships, Apprenticeships, and Work Experience.
  - o **STATUS: On the Job Training, (OJT) and Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) are the most frequently used programs; either as stand-alone programs or to implement a Registered Apprenticeship. However, the Business Services team maintains the capacity to implement all of the above programs, subject to budget constraints. As of June 30, 2022, we have 20 active OJT projects, and one additional pending execution at ARC. We also have three active and one pending IWT projects; along with 14 prospective new projects. Workplace Fundamentals is typically done in conjunction with the Youth Services. We had a good prospect for a project in Rockdale during this period, but it was postponed by the Tech College due to staffing changes. It remains a prospect for future years.**

- Serve in a leadership role to advance regional workforce initiatives, including the Metro Atlanta Industry Partnerships, Equity@Work, and Targeted Outreach activities.
  - o **STATUS: Workforce Solutions staff continued to provide support to MAIP, which finalized the last six months of the current grant, expending all funds as anticipated while hosting monthly webinars, implementing the five service lines with each team meeting during the last 6 months, and offered two Career Compass Academy cohorts. WorkSource Atlanta Regional in conjunction with Atlanta CareerRise submitted a grant request from the third round of Industry Partnerships grant and was successful in receiving one additional year of funding ($800,000).**
  - o **ARC continues to lead a targeted outreach campaign for WorkSource Metro Atlanta directing job seekers to a common landing page at ATLworks.org. From January to June 2022, the targeted outreach efforts included a social media campaign resulting in 1 million impressions 1443 forms being submitted seeking more information about workforce services. Other outreach activities included posters at transit stations and bus stops in targeted areas, along with strategically placed billboards.**
  - o **The Regional Workforce Initiative was launched in March 2020 at a public meeting with over 120 participants in attendance at the Center for Civil Rights. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions soon followed which led to a pause in the public engagement process. During 2020 and early 2021, a leadership team continued to work on the initiative – now branded as Equity@Work – creating a blueprint to move forward, including a mission statement, five goals, and establishing working groups around each goal.**

- Monitor and support state and federal legislation related to workforce development programs and funding, including WIOA reauthorization, open meetings act for workforce boards, and special funding opportunities for economic and workforce development pandemic recovery.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- 4A – Adult and Dislocated Worker Services
- 4B – Youth Services
- 4C – Business Services
- 4D – Special Projects
- 4E – Local and Regional Workforce Planning

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 4 – WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

4A – ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER SERVICES

PURPOSE

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides for a range of services to adults who are unemployed or underemployed, with emphasis on those who are economically disadvantaged, unskilled, or have other barriers to employment. WIOA also provides retraining, job search assistance, and related services for workers who have lost their jobs as a result of business closings, mass layoffs, and the effects of economic change. Services provided by the Workforce Solutions Group to implement WIOA include: program planning and implementation, administration of career services, skills assessment, employability development planning, career counseling, job search and job retention skills, job placement, follow-up, and supportive services.

DELIVERABLES

- Plan and deliver workforce development services for Adults and Dislocated Workers at career resource centers, the mobile career center, or mobile welding lab, in each of the seven counties in the Atlanta Regional workforce service area.
    - o **STATUS: The One Stop and Affiliate Career Resource Centers within our seven-county footprint has fully opened to the public and has been providing in-person and virtual services at customer's request. The One Stop located in Gwinnett and the Clayton Career Resource Center located in Morrow have provided 55 employer/partner events from January 2022 – June 30, 2022. The centers have also provided services to over 10,744 individuals via in-person or virtually.**
    - o **The mobile career lab was not in services due to the need to replace the generators and repairs to a cracked windshield. The generator replacement is in process and the cracked windshield has been replaced. The mobile welding trailer has been inspected and ready for the first class later this year.**

- Develop and enhance training opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment such as those with disabilities and returning citizens.
    - o **STATUS: Henry, Clayton and Gwinnett correction facilities collectively held several welding training programs onsite at each location with positive outcomes. The Henry County Sheriff office hosted their first welding training program by partnering with ARC and Southern Crescent Technical College in February 2022 with five participants gaining entry level welding certifications.**

- Provide a system of Individual Training Accounts for customers to access training opportunities and lead a regional process for implementation of the Eligible Training Provider List.
    - o **STATUS: ITA Workgroup held two quarterly meetings in January and April 2022. The workgroup reviewed seven new training providers applications and approved five new training programs that were added to the Eligible Training Providers List to ensure customers' choice in training providers and programs.**

- Participate in Rapid Response activities with the US Department of Labor, the Georgia Department of Labor, and community partners to disseminate information about retraining services to employees and employers experiencing layoffs.
    - o **STATUS: Rapid response activities were provided for the Atlanta Journal Constitution.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination will occur with a variety of agencies including the four other local workforce development boards within the region (City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton), County Human Service Coalition Committees, County DFCS offices, local school systems, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development Agencies. Additional partners include non-profit organizations such as Atlanta CareerRise and Goodwill of North Georgia. Coordination will also occur with multiple state and federal agencies such as the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Technical College System of Georgia, Georgia Department of Labor/US Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

COST CENTERS

- 104AA, 104AY, 104A1, 104A3, 204AA, 204AY– Adult Administration
- 104AB, 104AZ, 104A2, 104A4, 204AB, 204AZ – Adult Program
- 104EA, 104EY, 204EA, 204EY, 204EE – Dislocated Worker Administration
- 104EB, 104EZ, 204EB, 204EZ, 204EF – Dislocated Worker Program
- 104E1, 104E2 – Covid DW Administration/Program

<u>**PURPOSE**</u>

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides for services to out-of-school youth and in-school youth who are economically disadvantaged, unskilled or have other barriers to employment and/or training for entry into the labor force. The ARC NextGen Program provides services to youth ages 16 – 24 who reside in the Atlanta Regional service area. Services are provided to identify and address the participants' education and training, employment, personal, and social development needs through service providers located in each of the 7 counties. Services to assist with attainment of credentials (GED, high school diploma, occupational, or post-secondary), development of employability skills (resume writing, interview preparation, financial literacy, job shadowing, internships), placement in employment (job search and other related activities that leads to long-term career), and/or placement in education (grant/scholarship research and other related activities that transition to advanced training or post-secondary) are vital for youth long-term success in the labor force.

<u>**DELIVERABLES**</u>

- Design and implement programs that provide a comprehensive system of youth services to qualified youth who are seeking employment and education/training services as guided by WIOA's fourteen (14) required elements of youth services.
    - **STATUS: The NextGen Program (NGP) continues to adjust services and activities to address the needs and the priorities resulting from COVID-19. NGP continues to provide services and activities (both virtual and in-person) to include, but not limited to, weekly professional development workshops, online employer orientations, work experience and in-home employment opportunities, online case management, entrepreneurship programs, company tours, inspirational speakers, professional meetings, team building exercises, academic enrichment, social and personal enrichment, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, health safety workshops, life skills training, mentoring, and supportive services. NGP continues to expand supportive services opportunities to youth in the areas of housing, utilities, food, mental wellness, counseling, and support groups. The use of both in-person and virtual platforms aid to increase the numbers of customer participations, classes being offered, and volunteers who assist with the programs. As NGP continues to work towards transitioning out of COVID-19, it is the intention to continue the virtual services at the same level as well as to enhance the in-person services.**

- Conduct economic and labor market analysis that describes the economic conditions in the ARWDB service area, then develop and implement strategies to address the economic challenges facing youth.
    - **STATUS: NGP continues to work with local businesses, community organizations, local Chambers, and other local government agencies to collaboratively identify, analyze, and track labor market information and trends. Training opportunities continue to be updated, changed, or developed to support youth in gaining the skills needed to fill the changing employment gap, needs and opportunities. NGP continues to research viable credentials to ensure youth are aligned with the marketable skills required for long-term success in various career ladders/pathways. NGP works with businesses such as the IBEW electrician union to set up pre-apprenticeships training opportunities that would lead into apprenticeship programs. NGP continues to communicate with the technical schools and several other colleges to ensure youth get the warp-around assistance needed to attend training programs**

that lead directly into the job market.

- Participate in or lead discussions surrounding strategies and solutions that promote long-term economic sustainability for youth.
    - **STATUS: NGP continues to work with various businesses, government agencies, non-profits, and the community to identify needs and solutions that can aid to provide economic sustainability in the areas of housing, education, and employment. NGP continues to work with the County Magistrate Court with the eviction prevention program which focuses on maintaining tenancy and prevent eviction for the youth and their families. NGP continues to be involved with discussions and strategies for opportunities for re-entry/returning citizens.**

- Leverage resources, connections, collaborations, coordination, and access to organizations and services throughout the educational and workforce system to effectively and efficiently provide and expand youth services.
    - **STATUS: NGP continues to collaborate with County/State agencies and community partners to conduct virtual job fairs and to provide aid in the form of assistance for housing, food (via food pantries), utilities, work experience, and financial assistance. NGP continues to provide counseling and life coaching through partnerships via online meetings. Also, through continued partnerships with County Drug Court, it has led to drug prevention training opportunities to the youth from trained professionals. NGP continues to connect youth with drug addiction counselors to address substance issues that impair the youth from obtaining and/or succeeding in a long-term employment position. NGP continues partnerships with various Technical College Adult Education programs provides GED tutorial to supplement GED instructions.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination will occur with a variety of agencies including the four other local workforce development boards within the region (City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton), County Human Service Coalition Committees, County DFCS offices, local school systems, County Courts, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development Agencies. Additional partners include non- profit organizations such as Atlanta CareerRise and Goodwill of North Georgia. Coordination will also occur with multiple state and federal agencies such as the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Technical College System of Georgia, Georgia Department of Labor/US Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

COST CENTERS

- 104CA, 204CA, 204CE – Youth Administration
- 104CB, 104CD, 204CB, 204CD, 204CF – Youth Program

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 4 – WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

4C – BUSINESS SERVICES

PURPOSE

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) places an emphasis on business services through work-based learning and developing business driven initiatives. Businesses are a core customer for ARWDB programs and activities. Staff will engage businesses to determine their employment needs related to hiring new staff or training existing staff, define programs, and partner on service delivery.

DELIVERABLES

- Offer to local employers a suite of work-based learning programs for Adults, Youth, and Dislocated Workers that include On the Job Training, Incumbent Worker Training, Customized Training, Workplace Fundamentals, Internships, and Registered Apprenticeships.
  - **STATUS: On the Job Training, (OJT) and Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) are the most frequently used programs; either as stand-alone programs or to implement a Registered Apprenticeship. However, the Business Services team maintains the capacity to implement all of the above programs, subject to budget constraints. As of June 30, 2022, we have 20 active OJT projects, and one additional pending execution at ARC. We also have three active and one pending IWT projects; along with 14 prospective new projects. Workplace Fundamentals is typically done in conjunction with the Youth Services. We had a good prospect for a project in Rockdale during this period, but it was postponed by the Tech College due to staffing changes. It remains a prospect for future years.**

- Implement the Metro Atlanta Industry Partnerships (MAIP) grant by engaging businesses in the five targeted sectors. Coordinate with Atlanta CareerRise for MAIP management and oversight.
  - **STATUS: The Business Services team coordinates closely with CareerRise on the Business Engagement Council and participates in and supports the Workforce Council as needed. In addition to normal and ongoing referrals for participation in the OJT and IWT programs, the major initiative for this period is the Business Services Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform. Work progresses on populating the database with company contracts and accounts, which is especially helpful to large companies operating across all five metro area boards.**

- Achieve a balanced distribution of programs and services across the region that is generally proportional to each counties' share of population and employment.
  - **STATUS: Though not completely proportional, our active projects are well distributed over the service area. Rockdale will receive more focus in the current year to improve its participation.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination will occur with a variety of agencies including the four other local workforce development boards within the region (City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton), County Human Service Coalition Committees, County DFCS offices, local school systems, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Agencies, trade associations, and individual employers. Additional partners include non- profit organizations such as Atlanta CareerRise and Goodwill of North Georgia. Coordination will also occur with multiple state and federal agencies such as the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Technical College System

of Georgia, Georgia Department of Labor/US Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Georgia Department of Human Resources. The Development Authorities and Chambers are our major outreach partners in each County. We have participated in programs and presentations for Fayette, Douglas, Cherokee and Douglas during this period, and a multi-employer recruiting event with Clayton for Economic Development Week. We receive regular referrals from Partnership Gwinnet, and Tech Colleges are major partners in providing IWT programs.

COST CENTERS

- 104AA, 104AY, 104A1, 104A3, 204AA, 204AY – Adult Administration
- 104AB, 104AZ, 104A2, 104A4, 204AB, 204AZ – Adult Program
- 104CA, 204CA, 204CE – Youth Administration
- 104CB, 104CD, 204CB, 204CD, 204CF – Youth Program
- 104EA, 104EY, 204EA, 204EY, 204EE – Dislocated Worker Administration
- 104EB, 104EZ, 204EB, 204EZ, 204EF – Dislocated Worker Program

4D – SPECIAL PROJECTS

PURPOSE

The ARWDB receives special projects, grants, and other partnership opportunities to provide or test new or expanded services that support workforce needs in the region. These projects and services may run from a few months to multiple years. Current special projects are detailed below.

DELIVERABLES

Complete the specific tasks related to each of the grants or special projects as detailed in the program agreement. Ensure the financial and time constraints are adhered to and deliverables are provided. Document experiences and consider the applicability of the services for new or expanded programs in the ARWDB service area.

- **Aerotropolis Atlanta Workforce Collective.** The Aerotropolis Atlanta Workforce Collective envisions creating an integrated workforce development approach to better prepare residents for career opportunities in and around Atlanta's bustling airport, an area that lags behind metro Atlanta income and employment rates. The airport is a key economic driver to bring employment opportunities to an area that is struggling financially, and the Workforce Collective will help ensure that local talent is prepared to fill local jobs. The Workforce Solutions Group provides staff support for the planning and implementation of the Workforce Collective.
    - o **STATUS: The Workforce Collective continued to work on their strategic plan and helped to actively recruit participants for the construction, customs brokerage, and hospitality training programs.**

- **Metro Atlanta Industry Partnerships.** The Metro Atlanta Industry Partnerships is the evolution from the initial HDCI grant funded in 2017. The five local workforce development boards in metro Atlanta sought and received a third implementation grant for one additional year (through June 30, 2022), $800,000 grant to continue sector strategies for five key regional industries – Healthcare, Information Technology, and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics, Skilled Trades, and Advanced Manufacturing. The goal of this initiative is to connect businesses with qualified workers, facilitate career pathways, align education with industry needs, and improve work readiness. ARC Workforce Solutions Group is the lead as the grant contract administrator and will work collaboratively with the other local workforce development boards to fulfill the grant requirements
    - o **STATUS: The Business Services team coordinates closely with CareerRise on the Business Engagement Council and participates in and supports the Workforce Council as needed. In addition to normal and ongoing referrals for participation in the OJT and IWT programs, the major initiative for this period is the Business Services Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform. Work progresses on populating the database with company contracts and accounts, which is especially helpful to large companies operating across all 5 metro area boards.**

- **Disability Employment Initiative.** ARC Workforce Solutions completed the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant in early 2019. This grant was provided by the United States Department of Labor to expand the capacity of American Job Centers (AJCs) to improve employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities. While the ARC portion of the grant was funded for only 1-year, the early results were very promising. As such, ARC committed to continue the services using local funds. This initiative will continue focusing on improving the capacity of the workforce system to serve customers with disabilities.

- o **STATUS: The Disability Employment Initiative grant ended in March 2019; however, we found the disability services valuable to our career centers and customers and continued to fund the coordinator's position. The coordinator worked with individuals seeking workforce programs and needing disability services. The coordinator continues to provide employment services to Ticket to Work Holders; to date, there are seven tickets assigned to WorkSource Atlanta Regional through this initiative. Of the seven tickets assigned, three customers were employed.**

- **Systems Change for Economic Mobility (SCEM).** The five metro Atlanta Local Workforce Development Boards (WorkSource Metro Atlanta) in partnership with Atlanta CareerRise will work to expand access to services to individuals from high-need areas. To ensure more equitable access to services, the project aims to determine how and where services are deployed across the region, develop uniform eligibility requirements and application processes, and increase participation of nonprofit providers to deliver services in the community.
  - o **STATUS: To date, the Atlanta CareerRise team and the five metro Local Workforce Development Areas, including WorkSource Atlanta Regional, have completed work on three objectives of this grant including:**
  - o **A regional data analysis focusing on WIOA Program Data from 2016 -2019**
  - o **The aligned WIOA process has been developed using human centered design, piloted and is now fully implemented across all five Local Workforce Development Areas in metro Atlanta (www.atlworks.org/job-seekers)**
  - o **A final version of a regional ITA Agreement that aligns the engagement between the LWDAs and the training providers**
  - o **An aligned training provider monitoring process has been developed and is now fully implemented across all five Local Workforce Development Areas in metro Atlanta.**

- **Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IJJA**) - The Atlanta Regional Commission is uniquely positioned to work with cities and counties across the region to help understand this complex legislation and navigate the opportunities to access federal funds. The ability to match these funds locally will determine how successful our region is in building a brighter and better future for the residents of metro Atlanta. ARC staff will help you navigate the process.
  - o **STATUS: A team has been established and strategic planning has kicked off with drafting a roadmap to how this initiative will be incorporated into the structure of workforce development and ARC. Staff has participated in several meetings and provided the initial list of programs that has been identified as a part of the IIJA that may fill the gaps immediately for industries that are lacking skilled workforce. The plan is also to identify additional training programs in collaboration with current training providers, businesses, and apprenticeships to build a labor pool of skilled workers to fill the gaps and prepare for future careers.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination will occur with a variety of agencies including the four other local workforce development boards within the region (City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton), County Human Service Coalition Committees, County DFCS offices, local school systems, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development Agencies. Additional partners include non-profit organizations such as Atlanta CareerRise and Goodwill of North Georgia. Coordination will also occur with multiple state and federal agencies such as the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Technical College System of Georgia, Georgia Department of Labor/US Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

COST CENTERS

- 104ZI, 104ZJ – Metro Atlanta Industry Partnerships Grant
- 104/204PB – ARC Workforce Cost Pool

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 4 – WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

4E – LOCAL AND REGIONAL WORKFORCE PLANNING

PURPOSE

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides designated regions and local workforce development areas the responsibility to create employment and training systems tailored specifically to regional economies. These systems must meet the needs of the full range of learners and workers, including those with barriers to employment. The system must also address the specific needs of regional employers and the skills they require. WIOA requires the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) to submit a local plan to the Governor. If the local area is part of a planning region, the LWDB will work collaboratively with other LWDBs in the designated region to prepare and submit a regional workforce plan. The local and regional plans provide the framework for local areas to define how their workforce development systems will achieve the purposes of WIOA. The local and regional plans serve as 4-year action plans to develop, align, and integrate the local and region's job driven workforce development systems, and provides the platform to achieve the plan's visions and goals. The Workforce Solutions Group is responsible for preparing the local workforce plan and takes the lead on coordinating the preparation of the regional workforce plan.

