

Frequently Asked Questions About the ARTP



Q: What is the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (The ATL)?

A: The ATL is a regional planning and funding coordination authority, with the purpose of providing a more seamless customer experience across all transit systems in the 13-county ATL region. The ATL Board, with 16 members representing a wide range of perspectives, geographical, and professional backgrounds, is unified around the common goal of increasing mobility options for metro Atlantans through increased coordination of existing services and strategic investment in future expansion, utilizing smart technology and innovation to maximize benefits.

Q: Who are the ATL's planning partners and stakeholders?

A: Our planning partners are key to the success of the plan, and we work with our external stakeholders to advance the ATL's goals in the region. These partners and stakeholders include the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), County and Municipal Governments, local transit operators, Community Improvement Districts (CIDs), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Q: What is the ATL Regional Transit Plan (ARTP)?

A: The ARTP serves as the primary source of transit projects that will feed the region's short-term (Transportation Improvement Program or TIP) and long-range (Regional Transportation Plan or RTP) transportation plans. The ARTP, after approval by the ATL Board, becomes a resource for the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) as it determines which priority transportation projects to fund through the RTP and TIP. The ARTP also serves as the source of project recommendations for annual state bond investment and for local referendum lists (Transportation and/or Transit Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or "TSPLOST").

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For more information, contact us at: (404)-893-2100

FAQs, cont'd

Q: How was the ARTP developed and how are projects evaluated?

A: The ARTP was developed through a strategic process that began with reviewing and refining the methodology of the 2019ARTP. Next, the ATL held a month-long Call for Projects where county or city governments, community improvement districts, and transit operators, submitted proposed transit projects.

Those projects were then evaluated through the Project Performance Framework to understand each project's relative cost to impact, regional significance, and alignment with the ATL's governing principles. This process ensures ATL supports the advancement and funding of impactful, beneficial projects while giving project sponsors the opportunity to improve project performance and/or lower project costs for those lower impact, higher cost projects.

All of these steps bring us to where we are now, and that is where you come in! Our current step in the ARTP's development is to seek public comment on the universe of regional transit projects. Your input will be used to shape and inform the final ARTP before it is presented and adopted by the ATL Board.

Q: What is the ARTP's role in transit funding?

A: The ARTP is key to increasing transit investment throughout the region. Each year, the ATL is required to prepare and submit a list of regionally significant transit projects for possible state bond funding. All projects submitted must first be included in the ARTP. The ARTP is also important for local transit funding. County governments seeking to hold a transit-specific Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) referendum must choose projects to fund from the ARTP. This local funding option allows counties and local jurisdictions to retain decision-making authority over the projects funded by their citizens, while also allowing the ATL to ensure projects advanced throughout the region are coordinated into a seamless transit network. Finally, the ARTP serves as the region's guiding document for projects seeking discretionary federal funding opportunities, which are generally awarded on a competitive basis nationally.

Q: How can I share my comments on the ARTP?

A: You can share your feedback on the 2020 ARTP by:

➤ **Visiting the virtual open house and live meetings:**
<https://atltransit.ga.gov/districtdownloads/>

➤ **Texting:** "ATLTransit" to 474747

➤ **Joining the conversation on Facebook**

(<https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaTransitLink>) and Twitter (@ATLTransitLink) and using #ATLTransitPlan and #PublicComment to share your thoughts.