



SOCIAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
July 30, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Social Equity Advisory Committee was held on Friday, July 30, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room at the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Committee Members Present:

Ron Berlin, Disability Advocate
Leng Leng Chancey (representing Judy Yi), Center for Pan Asian Community Services
Naomi Donaldson (representing Melissa Conrad), Georgia Stand-Up
KC George, Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership
Rose Grant, BELAGA
Andrew Hales, Office of the State LTC Ombudsman
Jewel Harper, Environmental Protection Agency
Dorothy Herzberg, Clayton County Career Resource Center
Lashawn Hoffman, Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association

Millie Irizarry, Latin American Association
Jackie McMorris, Cherokee County
Raúl Saavedra, Mexican Consulate
Laurel Paget-Seekins, Act Now
Nathaniel Smith, Emory University and Equity Atlanta

ARC Staff

Jennifer Curry
Judy Dovers
John Orr
Kofi Wakhisi
Carolyn White

Guest

Wade Carroll, Jacobs-JJG

MEETING SUMMARY

Carolyn White opened the meeting by acknowledging the absence of the committee chair, C.J. Bland, due to a recent car accident. Self-introductions of all present followed. Committee members were reminded of the input provided by the Social Equity Advisory Committee to date related to the development of PLAN 2040. These include: guiding principles, issues, success measures, goals, objectives and policies. It was noted that the primary focus of today's meeting would be on the performance framework and an update on work activities.

Judy Dovers briefly discussed the overall breadth and scope of the PLAN 2040 Regional Stakeholder Plan and the three broad targeted audiences including elected or appointed officials, state and local private sector leadership and individuals or groups that consistently participate and who need to have a voice in plan development. She stated that over 110 meetings have been held thus far.

Committee members were also encouraged to participate in ongoing online surveys and directed to ARC's website for additional information.

PLAN 2040 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK AND UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES - John Orr, ARC

John Orr reminded the committee that PLAN 2040 is organized around the concept of "sustainability" inclusive of economic, social and environmental factors and policy direction from the Fifty Forward process. An overview of the financial situation, the performance framework developed for the RTP element of PLAN 2040, key inputs, and updates on implementation of the framework and project evaluation followed.

Orr noted that there will not be enough funding to meet all needs in PLAN 2040. It will cost \$56 billion to maintain today's transportation system for the next 30 years, \$113 billion to build, operate and maintain additional identified needs in the region, and only \$64 billion is actually available between now and 2040. He stated that policy makers will have to make decisions regarding balancing needs to preserve the existing transportation system with providing transit and highway expansion. The ARC Board of Directors and its four policy committees attended a retreat on July 23 and agreed that a high regional priority should be placed on both preservation and expansion of transit. On July 28, the ARC Board will be presented a Resolution to Adopt Vision, Goals and Objectives to Guide Development of Plan 2040.

The RTP Performance Framework was described as organized around Key Decision Points which impact the allocation of projected transportation revenue. The Key Decision Points result in a clearer picture throughout the plan development process and clarify those influencing performance assessment. Key inputs (Vision, Goals, and Objectives, financial planning assumptions and projects that will be compiled from local, regional, and state plans) will be incorporated into the RTP performance framework. He noted that the RTP Performance Framework will consist of both plan development and management with the latter reflecting detailed implementation and tracking mechanisms.

Orr advised the group that ARC staff is beginning the process of project and program evaluation with input expected from ARC's board and other stakeholders, including the Social Equity Advisory Committee. A major component of the work will involve utilization of the Unified Growth Policy Map and related documentation. These will be explored further in the next meeting.

Related Comments/Questions and ARC Staff Responses

Rose Grant – How will new census data impact the availability of funds?

The region's share may be larger but it is a question of how much will be available from a shrinking source of funding.

Nathaniel Smith- Conversations need to be held around the issue of using transportation infrastructure funds to encourage new populations to move where there is already infrastructure, while promoting dense development.

ARC's guiding principles address those concerns. Examples include a focus on aligning growth and development with infrastructure investment and encouraging a variety of choices related to housing and transportation. Increasing density in jobs centers and transit areas and providing job access to major employment and development with infrastructure investments are important components of ARC's approach.

Raul Saavedra: What happens if identified projects are not funded due to lack of funds?