DELIVERABLES

- Monitor the implementation progress of the local and regional workforce plans. Prepare a 2- year update to the plans in 2022, to reflect changing economic conditions and workforce priorities, based on the guidance provided by the TCSG Office of Workforce Development.
    - **STATUS: The five local workforce development plans and one regional workforce development plan were prepared during 2020, approved by the state workforce office, and adopted by the five local workforce development boards in late 2020/early 2021. The local directors meet monthly and review the regional plan implementation process.**

- Design programs and services consistent with the intent of the local and regional workforce plans.
    - **STATUS: In June 2020, TCSG-OWD recertified the Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board for Program Year 2020 and 2021. This certification allows the ARWDB to continue serving as the local workforce development board for the 7-county service area. ARC Workforce Solutions prepared an RFP for local service providers in December 2020, completed the RFP review and selection process in Spring 2021, and prepared new contracts for local services providers effective July 1, 2021.**

- Implement service delivery and regional coordination activities consistent with the local and regional workforce plans.
    - **STATUS: Workforce Solutions staff communicates and coordinates regularly with the Workforce teams of the other 4 Local Workforce Development Boards to serve business customer and job seeker needs. We maintain open communication among the program managers and assist each other in unique circumstances to place job seekers in training or employment from other jurisdictions. ARC continues to lead a targeted outreach campaign for WorkSource Metro Atlanta directing job seekers to a common landing page at ATLworks.org. the targeted outreach efforts included social media campaigns resulting in over 1 million impressions, over 10,000 clicks, and 1443 interest forms being submitted seeking more information about workforce services. Other outreach activities included posters at transit stations and bus stops in targeted areas, along with strategically placed billboards.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination will occur with a variety of agencies including the four other local workforce development boards within the region (City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton), County Human Service Coalition Committees, County DFCS offices, local school systems, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development Agencies. Additional partners include non-profit organizations such as Atlanta CareerRise and Goodwill of North Georgia. Coordination will also occur with multiple state and federal agencies such as the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Technical College System of Georgia, Georgia Department of Labor/US Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

COST CENTERS

- Applicable WIOA or other funding opportunities based on activity.

MOBILITY SERVICES

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 5 – MOBILITY SERVICES

MISSION

The mission of Mobility Services is to facilitate the movement of the traveling public within and through the metropolitan Atlanta Region by employing Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and techniques.

GOALS

- Launch procurement process for Georgia Commute Options for FY23

- Release RFP for Customer Relationship (CRM) System

- Implement at least 20 FlexWork "Start-up," "Quick-start" and/or "Tune-up" programs within the Georgia Commute Options (GCO) and Transportation Management Association (TMA) defined work areas with an emphasis on those partners and organizations that have the greatest capacity for mode shift and align with the updated Employer Engagement Guide.

- Create a 20% increase in new employer and property manager partners.

- Deploy three regional modal promotions (Million Air Challenge, Biketober and Try Transit) to raise the level of awareness of alternative modes.

- Create a 20% increase in new Georgia Commute Schools partners (schools, districts and community partners).

- Increase communications to diverse communities to ensure that a broad group of demographics are reached with information on all available transportation options and means to utilize those options.

- Develop specific media campaign to share messages on commutes as people return to office settings.

- Update and maintain monthly TDM Dashboards, including alterations to the Covid-19 tab as needed.

- Create and deliver the Atlanta Regional TDM report, demonstrating outcomes and trends in the regional TDM program over the course of the calendar year, incorporating external variables, and being comparable to prior years where possible.

- Implement Regional TDM Plan update tasks for stakeholder outreach and participation, regional needs assessment, program evaluation, strategy development, and implementation planning.

- Update and maintain monthly TDM Dashboards, including alterations to the Covid-19 tab as needed.

- Create and deliver the Atlanta Regional TDM report, demonstrating outcomes and trends in the regional TDM program over the course of the calendar year, incorporating external variables, and being comparable to prior years where possible.

- Implement Regional TDM Plan update tasks for stakeholder outreach and participation, regional needs assessment, program evaluation, strategy development, and implementation planning.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Manage operations of the TDM Coordinating Committee and collaborate to update the three-year regional TDM Plan.

- Administer Regional TDM Plan Update.

- Administer TMA service contracts and assist TMAs with necessary COVID-19 related adjustments to their scope of work.

- Pilot environmental justice initiatives related to TDM outreach strategies.

- Launch innovative telework initiatives to support employers, commuters, teleworkers and schools through the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Plan, develop and execute updated regional marketing, public relations and advertising strategies for the GCO Program to deliver the most effective messaging.

- Administer CTAA grant to implement a micro-transit pilot for CPACS.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- 05A – Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 5 – MOBILITY SERVICES

5A – TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM)

PURPOSE

The purpose of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is to increase the use of alternatives to single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel to reduce vehicle miles traveled, relieve traffic congestion, improve air quality, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the region's transportation infrastructure and service delivery systems. These alternatives include carpool, vanpool, transit, telework/flexwork, and walking/biking. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) views its TDM activities largely as implementation mechanisms for The Atlanta Region's Plan.

DELIVERABLES

- Implement at least 20 FlexWork "Start-up," "Quick-start" and/or "Tune-up" programs within the Georgia Commute Options (GCO) and Transportation Management Association (TMA) defined work areas with an emphasis on those partners and organizations that have the greatest capacity for mode shift and align with the updated Employer Engagement Guide.
  - **STATUS: As of June 30, 2022, GCO has implemented 5 FlexWork programs in collaboration with regional TMA partners. Services included formal telework policies and assistance to aid in the transition back to the office, such as technological improvements, training, and customized programs for hybrid work environments. The first two quarters of 2022 saw a decline in demand for FlexWork services. This was primarily due to the Delta and Omicron COVID-19 variants and the resulting uncertainty of organizational plans to return to the office. This trend is not expected to last, and we have already seen an increase in interest and noticeable growth in our FlexWork pipeline.**

- Create a 20% increase in new employer and property manager partners.
  - **STATUS: As of June 30, 2022, GCO has added 44 new employer and property manager partners, bringing the total to 466. This constitutes a 10.4% increase in partners since the end of December 2021.**

- Level-up at least 20% of current employer and property manager partners through the engagement level tiers (Starter, Basic, Intermediate, Advanced).
  - **STATUS: As of June 30, 2022, GCO has fostered 21 increases in employer partner engagement, a 9.1% increase from the baseline of eligible partners at the end December 2021. Due to the widespread adoption of remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have initiated an administrative review of the engagement level criteria.**

- Pilot and evaluate residential outreach within underserved communities to inform opportunities to expand GCO's reach to lower-wage workers.
  - **STATUS: As of June 30, 2022, GCO has implemented and evaluated two phases of the Residential Outreach to Underserved Populations pilot. This pilot was initially implemented via in-person outreach within the Sylvan Hills community of Atlanta under the branding of "Let's go! Sylvan Hills." This outreach resulted in 54 scans of the GA Commute app QR code, 9 new users, and 62 clean commute logs. Phase II consisted of a social media campaign via the Nextdoor app, targeting zip codes in the Sylvan Hills community. Success was impacted by changes to the app which limited functionality, including audience targeting, analytics reporting and posting. This campaign saw a total of 3,885 monthly impressions, 3 new users, and 67 clean commute logs.**

- Deploy three regional modal promotions (Million Air Challenge, Biketober and Try Transit) to raise the level of awareness of alternative modes.
  - **STATUS: As of June 30, 2022, we have initiated implementation of the Try Transit modal promotion in collaboration with our six TMA partners. This year's program was redesigned to allow for more flexibility for locally based campaigns and is running from April 12-July 15. Initial results have shown a moderate level of engagement across the region, with employer/commuter recruitment challenges within the TMA territories. Initial planning is underway for the 2022 Million Air Challenge, the 2nd year of our multi-modal promotion which is scheduled to run from August 15-August 28. Planning for the 2022 Biketober promotion will begin in late July 2022.**

- Create a 20% increase in new Georgia Commute Schools partners (schools, districts, and community partners).
  - **STATUS: As of June 30, 2022, GCO has added 12 new Georgia Commute Schools partners, bringing the total to 100. This constitutes a 13.6% increase in partners since the end of December 2021.**

- Pilot and evaluate student programming and outreach at two universities as part of ongoing research on university-based TDM.
  - **STATUS: GCO has engaged three potential sites in partnership discussions for the University Outreach pilot. These include Georgia State University, Georgia Gwinnett College and Emory University. As of June 30, 2022, Emory University has agreed to partner and student outreach has initiated in collaboration with the Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association (CCTMA). This outreach has thus far resulted in 58 total new student GA Commute app registrations within the months of April-June. Discussions are still underway at Georgia State University, while Georgia Gwinnett College has declined the opportunity to partne**r.

- Implement and evaluate the K-12 Digital Air Quality curriculum.
  - **STATUS: GCO is conducting ongoing outreach for the promotion of five lesson plans, student-facing materials, and curricula at no cost for the elementary, middle, and high school level on the connections between human activities, mode of transportation, air pollution, and health. The STEM-friendly lesson plans come ready to implement, meet state and national standards, and are suitable for virtual or in-person learning. As of June 30, 2022, we have received interest at the teacher-, school- and in some cases, district-level (e.g., Marietta City Schools and Gwinnett County Public Schools.)**

- Expand the use of targeted email campaigns to reach commuters with TDM messages.
  - **STATUS: Initiated and ongoing. Specifically, have increased communications with B2B community to educate and inform on a variety of TDM elements.**

- Launch new employer recognition program to highlight best programs at individual partner organizations.
  - **STATUS: Fully launched with first three organizations being officially recognized as *GCO Changemakers* for their efforts in TDM work with their employees. Work planning has begun for year 2 program**.

- Specific to COVID-19, marketing and communications will continue developing innovative methods to engage with commuters and stakeholders and to support essential workers.
  - **STATUS: Ongoing – monthly social media posts are created and shared with a broad variety of topics being covered. This includes extensive blog creation highlighting the needs of various communities and types of workers.**

- Marketing and communications will continue work on post-pandemic campaigns, materials, education pieces and Return to Office assets.
  - **STATUS: Ongoing, with monthly development of new assets focused on the new ways of work**

environments such as hybrid offices and fulltime telework. More than 40 individual pieces have been created that can be used as needed for specific outreach.

- Increase communications to diverse communities to ensure that a broad group of demographics are reached with information on all available transportation options and means to utilize those options.
    - o **STATUS: Several initiatives have been explored in this area including utilizing Nextdoor, working with community social programs and developing info packets for residential areas.**

- Develop specific media campaign to share messages on commutes as people return to office settings.
    - o **STATUS: In process with expected kick off date for media buys in August 2022. Currently, voiceover recordings underway and talent has been negotiated.**

- Analyze the results of any modal promotions conducted through the GCO program.
    - o **STATUS: Try Transit, the first modal promotion of this year closed June 30th so no evaluation has been completed at this time. Surveys are being distributed to participants and responses will be compiled. Million Air Challenge is scheduled for August, followed by Biketober in October.**

- Develop and implement a focused marketing campaign to reach members of LinkedIn, including key decision makers in human resources and facility management.
    - o **STATUS: Targeted effort began February 2022 and is ongoing. Initial results show followers to GCO have more than doubled and engagement and reach have increased by over 100 percent.**

- Update and maintain TDM Dashboard on a monthly basis, including alterations to the Covid- 19 tab as needed.
    - o **STATUS: The TDM Dashboard continues to be updated to reflect updated data on an ongoing basis. As of today (July 8th, 2022), the dashboard reflects data through May of 2022.**

- Create and deliver the 2021 Atlanta Regional TDM report, demonstrating outcomes and trends in the regional TDM program over the course of the calendar year, incorporating external variables, and being comparable to prior years where possible.
    - o **STATUS: The Atlanta Regional TDM Program Annual Report for 2021 has been completed and published on the updated ARC webpage, which includes a link to a digital version of the report as well as an ArcGIS-based Story Map version.**

- Communicate the findings of the finalized Regional Commuter Survey methodology report to both internal stakeholders and external organizations through listserv channels and presentations.
    - o **STATUS: The RCS Methodology Report was completed and the results were presented to stakeholders.**

- Analyze the results of, and produce reports and data analysis tools for, all regional modal promotions conducted through GCO.
    - o **STATUS: Try Transit, the first modal promotion of this year closed June 30th so no evaluation has been completed at this time, but a report will be compiled based on available data and participant survey responses.**

- Write and process the Regional TDM Evaluation contract amendment for FY 2022.
    - o **STATUS: Completed and signed.**

- Investigate options for a region-wide commuter database, extending beyond the current database of commuters signed-up through the GA Commute app.
    - o **STATUS: After more in-depth investigation into this possibility, the group decided not to go forward with purchasing the Salesforce-based application that would allow for the creation of a broader commuter database. Since this application was made available through OneCommute, the vendor we were using at the time to access Salesforce, it seemed like a viable option. Since then, we have decided to bring our Salesforce instance in-house and we currently have an RFP out for consulting work to assist with this migration and development**

project. Because of this, we did not move forward with purchasing additional Salesforce application access from OneCommute.

- Finalize and publish a public-facing version of the Regional TDM Dashboard.
  - **STATUS: The project has been put on hold. We have hired a data analyst who is currently training to develop expertise in Tableau. One of the first tasks after this training is complete will be the development of a number of different TDM-related dashboards, both for internal and external use.**

- Creating and delivering the annual TDM report, demonstrating outcomes and trends in the regional TDM program over the course of a calendar year, incorporating external variables, and being comparable to prior years where possible.
  - **STATUS: The Atlanta Regional TDM Program Annual Report for 2021 has been completed and published on the updated ARC webpage, which includes a link to a digital version of the report as well as an ArcGIS-based Story Map version.**

- Implement Regional TDM Plan update tasks for stakeholder outreach and participation, regional needs assessment, program evaluation, strategy development, and implementation planning.
  - **STATUS: In August 2021, ARC kicked-off work with ICF Incorporated and its team of sub-consultants (Kimley-Horn and Associates, Fairpointe Planning, and UrbanTrans NA) to assist with updating the Regional TDM Plan. As of June 30, 2022, we have initiated the following work tasks: (1) Workplan, Strategy Development, Agency, Partner, and Stakeholder Outreach and Participation; (2) Regional TDM Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation; and (3) Regional TDM Strategies Development and Implementation Action Plan. Completed milestones/deliverables include Project Management Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Public Comment Plan and branded outreach materials, Public Comment survey, three focus groups, seven ESO interviews, 5 Employer Partner strategy interviews and two TDMCC workshops. The update is scheduled for completion in Q1 of 2023.**

- Administer CTAA grant to implement a micro-transit pilot for CPACS.
  - **STATUS: Implemented Mobility on Demand (Microtransit) technology for CPACS shuttles and implemented a trip exchange that allows CPACS to share Human Service Trips with Gwinnett County Transit in real-time. The project team conducted a. inclusive planning process by developing a steering committee made up of CPACS riders. They have been an integral part of ensuring that microtransit technology will be catered towards the specific challenges that CPACS riders face. After completing the RFP process, the project team entered into contract with Spare Labs. The Scheduling and Dispatching portion of the technology will be in operation for all of CPACS traditional trips from day one though.**

PARTNERSHIPS

The success of the TDM program requires the Mobility Services Group to work closely with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (The ATL), Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), regional Transportation Management Associations, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Center For Pan-Asian Community Services, ARC leadership, transit providers, transportation services vendors, educational institutions, the national Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT), transportation services consultants.

COST CENTERS

- 005AGC – Georgia Commute Options Program

- 205ACC – Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
- 205AES – Employer Services Program
- 005ATP – Regional TDM Plan Update
- 005AMT – Mobility of Demand Technology Project

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY ACCESS

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022

ELEMENT 6 - TRANSPORTATION ACCESS AND MOBILITY

MISSION

Transportation and service delivery planning in the Atlanta Region is coordinated by the ARC, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the 20-county Atlanta Region, pursuant to federal and state rules and regulations. Due to the designation of the Atlanta Nonattainment Area for ozone, planning requires close coordination with the Cartersville-Bartow MPO, also in the nonattainment area. Work activities supporting the organization's mission are outlined in the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). ARC transportation plans must respond to federal, state and regional planning objectives. Close coordination is required with the public and other stakeholders in meeting this mission.

ARC is responsible for leading system-wide long-range planning activities, including facilitating the implementation of plans and programs through work with local governments, state, and regional planning partners. For these transportation access and mobility planning activities, focus is placed on supporting the movement of the travelling public through state-of-the-practice programs, including long-range scenario planning, innovative RTP/TIP delivery, and diverse modal studies.

In support of data-driven decision-making, ARC prepares the required data and technical analysis to support planning decisions. ARC seeks to implement state-of-the-practice data tools and technical analysis that position the organization as an innovation center for the region.

GOALS

- Respond to new transportation reauthorization planning requirements associated with climate change and resiliency.
- Begin work activities on the next RTP update.
- Support communities responding to the pandemic.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Begin a Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update. ARC, in close coordination with regional partners, will conduct a major update to the regional freight plan. The last major update of the freight plan was completed in 2008, with a minor update completed in 2016.
- Update the regional HST Plan.
- Conduct work in support of the 2024 RTP update, including scenario planning.
- Begin work activities to conduct a Household Travel Survey. ARC, in partnership with GDOT and other stakeholders, will conduct the major regional travel survey. The outcomes of this initiative will be used to inform regional planning and model development.
- Host – in partnership with Georgia DOT – a major technology summit (ConnectATL) to assess the impact of evolving technology on the regional transportation network.

- Pursue an Equity Stakeholder Community Focus Groups Initiative to better understand the needs of transportation disadvantaged groups. ARC will conduct direct outreach to equity populations to build relationships and have more direct understanding of community concerns.

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2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- 06A – Regional Planning

- 06B – Program Implementation & Partner Services

- 06C – Travel Demand Model Development & Support

- 06D – Performance Analysis & Monitoring

- 06E – Special Studies

- 06F – Administration & Support

6A- REGIONAL PLANNING

PURPOSE

ARC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Atlanta region, is required by federal regulation to develop and maintain a long range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a short- range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the 20-county metropolitan planning area. The 2050 RTP constitutes the transportation element of The Atlanta Region's Plan and meets all federal planning requirements. A major update of the RTP and TIP was completed and adopted in February 2020. In 2022, ARC will conduct periodic amendments and administrative modifications to the RTP/TIP.

ARC will collaborate with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the State Road and Tollway Authority, local governments, transit operators, and other stakeholder agencies throughout the planning process. ARC will continue facilitating regional transit planning (capacity expansion, project programming, target setting and reporting), in coordination with the Atlanta- Region Transit Link Authority (ATL) and all other transit operators. Regular coordination will occur with GDOT, Gainesville Hall MPO, Cartersville Bartow MPO, transit operators and other stakeholders on responding to federal rulemaking and reporting requirements on transportation performance targets. ARC will monitor and serve as a technical resource for federal, state, regional and local initiatives on transportation legislation and funding alternatives.

The year 2022 will be important for expanding ARC's transportation planning in several focus areas, including: electrification, connected vehicles and other transportation technologies; travel demand management planning; responding to the long-term impacts of the pandemic on travel behavior; working more closely with equity populations; and responding to the impacts of extreme weather events and climate change. These efforts will be incorporated into the next RTP update due for completion in early 2024.

Activities in which external consulting assistance and/or subgrant agreements with other agencies may be required are also reflected in Subelement 6E.

DELIVERABLES

Major work products for 2022 are categorized into three basic groups:

- Staff activities supporting core MPO responsibilities

- Special studies directly managed by ARC and where external consultant assistance is anticipated

- Special studies or grant management services facilitated by ARC, but managed by other agencies and which may involve external consultant assistance

Core Staff Activities

- Continue work activities for the next update to the long-range regional transportation plan, required to be adopted by 2024. Work activities will include updating the regional needs assessment, emphasizing equity, resiliency, congestion, safety and other critical transportation factors, and testing alternative scenarios.
    - **STATUS: Activities for the first half of 2022 have focused on updating the Policy Framework, understanding implications of the IIJA on federal funding forecasts, compiling information on revisions to project costs, scopes and scheduling, and ensuring models are ready for future**

coding and analysis efforts. The plan update is still on track for completion in the first quarter of 2024.

