

Atlanta Regional Commission Invites Public Comment on the Amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan and the FY 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) will open a public review and comment period on December 18, 2017 for a Planning Action Amendment to be made to the Atlanta Region's Plan Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to the FY 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The TIP is the mechanism by which federal, state and local funds are approved for all significant surface transportation projects and programs in the region. The FY 2018-2023 TIP comprises the first six years of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Atlanta region. As the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for a 20-county* region, ARC is responsible for developing and amending/updating the TIP and RTP to meet federal planning requirements and address local needs.

The purpose of this amendment is to: 1) program funding commitments from the 2017 Project Solicitation under the Atlanta Urbanized Area sub-allocation of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) – Urban, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program, 2) reflect financial changes to projects in the Major Mobility and Investment Program (MMIP), and 3) address project cost estimate and programmatic changes that are of a time sensitive nature or cannot be handled administratively.

All amendments require a conformity determination from the US DOT, in consultation with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This RTP Amendment/FY 2018-2023 TIP Update will involve a new air quality conformity determination by the United States Department of Transportation and is expected in March 2018. The most recent regional emissions analysis was approved by FHWA and EPA on September 15, 2017.

All amendments require a conformity determination from the US DOT, in consultation with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The RTP and FY 2018-2023 TIP Amendment will involve a new air quality conformity determination by the United States Department of Transportation and is expected in March 2018. The most recent regional emissions analysis was approved by FHWA and EPA on September 15, 2017.

The ARC TIP public involvement process is also used to satisfy Federal Transit Administration (FTA) public participation requirements for FTA Section 5307 suballocated funds in the Atlanta Urbanized Area (to ARC, MARTA, Xpress, CATS, CCT, Douglas Rideshare, GCT, Henry County Transit, and Spalding County), for development of a transit Program of Projects (POP) proposed for funding. No changes to the current POPs are being made in the Atlanta TIP at this time.

To comment or for additional information:

- The public review and comment period will run from December 18, 2017 through January 16, 2018. ARC must receive comments prior to midnight on this date in order to be considered in the official record of comments. There will be an opportunity to present comment verbally at a public hearing taking place during the Transportation and Air Quality Committee held at ARC Conference Center on January 11, 2018 at 10:30 am. A summary of all comments received during the period and responses to those comments will be presented to ARC's technical and policy committees and the ARC Board for their consideration before taking action on the Planning Action Amendment.
- Complete details of the proposed changes and opportunities for review and comment are available on the ARC website at www.atlantaregional.org/amendment or by calling Melissa Roberts, (470) 378-1563.
- To comment verbally, call (470) 378-1563 or send by fax to (470) 423-3548.
- If special assistance in understanding the contents of this amendment is needed, please call ARC at (470) 378-1563.
- To comment in writing, please send to:

John Orr
Manager, Transportation Access and Mobility Division
Atlanta Regional Commission
International Tower
229 Peachtree Street NE
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303
Fax: (470) 423-3548
E-Mail: transportation@atlantaregional.org

- All other inquiries related to the regional transportation planning process should be addressed to Melissa Roberts, ARC, transportation@atlantaregional.org or (470) 378-1563.

*Barrow (partial), Carroll (partial), Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson (partial), DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton (partial), Paulding, Pike (partial), Rockdale, Spalding (partial), and Walton (partial).