COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Jack Krakeel
Meeting Date:	Thursday, January 12, 2012	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of staff's request for the Board's response to whether or not Fayette County wishes to be a participating member of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Transit Committee.

Background/History/Details:

All counties in the Atlanta Regional Commission received a notice that they are eligible to participate on its Regional Transit Committee if they choose. The County needs to send an official response to ARC's inquiry as to whether or not Fayette County wishes to participate.

See attached correspondence from the Atlanta Regional Commission.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

The Board should vote on its position on this issue so that staff can forward a formal response to the Atlanta Regional Commission.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

IF the Board decides to participate, the County's cost will be $5,000.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Yes	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

ARC
ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

PLANNING · LEADERSHIP · RESULTS

October 21, 2011

Honorable Herb Frady
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Fayette County
140 Stonewall Avenue, West
Fayetteville, GA 30214

RE: 2012 Participation in ARC's Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

Dear Chairman Frady:

You are receiving this letter as an eligible member of the Regional Transit Committee (RTC), the policy committee at ARC established in January 2010 as the successor to the Transit Implementation Board (TIB) and tasked with continuing the dialogue regarding the governance, funding, and coordination of existing and future transit service in the 20-county Atlanta region.

In accordance with the RTC's operational procedures, all members who choose to participate in the RTC in a voting capacity are required to financially support the operations of the committee. At the September 2011 RTC meeting the 2012 RTC Work Program and Budget were unanimously adopted. Dues for 2012 participation in the RTC has been set at $5,000 for local governments as well as the Metro Atlanta Mayor's Association (MAMA), $10,000 for the Georgia Department of Transportation, and $150,000 of in-kind services from both the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). These dues will be used to match a grant from the Federal Transit Administration which we will use to meet the costs associated with accomplishing the work of the RTC for a 12-month period from January 2012 through December 2012. In addition to the funding mentioned above, ARC provides the primary staff resources to the RTC effort.

I am aware that many local governments as well as the state are developing FY 2012 budgets now and need to account for this request. Please consider this letter a request to set aside an appropriate amount of money in your budget, based on the figures above. Enclosed are two copies of the final proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between your organization and ARC, already signed by ARC. A sample of this agreement was included in your September 2011 RTC meeting packet. Should your organization decide to participate as a voting member of the RTC in 2012, simply sign the two enclosed copies of the agreement, returning one copy to ARC and keeping one for your records. ARC respectfully asks that you return the signed MOA back to us no later than December 16, 2011. Upon receipt of the signed agreement, we will follow up with an invoice for the 2012 dues payable to ARC.

40 COURTLAND STREET, NE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 404 463.3100 FAX 404 463.3105 WWW.ATLANTAREGIONAL.COM

Memorandum of Agreement
Regional Transit Planning Coordination and Cooperation
between the Atlanta Regional Commission and Fayette County

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defines the roles and responsibilities of the Atlanta Regional Commission and Fayette County in the transit planning and coordination activities for the Atlanta region.

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Atlanta Metropolitan Transportation Planning Area as well as the state designated Metropolitan Area Planning & Development Commission with the responsibilities of a Regional Commission. The ARC is composed of officials of political subdivisions and of private citizens representing districts of approximately the same population within the Atlanta metropolitan area as determined from time to time in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the official Code of Georgia Annotated. Such composition provides representation to local governments within the area.

In 2004, ARC launched the Regional Transit Institutional Analysis (RTIA) to study the institutional challenges associated with the planning and provision of transit at the regional level. The RTIA led to the creation of the Transit Planning Board (TPB) in 2006, an interagency partnership between ARC, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA).

Following the sunset of the TPB in December 2008, the Transit Implementation Board (TIB) was created as an ad hoc committee of ARC. A primary task of the TIB was to develop and recommend a long term governance structure for regional transit planning and coordination. In September 2009, the TIB recommended the establishment of a Regional Transit Committee as a full policy committee of ARC.

In December 2009, ARC, GDOT , GRTA and MARTA did amend their 2008 Quad Party Agreement (*Memorandum of Agreement for Transportation Planning Coordination and Cooperation in the Atlanta Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) between the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, and Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority)* to define their roles and responsibilities relative to a Regional Transit Committee.