- Coordinate with the ATL Authority on regional transit planning activities such as the Atlanta Regional Transit Plan (ARTP) and any needed updates to the Concept 3 regional transit vision. Provide support and collaborate with the ATL Authority on non-ARC sponsored transit feasibility/planning studies being conducted by local governments. Continue coordination of Transit Asset Management target setting, data aggregation, and national reporting.
  - **STATUS: Activities have included coordination on regional transit planning activities.**

- Begin facilitating a Regional Transportation Operations Group to continue the on-going collaboration between the operations and planning disciplines, to help advance the Regional Strategic Action Plan and on-going updates to the Regional ITS Architecture.
  - **STATUS: This group has met 5 times this year and continues to increase awareness of technology and operations projects in the region for all stakeholders.**

- Support the development of an update to the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan, as directed by lead staff from the Mobility Services Group, including the impacts of increased remote working from the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **STATUS: The TDM Plan Update is underway. The coordination committee has met several times, a public survey has been conducted, and goals have been established.**

- Plan for regionally significant greenway trails, including data research, document production, and community assistance as requested. Coordinate with the Community Development Group as needed for local trail planning. Facilitate Regional Trails Roundtable meetings as an agency advisory group.
  - **STATUS: Advanced regional greenway trail planning. Updated regional inventories, supported TIP funding prioritization for Regional Trail Network, hosted Regional Greenway Trail Roundtables, provided SME for regional and local plans, and other tasks as assigned.**

- Continue updating bicycle and pedestrian planning methods, including discovery and implementation of more precise safety risk and mitigation analyses, refinement of complete streets policies and strategies, and enhancement of overall technical support for local governments.
  - **STATUS: Advanced regional planning for walking and bicycling. Supported TIP prioritization for active transportation modes, corresponded with local partners, provided SME for local and regional plans, and presented to committees and local stakeholder groups as requested.**

- Establish a multi-year program for regional transportation resiliency planning.
  - **STATUS: First use City Simulator in ARC flooding plan project, prepared for PROTECT grant resiliency guidance and RIP (Resilience Improvement Plan).**

- Perform the necessary technical evaluations for conformity for the Atlanta Nonattainment Area for ozone in support of any updates or amendments of the Atlanta MPO, Gainesville MPO and Cartersville MPO RTPs and TIPs.
  - **STATUS: Researched and trained staff on multiple new air quality analysis tools, prepared Conformity Determination Report for RTP Amendment #4, prepared for PROTECT grant guidance release.**

- Convene and facilitate regular meetings of the Interagency Consultation Group to ensure all relevant air quality conformity requirements are addressed in the planning process.
  - **STATUS: The Interagency Consultation Group met several times in the first half of 2022 to review modeling assumptions for two amendments, receive briefings on public comments received for those amendments, and assist in reviewing fiscal constraint assumptions for the RTP update.**

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- Continue development of the Regional Safety Action Plan. See also Subelement 6E: Regional Safety Action Plan.
    - **STATUS: Managed consultant team, reviewed data analysis and engagement responses, hosted regular PMT meetings, presented to ARC committees, conducted stakeholder focus groups, provided partner updates and correspondence, visualization review, and initial draft report.**

- Continue work activities for a major update to the Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan. See also Subelement 6E: Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update.
    - **STATUS: Released the RFP for the regional freight plan and selected a consultant team. Expect project kickoff in Q3 2022. ARC and GDOT staff met regularly to coordinate on the freight planning work for both agencies.**

- Continue on-going HST planning and implementation through enhanced demand- response service coordination, and mobility as a service / technology advancements. See also Subelement 6E: Regional Human Services Transportation Plan.
    - **STATUS: Met with various prospective consultants to evaluate scope and budget viability. Reviewed previous HST plans and related documents to ensure consistency. Coordinated with Aging and Independence Services on identifying specific scope of work to revise 5310 operations and coordination throughout the region. Drafted a preliminary scope of work.**

- Complete the first phase of the ITS4US Complete Trip Deployment. See also Subelement 6E: ITS4US Complete Trip Deployment (Phase 1)
    - **STATUS: Completed deliverables: HUAS, the Outreach Plan, the PTSEP, the Deployment Plan, the IPFP, and the Phase 2 submittal. Phase 1 has been closed out and Phase 2 has been successfully awarded.**

- Develop a Regional Transportation System Electrification Plan. See also Subelement 6E: Regional Transportation System Electrification Plan.
    - **STATUS: Scope has been prepared and been submitted for a GDOT Funding Agreement.**

- Partner with Georgia Tech on the Metro Atlanta Smart Communities Studies Program. See also Subelement 6E: Metro Atlanta Smart Communities Studies Program.
    - **STATUS: Activities related to this work are monitored under Subelement E: Regional Transportation Planning Study Program.**

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- Continue administration and oversight of the County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program. See also Subelement 6E: County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program.
    - **STATUS: Three CTPs were completed in early 2022 (Cobb, Coweta and Douglas). One new CTP was initiated (Forsyth). Activities continued for seven other CTPs which began prior to 2022 (Barrow, Cherokee, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Spalding).**

- Continue administration and oversight of the Freight Cluster Area Planning Program. See also Subelement 6E: Freight Cluster Area Planning Program.
    - **STATUS: FIB CID Plan: Finalized the plan; Metro South CID Plan: Consultant completed outreach, developed the project recommendations list, and submitted the draft Recommendations Report; NW Atlanta Plan: Kicked off in January, consultant conducted significant outreach, submitted a draft Best Practices Report, and submitted a draft Inventory and Assessment Report; FY 2022 Freight Cluster Plans: Work will begin when a funding contract is received from GDOT.**

- Continue administration and oversight of the Regional Transportation Planning Study Program. See also Subelement 6E: Regional Transportation Planning Study Program.
    - **STATUS: Eight studies are currently underway. Two studies have been completed. Staff has been working with project sponsors to review draft deliverables, attend project management meetings and process invoices and progress reports.**
- Continue administration and oversight of other special transit studies for communities, as needed and requested.
    - **STATUS: Reviewed and approved multiple invoices from the study sponsors. Tracked project completion status and reviewed interim deliverables. Both studies are near completion.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Internal coordination is required within all aspects of Element 6. External coordination is also very important for this Subelement. Primary external coordination will be with local governments, interest groups, general public and appropriate state and federal agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Georgia Transit Association, advocacy groups for older adults and disabled people, transportation services consultants, intercity bus operators, the travel and tourism industry, and a wide spectrum of other business, environmental, civic, and citizen interest groups.

COST CENTERS

Core Staff Activities

- 206ALR – Long Range Planning
- 206ALT – Long Range Planning (Transit)
- 206AAQ – Air Quality Planning
- 206AAT – Air Quality Planning (Transit)

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- 006ESA – Regional Safety Action Plan
- 106EFP – Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update
- 106EHP – Regional Human Services Transportation Plan Update
- 106EIS – ITS4US Complete Trip Deployment (Phase 1)
- 206EEP – Regional Transportation System Electrification Plan

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- 906ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- 006ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- 106ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- 206ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program

- 006ETS – Regional Transportation Planning Study (RTPS) Program
- 106ETS – Regional Transportation Planning Study (RTPS) Program
- 206ETS – Regional Transportation Planning Study (RTPS) Program

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 6 - TRANSPORTATION ACCESS AND MOBILITY

6B - PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION & PARTNER SERVICES

PURPOSE

ARC will work cooperatively with federal, state and local transportation agencies and other project sponsors to deliver projects and programs included in the region's long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). ARC will ensure that the TIP is being implemented efficiently, and advancing the goals, objectives, and priorities of the RTP. The current TIP covers fiscal years 2020 through 2025 and was adopted in February 2020.

Program Implementation involves monitoring the status of the projects and programs and being proactive in identifying and addressing related issues so that they remain on schedule and on budget. It also involves evaluating and reporting the effectiveness of projects and programs, both individually and collectively, and providing this information for use by transportation agencies, elected officials, and the general public. This information is used to assess internal agency business practices, working relationships and data sharing protocols between agencies, and the effectiveness of various strategies in addressing the region's mobility, safety, and accessibility needs. The analysis is then used as input back into the plan development process so that appropriate adjustments in policy direction can be made.

In 2022, Sub-Element 6B will focus on: (1) programming the TIP in accordance with the most recent federal rules and regulations; (2) accelerated TIP project delivery; and (3) implementing efforts to educate and engage local sponsors, planning partners, and the general public on the TIP process.

Activities in which external consulting assistance and/or subgrant agreements with other agencies may be required are also reflected in Subelement 6E.

DELIVERABLES

Major work products for 2022 are categorized into three basic groups:

- Staff activities supporting core MPO responsibilities

- Special studies directly managed by ARC and where external consultant assistance is anticipated

- Special studies or grant management services facilitated by ARC, but managed by other agencies and which may involve external consultant assistance

Core Staff Activities

- Conduct periodic amendments and administrative modifications to the RTP/TIP.
    - **STATUS: 1st and 2nd quarter administrative modifications processed. Amendment 4 and 5 approved and posted. Work on amendment 6 has begun.**

- Produce quarterly reports on project delivery rates for STBG-Urban, TAP, CMAQ, and Highway Infrastructure – Urban projects programmed in the current TIP and shared on the DASH performance data dashboard.
    - **STATUS: Data and analysis completed for Q1/2022 and Q2/2022. Aforementioned deliverables transferred to new staff hire for publication.**

- Conduct project solicitation for available STBG Urban, CMAQ and TAP funds in FY 2023 to FY 2025.
  - **STATUS: Technical evaluation was underway in early 2022. Once completed, the KDP3 process was underway which included internal review of the technical results and identification of potential deliverability issues. Draft recommendations list prepared in May and June 2022. Recommendations scheduled to be available in July 2022.**
- Support the implementation of livability programs through coordination with the ARC Community Development Group and state agencies, including programming and project development activities associated with the LCI program.
  - **STATUS: 2021 LCI Infrastructure Call for Projects: Applications received in July 2021. Recommendations issued in late 2021, TAQC & GRTA approval in first half of 2022. Coordinated with sponsor and GDOT to authorize PE funds by June 2022. 2022 LCI Infrastructure Call for Projects: Received applications in Dec 2021, conducted evaluation as outlined in the TIP Prioritization Framework document, conducted outreach to sponsors to clarify timeline and budgets and finalized project recommendation list. 2022 LCI STUDY application round: Opened application in January, awarded in April, contracting and scoping underway. Work and technical assistance also continues with existing studies and infrastructure projects.**
- Update the TIP/RTP Blueprint to reflect current policies and procedures.
  - **STATUS: Ongoing discussions and review of the current TIP Blueprint document have taken place to identify necessary changes.**
- Conduct semi-annual training and information session on TIP programming and planning/scoping studies contract management for staff from local governments, GDOT, CIDs, consultants, and other members of the general public.
  - **STATUS: Training was put on hold the first half of the year to determine whether to conduct in person or virtual. Training will resume in Fall 2022.**
- Incorporate the Transit Program of Projects (POP) into the TIP when updated by the ATL Authority
  - **STATUS: The ATL is now responsible for updating the POP. As they become available, new versions of the POP are incorporated into TIP documentation in conjunction with amendment and admin processes.**
- Coordinate with the Community Development Group and GRTA in reviewing DRI applications and incorporation of related data into the transportation planning process, as appropriate.
  - **STATUS: During the first six months of the year, there were a total of 23 pre-review methodology and 16 staff recommendation meetings attended. There were 24 DRIs reviewed including the completion of the corresponding Assessment of Consistency with the RTP report for each DRI. The DRI review process is continuous throughout the year.**
- Conduct an annual Regional Transportation Technology Summit (ConnectATL), depending on COVID-19 conditions.
  - **STATUS: Summit is scheduled for August 23. Location, topics and speakers are being finalized.**
- Continue to coordinate with and support the activities of GDOT and other partner agencies during implementation of DSRC/C-V2X connected vehicle radio equipment at up to 1,000 intersections within the region.
  - **STATUS: 722 units have been committed, however with the Federal suspension of licenses for CV1K units, the program has been installing additional DSRC units.**

<u>Special Studies – ARC Managed</u>

- Enhance RTP/TIP accounting, tracking, reporting, and customer service capabilities through the development of a new platform to replace the existing PLANIT database. See also Subelement 6E: Project Database (PlanIt) Modernization and Redesign.
  - **STATUS: Documented funding for PLANIT database overhaul in TIP, developed draft RFP and submitted to procurement staff for approvals/green light for posting.**

<u>Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated</u>

- Complete transition of the administration of the FTA grants for the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. to the ATL Authority. See also Subelement 6E: CPACS CARES Act Funding Grant.
  - **STATUS: Coordinated budget and FTA grant application process to obligate CARES funding for CPACS vehicle purchases. Scheduled on-site monitoring (has since been rescheduled). Provided technical assistance to CPACS on procurement procedure for the vehicles.**

- Support Fulton County's expansion of public transportation services for seniors through their Mobility Options for Senior Transport (MOST) program with the utilization of transportation network companies. ARC currently acts as the direct recipient of federal transit funds. See also Subelement 6E: Fulton County HSCR Mobility Grant.
  - **STATUS: Reviewed and approved multiple invoices from the study sponsor. Tracked project completion status and reviewed interim deliverables. Contract should be closed by the end of the year.**

- Continue administration and oversight of other special transit studies for communities, as needed and requested. See also Subelement 6E: Spalding County Transit Feasibility Study and Subelement 6E: Newton County Transit Feasibility Study.
  - **STATUS: Reviewed and approved multiple invoices from the study sponsors. Tracked project completion status and reviewed interim deliverables. Both studies should be complete in the 3rd quarter of 2022.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Internal coordination is required within all aspects of Element 6. External coordination is also very important for this Subelement. Primary external coordination will be with local governments, interest groups, general public and appropriate state and federal agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority/State Road & Tollway Authority (GRTA/SRTA), the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Georgia Transit Association, advocacy groups for older adults and disabled people, transportation services consultants, intercity bus operators, the travel and tourism industry, and a wide spectrum of other business, environmental, civic, and citizen interest groups.

COST CENTERS

<u>Core Staff Activities</u>

- 206BSR – Program Implementation
- 206BST – Program Implementation (Transit) 206BLG   Partner Assistance
- 206BGT – Partner Assistance (Transit)

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- 206EDP – Project Database (PlanIt) Modernization and Redesign

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- 006EFC – FTA CARES Act Capital (CPACS)
- 006EFX – FTA CARES Act Operations (CPACS)
- 006ESS – Fulton County HSCR Mobility Grant
- 906EST – Spalding County Transit Feasibility Study
- 006ENT – Newton County Transit Feasibility Study

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 6 - TRANSPORTATION ACCESS AND MOBILITY
6C - TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

PURPOSE

This sub-element provides for continued innovative enhancement of the regional activity-based travel demand forecasting model to forecast regional travel demand and mobile source emissions for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). These outcome-based models are a series of complex and cohesive computer and mathematical programs used to analyze the impact of major transportation improvements on travel and development patterns, as well as the effect of the transportation network on mobile source emissions levels for the nonattainment and air quality maintenance region. The innovative development of these tools requires significant data collection on travel behavior and patterns, and continued enhancement of the tools used to estimate vehicle emissions for air quality modeling. These models are integrated with the land use models developing the socio-economic forecasts. This interdisciplinary development of the models will be used to forecast travel demand and associated transportation emissions to support activities of the Atlanta Region transportation planning program, air quality planning and RTP/TIP update activities.

This sub-element also includes providing technical assistance to local governments on travel demand and emissions modeling. Consultant assistance will continue to be required in the areas of model enhancement and development.

Activities in which external consulting assistance and/or subgrant agreements with other agencies may be required are also reflected in Subelement 6E.

DELIVERABLES

Major work products for 2022 are categorized into three basic groups:

- Staff activities supporting core MPO responsibilities

- Special studies directly managed by ARC and where external consultant assistance is anticipated

- Special studies or grant management services facilitated by ARC, but managed by other agencies and which may involve external consultant assistance

Core Staff Activities

- Continue implementation of the recommendations from the peer review of the Activity- Based Model (ABM), as part of USDOT's Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP). These activities will focus on the continued enhancement of the ABM, including calibration, validation, adjusted procedures to assess managed lanes and value pricing, and streamlining model run times and efficiencies.
  - **STATUS: ARC modeling staff worked on fine-tuning and streamlining the ABM model script to optimize model run-time performance, as well as programming refinement of the model system to work effectively on ARC's servers. In addition, ARC modeling staff enhanced its ABM by revisiting certain recommendations from the 2017 model peer review, including the ones pertaining to volume-delay functions, speeds, and travel times This work task is 50% complete.**

- Pursue development of an on-call fee for service for regional partners to assist in conducting special-purpose modeling.
  - **STATUS: Due to ARC modeling staff shortages, no activity was performed, and no progress has been made (0% complete).**

- Continue work activities to incorporate the regional transit on-board survey into the model.
  - **STATUS: ARC modeling staff worked on the update of the mode choice model by incorporating results from the origin-destination regional transit on-board survey. As part of the mode choice model update work, ARC modeling staff calculated the trip length frequency distribution from the transit on-board survey data, as well as a district-to-district movement analysis of the transit on-board survey. ARC modeling staff reviewed the districts, pre-defined as part of the model calibration. There are currently 21 districts coded into the regional model, as well as in the FTA STOPS model framework developed for Atlanta metro and MARTA. ARC modeling staff calculated the average O-D distance using GeoPy Welcome to GeoPy's documentation! — GeoPy 2.2.0 documentation by origin district for the trips in the transit rider survey, namely the geodesic distance (geopy.distance.distance currently uses geodesic). It was calculated for each record in the survey and then averaged by origin district. In addition, ARC modeling staff compared the trip origin-destination distance for each transit survey trip record using the ARC ABM modeled midday drive-alone toll skims. This work task is 50% complete.**

- Continue work to integrate the activity-based model with dynamic traffic assignment.
  - **STATUS: ARC modeling staff worked on updating the Atlanta regional signalized intersections geo-database GIS functionality by enhancing its user-friendliness on ArcGIS Online via http://arcg.is/290ivBS for Dynamic Traffic Assignment purposes. Additionally, a more recent and updated dataset from Signal Analytics - Atlanta Area Year over Year Analysis - Interactive Web Map (mangomap.com) was cross-referenced for QA/QC verification. In addition, ARC modeling staff revised its Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA) to make sure it represents a more realistic and accurate assignment method superior to the existing time-of-day static traffic assignment, hence capturing the interaction between travelers' route choices, traffic congestion, and time-dependent travel time in a temporally coherent manner. ARC modeling staff also made sure its ABM-DTA model accurately describes such time-varying network and demand interaction using a behaviorally sound approach. This work is 60% complete.**

- Continue the interdisciplinary education of the modeling staff; conduct one-on-one model training. Continue to provide technical support and ABM training to planning partners and stakeholders.
  - **STATUS: ARC modeling staff, at the request of FTA HQ in DC, worked on a project with REPLICA HQ - See Your City Better involving ARC's recent 2019 origin-destination regional transit on-board survey, more specifically on how to leverage Big Data to replicate ARC's transit rider survey findings, survey data expansion, etc. While there is no federal requirement or even federal incentive for ARC to provide anything, this was a worthwhile exercise for ARC staff. For the record, FTA is not endorsing the use of one vendor (or travel data aggregator) over another entity that is preparing estimates of OD transit passenger trips. ARC worked with Replica and focused on preparing estimates of tract-to-tract (and zone-to-zone) person trips by mode, where Smartphone-based data winds up being an integral part of the underlying data synthesis process that includes some level of data fusion and tour mode choice modeling. In addition, on another tech support project, at the request of the Transportation Secure Data Center | NREL, ARC modeling staff provided tech assistance in their process of standing up a transit portion of the TSDC. ARC modeling staff also provided tech support to GDOT consultants working on I-285 Express Lanes | MMIP (majormobilityga.com). Specifically, ARC modeling staff explained how its ARC ABM includes toll and non-toll eligibility within mode choice. To determine the actual toll facility**

usage, traffic assignment uses a generalized cost function (travel time, auto operating costs, toll costs, and a value of time) for the toll eligible trips. GDOT consultant's approach merges toll and non-toll eligible trips together, and within traffic assignment, willingness-to-pay curves are applied for each assignment iteration that generates toll probabilities. These probabilities are then used to split the demand tables into toll/non-toll. ARC modeling staff advised that, as GDOT's MMIP has evolved, and continues to evolve over time, this could lead to some modifications to the ARC model. Methods to handle toll trips within traffic models have long been debated. From ARC's modeling perspective, both methods (ARC and GDOT) are considered acceptable state-of-the-practice within the traffic engineering and forecasting industry, since they don't deviate significantly. Overall, this task is 50% complete.

