#### ATL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BEGIN MOMENTARILY



### **Administrative Committee**

Earl Ehrhart, Chair August 3, 2023

# Administrative Committee Thursday, August 3, 2023 Proposed Agenda

- I. Call to Order Earl Ehrhart, Chair
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2023
- III. Approval of the Agenda for August 3, 2023
- IV. Bylaws Update Charlie Sutlive
- V. ATL Compliance Updates for Federal Programs
  - Title VI
  - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program
- VI. Coweta County 5307 Grant and Subgrant Approval Jonathan Ravenelle **Action Item** 
  - FTA Grant Application
  - Subgrant Agreement
- VII. Adjournment





### **Bylaws Update**



Jonathan Ravenelle, Transit Funding Director August 3, 2023

### ATL Compliance Updates for Federal Programs

- Standard cyclical updates of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) compliance programs
  - Title VI Program
  - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
     Program



### ATL Title VI Program Update

### Purpose of the ATL Title VI Program Update

- ► Each recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds must comply with the Civil Rights Act and adopt an updated Title VI Program every 3 years¹
- ► ATL is currently a direct recipient of FTA funds
- ► ATL Title VI Program update necessary to ensure continued administration in the management of FTA grant awards
- ► FTA requires Board concurrence (proposed action item in October)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>FTA Circular <u>4702.1B</u> and <u>49 CFR 21.23(f)</u>

# Title VI Program Objectives per FTA Circular 4702.1B

Ensure that the level and quality of public transportation service is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner

Promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin

Ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency

Ensure Title VI applied institution-wide; it is not limited to the program that receives FTA funding (e.g., planning, capital, operations)

### Title VI Program Required Elements

#### **Procedural Elements:**

- ► Notice to the Public
- ► Complaint Forms and Procedures
- ► Public Participation Plan
- ► Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and LEP Access Plan
- ► ATL Board Structure/Demographics
- Subrecipient Monitoring

#### **Transit Service Standards Monitoring:**

- ➤ Set system-wide standards and policies for operations
- ► Collect and report data
- ► Evaluate service and fare equity changes
- ► Monitor transit service



### Summary of ATL Title VI Program Updates

- ► Updated demographic data for ATL jurisdictional area
- ► Incorporated results of most recent service monitoring which was adopted by the ATL Board in October 2022
- Included fare and service change equity analyses completed since previous update

➤ Narrative updates for Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Access Plan

### **Next Steps**

- ► Planned Public Participation and Comment Period
  - 30-day public comment period anticipated for September 1<sup>st</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>
  - 2 Public Hearings anticipated on September 20, 2023
  - Track and respond to any comments received
- ➤ Present recommendation for Title VI Program Update to the Administrative Committee and ATL Board at October 2023 meeting for action



# ATL Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Goal Update

# Purpose of ATL Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal Update

- ►ATL is a direct recipient and is eligible to apply and receive funding directly from the FTA
  - FTA Direct Recipients expecting to award more than \$250,000 in prime contracts in a fiscal year are required to maintain a DBE Program.<sup>1</sup>
  - DBE program goal must be updated every three years
  - DBE goals are established as a percentage of anticipated total contract dollar value over three-year period, which for FFY21 – FFY23 was 9.62%
- ►ATL is **exceeding** its current DBE goal with a DBE percentage of 10.17% (thru mid-FFY23)
- ► DBE goal is included in procurement solicitations and update is necessary to ensure continued administration of grants



# FTA's DBE Program Compliance Objectives/Purpose<sup>1</sup>

Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of FTA-assisted contracts

Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for FTA-assisted contracts

Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in FTA-assisted contracts

Promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities

<sup>1</sup> 49 CFR Part 26.1



#### What is a DBE?

- ► USDOT defines Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) as
  - "For-profit small business concerns where socially and economically disadvantaged individuals own at least a 51% interest and also control management and daily business operations." 1
- ► To be regarded as economically disadvantaged <sup>1</sup>
  - An individual with ownership share in a DBE must have a personal net worth that does not exceed \$1.32 million
  - A firm must meet Small Business Administration (SBA) size criteria and have average annual gross receipts not to exceed \$23.98 million
- ► To be regarded as socially disadvantaged <sup>1</sup>
  - Individuals subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society
  - Prejudice or bias is due to their identities as members of these groups and without regard to their individual qualities as persons
  - Social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control



