



DATE: 3/9/2018

ISSUE SUMMARY: Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study

FROM: Mike Alexander, Center for Livable Communities

IMPORTANCE:

ARC has recently completed the 2018 *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study*. The study area encompasses the 20 county Atlanta transportation planning area. The study began in March 2017 and concluded in April 2018.

Key findings and recommendations from the study include:

- Truck drivers must meet federal Hours of Service requirements, which allow them to drive for a maximum of 11 hours per day before stopping for at least 10 hours
- Federally required implementation of Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs), as well as growth in industrial development in the Atlanta Region, is expected to increase demand for truck parking
- A limited supply of truck parking spaces in the Atlanta Region results in drivers parking in unauthorized locations, including on the shoulders of highway ramps, adjacent to roadways, and in vacant lots, creating the potential for vehicular crashes and creating safety issues for drivers
- Drivers spend significant amounts of time and fuel searching for available parking, adding to traffic congestion impacting the region’s air quality
- The majority of interstate highway corridors in the Atlanta Region currently have a deficit of truck parking, and all corridors are projected to have a deficit by 2045
- There are no public rest areas and only one weigh station within the ARC region, resulting in almost no public truck parking spaces in Metro Atlanta
- Privately owned truck stops are concentrated primarily in counties on the edge of the Atlanta Region
- Many counties have few or no dedicated truck parking spaces, increasing the likelihood that drivers may park in unauthorized locations to meet hours of service requirements
- Local zoning regulations, resident opposition, and land values make the construction of new truck stops difficult
- Warehouses, distribution centers, and other industrial developments typically do not allow truck drivers to park at their facilities overnight
- Recommendations include changing local zoning and other regulations to allow truck stop expansion where appropriate, to require new industrial developments to include overnight truck parking spaces, and to incentivize existing industrial developments to allow overnight truck parking
- Local study of truck parking issues is recommended through Comprehensive

Transportation Plans (CTPs), Freight Cluster Plans, and other local planning studies

- Ongoing coordination on this issue is recommended between ARC, local jurisdictions, GDOT, FHWA, and the private sector
- Monitoring changing technology is recommended to determine how to best manage truck parking issues in the Atlanta Region

These recommendations will be used to support ongoing local planning for truck parking and in development of future Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). The 2018 *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* documentation is posted at <https://atlantaregional.org/truckparking>.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Adoption of findings from the 2018 *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study*.

**A RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
ADOPTING THE 2018 ATLANTA REGIONAL TRUCK PARKING
ASSESSMENT STUDY**

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning within the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Boundary which includes all or portions of 20 counties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal requirements, the Atlanta Regional Commission conducts multimodal, regional-level planning studies as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process, the results of which are considered for incorporation into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, in 2017-2018 the Atlanta Regional Commission conducted the *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* – pursuant to the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program for the Atlanta Region; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Atlanta Regional Commission adopted the *Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update* as a policy guide for future planning and implementation of freight related facilities in the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission coordinated with other planning and engineering studies conducted by the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), local jurisdictions, and other entities; and

WHEREAS, the *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from the ARC Freight Advisory Task Force, comprised of representatives from FHWA, GDOT, Georgia Tech, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, logistics companies, developers, and other private sector entities; and

WHEREAS, the *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* has been developed with ongoing involvement and assistance from the ARC Transportation and Air Quality Committee and the Transportation Coordinating Committee, comprised of representatives from FHWA, GDOT, GRTA, local jurisdictions, and other entities; and

WHEREAS, the *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* goals and objectives support The Atlanta Region's Plan's threefold vision of: Providing world-class infrastructure; Building a competitive economy; and Ensuring the region is comprised of healthy and livable communities.

WHEREAS, policies and technical guidance from the *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* will be used in development of updates to *The Atlanta Region's Plan* to ensure the continued evaluation and implementation of freight related projects.

WHEREAS, additional steps are needed to better integrate freight into the planning process, the Atlanta Regional Commission will continue to support the ARC Freight Advisory Task Force as it assists in implementing planning recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the 2018 *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* as the policy guide for addressing the regional truck parking challenges in the Atlanta Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission staff will provide technical assistance related to regional truck parking to local elected officials and local planning/engineering staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission will use the 2018 *Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study* as input into the development of future Comprehensive Transportation Plans, Freight Cluster Plans, and other local plans, as well as Regional Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.