- Conduct quarterly meetings of the Model Users Group.
  - o **STATUS: ARC modeling staff planned, prepared for, and organized all MUG meetings, all fully documented here https://atlantaregional.org/meeting-archives/model-users-group/. This task is 50% complete.**

- Continue to participate in the multi-year AMPO Consolidated Travel Model Software Platform Development & Enhancement project, to develop ActivitySim, a common modeling platform for the MPO Partners: SANDAG, MTC, PSRC, SFCTA, SEMCOG, Oregon DOT, Minneapolis Met Council, MWCOG, Ohio DOT and ARC.
  - o **STATUS: ARC modeling staff prepared for, presented at, and attended twice a week ActivitySim meetings, all fully documented here Meeting Notes ActivitySim/activitysim Wiki (github.com). In addition, ARC modeling staff developed auto-calibrate notebooks for tour and trip mode choice models in the Atlanta ActivitySim prototype. Also, ARC modeling staff contributed to many ActivitySim code reviews, including the use of iff (if and only if) in code logic as a biconditional logical connective between statements, where either both statements are true, or both are false. Also, ARC modeling staff worked on Python Tuples to store multiple items in a single variable. Furthermore, ARC modeling staff suggested re-running ActivitySim's full trace through pydocstyle for general suggestions on how the docstrings are formed. For example: the summary description of a function should be fit on a single line and end with punctuation. Finally, ARC modeling staff worked on activitysim/abm/tables/vehicles.py and activitysim/abm/models/vehicle_type_choice.py, specifically investigating the purpose of a few lines of codes to replace the "table" function within the data frame, and added comments to reflect this, just like in the persons and households files. This is just a consequence of how the inject table decorator and add_table functions were constructed. This task is 40% complete.**

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- Finalize work program and begin implementation activities for the Regional Household Travel Survey, including coordination with regional partners. See also Subelement 6E: Regional Household Travel Survey.
  - o **STATUS: At the request of the USDOT / FHWA and Oak Ridge National Laboratory: Solving the Big Problems (ornl.gov), ARC modeling staff provided a tech evaluation of the ORNL visualization tool. While the visuals appear simple in design yet very configurable, the row and tab-based, as well as axis structure, allow users to neatly organize different reports, charts, and objects. ARC staff questioned the ability to toggle light/dark mode, split panels, and save charts as additional features. The visuals performance varies across different CPU machines and appear usable on lighter machines with GPUs, which is great. ARC staff questioned if error logging is available, and if there is an underlying issue with a chart (such as a wrong table name for instance), will it endlessly load without throwing any error message. As far as extensibility, ARC staff questioned the ability to create a custom**

dashboard for the ARC Atlanta region by generating a TAZ-based GeoJSON file using GeoPandas. ARC staff also wondered if the distance datasets (trips by distance & mode, as well as trips by distance and purpose) will allow data analysts to build and visualize Trip Length Frequency Distributions (TLFD) within this tool. TLFDs from survey data and empirical O-D observations are commonly used in travel demand model development and calibration / validation, hence super helpful to have. This task is 40% complete.

- Maintain, update, and pursue innovative enhancements of the Regional Activity-Based (ABM) Travel Demand Model via model calibration and validation. Integrate with other model update efforts, e.g., land use model, air quality model, etc. See also Subelement 6E: Activity Based Model Support and Development and Subelement 6E: Land Use and Conformity Forecasting Model Development.
  - **STATUS: ARC modeling staff attended, and participated in, ARC's series of meetings on the development of the regional forecasts (economic, demographic, and socio-economic) for ARC's major plan update. In addition, ARC modeling staff coordinated with the land use modeling staff, mostly ensuring a smooth data exchange between the ARC ABM and the ARC land use model, by preparing the proper hooks between the two models, in the spirit of a fully integrated transport / land use model. This task is 40% complete.**

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- N/A

PARTNERSHIPS

External coordination is also very important in this sub-element. Primary external coordination will be with local governments, interest groups, general public and appropriate state and federal agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other groups and agencies.

COST CENTERS

Core Staff Activities

- 206CDM – Model Development & Support
- 206CDT – Model Development & Support (Transit)
- 206CSP – Special Purpose Modeling Services

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- 106EHS – Regional Household Travel Survey
- 206CMS – ABM Support and Development
- 006ELM – Land Use and Conformity Forecasting Model Development

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- N/A

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 6 - TRANSPORTATION ACCESS AND MOBILITY

6D - PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS & MONITORING

PURPOSE

The Performance Analysis & Monitoring Section provides for the continual enhancement of the application of the travel demand model and real observed "mega-data" to understand regional transportation needs and to analyze project performance. The travel demand models are a series of complex and integrated computer and mathematical programs, and their output data are used to analyze the impact of major transportation improvements on travel and development patterns, as well as the effect on mobile source emissions levels for the Atlanta Nonattainment Area. The development of analytical methods and tools requires significant data processing, quality control procedures, and sophisticated computer techniques.

The application of the tools and data will be used in TIP and RTP project evaluation, needs assessment, scenario testing, transportation emissions analysis and regional performance monitoring. ARC staff will implement performance planning provisions, including tracking performance and reporting. This supports the FAST Act performance measurements requirements, the Atlanta Region's transportation planning program, air quality planning, performance-based planning and programming, TDM analysis, and TIP/RTP update activities.

This work program also includes providing technical assistance to local governments on travel demand and emissions modeling. The continued maintenance of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) is important in also meeting federal planning requirements.

Activities in which external consulting assistance and/or subgrant agreements with other agencies may be required are also reflected in Subelement 6E.

DELIVERABLES

Major work products for 2022 are categorized into three basic groups:

- Staff activities supporting core MPO responsibilities

- Special studies directly managed by ARC and where external consultant assistance is anticipated

- Special studies or grant management services facilitated by ARC, but managed by other agencies and which may involve external consultant assistance

Core Staff Activities

- Continue to research and update the latest project evaluation methodologies, emphasizing projects considered for inclusion to the plan as part of the TIP project solicitation.
  - **STATUS: Completed the 2022 TIP Project technical performance analysis (113 projects are analyzed).**

- Monitor targets and report performance in accordance with federal rulemaking and develop processes to track and report on transportation system performance monitoring over time using DASH.
  - **STATUS: Completed creating the major transportation corridors to examine and addresses issues of strategic importance and needs assessment to the long-term functioning.**

- Improve project evaluation procedures and tools, building upon "real world" data methodologies, including the FHWA developed NPMRDS, HERE data, INRIX Analytics data and implementation of state-of-the-practice tools and methodologies to evaluate the impacts of projects.
  - **STATUS: Updated Key network incorporating corridor ID, bottle ranking, and TMC codes: Started to learn new transportation modeling tools such as TMIP-EMAT and Polaris.**

- Improve evaluation procedures for active mode, TSMO, and transit projects, including procedures to evaluate transit projects via the VISUM model and the activity-based model (ABM).
  - **STATUS: Completed updating CMAQ tool with consultant contract.**

- Emphasize improvements in the reporting and accuracy of crash data by working with all other relevant state agencies.
  - **STATUS: Continuing support on Regional Safety Strategy work with consultants.**

- As part of the Congestion Management Process, continue to refine analysis networks, explore new data, tools and methodologies, and assess conditions in support of the next plan update scheduled for completion in early 2024.
  - **STATUS: Completed the sample of the corridor analysis dashboard and continued to work on the rest of the corridors' performance dashboard.**

- Complete the regional needs assessment for the next Regional Transportation Plan update scheduled for completion in early 2024.
  - **STATUS: Completed analyzing INRIX origin-destination data and staff is working on the report.**

- Continue to gather and analyze public feedback on Ladders of Opportunity and incorporate into updated ETA analyses.
  - **STATUS: Staff regularly participated in the ARC Transportation Equity Advisory Group and continued to respond to data requests and analysis.**

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- Complete the scenario analysis with VisionEval and TMIP-EMAT modeling tools in support of the next plan update scheduled for completion in early 2024. See also Subelement 6E: Application of TMIP-EMAT Methods Initiative.
  - **STATUS: Completed to run with the latest VisionEval model and continue to analyze the results for model validation.**

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- N/A

PARTNERSHIPS

Internal coordination is required within all aspects of Element 6. The GIS linkage of the transportation networks will be coordinated with the Research Division activities. External coordination is also very important for this Subelement. Primary external coordination will be with local governments, interest groups, general public and appropriate state and federal agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Georgia Transit Association, advocacy groups for older adults and disabled people, transportation services consultants, intercity bus operators, the travel and tourism industry, and a wide spectrum of other business, environmental, civic, and citizen interest groups.

COST CENTERS

Core Staff Activities

- 206DCM – Performance Analysis
- 206DCT – Performance Analysis (Transit)

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- 206ETE – Application of TMIP-EMAT Methods Initiative

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- N/A

<u>**PURPOSE**</u>

ARC assists the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Atlanta- Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), local governments, and other transportation agencies through the Special Studies Work Program. These special studies support the ongoing development and refinement of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

This work program is coordinated with ARC's ongoing mission to develop a regional, integrated multi-modal transportation system as called for by the latest federal transportation reauthorization bill.

In addition to special studies managed by ARC, this subelement includes initiatives managed by other agencies which utilize federal funds and for which there is a defined oversight and/or management role for ARC.

Unless otherwise noted, special studies defined in this subelement will require the procurement of transportation consultant services.

<u>**DELIVERABLES**</u>

Major work products for 2022 are categorized into three basic groups:

- Staff activities supporting core MPO responsibilities.

- Special studies directly managed by ARC and where external consultant assistance is anticipated.

- Special studies or grant management services facilitated by ARC, but managed by other agencies and which may involve external consultant assistance

<u>Core Staff Activities</u>

- *GAMPO Financial Management*
The Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO) is a coalition of agencies from around the state with the same federal planning responsibilities as ARC. They meet regularly to obtain updates on initiatives from state and federal agencies, share information on current issues, and discuss policy positions on legislative and financial proposals. ARC provides financial management services to support the operations of those meetings.
    - **STATUS: ARC staff continue to assist in the facilitation of periodic update meetings with GDOT and federal partners.**

- *ConnectATL*
ConnectATL is an annual gathering sponsored by ARC which brings together local government staff and elected officials, state transportation agencies, academic thought leaders, and private sector innovation firms to learn, share information and identify opportunities for collaboration in areas of transportation technology such as connected vehicles, autonomous vehicles, drone delivery services, micromobility and others.
    - **STATUS: Summit is scheduled for August 23. Location, topics and speakers are being**

finalized.

<u>Special Studies – ARC Managed</u>

- *Regional Safety Action Plan*

ARC is conducting a plan to improve safety conditions in the Atlanta region. Planning activities include a variety of technical analysis and outreach activities. Emphasis is being placed on transportation disadvantaged communities that experience significant issues with safety.

This planning study is also included in Subelement 6A: Regional Planning.
- o Cost Center: 006ESA
- o TIP Reference: AR-049 (programmed in FY 2020)
- o TIP Funding Amounts and Sources: $400,000 STBGP (federal) / $100,000 ARC (local match)
- o Status: Work began in 2021 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Managed consultant team, reviewed data analysis and engagement responses, hosted regular PMT meetings, presented to ARC committees, conducted stakeholder focus groups, provided partner updates and correspondence, visualization review, and initial draft report.**

- *Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update*

ARC, in close coordination with regional partners, will conduct a major update to the regional freight plan. The last major update of the freight plan was completed in 2008, with a minor update completed in 2016. Since 2008, freight has increased significantly in the Atlanta Region and forms one of the foundations of the regional economy. Freight and goods movement have also become a foundation of federal transportation planning and is a state emphasis area in both planning and project selection. This plan update will be conducted over a multi-year period and include a major data element for the procurement of the latest goods movement data and a detailed analysis of regional needs. Close coordination will occur between the ARC and GDOT so that recommendations are consistent with the State Freight Plan.

This planning study is also included in Subelement 6A: Regional Planning.
- o Cost Center: 106EFP
- o TIP Reference: AR-059B (programmed in FY 2021)
- o TIP Funding Amounts and Sources: $1,200,000 STBGP (federal) / $300,000 ARC (local match)
- o Status: Work began in 2021 and will conclude in 2023
  - o **STATUS: Released the RFP for the regional freight plan and selected a consultant team. Expect project kickoff in Q3 2022. ARC and GDOT staff met regularly to coordinate on the freight planning work for both agencies.**

- *Regional Human Services Transportation Plan Update*

The current HST plan focuses on the transportation options available to frequently underserved populations, such as individuals with low incomes, individuals with disabilities, individuals with limited English proficiency, and older adults. ARC will update the HST by completing a new travel needs assessment for underserved populations, through enhanced and contextualized community outreach, and recommend plans and policies for deploying and coordinating technology for real-time travel planning. The HST plan will also integrate and formalize the recommendations from the recently completed Regional Paratransit Coordination study, conducted by ARC. The HST plan update will also serve to implement Initiative 7 (Enhance Transit Operations) and Initiative 8 (Advance Mobility as A Service), of the recently adopted 2020 Regional TSMO Strategic Action Plan.

This planning study is also included in Subelement 6A: Regional Planning.
- o Cost Center(s): 106EHP, 106EHA

- o TIP Reference: AR-059C (programmed in FY 2021)
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $625,000 ARPA (federal) / $300,000 FTA 5303 (federal) / $37,500 GDOT (state match) / $37,500 ARC (local match); *ARC is not contracting with FTA for the funds. GDOT is contracting with FTA and then executing a subgrant agreement with ARC.*
- o Status: Work began in 2021 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Met with various prospective consultants to evaluate scope and budget viability. Reviewed previous HST plans and related documents to ensure consistency. Coordinated with Aging and Independence Services on identifying specific scope of work to revise 5310 operations and coordination throughout the region. Drafted a preliminary scope of work.**

- *ITS4US Complete Trip Deployment (Phase 1)*

The Atlanta Regional Commission Complete Trip - ITS4US Deployment project, Safe Trips in a Connected Transportation Network (ST-CTN), is leveraging innovative solutions, existing deployments, and collaboration to make a positive impact using transportation technology to support safety, mobility, sustainability, and accessibility. The ST-CTN concept is comprised of an integrated set of advanced transportation technology solutions (connected vehicle, transit signal priority, machine learning, predictive analytics) to support safe and complete trips, with a focus on accessibility for those with disabilities, aging adults, and those with limited English proficiency. Phase 1 of this project includes concept development including creating a Concept of Operations, System Requirements Specifications, and a Deployment Plan.

This planning study is also included in Subelement 6A: Regional Planning.

- o Cost Center(s): 106EIS
- o TIP Reference: Not applicable
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $1,337,185 USDOT Complete Trip Program (federal) / no match requirement
- o Status: Work began in 2021 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Completed deliverables: HUAS, the Outreach Plan, the PTSEP, the Deployment Plan, the IPFP, and the Phase 2 submittal. Phase 1 has been closed out and Phase 2 has been successfully awarded.**

- *Regional Transportation System Electrification Plan*

ARC will develop a plan which outlines the short and mid-range policies, initiatives, and responsibilities that a coalition of public and private sector partners will need to undertake to prepare the region for the gradual electrification of transit services and private vehicles. This will include determining a reasonable rate of market infiltration and the required amount and location of infrastructure to support the recharging of these vehicles. The impacts of electrification on regional and state transportation revenues will be estimated to provide context for making well- informed decisions on future alternative funding sources.

This study is also included in Subelement 6A: Regional Planning.

- o Cost Center(s): 206EEP
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $400,000 STBGP (federal) / $100,000 ARC (local match)
- o TIP Reference: TBD (will be added via amendment in early 2022)
- o Status: Work will begin in 2022 and will conclude in 2023
  - o **STATUS: Scope, schedule, and budget has been prepared and been submitted to GDOT to initiate the funding agreement.**

- *Metro Atlanta Smart Communities Studies Program*

Through its Atlanta Regional TSMO Strategic Plan and the Livable Centers Initiative, ARC has identified the need to support local governments in developing smart transportation infrastructure to improve traffic safety and operations, advance sustainability and better prepare for the future. To achieve this regional goal, ARC will contract with Georgia Tech to provide additional "one-time" financial support for its Georgia Smart Communities Challenge Program (Georgia Smart). Georgia Smart encourages communities to find innovative solutions to problems related to mobility by providing access to technical assistance, expert advice, and a network of peers.

Communities selected for the program receive access to a breadth of resources, including a team of specialized researchers and transportation technology experts, as well as access to Smart Community Corps student interns, and a network of Georgia Smart university, local government, corporate and technology partners.

This work program activity is also included in Subelement 6A: Regional Planning.

- o Cost Center(s): 106ETS
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $400,000 STBGP (federal) / $100,000 Georgia Tech (local match)
- o TIP Reference: AR-038-21-23 (will be funded under the Regional Transportation Planning Study Program)
- o Status: Work will begin in 2022 and will conclude in 2023
  - o **STATUS: Activities related to this work are monitored under Subelement E: Regional Transportation Planning Study Program.**

- *Project Database (PlanIt) Modernization and Redesign*

ARC will utilize consultant recommendations to modernize the PlanIt project programming database. The existing transportation project database is based on a design and software configuration from approximately a decade ago. This project will move the system to a modern database configuration, including enhanced capabilities to allow improved on-line search and data management functions for external customers.

This work program activity is also included in Subelement 6B: Program Implementation & Partner Services.

- o Cost Center: 206EDP
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $320,000 STBGP (federal) / $80,000 ARC (local match)
- o TIP Reference: TBD (will be added via amendment in early 2022)
- o Status: Work will begin in 2022 and conclude in 2023.
  - o **STATUS: Documented funding for PLANIT database overhaul in TIP, developed draft RFP. Scope, schedule and budget prepared for submission to GDOT to initiate the funding agreement between ARC and GDOT.**

- *Regional Household Travel Survey*

ARC, in partnership with GDOT and other stakeholders, will conduct a major regional travel survey. The outcomes of this initiative will be used to inform regional planning and calibration. With changes in travel behavior from the pandemic and increased teleworking, major issues are expected in using prior assumptions for travel in planning and modeling. For the regional household travel survey, ARC and GDOT are cooperating and coordinating via a USDOT / FHWA pooled funding effort, see https://www.pooledfund.org/Details/Solicitation/1466.

This NextGen NHTS local add- on option will allow ARC to leverage its investment (and achieve economies of scale) with other States and MPO partners. There will be two components, a traditional household travel survey, and an origin-destination passively collected dataset. For the traditional household travel survey component, the cost per complete ranges from $260 - $275 per complete, depending on how many surveys are purchased. For a sample size of about 1 out of 200 households, ARC will need 10,000 to 12,000 complete surveys. This will be supplemented with a passively collected origin-destination dataset, which will

feature a larger sample size at $25 to $30 per data point. Careful considerations will be given to pre-pandemic vs. post-pandemic travel behavior data collection.

This work program activity is also included in Subelement 6C: Travel Demand Model Development & Support.

