

Stimulus Funds Bring Atlanta Region Transportation Projects Back to Life

(March 20 -- Atlanta, GA) – Nearly half of the projects planned in the first year of the Atlanta Regional Commission’s (ARC) priority transportation plan were on the chopping block due to funding shortfalls. Many of those projects were, however, brought back to life with an action taken today by ARC, made possible by stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

ARC was able to administratively reinstate some \$270 million worth of projects with stimulus funds to keep the region moving forward. “This is a tremendous break for the Atlanta region,” said Chick Krautler, ARC director. “Residents can expect fast action, as these projects are “shovel ready” and will be underway by this summer.”

ARC has taken immediate action to fund all transit projects possible using the \$95 million allotted to the Atlanta region for that purpose. Most of this money will be used to procure buses to replace aging vehicles, complete deferred maintenance projects and provide new and expanded park and ride facilities.

Another \$176 million in stimulus money is being directed immediately to road, bridge and bike and pedestrian projects in the Atlanta region that would have been on hold for several years, if it weren’t for this special funding opportunity. The action came through an administrative modification to ARC’s Transportation Improvement Program, a six-year priority transportation plan for the Atlanta region.

More stimulus funds will be programmed for transportation projects in additional phases during the next few months. “ARC expects to program another \$53 million of stimulus funding to other transportation projects by June,” said Krautler. “In addition, the Georgia Department of Transportation has already identified up to \$120 million of additional projects in metro

Atlanta that are high on their priority list for stimulus spending. It's possible that they may identify even more worthy projects in our area as the process moves forward."
