



Atlanta Regional Commission



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

**February 28, 2018**

### **Livable Centers Initiative Helps Create More Vibrant, Walkable Places**

ARC Board Chairman Kerry Armstrong announced that ARC's Livable Centers Initiative has awarded planning grants to 11 communities, for a total of \$742,000. The grant recipients will develop plans and policies to help create more vibrant, walkable, and connected places.

This year's winners are:

- City of Atlanta
- City of Avondale Estates
- Central Atlanta Progress
- City of Chamblee
- City of Douglasville
- Gateway85 Gwinnett CID
- City of Hapeville
- City of Jonesboro
- Livable Buckhead
- City of Marietta
- Town Center CID/City of Kennesaw

ARC's Community Development Group, under the leadership of Sam Shenbaga, is revamping the LCI program to be more responsive to the region's future challenges, such as self-driving cars and other technologies that promise to bring significant change.

More info: <https://atlantaregional.org/news/press-releases/arcs-livable-centers-initiative-awards-grants-11-local-communities-2/>

### **Transportation Improvement Program Allocates \$225 Million in Federal Funds across Region**

The ARC Board approved a resolution to adopt an amendment to the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment allocates \$225 million in federal funds for transportation projects across the region through 2023.

John Orr, manager of ARC's Transportation Access Group, said the amendment reflects recommendations for projects added to the TIP. Another TIP amendment, with projects that require air quality conformity determination modeling, will come before the board in the spring.

Major projects include:

- City of Atlanta
- Cherokee County
- Cobb County
- Clayton County
- DeKalb County
- Douglas County
- Fayette County
- Fulton County
- Gwinnett County
- Henry County
- Rockdale County
- Path 400 Trail Extension
- Noonday Creek Trail Extension
- South Barrett Pkwy Reliever
- I-285 at Conley Rd. Interchange Study
- Panola Rd. Operational Improvements
- Riverside Pkwy Bridge Upgrade
- Fayette Co. Resurfacing Program
- Roswell Road – Transit Access Project
- P'tree Ind Blvd Smart Corridor Improvements
- SR 81 Widening
- Courtesy Parkway Extension/I-20 Overpass

TIP Info and Resources:

- [Issue Summary and Resolution](#)
- [ARC Blog Post](#)
- [ARC Website](#)

### **ARC Supports State Transportation Safety Targets**

The ARC Board approved a resolution agreeing to support the accomplishment of statewide safety targets established by GDOT.

ARC also directed staff to conduct additional investigation into the causes and locations of fatalities and injuries within the Atlanta Region and recommend an appropriate course of action for the agency to follow in improving safety outcomes in our transportation system for all users, with the long-term goal of slowing and eventually reversing recent upward trends in fatalities and serious injuries. Staff will periodically report to ARC committees and the Board throughout 2018 on progress and to receive additional direction on any preliminary recommendations.

- [Issue Summary and Resolution](#)

### **ARC Names Board Officers and Committees**

The ARC Board approved its 2018 board officers, which were appointed by ARC Board Chairman Kerry Armstrong.

- **Vice Chair:** Rochelle Robinson, Mayor of Douglasville
- **Secretary:** Charlotte Nash, Chairman of Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
- **Treasurer:** Bob Reeves, Citizen District 3
- **Parliamentarian:** Julie K. Arnold, Citizen District 12

Armstrong also appointed the following board members to serve as chair or vice-chair of ARC's board committees:

- **Aging & Health Resources**
  - Chair: Clark Boddie, Mayor of Palmetto
  - Vice Chair: Nancy Harris, Mayor of Duluth
- **Community Resources Committee**
  - Chair: Mark Mathews, Citizen District 14
- **Regional Transit Committee**
  - Chair: Jeff Turner, Chairman of Clayton County Board of Commissioners
- **Strategic Relations Committee**
  - Chair: Eric Dial, Mayor of Tyrone
  - Vice Chair: Amol Naik, Citizen District 4
- **Transportation & Air Quality Committee**
  - Chair: Charlotte Nash, Chairman of Gwinnett County
  - Vice Chair: Buzz Ahrens, Chairman of Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

### **ARC Allocates nearly \$13 Million in Federal and State Funds for Aging and Independence Services across Region**

Becky Kurtz, manager of ARC's Aging and Independence Services, delivered a presentation about nearly \$13 million in federal and state funds ARC has awarded to provide services for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers, to help them stay independent and in their communities. The awards were given to 10 local organizations and five regional specialty agencies. ARC, as the federally designated Area Agency on Aging, solicits partners to deliver these services, which include personal care, home-delivered meals, transportation, and elder legal assistance.