- o Cost Center(s): 106EHS
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $1,500,000 FTA 5303 (federal) / $375,000 ARC (local match); *ARC is not contracting with FTA for the funds. GDOT is contracting with FTA and then executing a subgrant agreement with ARC.*
- o TIP Reference: AR-059A
- o Status: Work began in 2021 and will conclude in 2023
  - o **STATUS: At the request of the USDOT / FHWA and Oak Ridge National Laboratory: Solving the Big Problems (ornl.gov), ARC modeling staff provided a tech evaluation of the ORNL visualization tool. While the visuals appear simple in design yet very configurable, the row and tab-based, as well as axis structure, allow users to neatly organize different reports, charts, and objects. ARC staff questioned the ability to toggle light/dark mode, split panels, and save charts as additional features. The visuals performance varies across different CPU machines and appear usable on lighter machines with GPUs, which is great. ARC staff questioned if error logging is available, and if there is an underlying issue with a chart (such as a wrong table name for instance), will it endlessly load without throwing any error message. As far as extensibility, ARC staff questioned the ability to create a custom dashboard for the ARC Atlanta region by generating a TAZ-based GeoJSON file using GeoPandas. ARC staff also wondered if the distance datasets (trips by distance & mode, as well as trips by distance and purpose) will allow data analysts to build and visualize Trip Length Frequency Distributions (TLFD) within this tool. TLFDs from survey data and empirical O-D observations are commonly used in travel demand model development and calibration / validation, hence super helpful to have. This task is 40% complete.**

- *Activity Based Model (ABM) Support and Development*

ARC will maintain, update, and pursue innovative enhancement of the Regional Activity-Based Travel Demand Forecasting Model via model calibration & validation, and continue to integrate with other model update efforts. A major emphasis area in 2022 will be the integration of pre- pandemic and post-pandemic travel behavior data into the 2020X baseline model calibration effort, as well as the continued assessment of procedures to update managed lane modeling procedures and other processes redesign efforts to speed up model run times.

This work program activity is also included in Subelement 6C: Travel Demand Model Development & Support.

- o Cost Center(s): 206CMS
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $440,000 STBGP (federal) / $110,000 ARC (local match)
- o TIP Reference: AR-039C
- o Status: Work will begin in 2022 and will conclude in 2023
  - o **STATUS: ARC modeling staff worked on fine-tuning and streamlining the ABM model script to optimize model run-time performance, as well as programming refinement of the model system to work effectively on ARC's servers. In addition, ARC modeling staff enhanced its ABM by revisiting certain recommendations from the 2017 model peer review, including the ones pertaining to volume-delay functions, speeds, and travel times This work task is 50% complete.**

- *Land Use and Conformity Forecasting Model Development*

ARC will continue to maintain and enhance a land use model. The tasks of model design and development requires reviews and manipulation of detailed sets of new economic and property data into the model structure, additional coding emerging from variation model design, and model calibration. Emphasis will include updating the zonal structures to the new census tract level and refinement of forecasts for 2050.

This work program activity is also included in Subelement 6C: Travel Demand Model Development & Support.

- o Cost Center(s): 006ELM
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $140,000 STBGP (federal) / $35,000 ARC (local match)
- o TIP Reference: AR-047B (programmed in FY 2021)
- o Status: Work began in 2021 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: ARC modeling staff attended, and participated in, ARC's series of meetings on the development of the regional forecasts (economic, demographic, and socio-economic) for ARC's major plan update. In addition, ARC modeling staff coordinated with the land use modeling staff, mostly ensuring a smooth data exchange between the ARC ABM and the ARC land use model, by preparing the proper hooks between the two models, in the spirit of a fully integrated transport / land use model. This task is 40% complete.**

- *Application of TMIP-EMAT Methods Initiative*

The purpose of applying TMIP-EMAT methods is to enhance the state-of-practice of transportation modeling and analysis by better connecting ARC's various existing transportation models. ARC will research and apply the TMIP-EMAT methods to VisionEval, Trip-based travel demand modeling (network analysis), and the Activity- Based travel demand model. This will help staff understand the existing model's performance and statistical results and provide a window to rigorous analytical methods for handling uncertainty and making well informed decisions using travel forecasting models of all types. All work will be conducted by ARC staff and the procurement of outside consultant services is not anticipated.

This work program activity is also included in Subelement 6D: Performance Analysis & Monitoring.

- o Cost Center(s): 206ETE
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $400,000 Z445 (federal)
- o TIP Reference: TBD (will be added via amendment in early 2022)
- o Status: Work will begin in 2022 and will conclude in 2023
  - o **STATUS: Completed the run with the latest VisionEval model and continue to analyze the results for model validation.**

- *Equity Stakeholder Community Focus Group Initiative*

To support regional planning efforts and the ongoing development of the RTP, ARC will emphasize direct interactions and conversations with equity populations in 2021. Likely strategies will include the establishment of focus groups as well as connections to other   ARC-led studies outlined in this subelement. To implement the recommendations of the community engagement plan, focused outreach will occur with environmental justice and Title VI communities to better understand needs and improvements for these areas. This initiative will devote resources to reaching traditionally underserved communities and seek focused input on plan development activities.

This work program activity is also included in Subelement 6F: Administration & Support.

- o Cost Center(s): 206FPI
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $100,000 PL (federal) / $25,000 ARC (local match)
- o TIP Reference: Not applicable
- o Status: Work will begin in 2022 and will conclude in 2023
  - o **STATUS: The Transportation Equity Advisory Group meets monthly. The forthcoming**

Community Engagement Strategy will explore further how best to engage EJ stakeholders and communities.

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- *County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program*

The CTP program was established to ensure the transportation infrastructure has a positive impact on strengthening our economy and communities at both the local and regional levels. It accomplishes this by providing financial assistance for counties and their constituent municipalities to develop joint long-range transportation plans. These plans, while focused on local issues and needs, also serve as the foundation for updates to the RTP/TIP. ARC will continue to participate in several ongoing updates to existing plans.

This program is also included in Subelement 6A – Regional Planning.

- o Cost Center(s): 906ECP; 006ECP; 106ECP; 206ECP
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: Amounts vary; STBGP (federal) / Local government match
- o TIP Reference: AR-004 series
- o Status: See Appendix E for a list of active and proposed planning studies in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Three CTPs were completed in early 2022 (Cobb, Coweta and Douglas). One new CTP was initiated (Forsyth). Activities continued for seven other CTPs which began prior to 2022 (Barrow, Cherokee, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Spalding).**

- *Freight Cluster Area Planning Program*

The Freight Cluster Area Planning Program was established to assist local jurisdictions with developing subarea plans in locations with the most significant freight activity to identify first mile and last mile projects to improve freight mobility in the region. These plans and projects serve as part of the foundation for updates to the RTP/TIP.

This program is also included in Subelement 6A – Regional Planning.

- o Cost Center(s): 006ETS; 106ETS; 206ETS (all current freight cluster area studies are funded under the Regional Transportation Planning Study Program)
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: Amounts vary; STBGP (federal) / Local government match
- o TIP Reference: AR-006 series
- o Status: See Appendix E for a list of active and proposed planning studies in 2022
  - o **STATUS: FIB CID Plan: Finalized the plan; Metro South CID Plan: Consultant completed outreach, developed the project recommendations list, and submitted the draft Recommendations Report; NW Atlanta Plan: Kicked off in January, consultant conducted significant outreach, submitted a draft Best Practices Report, and submitted a draft Inventory and Assessment Report; FY 2022 Freight Cluster Plans: Work will begin when a funding contract is received from GDOT.**

- *Regional Transportation Planning Study (RTPS) Program*

The Regional Transportation Planning Study Program was established to assist local governments and Community Improvement Districts in the development of transportation plans, corridor studies, and feasibility studies that support the goals and objectives of the Atlanta Region's Plan. The purpose of these studies is to develop project concepts that improve safety, mobility, and access to all roadway users, while also preparing them for advancement to scoping and/or PE phases in future TIP project solicitations.

This program is also included in Subelement 6A – Regional Planning.

- o Cost Center(s): 006ETS; 106ETS; 206ETS
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: Amounts vary; STBGP (federal) / Local government match
- o TIP Reference: AR-038 series
- o Status: See Appendix E for a list of active and proposed planning studies in 2022

- o **STATUS: Attended monthly stakeholder and project management meetings to monitor study progress. Reviewed deliverables for two studies completed this term. Processed reimbursement requests and monitored budget.**

- *CPACS CARES Act Funding Grant*

ARC will support the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. for maintenance and expansion of their transportation shuttle service to employment and job training, marketing and outreach and transportation educations for low-income, limited English proficient residents of DeKalb County, including the City of Clarkson through the federal CARES Act. It is anticipated that the ATL Authority will assume responsibility of this grant in 2021.

This program is also included in Subelement 6B – Program Implementation & Partner Services.

- o Cost Center(s): 006EFC; 006EFX
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $656,182 CARES Act (100% federal)
- o TIP Reference: Not applicable
- o Status: Work began in 2020 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Coordinated budget and FTA grant application process to obligate CARES funding for CPACS vehicle purchases. Scheduled on-site monitoring (has since been rescheduled). Provided technical assistance to CPACS on procurement procedure for the vehicles.**

- *Fulton County HSCR Mobility Grant*

ARC will support Fulton County's expansion of public transportation services for seniors through their Mobility Options for Senior Transport (MOST) program with the utilization of transportation network companies. ARC currently acts as the direct recipient of federal transit funds.

This program is also included in Subelement 6B – Program Implementation & Partner Services.

- o Cost Center(s): 006ESS
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $243,778 FTA (federal) / $121,922 Fulton County (local match)
- o TIP Reference: Not applicable
- o Status: Work began in 2020 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Coordinated sub-grant agreement execution. Reviewed and approve invoices from HSCR. Grant should close out by the end of 2022.**

- *Spalding County Transit Feasibility Study*

ARC will act as the FTA 5307 direct recipient for Spalding County in a transit feasibility study. ARC will subcontract with the county. The county will directly manage all the study activities. This study will assess the feasibility of transit services in the community and recommend potential next steps.

This program is also included in Subelement 6B – Program Implementation & Partner Services.

- o Cost Center(s): 906EST
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $155,987 FTA 5307 (federal) / $38,996 Spalding County (local match)
- o TIP Reference: Not applicable
- o Status: Work began in 2020 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Reviewed and approved multiple invoices from the study sponsor. Tracked project completion status and reviewed interim deliverables. Study should be complete before the end of 2022.**

- *Newton County Transit Feasibility Study*

ARC will act as the FTA 5307 direct recipient for Newton County in a transit feasibility study. ARC will subcontract with the county. The county will directly manage all the study activities. This study will assess the feasibility of transit services in the community and recommend potential next steps.

This program is also included in Subelement 6B – Program Implementation & Partner Services.

- o Cost Center(s): 006ENT
- o Funding Amounts and Sources: $285,932 FTA 5307 (federal) / $71,483 Newton County (local match)
- o TIP Reference: Not applicable
- o Status: Work began in 2020 and will conclude in 2022
  - o **STATUS: Reviewed and approved multiple invoices from the study sponsor. Tracked project completion status and reviewed interim deliverables. Study should be complete before the end of 2022.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Internal coordination is required within all aspects of Element 6. External coordination is also very important for this Subelement. Primary external coordination will be with local governments, interest groups, general public and appropriate state and federal agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA), Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), The Georgia Transit Association, advocacy groups for older adults and disabled people, transportation services consultants, intercity bus operators, the travel and tourism industry, and a wide spectrum of other business, environmental, civic, and citizen interest groups.

COST CENTERS

Core Staff Activities

- 906EGM – GAMPO Financial Management
- 106EIS – ITS4US Complete Trip Deployment (Phase 1)
- 206ETC – ConnectATL

Special Studies - ARC Managed

- 006ESA – Regional Safety Action Plan
- 106EFP – Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update
- 106EHP – Regional Human Services Transportation Plan Update
- 106EHA – Regional Human Services Transportation Plan Update
- 206EEP – Regional Transportation System Electrification Plan
- 106EGT – Metro Atlanta Smart Communities Studies Program
- 206EDP – Project Database (PlanIt) Modernization and Redesign
- 006CMS – ABM Support and Development
- 006ELM – Land Use and Conformity Forecasting Model Development

- 106ELM – Land Use and Conformity Forecasting Model Development
- 106EHS – Regional Household Travel Survey
- 206ETE – Application of TMIP-EMAT Methods Initiative
- 206FPI – Equity Stakeholder Community Focus Group Initiative

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- 906ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- 006ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- 106ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- 206ECP – County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- 006ETS – Regional Transportation Planning Study Program
- 106ETS – Regional Transportation Planning Study Program
- 206ETS – Regional Transportation Planning Study Program
- 006EFC – FTA CARES Act Capital (CPACS)
- 006EFX – FTA CARES Act Operations (CPACS)
- 006ESS – Fulton County HSCR Mobility Grant
- 906EST – Spalding County Transit Feasibility Study
- 006ENT – Newton County Transit Feasibility Study
- 906EGM – GAMPO Financial Management

<u>**PURPOSE**</u>

Activities such as Community Engagement and Administration support and assure delivery of the Transportation Access & Mobility Group work program.

In 2022, ARC will increase its emphasis in working with equity populations, including environmental justice and Title VI communities. Through work with the Transportation Equity Advisory Group and stakeholders, a series of equity discussions will be conducted along with other community discussions.

ARC's Regional Community Engagement Plan, updated in 2019 will guide all engagement efforts. Community Engagement is an integral part of the transportation planning process as defined in FAST Act. The CEP includes a feedback mechanism for public comments and a process to evaluate the effectiveness of the community engagement activities.

Community engagement and outreach activities will continue to focus on transportation planning in general, updates of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as well as needed updates to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Public outreach also occurs for other mode and corridor studies and efforts in other divisions of the ARC (e.g., Community Development, Aging & Health Resources Divisions), including ConnectATL. An ongoing focus will continue to be informing stakeholders and the general public on the transportation planning process, soliciting their feedback and input, expanding these audiences including those individuals traditionally underserved, as well as maintaining an active, staff-level speakers bureau.

Community engagement activities will be coordinated with the activities of the agency-wide community engagement program conducted by the Center for Strategic Relations, to assure an efficient, comprehensive agency community engagement program.

This overall work program task will carry out the general coordination, administrative and management tasks essential to maintain the 20-county Atlanta Transportation Management Area. These activities are structured by federal regulations, most notably the transportation reauthorization bill, professional planning standards, and an ethic of collaborative decision - making. Specific activities include regular support to the formal transportation planning process, and management and coordination of Unified Planning Work Program activities. This work task also encompasses information management both to the public and ARC's planning partners.

Activities in which external consulting assistance and/or subgrant agreements with other agencies may be required are also reflected in Subelement 6E.

<u>**DELIVERABLES**</u>

Major work products for 2022 are categorized into three basic groups:

- Staff activities supporting core MPO responsibilities
- Special studies directly managed by ARC and where external consultant assistance is anticipated

- Special studies or grant management services facilitated by ARC, but managed by other agencies and which may involve external consultant assistance

Core Staff Activities

Transportation Community Engagement

- Expand external partnerships and facilitate engagement with groups focused on community engagement, advocacy, and outreach in the region, including focuses on transportation and transit.
  - o **STATUS: The forthcoming Community Engagement Strategy will explore further how best to engage EJ stakeholders and communities, partnerships as well as best practices for engagement, both in person and virtual.**

- Enhance social equity outreach through equity and environmental justice analysis and research, including periodic meetings of the Transportation Equity Advisory Group.
  - o **STATUS: TEAG has met 4 times this year regarding a number of subjects including transit, transportation electrification, and project selection.**

- Enhance the transportation interactive, community-based website for input into the planning process and distribution of transportation planning information.
  - o **STATUS: During the first half of 2022, regular updates were made to the website to provide updated documentation related to several two TIP administrative modifications and two amendments. A new IIJA resource page was developed, including a searchable database of funding programs.**

- Monitor and access the Regional Community Engagement Plan to reflect agency evolution, federal transportation policy and best state of practice, including updating modular guidebooks as needed.
  - o **STATUS: Conducted multiple rounds of job interviews for the vacant Community Engagement Planner and have thus far been unable to successfully hire a candidate. Budget was identified for a consultant contract to develop a Community Engagement Strategy and outreach support. The RFP has been written and is expected to be released in August 2022.**

- Continue on-going evaluation and implementation of public involvement techniques to remain on the leading edge of community involvement and planning.
  - o **STATUS: The forthcoming Community Engagement Strategy will explore further how best to engage EJ stakeholders and communities, partnerships as well as best practices for engagement, both in person and virtual.**

Program Administration & Maintenance

- Manage the 2022 Unified Planning Work Program and develop the 2023 UPWP. Provide detailed reports on work activities covered under grants and contracts as required.
  - o **STATUS: Conducted two administrative modifications to the 2022 UPWP. Began review of how to incorporate USDOT planning emphasis areas into the 2023 UPWP.**

- Facilitate and support committees, subcommittees, task forces, etc., associated with the ARC Transportation Access & Mobility Division and Mobility Services Group work scopes as detailed in the UPWP.
  - o **STATUS: In the first half of 2022, a total of four TCC meetings and four TAQC meetings were held.**

- Assist in the development of policy documentation, as directed by lead staff from the Office of the Director, governing agencywide practices related to federal Title VI, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, and Limited English Proficiency requirements.
  - o **STATUS: ARC's Legal Counsel is leading the update of the LEP, DBE and Title VI plan,**

with the assistance of a consultant, and multiple ARC offices. DBE external coordination meeting held in June.

- Facilitate staff development through participation or attendance in national, state and local organizations and participation in educational opportunities.
    - o **STATUS: Staff members attended TRB, APA and GPA conferences in the first half of 2022.**

- Continue ongoing comprehensive update of all planning agreements with partner agencies, including adjacent Metropolitan Planning Organizations, adjacent Regional Commissions, Limited Membership Counties for MPO Planning Purposes, transit operators, and regional/state agencies. Completion of some agreements may extend past 2022 in order to incorporate changes to 2020 Census urbanized area and MPO planning areas.
    - o **STATUS: Other than organizing existing agreements in preparation for the need to begin conversations with local governments following release of the new urbanized area boundary (expected in the 3rd quarter), there was no activity in the first half of 2022.**

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- An Equity Stakeholder Community Focus Groups Initiative will be undertaken to better understand the needs of transportation disadvantaged groups. ARC will conduct direct outreach to equity populations utilizing the services of external consultants. Specific desired outcomes include better understanding the needs of these communities. This focus group initiative may evolve into a multi-year initiative. This will be determined based on an assessment upon completion of the first year. See also Subelement 6E: Equity Stakeholder Community Focus Group Initiative.
    - o **STATUS: The forthcoming Community Engagement Strategy will explore further how best to engage EJ stakeholders and communities, partnerships as well as best practices for engagement, both in person and virtual.**

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- N/A

PARTNERSHIPS

Internal coordination is required within all aspects of Element 6. External coordination is also very important for this Subelement. Primary external coordination will be with local governments, interest groups, general public and appropriate state and federal agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Georgia Transit Association, advocacy groups for older adults and disabled people, transportation services consultants, intercity bus operators, the travel and tourism industry, and a wide spectrum of other business, environmental, civic, and citizen interest groups.

COST CENTERS

Core Staff Activities

- 206FAM – Program Support & Administration
- 206FAT – Program Support & Administration (Transit)
- 206FPI – Community Engagement
- 206FPT – Community Engagement (Transit)

Special Studies – ARC Managed

- 206FPI – Equity Stakeholder Community Focus Group Initiative

Special Studies or Grant Management Services – ARC Facilitated

- N/A

AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022

ELEMENT 8 - AGING AND INDEPENDENCE SERVICES

MISSION

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the federally designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serving as the regional planning, development, and intergovernmental coordination agency for the Atlanta region, which is composed of ten contiguous counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale. Its mission is to maximize the independence, health, and well-being of older persons, individuals with disabilities, and their care partners today, while preparing the 10-county region for the future.