### To Participate in a DBE Program

- A qualifying small business must receive DBE certification from the relevant state – generally through a state Uniform Certification Program (UCP)
- Certifying agencies in the Atlanta region include the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)



### FTA's Required DBE Goal Methodology

- Criteria for the development of the DBE goal is established in 49 CFR § 26.45 - How do recipients set overall goals
- ► FTA reviews and concurs that agency has followed the prescribed methodology (FTA is not required to approve the recipients calculated goal)
- ► FTA prescribed DBE goal methodology is:
  - The demonstrable evidence of the availability of <u>ready, willing, and able (RWA)</u>
     DBEs relative to all RWA businesses, and
  - The expected contracting opportunities for FTA-assisted contracts over the three-year DBE goal period based on NAICS code and marketplace of applicable DBE firms
  - DBE goal reflects what agency would expect the level of DBE participation to be through open and fair competition



#### Current ATL DBE Goal: Fed. FY21-mid Fed. FY23

ATL's current DBE Goal of 9.62% is ending its three-year reporting period



\$49.14M

FTA Contract Amounts<sup>1</sup>
(thru mid FFY23)



10.17%

Current ATL DBE
Program Percentage
(thru mid FFY23)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FTA contract amounts are higher in FFY21 – FFY23 due to increased federal share of CARES and ARP funding



### Calculated ATL DBE Goal Update

FTA's prescribed methodology was followed



\$22.53M

Anticipated FTA Contract Amounts<sup>1</sup>



10.31%

Calculated ATL DBE Program Goal for FFY24 – FFY26

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FTA contract amounts are returning back to pre-COVID levels for FFY24 – FFY26







Jonathan Ravenelle, Transit Funding Director August 3, 2023

# Overview of Coweta County Public Transportation Services

- Coweta currently receives federal transit funding through:
  - Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) 5311 Rural Program administered by GDOT
  - FTA's 5307 Large Urban program through ATL
- ➤ Coweta primarily provides Dial-a-Ride services¹
  - 6 vehicles
  - 446 square mile service area
  - 30,521 passengers in 2022
- ➤ Xpress complements the County-operated services to provide regional connections









# ATL's Direct Recipient Support of Coweta County

- ➤ Coweta County receives annual FTA Large Urban 5307 formula funding allocation of approximately \$466k
  - Allocation based on population



- ➤ Coweta County cannot access FTA Large Urban 5307 funds without assistance of a direct recipient
- Coweta County has requested ATL to serve as its direct recipient
- ►ATL would pass through FTA 5307 funding to Coweta County for the ongoing operations of its Dial-a-Ride system
- ► ATL currently provides direct recipient support services for 5307 funding to Forsyth County (June 2023 Board Meeting)

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Coweta fleet has been outfitted with a connected operations platform to provide real-time fleet maintenance information.

"I've been using transportation services since 2011 after my husband passed away. It's the best thing that could have happened to me. It helps me save money and gets me to my destination in a timely manner. As a frequent user, I have gotten to know the drivers and have met some very interesting people, some of whom have become my best friends. It's such a great asset, I give it a gold star."

- Debra Parks, Coweta customer



### FY24 Coweta County Grant Application

FY24 FTA Grant Application	Federal Amount	Purpose
GA-2023-TBD	\$795,842	Federal funding for ongoing Coweta County public transportation services operating assistance, equipment and planning.

- ➤ Coweta County is looking to utilize funding from FY23 and FY24 Large Urban 5307 suballocation
  - Match for the funds is being provided by Coweta County
- ➤ Will support ongoing demand response services, as well as funding for a county Transit Development Plan
  - Transit Development Plan will be for efforts similar ATL supported efforts in Forsyth, Henry, Douglas, and Rockdale counties
- ▶ Pending Board approval, ATL will enter into a Subgrant Agreement with Coweta County and then submit FTA grant for approval



### Committee Action Items

#### **Committee Action Items**



For approval of the \$795,842 –

- 1. Requesting the Committee recommend Board approval for **negotiation** of Subgrant Agreement with Coweta County for an amount not to exceed
- 2. Requesting the Committee recommend Board approval for **application** of Federal Transit Administration grant on behalf of Coweta County







# The Regional Technology Committee Meeting Will Begin Momentarily