

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Equity Advisory Group (TEAG) was created to connect equity advocates with transportation planners and agencies. Through TEAG, ARC seeks to shape agency processes to articulate and produce more equitable outcomes with regards to transportation access for vulnerable populations. TEAG is just one component of the agency's efforts to work towards a more equitable process. The TEAG serves to connect the various wisdom and subject matter expertise of equity advocates with transportation planners and agencies from around the region so they will all be able to better understand and influence transportation planning process and outcomes, while being a voice for the needs of vulnerable populations. The TEAG will reside within the Atlanta Regional Commission and become an integrated part of the ARC's transportation committee structure.

PURPOSE

TEAG serves multiple purposes, from creating a more balanced ecosystem with representation from groups throughout the region to providing a space for advocates, community leaders, and ARC staff to come together and learn from each other. This contributes to a more efficient communication process. Another role of the group is to provide feedback on transportation planning processes and projects to the Transportation Coordinating Committee and ARC leadership and serve as a voice for the needs of vulnerable populations.

A COLLABORATIVE VISION FOR EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

By working together, we will realize:

1. A multi-modal transportation system that is just and balanced, meeting the specific mobility needs of communities, with attention to those communities in greatest need.
2. Intentional and transformational transportation investments that account for a full range of community improvements, not just infrastructure, thereby generating equitable outcomes.
3. Accessible and multimodal transportation access to jobs, healthcare, education, and essential services, making our region more economically inclusive and competitive.
4. A participatory planning process that is transformational, authentic and meaningful, transparent and accountable, and takes place throughout the life cycle of the planning and project development efforts.

SHARED BELIEFS TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION

- We believe that a successful transportation system is efficient, accessible, and equitable.
- We believe that an equitable transportation system, because it serves all residents, is inherently more efficient than an inequitable system that serves a few; therefore, we believe that equity is an ideal.
- We believe that equity strategies must aim to improve outcomes for the most disadvantaged people in our region, with recognition that inequitable transportation systems were created intentionally via past actions and policy.
- We believe that the region's disadvantaged populations are an asset who bring their talents and skills to the region.
- We believe that our success hinges on the full participation of all Atlanta residents.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

- Meetings will be held at the Atlanta Regional Commission
(229 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100)
- Meetings will be held bi-monthly and are expected to be 1.5 hours.
- Meetings will be open to all.
- Members will be informed of meetings through email.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ARC Staff: will serve as the TEAG planning team, creating a strategy for the group's process, organizing meetings, and setting agenda items based on input from the group where appropriate. Staff will provide technical expertise to group discussions and will present material on ARC's current work and processes for feedback from the group. Staff are expected to attend meetings to the extent possible allowed by their schedules. In addition, ARC staff will:

- Prepare materials for meetings and for distribution to ARC committees
- Take and distribute notes for each meeting
- Keep a record of key issues raised and actions required and incorporate feedback into ARC's planning processes

Group Members: are expected to attend meetings to the level that is feasible for their schedules and to participate in group decisions when required. Each member is asked to come to the meeting ready to fully participate and share their expertise with the group.