In 2020, an estimated 792,000 adults age 65 or older lived in the region, constituting 35% of Georgia's older residents.

The Aging and Independence Services (A&IS) Group serves as the steward of funds from the federal government (through the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Social Services Block Grant, and other sources) as well as state Aging Services Funds administered through the Georgia Division of Aging Services (DAS). A&IS services and supports are delivered directly and through the aging services provider network and are branded as Empowerline[TM]. With a typical annual budget[1] of $26 million, A&IS targets services to individuals in the greatest need. The OAA defines "greatest need" as people who are low-income, minority, limited in English proficiency, frail, and in greatest social need. These factors are also among the most critical determinants of life expectancy.

A core A&IS service is information counseling through the Aging and Disability Resource Connection, designed to assist older people, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers in making informed life decisions via certified professionals and free, helpful online (www.empowerline.org) tools and information. A&IS also administers a centralized intake system for access to Medicaid home and community-based services waivers, assists nursing home residents to transition to the community, and provides several other direct client services.

A&IS also provides and administers services through a variety of public and private grants. The region's aging services provider network consists of 10 county-based agencies and 4 additional non- profits. The Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) contracts with ARC to administer human services transportation innovations through partnering organizations.

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[1] ARC has received 3 COVID-related federal grants to expand aging services over multiple fiscal years for a total of

$9.6 million. A portion of these funds will be utilized in 2022. A 4th federal grant in the amount of $13 million is anticipated during 2022 and would be available over multiple fiscal years.

In addition, ARC works with local governments, community partners, and residents to design more inclusive lifelong communities that offer multiple housing types and enhanced transportation options, increased opportunities for healthy living, and convenient access to services and information.

GOALS

The A&IS vision is: "Well-designed well-being: the Atlanta region is a place where people of all ages, abilities, and incomes can live high-quality lives, regardless of location." It has developed the *Live Beyond Expectations Regional Strategic Plan Framework 2020-2025*, designed to address inequities that create disparities in life expectancy.

The plan includes four top line goals:
1. Identify key areas of focus for concerted regional effort.
2. Enhance existing partnerships and expand engagement with new community partners.
3. Create increased awareness of disparities in life expectancy and the factors driving them throughout the Atlanta region.
4. Marshal resources to address disparities in life expectancy.

In addition, A&IS will continue implementation of the SFY 2021-2024 Area Plan on Aging goals, as set by the Georgia Division of Aging Services:

- Provide long-term supports and services to support consumer participation in the community.
- Ensure public access to accurate and reliable information about resources and services.
- Strengthen the viability and sustainability of the aging services network.
- Prevent, abuse, neglect and exploitation while protecting rights of older Georgians and persons with disabilities.
- Operate efficiently and effectively.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Provide Leadership in Planning and Policy Development for Region
- Enhance Home and Community Based Services Delivery and Accessibility
- Strengthen Aging and Independence Services Internal Operations

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES
- Regional Leadership
- Home and Community Based Services
- Group Operations

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 8 - AGING AND INDEPENDENCE SERVICES

8A – REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

PURPOSE

Maximize the independence, health and well-being of older persons, individuals with disabilities, and their care partners today, while preparing the 10-county region for the future.

DELIVERABLES

- **Provide Leadership in Planning and Policy Development for the Region**

The Aging and Independence Services (A&IS) Group will provide leadership to advance coordination and excellence in administering services for older persons and individuals with disabilities. ARC will strategically plan, partner and advocate to engage others in infrastructure, service, policy and communication enhancements that promote the region's development as a place of well-designed well-being where people of all ages, abilities and income can live high quality lives, regardless of location.

In 2022, A&IS will continue to lead ARC's implementation of the Strategic Plan on Aging, *Live Beyond Expectations 2020 – 2025*. The plan focuses on reducing life expectancy disparities within the region. Plan strategies include:

- Convene Steering Committee meetings with external and internal partners to guide implementation
  - **STATUS: Meeting quarterly to advise and guide implementation.**

- Conduct engagement in communities throughout the Region to inform intervention strategies
  - **STATUS: Conducted 10 focus groups (one per AAA county) and a survey in low life expectancy communities to inform intervention strategies. Report to Board on 7.13. 22**

- Create increased awareness throughout the metro region of disparities in life expectancy and the factors that drive those.
  - **STATUS: Provided 2 webinars focused on local elected officials and presented to 5 county boards of commissioners (+2 in 2021).**

- Marshal resources to address disparities.
  - **STATUS: Received a small grant (from CVS Foundation and Thanks Mom and Dad Fund) to expand One2One telephone reassurance in 30318 zip code community (an area we are focusing on with low life expectancy) and to support the work of the strategic plan.**

In addition, A&IS will continue implementation of the SFY 2021-2024 Area Plan on Aging goals, as set by the Georgia Division of Aging Services:

- Provide long-term supports and services to support consumer participation in the community.

- Ensure public access to accurate and reliable information about resources and services.

- Strengthen the viability and sustainability of the aging services network.

- Prevent, abuse, neglect and exploitation while protecting rights of older Georgians and persons with disabilities.

- Operate efficiently and effectively.

- **Enhance Home and Community Based Services Delivery and Accessibility**

Branded as Empowerline™, A&IS provides an array of home and community-based services (HCBS), both directly and through subgrants to the aging services provider network. In 2022, A&IS will enact improvements in supports and services to implement more effective ways to utilize current resources and leverage new ones, including through the following approaches:

- **Expansion of resource connections:** A&IS certified information counselors respond to more than 72,000 requests each year. Many of those requests are of a critical and complex nature. Resources, such as affordable, accessible housing and transportation, are not always immediately available. To help meet critical and changing community needs, A&IS is building stronger partnerships with housing, utility, and transportation providers.
  - **STATUS: In FY22, we experienced over 100,000 contacts.**

- **Technology**: A&IS will analyze existing technology to examine ways to increase ease of access and responsiveness to community needs, including a publicly available search of the ePRO™ resource database, texting and scheduling capabilities, and phone prompts in multiple languages.
  - **STATUS: Two staff trained on how to internally update phone prompts. This has enhanced our information counselor efficiency and better managed customer expectations. Pursuing renewal of contract with tech consultant to make enhancements to ePRO resource database.**

- **Multi-cultural outreach and supports**: A&IS is expanding Culturally Appropriate Information and Referral partnerships to support the needs of Atlanta's diverse community. In the recent past, A&IS has focused on pan-Asian populations. March 1, 2021, A&IS started working with the Latin American Association to provide Culturally Appropriate Information and Referral Services to expand information and service access to Latinx and Hispanic communities. In FY 22, CPACS and the LAA will continue to provide Culturally Appropriate I&R.
  - **STATUS: NOFA awarded for FY 23. CPACS will continue to provide Culturally Appropriate I&R.**

- **Innovation in response to COVID-19**: To support the ongoing needs of individuals and care partners who are greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, A&IS will continue to meet a variety of community needs directly and through the provider network. A&IS is using this opportunity to test innovative service delivery models, including regional respite vouchers, a volunteer-based telephone reassurance program, and consumer self- direction. In 2022, A&IS will analyze the effectiveness of these time-limited interventions to support future innovation in service delivery.
  - **STATUS: We are continuing to evaluate these innovations; we expect that ARPA funds will permit continuation for an additional 2 years:**

- **Expansion of behavioral health coaching**: A&IS will continue expansion of ARC's Behavioral Health Coaching service within the Atlanta region, as well as work with other area agencies on aging to train and provide support to help them build their capacity to implement this service.
  - **STATUS: ARPA funds and funds from a new source (a housing provider) will enable ARC to continue this service for the remainder of this year. Southern GA AAA has begun to provide the ARC model of service. ARC has offered technical assistance and training. ARC staff have been invited to present this model at 2 national conferences during 2022.**

- **Expansion of wellness programs**: With support of a 3-year federal grant, A&IS will continue expansion of ARC's evidence-based Living Well programs via implementation of the Chronic Pain Self-Management program.
  - **STATUS: ARC trained 10 lay leaders and launched Chronic Pain Self-Management classes.**

- **Strengthen Aging and Independence Services Internal Operations**

The Group continues to work on the efficiency and effectiveness of its internal operations. Emphases in 2022 will be:

- Enhance interdisciplinary approaches to overcome barriers, improve consumer access, and leverage resources across all programs and services.
  - **STATUS: In June, A&IS received recommendations from a consultant on ways to improve efficiency in its Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). A&IS is beginning implementation and has shared recommendations and insights with other GA AAAs and state grantors.**
- Complete documentation of financial and programmatic Standard Operating Procedures and utilize to develop quality improvements in operations.
  - **STATUS: A&IS has developed a comprehensive list of Standard Operating Procedures.**
- Quantify Group's direct costs associated with Office of External Affairs.
  - **STATUS: Chief Operating Officer developing consistent approach across programmatic groups for external affairs costs.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Cherokee County Senior Services, Clayton County Senior Services, Cobb County Senior Services, DeKalb Office of Senior Affairs, Douglas County Senior Services, Fayette Senior Services, Fulton County Department of Senior Services, Gwinnett County Senior Services, Henry County Senior Services, Rockdale County Senior Services, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Center for the Visually Impaired, Latin American Association, Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability, Meals on Wheels, House Proud, Habitat for Humanity, Jewish Family & Career Services

COST CENTERS

- 208BD1 – TECHNOLOGY SUBSCRIPTIONS(SAMS/EMPOWERLINE-PRO)
- 308AA1 – ARC TIII A-Admin (from B & C)
- 308AA2 – ALZHEIMER'S Program State SUBCONTRACTORS
- 308AB1 – ARC HCBS State - CBS ADMIN
- 308AC1 – HCBS State - CBS SUBCONTRACTOR
- 308AC2 – CBS ALZ SUBS
- 308AC4 – ELAP CBS SUBS
- 308AC6 –CBS RESPITE SUBS
- 308AC7 – CBS – CASE MANAGEMENT SUBS
- 308BCO – ARC-ALZHEIMER'S PROGRAM, STATE
- 308AP1 – OAA TITLE III B Supportive Services
- 308AP2 – OAA TITLE III B Supportive Services
- 308AP3 – CBS – HCBS State - Program Development
- 208AQ1 – ARC Cash FY22
- 308AS1 – OAA - TITLE III B – Supportive Services - SUBCONTRACTORS
- 308AS2 – HCBS - SSBG SUBCONTRACTORS
- 308AS3 – OAA - TITLE III-E – Family Caregiver Support - SUBCONTRACTORS

- 308AS6 – OAA - TITLE III-C1-Congregate Meals- SUBCONTRACTORS
- 308AS7 – OAA-TITLE III-C2-Home Delivered Meals-SUBCONTRACTORS
- 308ASB – ARC SSBG-HCBS- ADMIN
- 308AT1 – ITCK SUBCONTRACTOR
- 308ASP – ARC SSBG-HCBS- SPECIAL PROJ
- 308AU1 – ACL NSIP SUBS
- 308AU2 – STATE NSIP SUBS
- 308AU3 – SSBG NSIP Supplemental SUBS
- 308BCR – ARC OAA T3 E CAREGIVER Support
- 308BD3 – ARC SSBG-HCBS
- 308BD4 – ARC CBS-HCBS STATE-Operations
- 308BD5– ARC CBS-HCBS STATE-Operations
- 308BNT – ARC Nursing Home Transitions
- 308BOC – ARC MFP-MDSQ/Options
- 308BQ2 – MFP Client Reimbursement
- 308BRC – ARC STATE ADRC
- 308BSM – ARC – SSBG-MFP
- 308BTC – ARC MFP-TRANSITION
- 308BV1 – Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- 308BV2 – ARC HCBS State CBS-VOLUNTEER
- 308CA1 – E&D Waiver Intake
- 308DR1 – OAA ARC TITLE III-D HEALTH PRO/WELL
- 308ED1 – 5310 Capital – ARC
- 308ED3 – 5310 Capital – Sub-grantees
- 308ED4 – 5310 Operations – Sub-grantees
- 308BAH – ATLANTA HOUSING
- 308EMH– MAPHABIT
- 208CFH – ARCHI DIABETES
- 208CUS – KAISER UNITE US
- 108CBH – AMERIGROUP BH
- 108CCP – ACL CHRONIC PAIN
- 108CEH – UHC Empowering Health
- 208CFG – THANKS MOM & DAD
- 208DWS – WELLSTAR POWERFUL TOOLS

- 208CAA – CONSOLIDATED APPR. ACT SUBS
- 208AV5 – VAC 5
- 008AF7 – CARES – ARC Supportive Services
- 008AF9 – CARES – ARC Caregiver Services
- 008AF2 – CARES – ARC Supportive Services
- 008AF4 – CARES – Admin Supportive Services
- 008AF5 – CARES – Admin Caregiver Services
- 008AF6 – CARES – Admin Nutrition Services
- 008AFA – CARES – CARES ADRC Mat'l Aid
- 008AFB – CARES – CARES ADRC Tech
- 008AF1 – Families First Coronavirus Response Act Congregate Meals SUBS
- 008AF3 – Families First Coronavirus Response Act Home Delivered Meals SUBS
- 008AF8 – CARES – Supportive Services SUBS
- 008AFC – CARES Caregiver Services SUBS
- 008AFM – CARES – Congregate Meals SUBS
- 008AFN – CARES – Home Delivered Meals SUBS

HOMELAND SECURITY & RECOVERY

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022

ELEMENT 10.A – HOMELAND SECURITY & RECOVERY GROUP

MISSION

Implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient Nation. Focus funding and support efforts on the high threat, high density Urban Areas of the Atlanta Metropolitan Area. Five mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery are supported through a broad range of activities, includes but are not limited to preparedness activities, planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration. The Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) provides funding to address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of public safety officials and first responders.

GOALS

- Continue to validate the Special Weapons and Tactics Concept of Operation Plan during every functional drill or exercise.

- Continue to sustain existing law enforcement and fire services programs through the acquisition of specialty equipment through procurement or subaward related to regional bomb truck; multiple bomb equipment upgrades; and advanced interoperable radio frequency system, and 3rd regional Medical Ambulance Bus.

- Secure an expandable cloud-based regional interoperable radio frequency communication system and repeatedly test new system.

- Execute on enhancements to the existing crisis management/situational awareness systems to allow members to create public facing forms to gather data without the need of a vendor account, customizing external facing systems (alerting tools, Microsoft Teams configuration, etc.,) and redundancy training.

- Complete a set of agreed upon major enhancements (phase IV), procedures, protocols, and technical standards for regional collaboration of the aerial downlink project.

- Continue to make progress on previously started and new strategic outcome-based projects, to include replacing the multi-year training and exercise plan with a new Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), which will set the trajectory for validation of the region's capabilities.

- Manage the Department of Homeland Security Grant Years 2019, 2020 and 2021 grant awards.

- Apply for 2022 funding along with submitting required THIRA and Stakeholder Preparedness Report where applicable.

- With the assistance of our consultants expedite the work of jurisdictional partners, to ensure effective and efficient coordination and implementation of the region's homeland security and emergency preparedness programs.

- Make measurable progress on the new national priorities in the 2020 federal grant of election security, pre-planning for a full-scale exercise, and the 2021 federal grant national priority of combating domestic violent extremism.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Sustain the regional public safety communications amongst the UASI member jurisdictions utilizing a cohesive, interoperable communications platform.

- Complete a series of specialty teams training, inclusive of workshops and tabletop exercise components, and acquisition of equipment to sustain specific capabilities and resources necessary to protect property and the citizens from terrorism, new threats, or in relation to specific large events that require coordinated and comprehensive responses.

- Plan and complete assessments of cybersecurity risks and threats to include election security by continuous training, and conducting drills, workshops, or tabletop exercises in preventing cyber-attacks.

- Enhance the situational awareness of critical infrastructures of the state and metro area utilizing Unmanned Aircraft System (drones).

- Develop a coordinated regional strategy for responses to hazardous materials/chemicals or any other widespread chemical attack/emergency or any other widespread disease/pandemic event.

- Address the new Department of Homeland Security national priority to Combat Domestic Violent Extremism by developing a systematic process for assessing current state of affairs among UASI jurisdictional members, identifying capability gaps, and creating a new program or leveraging existing program(s) for the public safety community and general population audiences.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- 10.A.19.01 – Citizen Corps
- 10.A.19.02 – Maintain and Build Interoperability
- 10.A.19.03 – Planning
- 10.A.19.04 – Training
- 10.A.19.05 – Exercise
- 10.A.19.06 – Sustaining/Building Response Capabilities
- 10.A.19.07 – Sustaining/Law Enforcement Capabilities
- 10.A.19.08 – Cybersecurity
- 10.A.19.09 – Management and Administration
- 10.A.20.01 – Planning
- 10.A.20.02 – Training
- 10.A.20.03 – Cybersecurity
- 10.A.20.04 – Planning Attacks/Security
- 10.A.20.05 – Operations & Management

PURPOSE

Interoperable communications during large emergencies and disasters are vital to the region to ensure existing mutual aid agreements can be properly and efficiently executed. This program element provides for ongoing support of interoperable communications equipment on a limited basis; developing communication plans related to the system; assessing the public safety communication systems to identify coverage gaps; establishing priority needs and working with the appropriate partners to help ensure that the needs of the stakeholders in the UASI footprint are understood and considered in any regional communications programs.

DELIVERABLES

- Enhance Interoperable Communications – Provide radio users the ability to roam throughout the region and communicate with each other as if they were on one radio system. This strategic project is assigned to the Regional Communications & Technology Committee. HSRG will sustain the strategic goal of interoperable communications through continuous training and testing done on the radio system. HSRG has entered into agreement and is in the initial phase of upgrading the interoperability communication radio system and implementing Critical Connect, a cloud-based system. Critical Connect adapts to agency needs and make it easier to manage complex communication centers regardless of device or network. These connections are easy to maintain and can grow in terms of capacity, unique connections, features, and future services.
  o **STATUS: This is an annual and long-term project.**

- Enhance Regional Crisis Management Software – Maintain and continue to enhance a unified, region wide situational awareness platform that will permit for incident management & interface, resource/asset mapping and allocation, plus general and information sharing. This strategic project is assigned to the Regional Communications & Technology Committee. HSRG has begun to upgrade the software and provide additional training for users. The enhancement this year will include a new mobile design source code and the public facing forms builder which would allow members to have public forms to gather data without the need of a vendor account, an add-on that allows for customization for communication with external facing systems (i.e., email alerting tool, Microsoft Teams configuration, etc.), plus training to mitigate challenges due to personnel changes or disruptions.
  o **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Collaboration and Information Sharing – Provide one, consistent message for any event that involves multiple jurisdictions and agencies. This strategic project is assigned to the Regional Communications & Technology Committee. Training for the Public Information Officer (PIO) working group has been identified. This 5-day training, not yet scheduled, will be taught by one of the local PIOs in the region. Additionally, the PIO working group is working with one of UASI's partners in a Full-Scale Exercise in 2022. This exercise will test applicable plans and protocols of PIOs in the region that effectively educate the populace, protect sensitive information, reduce fear, and direct the citizens to safety.
  o **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
The City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County (911 Center, EMS, PD, Fire, EOD, EMA, Public Health, etc.)

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.02 - Interoperable Communications
- 10.A.20.01 - Planning

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 10A- HOMELAND SECURITY & RECOVERY GROUP

01/03 – PLANNING

PURPOSE

Supports ongoing, multi-jurisdictional, planning in all areas of prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation. Continuous and relevant planning is a key element in any program and necessary to ensure that hazards and threats are properly identified. Planning also provides with some degree of certainty that specific capabilities and resources developed in the Atlanta UASI are selected and sustained.