Their will be further deterioration related to preservation, in particular.

Jewel Harper: Environmental impacts and the absence of public health carbon foot prints seem to be missing.

ARC is looking at the plan holistically and trying to figure out how to address health on a project level.

Laurel Seekins – How will air quality be addressed?

Specifics are currently being debated. The financially constrained plan is expected to be developed in October and will be tested for air quality conformity.

Jackie McMorris - There is a need to create a different culture or mindset in terms of projects and investments on the local level. Local governments might respond and make investments in improvements that are costly and later underutilized.

Nathaniel Smith - Community outreach should be embedded in the project review process with specific language addressing vetting at the local level.

Rose Grant – Atlanta's NPU system is a model for consideration.

ARC will only fund projects coming out of local plans with documented public outreach during the RTP update. This has long been a requirement and strict adherence will be in place.

PRIORITIZING TRANSIT TO MEET MULTIPLE SUSTAINABILITY GOALS - Laurel Paget-Seekins, Georgia Tech PhD Candidate and ACT Now Georgia

Paget-Seekins presented results of research conducted related to performance measure and project selection criteria for PLAN 2040. The presentation included a perspective on sustainability goals with public transit as the key element. She

discussed the need for measures prioritizing transit that contributes to multiple aspects of sustainability and emphasis on high rates of non-motorized access and high usage for multiple trip purposes. In discussing economic sustainability, she recommends measuring value in trips rather than miles and prioritization based on addressing unmet transit needs in existing high demand corridors and system preservation. Economic development projects should not be a priority. Pagat-Seekins concluded that "a transit system that has the resources to attract choice riders, but designed to serve dependent riders can potentially meet social and environmental goals." Group discussion followed relative to rethinking how we get to destinations, the need for looking at multimodal methods and a new way of promoting transit oriented development.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL THOROUGHFARE PLAN - Kofi Wakhisi, ARC

Wakhisi introduced the Strategic Regional Thoroughfare Plan as a study being developed in partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation and funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. He referenced the definition of a Regional Thoroughfare as a transportation corridor serving multiple ways of traveling and connecting people and goods to places in the region. As such, the thoroughfare network receives priority consideration for infrastructure investment in the Atlanta region. It will also be one of the considerations informing implementation of the Plan 2040 Performance Framework.

The plan will identify existing thoroughfares in metro Atlanta and use those in creating a Regional Thoroughfare System. The Regional Strategic Transportation System, adopted by ARC in 2006, and input from the Transportation Coordinating Committee on-line survey regarding the importance of a Thoroughfare System were also described. Wakhisi identified the fundamentals of the network and their purpose: (1) maintaining connectivity and support for existing regional policy and (2) quantitative assessment based on travel demand. He noted that coordination with local jurisdictions and planning partners is occurring in August and confirmation of the Regional Thoroughfare Network Classification Process will begin in September. The committee will be updated in the future as the study progresses.

Clarification was sought and provided on what will be included and on differentiating routes. For example, will there be parallels for bicycles, trucks, walking, etc. pedestrians, etc.? Wakhisi noted that existing arterials serving multiple functions can lead to safety and congestion concerns. Improvements will ultimately be based on not yet developed guidelines. Overall, the study will identify thoroughfares with a regional function and those considerations will be incorporated in the assessment.

Due to time constraints, the presentation was abbreviated but updates will be provided as the study progresses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly meeting will be held on October 13, 2010, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in the Harry West Community Room, ARC. The July meeting summary, presentations and handouts will be available on ARC's website. A separate announcement will be sent with the appropriate link.

Committee members are encouraged to join the PLAN 2040 Online Public Meeting at www.atlantaregional.com/PLAN2040.

Key Plan 2040 Next Steps

- Constrained Plan – 4th quarter 2010
- Draft Projects 1st Quarter
- Board approval – July 2011

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

July 30, 2010 Meeting Handouts

- 2040 Performance Framework and Update on Activities PowerPoint Presentation
- Prioritizing Transit to Meet Multiple Sustainability Goals PowerPoint Presentation
- Regional Thoroughfare Plan PowerPoint Presentation
- PLAN 2040 Retreat Briefing Book
- Online Public Meeting Card
- On-Board Survey Executive Summary