The following awards were made for Single County Services:

- Cherokee County Senior Services: \$754,760
- Clayton County Senior Services: \$689,083
- Cobb County Senior Services: \$1,761,721
- DeKalb County Office of Aging \$2,107,612
- Fayette Senior Services \$500,067
- Fulton County Senior Services \$2,854,371
- Gwinnett County Senior Services \$1,886,219
- Henry County Senior Services \$650,516
- Rockdale County Senior Services \$372,568

The following awards were made for Regional/Multi-County Services

- Georgia Community Support & Solutions: \$80,000
- Institute for Disadvantage and Disability: \$42,000
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society: \$255,000
- Center for Pan Asian Community Services: \$264,282
- Visiting Nurse Health System \$75,000

More information

- [ARC Presentation](#)

### **2018 Model ARC Class Presents Resolutions on Key Regional Issues**

Representatives from the 2018 Model ARC Class presented their resolutions, which were developed following six months of study and discussion about key regional issues.

The students represented the 48 participants of the 2017-2018 Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC) youth leadership program. The class was comprised of students from the 10-county region, including four from the City of Atlanta. The student leaders participated in six months of study, debate and hands-on activities regarding regional issues and challenges.

These students served on MARC committees that submitted the following resolutions to the ARC board for consideration:

- **‘Adopt a Grandparent’ program** – Encourage strong, multi-generational communities through the pairing of an older adult and high school students, promoting improved emotional and physical health for both parties
- **‘Blue Light Systems’** – To increase the level of safety and comfort in metro Atlanta by implementing a “Blue Light System” in and around major activity centers, especially near college campuses and areas that might have a history or perception of high crime
- **Promote “learning-gardens” in school** – Improve environmental education in local elementary schools by creating gardens at schools that promote awareness of water pollution, air pollution, the use of pesticides, habitat destruction, and other issues
- **‘The GreenLife Transit App’** – Improve mobility millennials and younger generations by partnering with MARTA leaders to develop a cell phone application with incentives that will promote the use of public transit, walking, and biking.

Now in its 21st year, the MARC program is accepting applications for next school year’s class through March 16. Learn more at <http://www.atlantaregional.org/marc>

## Legislative Update

Scott Haggard, Manager of ARC’s Government Affairs Group, provided a legislative update, focusing on bills related to transportation, water/natural resources, aging services, community development and workforce solutions.

- [Legislative Update Memo](#)

## ARC Personnel

Two new members have been named to ARC management positions:

- **Kevin Crump** has joined ARC as director of the Center for Business Services. In this role, Crump oversees the agency’s Talent Management, Information Technology, Financial Services and General Services groups. Crump has extensive experience as a consultant and leading business services teams across a wide array of companies and organizations.
- **Malika Reed Wilkins** has been named manager of the ARC’s Mobility Services Group. Wilkins leads a team of transportation demand management (TDM) professionals focused on promoting commute alternatives — such as teleworking, biking, walking, carpools/vanpools, and transit. She also serves as managing director for the Georgia

Commute Options program, which is funded by GDOT and managed by ARC.

### **Court Decision on EPA Air Quality Standards May Delay Transportation Projects in Atlanta Region**

John Orr, manager of ARC's Transportation Access Group, provided information about a recent court decision that impacts how ARC and other Metropolitan Planning Organizations model transportation projects as part of the federal funding process. The decision will require MPO's to demonstrate that projects conform to the 1997 ozone standard. ARC and other MPO's have been modeling based on a more recent, and more stringent, standard that has been adopted by EPA.

While ARC is confident that projects now being considered for federal funding will meet the 1997 standard, the court decision may delay project construction. The ARC Board yesterday asked that communication be drafted to EPA asking for relief.

### **Announcements and References**

- Recruitment for 2018-19 MARC Class is now open – [www.atlantaregional.org/marc](http://www.atlantaregional.org/marc)
- Applications open for 2018 Regional Leadership Institute – [www.atlantaregional.org/rli](http://www.atlantaregional.org/rli)
- Evolving Workforce: What's the Reality for the Aging Network" – Forum will be held on **March 28** from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Georgia Power, 241 Ralph McGill Blvd NE, Atlanta. This Forum is a joint project of ARC, Georgia Gerontology Society, LeadingAge Georgia, and Thanks Mom & Dad Fund.
- 2018 ARC Board Work Session will be held on **April 18-20** in Augusta, GA.
- Annual LINK trip is May 9-12, 2018 in San Diego
- ARC Annual State of the Region Breakfast is Friday, **Nov. 2, 2018** at the Georgia World Congress Center, 7:30 a.m.
- Next Commission Meeting: **Wednesday, March 28, 2018** at 1 p.m.