This program element supports tasks intended to provide cohesive formation, alignment and reinforce the interconnectedness of responsibilities based upon assessments.

DELIVERABLES

- Threats and Hazards Identification Assessment (THIRA)/ Stakeholders Preparedness Report (SPR)– The THIRA/SPR is a FEMA requirement to assess risks and determine the level of capability. This project is assigned to the THIRA/SPR Working Group under the Regional Response Coordination Committee. Planning for the bi-annual requirement of completing the THIRA/SPR is underway by the working group and will be fulfilled by 2022.
    - **STATUS: This is bi-annual and long-term project.**

- Planning, Training, Exercise and Project Management – Utilizing the assistance of consultants with planning, project management, training, and exercise expertise, HSRG will further enhance and expedite the work of jurisdictional partners, to ensure effective and efficient coordination and implementation of projects for the region's homeland security and emergency preparedness programs. Following the extension of grant years 2019 and 2020, HSRG has submitted requests to amend four consultant agreements. With the time allotted from the grant extensions and the availability of stakeholders, HSRG has identified and planned several projects and training that were postponed/and or cancelled due to COVID.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Hazardous Materials and Chemical Response Preparation – Utilizing the many after-action reports completed by all the regions' governments, medical and public health communities, and various response organizations, develop a coordinated regional strategy for responses to widespread chemical emergency. This project is assigned to the Critical Events and Special Operations Committee. No work has begun on this project as this working group is just coming together. With the extension on grant year 2019, this project will continue through 2023.
    - **STATUS: This is a long-term project.**

- Combatting Domestic Violent Extremist Program – This is a new Department of Homeland Security national priority. HSRG intends to develop a systematic process for assessing current situations among UASI jurisdictional members, including identifying capability gaps, and taking the results of an assessment to leverage existing/new innovative programs to law enforcement, public safety, and the general population. No work has begun on this project as this is a grant year 2020 project. HSRG is concluding GY 2019 projects and will begin this project late 2022/early 2023.
    - **STATUS: Pending**

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
Ga Dept. of Public Health
Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
The City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County
The Federal Bureau of Investigations
Colleges and Universities and Consultants

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.03/10.A.20.01 - Planning

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 10A- HOMELAND SECURITY & RECOVERY GROUP

01 – PLANNING
02/04 – TRAINING

PURPOSE

Continuous relevant training is a key element in any program and necessary to ensure core capabilities are sustained at levels necessary to protect property and the citizens. By supporting specific public safety, law enforcement, and private sector efforts, brings the whole community together to share information and address needs through training. This effort supports the national campaign for preparedness through coordinated governance efforts throughout the Metro Atlanta area by coordinated training programs.

DELIVERABLES

- Training, Exercises, Drills and Seminars - Develop and support training by subject matter experts on a wide variety of topics necessary to ensure that public safety teams with recurring training that serves to build or sustain capabilities consistent with DHS Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). This strategic project is assigned to the Critical Events/Special Operations Committee designed to organize the training and exercise priorities listed in the Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP) for 2020 through 2023. HSRG is replacing the MYTEP with the Intergraded Preparedness Plan (IPP). The IPP is a new process implemented by FEMA to replace the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan. The IPP provides a roadmap for the region to follow in accomplishing the priorities and is scheduled to be completed by 2022. Training and the planning for the 2023 Full Scale Exercise is ongoing while the IPP is being drafted.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Preparedness – Focus on and develop training for first responders in newer tactics and treatment during an MCI, such as the need for Rescue Task Forces to enter those areas not yet completely secured to treat and recover the injured. This strategic project is assigned to the Regional Response Coordination Committee. MCI training is scheduled in December 2022 and will continue in 2023.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Mass Shelter Planning – Develop and incorporate training and exercise needs to assist local Emergency Management, Public Health providers, and associated departments in sheltering a mass number of evacuees for local and community related emergencies. This strategic project is assigned to the Regional Response Coordination Committee. UASI regional and non-regional members continue to coordinate local plans and will utilize the Family Assistance Center Plan draft to test during the Nov 2022 FSE (coordinated by a regional partner) that Atlanta UASI and its regional stakeholders are supporting and participating in.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Active Threat/Assessment – Increase the awareness of the population through training; and identify and address weaknesses in first responder preparedness with equipment, training, and exercises. This strategic project is assigned to the Critical Events/Special Operations Committee. Define tactics, coordination, and collaboration among public safety disciplines and agencies; and identify equipment and training needed. HSRG has conducted five specialty training courses in 2022 for 80 public safety specialty team members across UASI jurisdictions. Further training is scheduled in late 2022 and in 2023.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Regional Hazmat and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive CBRNE Preparedness – To explore the need for personal protective measures training and support for hazardous materials under manufacture, in transit, and at fixed sites in the Region. This new strategic project is assigned to Critical Events/Special Operations Committee. Following the IPP, training for these specialty team members is scheduled in 2023.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Unified Command/NIMS – To continue to test the Incident Command System (ICS) component in all exercises, to identify weaknesses and gaps in ICS capabilities, and provide appropriate ICS training at the higher levels of command through existing or newly developed training.
    - **STATUS: This strategic project is assigned to the Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR). ICS will be tested in a November 2022 FSE (coordinated by a regional partner) that Atlanta UASI and its regional stakeholders are supporting and participating in. Additionally, ICS will be tested in the full-scale exercise (FSE) conducted by the Atlanta UASI in 2023. This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
Ga Dept. of Public Health
Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
The City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.04 - Sustain Training Programs

- 10.A.20.01/02 - Planning/Training

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 10A- HOMELAND SECURITY & RECOVERY GROUP

01 - PLANNING
05 – EXERCISE

PURPOSE

Consistent with the Training sub-element workplan, continuous relevant exercises are a key element in any program and necessary to ensure core capabilities are sustained at levels necessary to protect property and the citizens. The end-goal is a series of initial planning meetings, discipline specific workshops, tabletop exercises, functional exercises, and finally a Full-Scale Exercise based on a set of plausible scenarios to test capabilities. This exercise effort supports the national campaign for preparedness through coordinated governance efforts throughout the Metro Atlanta area.

DELIVERABLES

- Full-Scale Exercise (FSE) – Conduct and/or sponsor the activities of a FSE with relevant jurisdictional partners within an 18-month period that would test as many capabilities as possible among jurisdictional partners and stakeholders. This strategic project is assigned to the Regional Response Coordination Committee. The FSE will align with the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) that describes the Training sub-element workplan. The specific exercise needs, timing, and requirements will be consistent with DHS Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). HSRG has established a FSE Working group and held its first virtual planning meeting in May 2022. In conjunction with the consultant and the FSE working group, HSRG will conduct in person monthly planning meetings until the actual FSE takes place. The scenarios are being finalized, and identification of the equipment to be tested and regional stakeholders' involvement will follow thereafter.
  - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
Ga Dept of Public Health, Regional Healthcare Coalition members, and Private Sector Partners
The City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.05- Exercise

- 10.A.20.01 - Planning

01 - PLANNING
06 – SUSTAINING/BUILDING RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

<u>**PURPOSE**</u>

The Atlanta region is unique in the nation regarding the multiple, closely spaced political subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan area. While each of these political entities enjoys robust public safety capability, each is also impacted by major emergencies or disasters that may take place outside its border in a neighboring jurisdiction. Consequently, planning and collaboration as a region is critical to ensure that those impacts are minimized, adequate resources are available, and funds are applied effectively and efficiently.

<u>**DELIVERABLES**</u>

- Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources - Complete assessments of critical infrastructure throughout the region. This project is assigned to Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources Committee (CIKR). HSRG will continue to invest in the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (commonly referred to as TEEX) training as needed for the CIKR members. As part of the training listed in the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), TEEX will aid the CIKR group in successfully continuing the need to perform risk assessment in the region. Additionally, HSRG is looking to invest in a common platform for CIKR assessments completed in the region.
  - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Advance Mapping Resources - Asset location, identify capabilities, gaps, staging preferences and improve situational awareness. This project is assigned to Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources Committee. Most of the major tasks of identifying and locating assets has been completed. The working group had drafted the specifications for the web base, asset tracking application and was working with HSRG on the procurement process to secure a web base, resource tracking software, however, reservations on implementation has resulted in a need for the UAWG advisory board to decide whether to continue to pursue this project. This is an agenda item for UAWG at the August 2022 meeting.
  - **STATUS: Pending**

- Regional Evacuation Coordination Plan (RECP) – Review and maintenance of the Plan along with determining the priority of future annexes, their development, and conducting an exercise of the RECP. This project is assigned to Regional Response Coordination Committee. A review of this plan is scheduled to be completed by end of 2022 to determine if additional coordination and policy changes/recommendations are necessary.
  - **STATUS: This is a biannual and long-term project.**

- Family Assistance Operations and Reunification (FAOP) – Implement and train on the regional reunification/family assistance center framework that includes but is not limited to tools, resources, and job aids to implement Family Assistance Centers on a local and/or regional level. This project is assigned to the Regional Response Coordination Committee. The project working group will seek to complete a resource assessment at the regional/county level to determine capabilities and existing gaps. Additionally, the FAOP will be tested in the FSE in 2023.
  - **STATUS: This is a long-term project.**

- Acquisition of specialty equipment – HSRG will continue to increase the capability of the jurisdictions of metro Atlanta to treat and transport large numbers of injuries/casualties in the event of a terrorist attack or

natural disaster by providing a mass casualty transport specialty vehicle. Acquisition of an additional mass casualty transport vehicle in the region is scheduled to be completed in 2023. Production pipeline delays has affected this project significantly. Once acquired, this vehicle will improve response times. Training to EMS personnel in other jurisdictions is inclusive of this project.

- o **STATUS: Acquisition of specialty equipment is a long-term project**.

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Private Sector Members from the CIKR Committee
Public Health (Regional and State)
The City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County (911 Center, EMS, PD, Fire, EOD, EMA, Public Health, etc.)

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.06- Sustaining/Building Response Capabilities.

- 10.A.20.01 - Planning

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 10A- HOMELAND SECURITY & RECOVERY GROUP

01 - PLANNING
07 – SUSTAINING/LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES

PURPOSE

The Department of Homeland Security requires that a combined amount of 25% from both Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) and UASI grant funds be dedicated to law enforcement. These funds are to be used to enhance and sustained special law enforcement capabilities most closely associated with a response to terrorism. The Atlanta UASI has enhanced the capabilities of law enforcement specialty teams.

DELIVERABLES

- Acquisition of specialty equipment – HSRG will continue to build new and sustain existing public safety capabilities by providing to law enforcement and first responder's allowable equipment. Despite the numerous production pipeline challenges, HSRG has been able to successfully complete some acquisitions of law enforcement specialty equipment. These goods will enhance the region's capability for the Special Weapons and Tactics personnel and is vital to law enforcement response and the maintenance of community lifelines. Additionally, upgraded and newly implemented platforms thus far in 2022, will enhance the capability to communicate, upload and download real-time video images to improve mitigation strategies during an all-hazard event.
    - o **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
Public Health (Regional and State)
Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
The City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.07 - Sustaining/Law Enforcement Capabilities
- 10.A.20.01 - Planning

03/08 - CYBERSECURITY

PURPOSE

As the dependence on and vulnerabilities to information technologies continue to expand, the region must keep pace by deploying consensus cybersecurity best practices. The Atlanta UASI has been assisting the jurisdictions within its footprint for the last 5 years in preparing for and preventing cyber-attacks. These funds will continue to support ongoing and expand cyber security planning and protections for computer and communications systems in the region.

DELIVERABLES

- Cybersecurity platform – Develop strategies regarding prevention, detection, communication of, response to and recovery from cyber threats that impact critical infrastructure (in concert with the FBI and USSS). The focus is to build awareness, share best practices of prevention and protection of critical cyber systems, along with regional training. This strategic project is assigned to Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources Committee. Strategies to meet the goals of the cybersecurity platform include aligning with NIST Cybersecurity framework; establishing processes and procedures for cyber threat information sharing; developing a methodology and executing a plan for providing cybersecurity training and exercises for members. This is a grant year 2020 project and due to the extension of grant 2019, work on this project has not begun.
  - **STATUS: Pending**

- Election security – As a new national priority to improve election security, a new project is envisioned for UASI jurisdictions to include the multiphase actionable plan. The first phase will be to assess the risk to election computers and voters' registries security on a county-by-county basis. This regional assessment will be in concert and/or compliment that being undertaken statewide by the State of Georgia using its Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant funds. The initial goal of the first phase will be to ensure that the assessment identifies gaps specific to the UASI jurisdictions and to then build a plan for increasing cybersecurity for these election offices. This is a grant year 2020 project and due to the extension of grant 2019, work on this project has not begun.
  - **STATUS: Pending**

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
Public Health (Regional and State)
Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
The City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.08 - Cybersecurity

- 10.A.20.03 – Cybersecurity

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 10A- HOMELAND SECURITY & RECOVERY GROUP
05/09 – MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

PURPOSE

Provide continuous support for the UASI program including improved efficiency, legal service, IT services, workspace, and professional development. Utilize funding to enhance training, continuous relationship building and empowering staff. Allow for ARC-UASI staff to manage the daily tasks associated with directing the technical aspects of the various sustainment programs. These tasks may include attending conferences, joining relevant network, attending meetings with end-users and other related activities.

DELIVERABLES

- Committee & Program Support – Supporting the work of the policy board, advisory board, and four (4) outcome-based committees and multiple working groups through their meetings to include but not limited to preparing meeting material, identifying presenters, coordinating agenda topics, parking validations, lunch, meeting space, basic meeting resources, notes scriber for all meetings and more. Thus far in 2022, HSRG has supported 3 rounds of quarterly meetings (2 virtual and 1 in person). The next round of meetings is scheduled in August and September 2022 and will be in person.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

- Support Operations – Invest in various professional development programs, or classes for team members and exposure to other training opportunities, along with supporting legal and divisional support services. Members of the HSRG, have attended in person, the National Grants Management Association training in Washington, DC, the Emergency Managers Association of Georgia in Savannah, and the National Homeland Security Conference in Cleveland OH. Additional conferences and training are scheduled in Fall and Winter of 2022. HSRG has a professional budget to ensure funding is available for training opportunities for team members related to grants managements, emergency preparedness, project management and technology.
    - **STATUS: This is an ongoing and long-term project.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
City of Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett County

COST CENTERS

- 10.A.19.09/10.A.20.05 - Management & Administration

ADMINISTRATION & COORDINATION

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022

ELEMENT 21 – OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MISSION

The Office of the Executive Director is "responsible to the Board for the administration of Commission affairs and implementing Commission policies." This is done in a public entrepreneurial framework that emphasizes innovation, creativity, collaboration, implementation, and performance outcomes. Components of the Office of the Executive Director include legal counsel, strategic plan implementation, governmental affairs coordination, strategic initiatives, and agency capacity building.

Most of the costs associated with ARC Administration and Coordination are recovered from agency programs through a cost allocation process.

GOALS

The Office of the Executive Director is guided by the objective themes in the "*ARC 5 Year Strategic Framework (2016 – 2021)*". The themes are:

- Maintain ARC position as a regional leader.

- Operate in ways relevant to state legislators, local governments, regional communities, and other strategic partners.

- Deliver positive impact in areas where ARC has a presence.

- Drive organizational operations which are efficient, adaptive, and well governed.

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Continue to work with the "Learn 4 Life" Education Partnership in conjunction with regional partners.

- Conduct an offsite/virtual Board work session as COVID-19 evolve and dictate.

- Enhance civic and local government partnerships.

- Advance the Evolution Strategy.

- Transition new Executive Director into agency leadership

- Serve term as the President for the NARC Executive Directors' Council.

- Continue to partner with local governments and the Georgia Governor's Office on water litigation.

- Continue playing a leading role in SOARR, the regional eviction prevention/mitigation initiative.

- Continue playing a leading role in the development and launch of the Regional Workforce Initiative.

- Implement adopted board engagement plan recommendations.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- Strategic Management/Policy Coordination
- Civic Engagement
- Learn 4 Life

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 21 – ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION

21A – STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT/POLICY COORDINATION

PURPOSE

The Office of the Executive Director is responsible for leading and managing the Atlanta Regional Commission. Board support and policy implementation, intergovernmental cooperation, and the building of civic partnerships are key work cornerstones. The Office of the Executive Director also has the responsibility for positioning the agency to respond effectively to changing economic, social and political environments.

DELIVERABLES

- Implement the "Atlanta Region's Plan."
    - o **STATUS: Implementation of the Atlanta's Region's Plan is ongoing through the various programmatic work of the agency.**

- Implement the Commission's 5-year Strategic Framework.
    - o **STATUS: The agency onboarded the new Executive Director Anna Roach in March 2022. Updating and refreshing the ARC Strategic Framework document is currently underway. Final recommendations of the major components of the document will be reviewed and presented to the ARC Board in November 2022.**

- Prepare the "Annual Comprehensive Financial Report."
    - o **STATUS: Development of the report is underway and will be presented to the ARC Board in November and voted on in December.**

- Implement RLI, MARC, ALMA, and LINK leadership programs and the Alumni Engagement Network.
    - o **STATUS: All ARC leadership programs were conducted or are currently underway with the following schedule:**
        - **MARC - Retreat Sept 10, 2022, class Oct 15, 2022, class Nov 12, 2022**
        - **RLI –Sept 18 -23 2022**
        - **ALMA – Orientation Sessions – March 8, March 23, April 20, May 18th and a Forum scheduled for October 13**
        - **LINK – May 3-7, 2022, Austin, Texas**

- Implement a regional workforce plan in partnership with all of the workforce boards in the Region.
    - o **STATUS: Atlanta Regional Worksource along with the workforce programs in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, Dekalb County and Cobb County worked together to develop a "no wrong door" website for job seekers. The website, atlworks.org, guides job seekers on how to get job training and placement. The site has been live for several years and continues to be a resource for those seeking employment across the Atlanta Metro region.**

- Participate in the "Learn 4 Life" Education Partnership in conjunction with regional partners.
    - o **STATUS: The Learn 4 Life Leadership Council partners continue to meet and collaborate on this program on a quarterly basis. Plans are underway for a L4L event in Fall 2022.**

- Develop 2023 Work Program and Budget.
  - **STATUS: Development of the 2023 Work Program and Budget is currently underway and will be completed by completed and adopted in December 2022 by the ARC Board. In addition, the agency is hiring its first Chief Financial Officer who, if hire in time, will lead the 2023 budget process.**

- Create a 2022 legislative strategy for the Commission. Meet with individual legislators and committees throughout the year; monitor legislation that has a clear benefit to ARC and/or the region; conduct briefings and legislative meetings on issues of particular importance to the Commission; update the Commission on legislative activities.
  - **STATUS: In 2022, ARC pursued work around legislative policy in the areas that include, but are not limited to: mental health, regional commission concerns, transportation, workforce development, aging policy and, appropriations (at both the state and federal levels). In 2023, many of the same issues will be in play as they mirror the primary mission of the agency as defined by both state and federal code, however, we will also be closely following and engaging on issues around freight & logistics, workforce housing and state funding for coordinated planning. The full 2023 plan is still in development.**

- Work to deliver ARC's stated priorities within the reauthorization of the FAST Act (federal transportation) funding, Workforce Investment Opportunities Act, and other federal legislation. Work with Congressional delegation district and Washington, DC staff to assist in their overall understanding of how ARC assists the Atlanta Region & Georgia.
  - **STATUS: Continue to assist member jurisdictions on the implementation of the federal Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) across the region, including, but not limited to transportation concerns, workforce development opportunities, resiliency initiatives and new technology integration (e.g., electric vehicle infrastructure). Currently working with Congressional delegation on orientation for any new Members of Congress per the 2022 Midterm Elections to educate Members on regional needs, specifically, as they pertain to formula disparities across both traditional funding programs found in the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Older Americans Act (OAA). We are continuing general engagements with Members on their overall understanding of how ARC assist the Atlanta Region and the state of Georgia.**

- Conduct regular meetings with center directors and senior managers to review implementation progress on the Evolution Strategy, Strategic Framework, work program and other issues of agency importance.
  - **STATUS: As the agency onboarded the new executive director, Anna Roach, ARC's fiduciary roles were elevated to create a new executive team. The "center" model was changed to more of an executive business model that includes the following roles: Chief Operating Officer, Chief External Affairs (Strategy) Officer, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel/Chief Compliance Officer. Weekly executive team meetings continue to take place. The agency is slated to hire its first Chief Financial Officer in September.**
  - **Monthly manager meetings continue to take place with executive leadership.**
  - **The agency is currently reviewing and refreshing its strategic framework. This effort combines the policy framework and the strategic framework to set the direction of the agency. Once a final draft has been developed, executive leadership will present the draft to the ARC Board at the Board Retreat in November 2022 for feedback. The process includes development of the agency vision, mission, values and goals.**

- Develop measurements to track agency & work program progress.
  - **STATUS: The Atlanta Regional Commission is evaluating strategic project\program planning software for a 12-month license agreement. This new agreement would afford the**

agency the ability to capture and align Project/Program milestones and deliverables across the agency. In addition, the software would allow the agency to link objectives and outcomes to ARC strategy. The final selection will take place later summer/fall.

