**Atlanta Regional Commission**

40 Courtland Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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Livable Centers Initiative and Community Choices

2014 Application

In the interest of promoting greater innovation for community planning and implementation, ARC is soliciting applications from local governments, Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) and other non-governmental organizations through this combined application for the following:

* Livable Centers Initiative New Studies
* Livable Centers Initiative Supplemental Studies
* Community Choices

**Introduction**

The Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) is a program that awards planning grants on a competitive basis to local governments and nonprofit organizations to prepare and implement plans for the enhancement of existing centers and corridors consistent with regional development policies. The program also provides transportation infrastructure funding for projects identified in LCI plans, in a separate call for applications.

Please read through the application and appendices carefully – there have been many changes. In an effort to streamline resources and efficiency for local jurisdictions, ARC has combined solicitations for LCI and Community Choices assistance. Through the Community Choices Implementation Assistance Program, ARC provides cities and counties with the tools, technical assistance, and resources to help them create communities that best suit their unique visions as identified in LCI plans and other local plans and initiatives.

**Eligibility:**

For LCI or other transportation related application, funding and technical assistance is available to local governments and non-profit organizations in the 18-county Atlanta Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary, which includes all of 13 counties and portions of 5 additional counties.

For applications requesting services that are non-transportation related, applicants should be within the 10-County Regional Commission area (Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale). However, if the applicant is within the MPO (18-County area) but not the 10-County regional commission, you may still submit an application and ARC staff will reach out to the appropriate regional commission to provide assistance, if selected.

ALL applicants: In order for a jurisdiction to be considered for a funding award, the local government must maintain Qualified Local Government (QLG) status, or show progress toward reinstating QLG status, through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Projects must be consistent with LCI and PLAN 2040 goals and objectives (See Appendix B).

### ALL APPLICANTS COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

**Please check the most appropriate assistance type. You may check multiple boxes as some projects may merit multiple types of assistance.**

**LCI - New Studies:**

**Please see *APPENDIX A – LCI New Study Application* for more specific eligibility criteria for new study areas, and to complete the additional information required.**

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

* Proposals must be eligible for federal transportation funding.
* To be eligible, new study areas must be located in an area targeted for more concentrated growth as identified on the regional Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM).
* Type of assistance provided: Funding assistance. Typical plans historically have cost between $100,000 - $150,00, however, applicants may apply for up to $400,000 if warranted. ARC will reimburse invoices up to 80% of the project cost.

**LCI Supplemental Studies:**

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

* Proposals must be eligible for federal transportation funding.
* Type of assistance provided: Funding assistance. Typical studies historically have cost between $80,000 - $100,000, however applicants can apply for up to $400,000 if warranted. ARC will reimburse invoices up to 80% of the project cost.
* The majority of the study area should be within an existing LCI area, however study areas may extend beyond the LCI area boundaries for logical termini (to include key destinations or traffic generators for instance) or to connect to other LCI areas.
* The study must be identified in the 5-Year Implementation/Action Plan from the most recent LCI Study or LCI Plan Update, or must directly support a project identified in the plan.
* The LCI Study, or its most recent LCI Plan Update (if applicable) must have been adopted by resolution by the locally elected body. For LCI studies completed within the past 6 months: If the study has not yet been adopted, applications may still be eligible if the applicant can show documentation that the resolution/motion to adopt is on an upcoming agenda.

Requirements for Supplemental Studies:

* Attach the *LCI Report of Accomplishments* from your most recent LCI plan or plan update to your application
* Attach the *LCI 5-Year Implementation Plan (aka 5-YR Action Plan)* from your most recent LCI plan or plan update. Highlight the action/item to which this application relates.
* Attach a map of the proposed supplemental study area. Include the LCI area boundaries, as well as any adjacent LCI boundaries if applicable, on the map.
* Attach a copy of the Council/Commission resolution adopting the LCI Study (or most recent LCI Plan Update). For recently completed plans not yet adopted, please provide documentation showing that the plan adoption/resolution is scheduled on an upcoming agenda.

**Community Choices:**

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

* Proposals do not need to be transportation-related.
* Type of assistance provided: Primary means of assistance for Community Choices will be technical assistance in the form of graduate level interns, ARC multi-disciplinary staff teams, or partner organizations providing a service to the applicant (such as preparing a code audit). If the project is eligible for transportation funds, it may be eligible to receive LCI funding. Small amounts of funding for non-transportation projects or studies may also be available, such as to pay an artist commission or hire a landscape architect for a charrette process.
* Disclaimers:
  + If project is located within the 18-county MPO boundary, but outside of the 10-County Regional Commission boundary, ARC may not be able to provide assistance if it does not qualify for MPO/transportation-related funds. In the event this is the case, ARC will reach out to the applicable regional commission to provide assistance with the project.