The RTC was implemented as a policy committee of the ARC in January 2010.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

The following terms used in this MOA shall have the meanings set forth in this section and as now or hereafter defined in the referenced federal or state statutes or regulations:

A. **Atlanta Regional Commission** (ARC) means the multipurpose, comprehensive regional planning agency created pursuant to State law and designated as the planning agency for the 10 county Atlanta Region for all federal and state programs which require or encourage areawide planning. ARC is designated by the Governor of the State of Georgia as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 18-county Atlanta area pursuant to the Federal Aid Highway Act (23 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.), the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. Appx § 1601 et seq) and other applicable federal and state laws.

B. **Regional Transit Committee** (RTC) means the policy committee of ARC responsible for regional transit coordination. The RTC holds regularly scheduled meetings that are open to the public.

C. **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** means the financially balanced 20 year or more multimodal transportation plan that leads to the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods.

D. **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** means the financially balanced, staged, short-term, multi-year intermodal program of transportation projects covering a Metropolitan Transportation Planning Area which is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan, and developed pursuant to 23 CFR 450.

E. **Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQC)** means the transportation policy committee of the ARC. TAQC serves as the body to develop consensus among the ARC, MARTA and GDOT regarding metropolitan or multi-jurisdictional transportation related policy matters potentially affecting the Area. TAQC shall transmit its recommendations directly to the Commission. TAQC holds regularly scheduled meetings which are open to the public.

F. **Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC)** means the transportation technical committee of the ARC. TCC is responsible for providing local government input on planning issues and evaluating information in order to provide technical advice to TAQC. TCC holds regularly scheduled meetings which are open to the public.

SECTION 3: ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A. **ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC)**, as the managing agency for the RTC, shall be responsible for the following:

1. Provide administrative support for all aspects of the day-to-day operation of the RTC. This work includes (but is not limited to) regular communication with board members and stakeholders, scheduling of and preparation for board and committee meetings, coordination of staff resources between the RTC partner agencies, management of

RTC consultants/contractors, and administration of the federal grants that support the work of the RTC.

2. Maintain and refine the adopted regional transit vision (Concept 3) and provide planning and technical support to both long-range and short-range transit planning initiatives around the region.
3. Facilitate discussion and coordination regarding legislative developments at the state and federal levels that impact regional transit planning and coordination activities in the Atlanta region.
4. Coordinate activities of the RTC with the ongoing RTP/TIP development and programming activities of ARC's Transportation Planning Division, with RTC providing recommendations regarding the transit element of the RTP/TIP.
5. Oversee service coordination activities between the various transit operators in the Atlanta region through regular meetings of the Service Coordination Council of the RTC.
6. Coordinate activities related to the development of a regional fare policy in the Atlanta region for all existing and planned new transit agencies.
7. Coordinate activities of the RTC with the ongoing activities of ARC's Transportation Planning Division regarding the planning and provision of Human Services Transportation (HST).
8. Establish performance measures for evaluation of regional transit services and create a data reporting structure for all regional transit operators. Publish summaries of the collected data in periodic reports on the state of the regional transit system.
9. Coordinate public engagement and outreach efforts related to the RTC and its activities.
10. Provide other assistance as mutually agreed upon.

B. **FAYETTE COUNTY,** shall be responsible for the following:

1. Participate in the Atlanta regional transit planning and coordination process, with a voting member on the Regional Transit Committee.
2. Provide local funds to match available federal transportation planning funds, as determined annually by the RTC to be fair and reasonable. Failure to provide local matching funds for any year will revert the county to non-voting status for that year.
3. Coordinate with ARC, GDOT, GRTA, and MARTA on transit planning and coordination activities related to the mission of the RTC.
4. Provide other assistance as mutually agreed upon.

SECTION 4: COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS & REGULATIONS

All parties shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Nothing in this MOA alters, or seeks to alter, the existing statutory authority of any party under state or federal law. If any of the provisions of this MOA are held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5: AMENDMENTS & MODIFICATIONS

Any party may request changes to this MOA at any time by written notice to the other party's signatory of this agreement. Such changes as are mutually agreed upon by and between the parties shall be incorporated in written amendments to this MOA executed in the same manner as original MOA approval. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving 30 days notice to the other party.

SECTION 6: NOTIFICATION

Any official notifications between the parties to this MOA that would substantially affect the terms or conditions of this MOA shall be directed to the office of the signatories to this agreement.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Agreement, this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Attest: ***Atlanta Regional Commission***

_____ _____

Director

Attest: ***Fayette County***

_____ _____

County Commission Chair

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_____ _____
Director

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_____ _____
County Commission Chair