- Participate on SOARR (regional evictions prevention) Initiative.
  - o **STATUS: Support this for initiative from ARC was sunset in early 2022. The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta has taken on this work for the betterment of the community.**

- Continue to participate in development and launch of Regional Workforce Initiative.
  - o **STATUS: The regional workforce initiative is now called Equity@Work. CareerRise is taking the lead on this effort and in the process of hiring dedicated staff. Goals and working groups for this effort have been developed.**

- Place an active emphasis on staff development and positioning the agency for new leadership opportunities.
  - o **STATUS: This year much of the focus for staff has been on wellness and well-being. Since the pandemic continues to loom, it is vitally important for ARC to ensure that staff have the necessary resources to improve wellness and wellbeing. Our HR department has hosted a plethora of wellness forums and workshops tailored to the needs of staff. In addition, the agency will be conducting a new Pay and Compensation study designed to review, assess and refresh the current comp and pay structure in the agency to better align opportunities with internal and external market value.**

PARTNERSHIPS

The Atlanta Regional Commission works closely with many federal and state grantor agencies, non- profit organizations, local government, state and federal elected officials and their staff, business and civic interest groups, regional planning agencies and the public to develop, implement and fund regional planning initiatives and programs.

COST CENTERS

- 021AD – Administration & Collaboration
- 021AC – Commission Expenses
- 021AN – Non grant related Expenses
- 021AL – Learn 4 Life Partnership
- 021CE – Civic Engagement

BUSINESS SERVICES

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 22 – BUSINESS SERVICES

22A – FINANCIAL SERVICES

PURPOSE

ARC's centralized financial services division provides comprehensive financial management for the agency. The work program includes general ledger, payroll, and accounts receivable, accounts payable, purchasing, contracting and fixed assets. All facets of the work program are focused on providing integrated project accounting. Central to this focus is the operation of the Costpoint financial management software that provides ARC with strong project accounting. Beyond meeting the requirements of grantors and internal procedures, the primary goal of this work program is to provide efficient business processes that produce accurate and timely information.

DELIVERABLES

- Operation of the comprehensive financial management system integrated with accounting, purchasing, and payroll and human resources functions.
    - o **STATUS: On-going**

- Management of the audit of 2021 financial activities.
    - o **STATUS: On-going**

- Production of the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in compliance with the GASB 34 reporting requirements.
    - o **STATUS: On-going**

- Production of a CAFR which meets the requirements of the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
    - o **STATUS: On-going**

- Production of monthly and quarterly grant financial reports and reimbursement requests.
    - o **STATUS: Monthly reports are produced and distributed to management.**

- Preparation of the agency wide budget and financial forecast and assistance to project staff in the preparation and management of project level budgets.
    - o **STATUS: Monthly reports are produced and distributed to management.**

- Continue improving agency-wide financial management reporting with development of BI reports.
    - o **STATUS: On-going**

PARNTERSHIPS

- All ARC Directors and Division Managers
- Budget Managers
- Outside auditors
- ARC Budget and Audit Committee

COST CENTERS

- 022AA   Financial Services

ELEMENT 22 – CENTER FOR STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

SUBELEMENT 22BF – GENERAL SERVICES

PURPOSE

General Services provides day-to-day management of ARC office space and agency office equipment. Duties include ensuring that the office environment is well maintained, reporting issues to building management, and coordinating repairs or improvements. General Services is also responsible for acquiring and ensuring the efficient operation and maintenance of agency equipment, to include automobiles, mobile phones, copiers, postage machine, breakroom and conference room appliances, and audio-visual equipment (in collaboration with Information Technology Services).

DELIVERABLES

- Prepare office and conference room spaces for a successful reintegration. This includes, but is not limited to, acquiring and maintaining adequate levels of cleaning and sanitizing supplies, restocking office and break room supplies, and ensuring that office equipment is functioning properly.
    - **STATUS: Aided in facilitating the full reintegration of staff into the office in March 2022. Work included acquiring and stocking each break area and meeting room with sanitizing supplies, assembling and putting out hand sanitizing stations on each floor and in the conference area, re-stocking break room and basic office supplies, and ordering and restocking printer and copier toner. Tasks associated with this deliverable are ongoing.**

- Provide Senior Leadership and Management with feedback that will support decision-making regarding protocols for safely reintegrating staff into the office setting.
    - **STATUS: Worked with the Executive Team as well as Group Managers/Directors to respond to requests related to safe and appropriate reintegration of staff into the work environment.**

- Coordinate with Information Technology and the Office of the Executive Director to successfully implement a guest management system.
    - **STATUS: Worked closely with Talent Management and the representatives from MedExpert to ensure that the MedExpert guest management system was functional on day one of full office reintegration. Printed and posted QR codes so that staff and guests could easily access the system and complete the required forms prior to entry. Additionally, coordinated with Talent Management to ensure that access was restricted and or denied to individuals who did not meet the standards for admission to the office and conference space.**

- Maintain adequate levels of general liability and excess crimes insurance.
    - **STATUS: Renewed ARC's General Liability and Excess Crimes policies at levels appropriate for the agency's overall needs and grantor requirements.**

- Manage the agency's parking and transit programs.
    - **STATUS: The decision was made by Executive leadership to suspend agency management of staff parking and transit. With individual staff being responsible for their own commute arrangements upon reintegration, General Services no longer performs this duty.**

- Manage the agency's automobile fleet; including arranging routine vehicle maintenance, coordinating staff vehicle use and overseeing fuel card usage.
    - **STATUS: Fleet vehicle maintenance was executed to the best extent possible. Several recall repairs were issued for the vehicles, however parts shortages significantly delayed scheduling and performance of the needed work. The Toyota Prius was unofficially decommissioned in**

March 2022. The Ford Explorer was delivered to the dealership for repairs on May 4, 2022 and remained in the shop for repairs as of June 30, 2022. The two Ford Fusions are still awaiting recall repairs and will not be made available to staff for use until repairs are completed.

PARTNERSHIPS

Banyan Street Capital, Universal Parking, Verizon Wireless, Edge Business Systems, Vonage, iS3, 1st Secure Shredding

COST CENTERS

- 022BF – General Services

022CH - TALENT MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

Talent Management operates as a strategic partner with all internal groups to develop and implement Talent Management strategies that effectively link with agency's work program and objectives. This strategic partnership is designed to improve talent acquisition and retention; works collectively to establish an organizational culture that encourages mutual respect, teamwork and high morale; ensures that employees have the necessary skills, competencies and knowledge with which to successfully carry out work programs; offers competitive salaries and benefits to attract and reward a highly skilled workforce; and ensures that management practices and decisions aligns with overall agency mission and are in compliance with employment laws and regulations.

DELIVERABLES

- Develop systems that create a paperless environment and promotes greater efficiency and system integration.
  - **STATUS: Successfully implemented E-Forms module. The E-Forms module has further streamlined work processes and automated workflows resulting in a 15% reduction in human capital. This enhancement enabled staffing resources to be reallocated to other critical areas.**

- Continuous evaluation and monitoring of classification and compensation system to ensure equity, compliance, and marketplace competitiveness in attracting and retaining the exceptional talent.
  - **STATUS: Successfully reviewed and evaluated classification and compensation system as an ongoing goal and made necessary adjustments to structure in class titles, position levels, and salary ranges; assessed the agency's talent needs and consulted with hiring managers on specialized skill sets sought after in the market; conducted periodic surveys and benchmarking to ensure market competitiveness and aligned the structure appropriately.**
  - **Review of compensation structure is slated for Q4 2022 to ensure that the structure is aligned with the market and that the agency's salaries remains competitive.**

- Provide Learning and Development opportunities to assure that staff acquires the critical competencies necessary for success, to prepare staff for career growth/development opportunities, and to provide continuity of leadership when key staff members transition.
  - **STATUS: Continues to build on enhanced learning opportunities agency wide. Implemented Learning Management System (LMS). LMS offers over 1500 on demand courses for the professional and technical development of employees.**

- Ensure effective management of ARC's talent acquisition process so that critical positions are readily filled with highly qualified candidates who possess the skills and competencies necessary for success and ensures an equitable and diverse workforce.
  - **STATUS: Successfully acquisitioned and selected talent to fill mission critical positions within the agency across varied disciplines. Staff continuously survey the market to remain competitive and designed retention strategies, as well as connecting with various community partners, schools, and targeted audiences to ensure a diversified pool of candidates to address the needs of the region.**

- Continuous review, oversight, and update of personnel policies and the effective management and application of policies and procedures.
  - **STATUS: Annually reviews and edit personnel policies where appropriate and provide training to staff on policy changes and incorporate those changes into agency process and new the employee orientation process.**
- Manage and oversees ARC's employee benefits program, with a strategic emphasis on health and wellness initiatives, designed to improves health outcomes of employees, while offering benefit plans that are cost effective and provides value to employees and their families.
  - **STATUS: Continuously survey the market and evaluate trends around the agency's benefits offering to remain competitive. worked with TPA to add retiree base to health system for one unified approach to benefits for active and retiree base. Continues to review and evaluate risk data and health trends in relation to cost and linked to wellness program to further augment cost mitigation and reduce targeted health factors.**

PARTNERSHIPS

All levels of ARC staff; external providers and consultants; governmental and private HR organizations; Human Resources/Talent Management membership organizations.

COST CENTERS

- 022CH   Talent Management Group

CENTER FOR

STRATEGIC RELATIONS

MISSION

The Center for Strategic Relations is charged with leading ARC's efforts to connect, communicate and collaborate across boundaries, disciplines, cultures and generations to harness the imagination, ideas and energy of our people and put it to work to drive positive change. Key areas of this work include:

- **Communications & Marketing**: Implementing an integrated, strategic communications program to support the goals of ARC and key initiatives.
- **External Relations and Strategic Engagement**: Developing and implementing a best practices approach to ARC Board, local government affairs, and community engagement; developing strategic corporate and civic relationships that maximize financial support of select external initiatives; and planning, coordinating and executing strategic events across the agency in a way that brings together partners and other stakeholders to educate, inform and inspire.
- **Creative & Digital Media**: Maintaining and evolving the ARC brand perception, look and feel to support its relevancy to the region, and leveraging digital media to amplify the ARC brand through all ARC communications.

GOALS

EXTERNAL

- Enhance understanding of and provide call to action around key regional issues and challenges facing metro Atlanta to stakeholders, while demonstrating ARC's value proposition.
    - **STATUS: Staff is working closely with regional partners to identify opportunities for collaboration. The External Relations Group has attended county commission meetings throughout the first two quarters, coordinated speaking engagements of ARC subject matter expert throughout the region, participated in partner organization's meetings including ACCG and GMA's annual conferences, worked with business partners to financially support the agency through annual and event sponsorships.**

- Establish defined legislative priorities, some successful outcomes and strengthen relationships with local, state and federal elected officials and their staffs.

- Define and communicate ARC's regional impact, "value proposition," to engaged citizens, business and nonprofit partners, and local, state and federal partners.
    - **STATUS: Staff worked closely with regional partners identifying opportunities for collaboration, several in relation to various grant opportunities. The External Relations Group attended county commission meetings throughout the first two quarters. Staff also brought the concerns of local government officials and staff to ARC subject matter experts for discussion and resolution. Staff worked with business partners to identify shared areas of concern and interest and opportunities to work on these topics together.**

- Revamp and realign content on ARC website home page and other pages on the website with the goal of improving understanding of ARC and its value to the region via clear, compelling narrative of the agency's mission and goals.

- o **STATUS: The ARC website design 'refresh' has been on hold because it is contingent on the completion of the Strategic Communications Plan. The project was later scaled down to refresh only the homepage of the site; however, that project has been pushed back due to new projects and initiatives taking up time and resources as well as organizational changes in staff.**
- Enhance ARC's digital footprint as a result of the current environment to include analyzing and strengthening ARC's social media engagement and creating video content for the agency's YouTube channel.
  - o **STATUS: During 2022, 11 videos have been added to ARC's YouTube Channel.**
- Establish more coordinated approach for engaging with various communities, so as to leverage ARC external activities throughout the agency.
  - o **STATUS: Planning was begun for the annual State of the Region event, including theme development, content, logistics and marketing. Planning is fully underway for Connect ATL including theme development, content, logistics, marketing, registration, sponsorship, and speaker management.**

INTERNAL
- Provide oversight and direction for board engagement activities, specifically board meeting curriculum priorities, calendar and schedule, and board portal. Support continued implementation of operational best practices related to board engagement.
  - o **STATUS: Held new board member orientation, matched new board members with partners and made introductions, coordinated a series of small group board sessions to inform members of IIJA particulars, updated the board portal with timely information, updated an internal calendar tool to inform ARC staff of externals meetings with partners such as County Commission meetings and ARC staff presentations to our stakeholders.**
- Serve as the primary support "Center" for the ARC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative.
  - o **STATUS: Provided key communication support through our agency internal channels to raise awareness of the initiative and drive participation.**
- Lead the Engaging Communities initiative, including exploration and analysis of best practices. Develop a strategic framework for agency wide community engagement, and begin to implement, as appropriate.
- Support key internal stakeholders through the centralization of all Agency partnership, sponsorship, and event functions (digital and in-person).
  - o **STATUS: Worked with internal partners to support their needs from external partners, coordinating shared project and program interest areas, soliciting participation in ARC events such as Georgia Power's attendance at the Legislative Briefing and scheduling roundtable discussions for our top sponsors.**
- Ratify and execute ARC's Strategic Communications Plan and socialize the planning process with key internal stakeholders to demonstrate efforts and outcomes.
  - o **STATUS: This is on hold pending agency strategic envisioning and development to come from new Executive Director and Executive Leadership Team.**

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Develop the Engaging Communities Strategic Framework to guide and support agency wide community engagement initiative.

- Complete a design refresh of the ARC website homepage and topic landing pages to improving understanding of ARC and its value to the region via clear, compelling narrative of the agency's mission and goals.
  - **STATUS: The ARC website design 'refresh' has been on hold because it is contingent on the completion of the Strategic Communications Plan. The project was later scaled down to refresh only the homepage of the site; however, that project has been pushed back due to new projects and initiatives taking up time and resources as well as organizational changes in staff.**
- Conceived and planning the 2022 State of the Region event.
- Leveraging a formalized communications approach, promote ARC as a regional leader, convener and collaborator through strategic communications, including media relations, digital and print publications, videos, webinars social media, and presentations/speeches/talking points.
  - **STATUS: Supporting key agency initiatives through holistic communications approach, including introducing new ARC Exec Director; TIP Update #4; ARC as regional leader on IIJA; housing affordability; ConnectATL; and leadership programs. Handled 48 media engagements through June 30.**
- Provide strategic communications planning and counsel to announce ARC new executive director.
  - **STATUS: Developed and executed integrated strategic communications plan that included news release, blog post, social media, internal video, public speeches and presentations, meetings with local civic, business, and government leaders, and internal communications.**
- Provide event, creative design, digital, communications, sponsorship, content, speaker management, logistics and engagement support for ConnectATL 2022 summit.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- Element 23 – Center for Strategic Relations
  - Communications & Marketing
  - External Relations
  - Creative and Digital Media

PERFORMANCE STATUS REPORT – JUNE 30, 2022
ELEMENT 41 - STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

41I – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

MISSION

The objectives of Information Technology Services are to anticipate, provide, maintain and support effective computer systems for use in unified planning work programs and agency administration; to provide systems staff resources for applications support, development and consultation in all technology areas; and to provide technical support and training for all staff.

GOALS

- Enhance User and Mission Effectiveness and increase employee satisfaction, productivity, and usability by improving technical capabilities and access i.e. mobility, applications, automation.
  - **STATUS: Ongoing; moving data resources to Cloud, working with AWS to create a DR plan and identify which server can be moved to cloud. Working with Groups to create PowerApps applications for automation purposes.**

- Use data as a Strategic Asset by creating Data Maps and framework for organizing the Agency's data information collection on-premises and in the cloud via inventory and tagging data.
  - **STATUS: Working with Agency Groups to identify location and type of data**

- Ensure access and availability of information and systems that enables staff to make timely, informed decisions.
  - **STATUS: Deployed Centerstack server in AWS environment, system has never been down. Allows users access of network data at anytime from anywhere. Upgrade Fortinet VPN for easier access.**

- Implement customer-service practices to provide technical support for both hardware, software and network technologies for all Agency owned devices in the agency.
  - **STATUS: Upgrading users to Windows 11 Enterprise, Ensure customers are informed of any issues, set Agency standards for mobile devices (Dell Latitudes or MS Surfaces), Added additional components and plug-ins for current standard Agency software.**

- Support client, server and web-based applications across the agency for business users of technology in planning programs and agency administration applications, integration, and development implementation.
  - **STATUS: Upgraded MS Teams throughout agency, Upgraded users to new version of Adobe DC for online signature creation. IT will continue to evaluate internal software and deploy, implement, or move to Cloud as needed.**

- Update Information Technology Strategic Plan and Service Catalog to match Information Technology core disciplines.
  - **STATUS: Strategic plan expires end of year putting together committee to review, update and implement new 3-year plan. Service catalog update complete.**

- Update internal SharePoint site that will allow internal and external customers to share data.
  - **STATUS: Working with SR and developing new look of internal site.**

- Create knowledge sharing opportunities, utilizing the IT Committee, surveys and Groups visits.
  - **STATUS: Have been working with Agency Groups and visiting Group meetings.**

- Protect the integrity of the Agency's information and IT assets by strengthening our cybersecurity posture.
  - **STATUS: Performed Risk\Vulnerability Assessment and working through findings of vendor.**
- Establish and employ streamlined policy and governance processes that align IT solutions with customer expectations and mission requirements.
  - **STATUS: Policy review has started, gathering feedback from Agency users on draft documents.**

2022 WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Continue to provide technical support to staff.
- Protect the Agency's assets by implementing measures to prevent unauthorized access and use.
- Provide training to Agency staff on new and existing applications and hardware.
- Continue to modernize Agency infrastructure by reviewing applications or hardware and converting to SaaS or IaaS.
- Improve secure mobile and remote access to appropriate Agency resources.

2022 WORK PROGRAM TITLES

- Technical Support and Training
- Event and Incident Management
- Technology Improvements
- Cybersecurity

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ARC

Atlanta Regional Commission

regional impact + local relevance

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