* + I understand that I am requesting technical assistance performed by ARC staff or interns, or personnel working in partnership with ARC, and there is no expectation of funds being paid directly to the applicant/sponsor: **(please initial) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Examples of Projects:

The following list of projects are solely intended as examples, and are not intended as exclusive list of eligible project types. ARC challenges local governments to come up with innovative, high-impact, cost-effective projects that further the concept of livability.

* Creative Placemaking pilot projects that may include: Tactical urbanism demonstrations, such as pop up retail, restaurants, or galleries; “Better Block” projects; Public art improvements or installations; Repurposing of underutilized public spaces or parking spaces into active spaces through installations of planters, seating, outdoor furniture, public art, and/or playground equipment, etc.
* Code audits
* Cultural district plans
* Historic resources surveys
* Plans: Urban Redevelopment Plans, Comprehensive Plans, Wayfinding plans
* TDR (Transfer Development Rights), conservation programs or plans or projects that support nodal/village development that will reduce pressure on key transportation corridors.
* Vacant housing inventories
* Visioning workshops and charrettes

**Applicant Information:**

#### **Name of responsible organization:** Click here to enter text.

#### *(eligible applicants include governmental entities, CIDs, and 501(c)3 non-profit organizations)*

# Name of contact person: Click here to enter text.

# Title: Click here to enter text. Department: Click here to enter text.

# Address/City/State/Zip: Click here to enter text.

**Telephone:** Click here to enter text.

**E-mail:** Click here to enter text.

**Study/Project Information:**

**Name of Study or Project:** Click here to enter text.

**Location/jurisdiction(s) of project/study:** Click here to enter text.

**Is the study/project within an existing LCI area (check one)?  YES  NO.**

**If YES, which LCI Study Area(s)?:** Click here to enter text.

**Has this study/project been identified in a Comprehensive Plan or another study (check one)?  YES  NO.**

**If YES, please name the study/studies:** Click here to enter text.

Please provide a **brief description** of the proposed study or project, and the specific tasks with which you are requesting assistance. **Do not** include the project need or outcome in this description (you will have the opportunity later in the application). **(75 words or less):**

Click here to enter text.

Please describe how this project/study addresses a need in your community and what you hope it will achieve **(150 words or less)**:

Click here to enter text.

Please describe how this project/study supports regional priorities, such as PLAN 2040 goals and objectives, LCI program goals, Lifelong Communities principles, the Regional Economic Competitiveness Strategy or ARC’s Arts and Culture Initiative. For your reference, see goals and objectives in Appendix B **(150 words or less)**:

Click here to enter text.

**BUDGET:**

**For LCI New Study or Supplemental Study only:**

# Total study/project budget: Click here to enter text.

# Funds requested: Click here to enter text. Sponsor Cash Match: Click here to enter text.

**Please note the following fund matching requirements:**

* All LCI studies must include at least 20% cash match of the total study budget.
* The maximum funding request is $400,000 (which equates to $500,000 total budget, $400,000 fed/$100,000 local), however scopes and budgets in the $100,000 to $200,000 range are preferred.

**COMMITMENT:**

* All applications should include a letter of commitment from the Mayor or City/County Manager, or a Council Resolution, indicating commitment to the implementation of the project and the matching funds (if applicable).
* Non-governmental organizations applying for funds shall include a letter of commitment to the implementation of the project and for matching funds (if applicable) from its Executive Director or Board Chairperson, as well as a letter of support from the underlying jurisdiction.
* If entities other than the applicant are providing matching funds, please include letters of commitment to the matching fund from those funders.

# Applicant:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### CONSULTANT PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS:

Consultants that prepare the LCI study application on behalf of the sponsor will not be eligible to compete for or be awarded the LCI contract should the study be selected. Federal funds require that procurement of professional services be a fair and open process, therefore, the firm that prepared the application for the very project on which they will be bidding gives them “prior knowledge” and an unfair advantage in the procurement process.

It is important to emphasize the unique characteristics of your community. If a community utilizes outside help in preparing the LCI application, local staff should still be involved in the process to ensure the character and needs of the local community are accurately reflected. When feasible, local governments are encouraged to complete the application themselves. If assistance is needed with mapping or other technical data, contact the ARC for assistance.

**SUBMITTAL:**

Submit applications to Marisa Ghani, Community Development Division, [mghani@atlantaregional.com](mailto:mghani@atlantaregional.com) by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, November 1, 2013**.

Applications should be signed and initialed, scanned and converted to a single/combined PDF document and submitted electronically (via disk, travel drive, email or FTP). You may use ARC’s FTP site if the file is too large for email: <http://transfers.atlantaregional.com/>. No password is needed. Put Marisa Ghani’s email under “recipient address” and “LCI Application” in the message.

**PLEASE PROVIDE ENTIRE APPLICATION PACKAGE AS A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF YOUR STUDY AREA IN THE FILE NAME.**

**ATTENTION:**

**PLEASE SEE APPENDICES A & B. COMPLETE THE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (IF APPLICABLE).**