**DATE:** August 27, 2014

**ISSUE SUMMARY:** REVISED ATLANTA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AREA (MPA) BOUNDARY

| FROM: | Tom Worthan, Transportation & Air Quality Committee |

**IMPORTANCE:** In March 2012, the US Census Bureau designated a revised Atlanta Urbanized Area (UA) based on 2010 Census data. This Atlanta UA includes portions of 23 counties, up from the portions of 19 counties designated following the 2000 Census. USDOT requires that new urbanized areas be included in a Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) and that a long range plan and short range transportation improvement program be developed incorporating these new areas.

The 2012 Atlanta Urban Area designation includes portions of the following counties:
- 18 counties currently in the MPO
  - 13 total counties – Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale
  - 5 partial counties – Barrow, Bartow, Newton, Spalding, Walton
- 5 additional counties - Carroll, Dawson, Hall, Jackson, Pike,

In the March 2012 urban area designations, a new Cartersville Urban Area was identified which was subsequently designated by the Governor of Georgia as the new Cartersville-Bartow MPO. (ARC has assigned transportation planning responsibilities for the portion of the Atlanta UA in Bartow County to CBMPO.)

Also, adjacent to the Atlanta MPO, is the Gainesville Urban Area, the core of the Gainesville-Hall MPO, which is now in parts of four counties – Hall, Forsyth, Gwinnett and Jackson. (By formal agreement, ARC has assigned transportation planning responsibilities for the portions of the Atlanta UA in Hall and Jackson Counties to GHMPO, and GHMPO has assigned responsibilities for the portions of the Gainesville UA in Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties to ARC.)

ARC has developed the attached revised Metropolitan Planning Area through discussions with planning partners including the new counties and will develop a new RTP and TIP incorporating these new areas for adoption by March 2016. This MPA does not reflect the Atlanta UA within Carroll County as the county is currently having ongoing discussions with the U.S. Census Bureau regarding the boundary of the Atlanta UA in Carroll County. Once these discussions are resolved, the MPA will be revisited – if necessary - to respond to these findings.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approval.
A RESOLUTION BY THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
ADOPTING THE REVISED ATLANTA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOUNDARY

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in the eighteen counties within the adopted 2004 Atlanta Metropolitan Transportation Planning Boundary; and

WHEREAS, this planning area includes 13 counties in total (Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale) and portions of 5 counties (Barrow, Bartow, Newton, Spalding, Walton); and

WHEREAS, in March 2012 the U. S. Census Bureau identified a revised Atlanta Urbanized Area as the result of the 2010 Census which includes portions of twenty-three (23) counties; and

WHEREAS, this revised Atlanta Urbanized Area includes portions of the eighteen counties currently in the planning area plus portions of Carroll, Dawson, Hall, Jackson and Pike Counties; and

WHEREAS in June 2014 by formal agreement with the Gainesville-Hall MPO, ARC has assigned the responsibilities for transportation planning for the portions of the Atlanta Urbanized Area within Hall and Jackson Counties to the GHMPO; and

WHEREAS in the same formal agreement, GHMPO assigned the responsibilities for transportation planning for the portions of the Gainesville Urbanized Area within Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties to the ARC; and

WHEREAS, in March 2012 the U. S. Census Bureau did identify a Cartersville, Georgia, urbanized area with population of over 50,000 and in February 2013 the Governor of Georgia did designate a new Cartersville-Bartow Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, by agreement with the new Cartersville-Bartow MPO, ARC has assigned the responsibilities for transportation planning for the portion of the Atlanta Urbanized Area within Bartow County to the new CBMPO; and

WHEREAS, with respect to Carroll County, discussions are currently ongoing between Carroll County and the U. S. Census Bureau, regarding designation of a portion of the Atlanta Urban Area within Carroll County; and

WHEREAS, this action before ARC does not include any portion of Carroll County; and

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 450.308(b) and U. S. Department of Transportation guidance require ARC as the existing MPO in the Atlanta Urbanized Area, to review and adjust the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Boundary by the next long range transportation plan update after October 2012 or by March 2016, whichever is sooner, and
WHEREAS, ARC is currently developing a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for adoption by March 2016, which will include areas within the revised Atlanta Metropolitan Transportation Boundary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlanta Regional Commission adopts the revised Atlanta Metropolitan Transportation Planning Boundary as shown in the attached map, which includes the ARC’s current ten counties plus Coweta, Forsyth and Paulding Counties, as well as portions of Barrow, Dawson, Newton, Pike, Spalding and Walton Counties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED with respect to the portion of the Atlanta Urbanized Area within Carroll County, the boundary will be adjusted if necessary once currently outstanding issues between Carroll County and the U. S. Census Bureau have been addressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that resolution of Carroll County’s concerns will not impede the development of a long range transportation plan for the Atlanta Metropolitan Planning Area by March 2016.
Proposed Atlanta Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)
August 2014

Legend
- Proposed MPA Boundary
- County Boundary

Atlanta UA portion in Carroll County – tbd with respect to the Atlanta MPA.