

**Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority
245 Peachtree Center Ave., Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30303**

**Regional Transit Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes**

December 5, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Brock
Dan Buyers
Ricky Clark
Marlene Fosque
Charlotte Nash
Paul Radford
Robb Pitts
Todd Ver Steeg
Tom Weyandt

Absent

Andy Macke
Howard Mosby
Marci Collier Overstreet
Teddy Russell
Michael Thurmond

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Steve Brock called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. A quorum was confirmed for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Committee Chair Steve Brock called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 3, 2024, meeting. Mr. Dan Buyers made the motion, and Ms. Charlotte Nash seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Committee Chair Steve Brock called for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Charlotte Nash made the motion, and Mr. Dan Buyers seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT UPDATE

Ms. Abby Marinelli provided an update on the Strategic Blueprint that highlighted the three key pillars that will underpin the work of the ATL. The first being Competitiveness which focuses on financial investments in transit to attract and retain business and support economic growth. The second pillar of Customer Focus aims to identify the existing and potential transit customer base and design services that facilitate their travel demands. The third pillar of Cross-County Services focuses on improving regional connectivity and better connecting local transit systems. Ms. Marinelli informed the Board that high demand exists for cross-county travel to key activity centers such as the airport.

In conclusion, Ms. Marinelli stated that The Strategic Blueprint provides the foundation for the upcoming long-range planning effort. This effort will include the development of a six-year and 20-year plan, analysis of future transit investments and revenue forecasts, and assessment of regional travel markets. Evolving customer demographics and preferences will also inform the plan.

ATLANTA REGIONAL RESERVE RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Abby Marinelli made a presentation on the Atlanta Regional Reserve. ATL is the Designated Recipient for FTA formula funds for the Atlanta Urbanized Area. After a reconciliation effort with the FTA, approximately \$17M in federal formula funding was identified that had previously been unaccounted for on the region's balance sheets. ATL staff hired a third-party accounting firm to review and confirm the \$17M amount. The firm, Milligan and Co., confirmed the amount. Because these funds could not be traced to any specific recipient, FTA and ATL decided to create a new line item on the regional balance sheet to hold these funds separate from any other eligible recipient's funds in the region. ATL, as the Designated Recipient, intends to spend these funds on projects that support regional, cross-operator coordination, integration, and collaboration. Ms. Marinelli concluded her report with a recommendation that the following two projects be funded out of the Regional Reserve.

- 1) The Automated Fare Collection (AFC) 2.0 Regional Implementation
- 2) ATL Rides Operations and Maintenance

TRANSIT TRUST FUND FY24 ACTION ITEM

Ms. Abby Marinelli gave a presentation on The Transit Trust Fund (TTF) for FY24. She began by stating that out of statewide FY24 TTF allocation of \$23M, \$12M was allocated ATL. In October, the Board approved approximately \$8.9M for an initial set of projects. An additional \$120,000 was set aside at the last board meeting for matching funds for ATL Rides. Ms. Marinelli explained that after these allocations, \$3.5M of FY24 TTF funds remained to be allocated by the ATL Board.

Ms. Marinelli closed by recommending the board allocate \$1.356M from the \$3.5M of remaining FY24 TTF funds to support the AFC 2.0 project. This TTF allocation would be the required 20% local match on the 80% federal funding requested from the Atlanta Regional Reserve, ensuring the project is fully funded at no additional cost to participating partner agencies.

If approved, this allocation will reduce the remaining balance of the Transit Trust Fund to \$2.2M.

AUTOMATED FARE COLLECTION 2.0 SYSTEM (AFC 2.0)

Mr. Nipendra Kayastha gave an overview of the development of AFC 2.0 which will offer several improvements over the current system including:

- The system will support all regional fares and transfers.
- It will be account-based, allowing transit users to create personal accounts, manage balances, and add various payment methods - similar to a bank account.
- The retail network for purchase of fare media will expand, providing access to additional locations such as popular retail stores, where users can top off their accounts using gift cards.

Mr. Kayastha explained that the procurement and installation of AFC 2.0 for non-MARTA partner agencies will be led by ATL which will act as a regional integrator to efficiently implement the new system across all partner agency vehicles. The total estimated cost for the project is approximately \$6.78M with the breakdown as follows:

- \$3.7M for the AFC 2.0 system implementation.
- \$1.7M for the installation of a new 5G router on all partner agency vehicles.
- Additional costs for necessary contracts required for successful implementation.

The funding for this project will come from the regional transit fund, and the Regional Reserve.

In closing, Mr. Kayastha stated that two action items will be presented at the ATL Board meeting for approval.

1. Approval of the contract with INIT Solutions for automated fare collections for AFC 2.0
2. Approval of the procurement and installation of the onboard routers for partner agencies to support AFC 2.0

SR 400 P3 PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Helen Pinkston-Pope, a representative from the P3 division of the Georgia Department of Transportation, provided an update on the State Route 400 and I-285 Express Lanes projects. These projects are part of the Georgia Express Lanes network, which includes both existing express lanes and future lanes. The new express lanes on SR 400 and I-285 will be operated by private sector partners, marking a shift from the state's existing express lanes managed by the State Road and Tollway Authority.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

APPROVED:

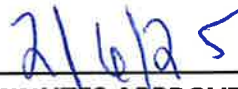


Steve Brock, Chair

ATTEST:



Chris Brunson, Board Secretary



DATE MINUTES APPROVED: