



# ARTS Newsletter

Winter 2015

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## FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:

**GDOT Area Office—  
Augusta** (706) 855-3466

**Augusta Engineering  
Department** (706) 796-  
5040

**Augusta Traffic Engi-  
neering Division** (706)  
821-1841

**Columbia County Traf-  
fic Engineering De-  
partment** (706) 868-4223

**Augusta Public Transit**  
(706) 821-1721

**Aiken County Transit  
(Best Friend Express)**  
(803) 648-6493

**Planning and Economic  
Development (North  
Augusta)**  
(803) 441-4221

*This newsletter is part of an ongoing effort of the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) to share information about transportation issues and activities with the citizens of the metropolitan area*

## TRANSPORTATION VISION 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Fall 2014 marked the start of the *Transportation Vision 2040* Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process. Updated every five years the LRTP is the official multimodal transportation plan developed and adopted through the transportation planning process. For ARTS to receive federal funds for regional transportation projects or programs a LRTP is required for any urbanized area with a population over 50,000.

LRTP includes long-range and short-range strategies and actions that lead to the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system. As a dynamic policy document, LRTP identifies factors driving current and future regional traffic and travel patterns that arise from changes in population or economic development.

With a twenty year planning horizon each LRTP update relies heavily on information gained from public participation in the transportation planning and decision making processes. Public participation has always played an important role in the development of LRTP since ARTS first plan back in 1969 and the public's role will continue to be a vital component in *Transportation Vision 2040*. Community meetings during March 2015 will offer opportunities to voice your concerns on traffic, growth, public transit, bike & walking paths in the ARTS region.

## TRANSPORTATION VISION 2040 SPEAKERS BUREAU

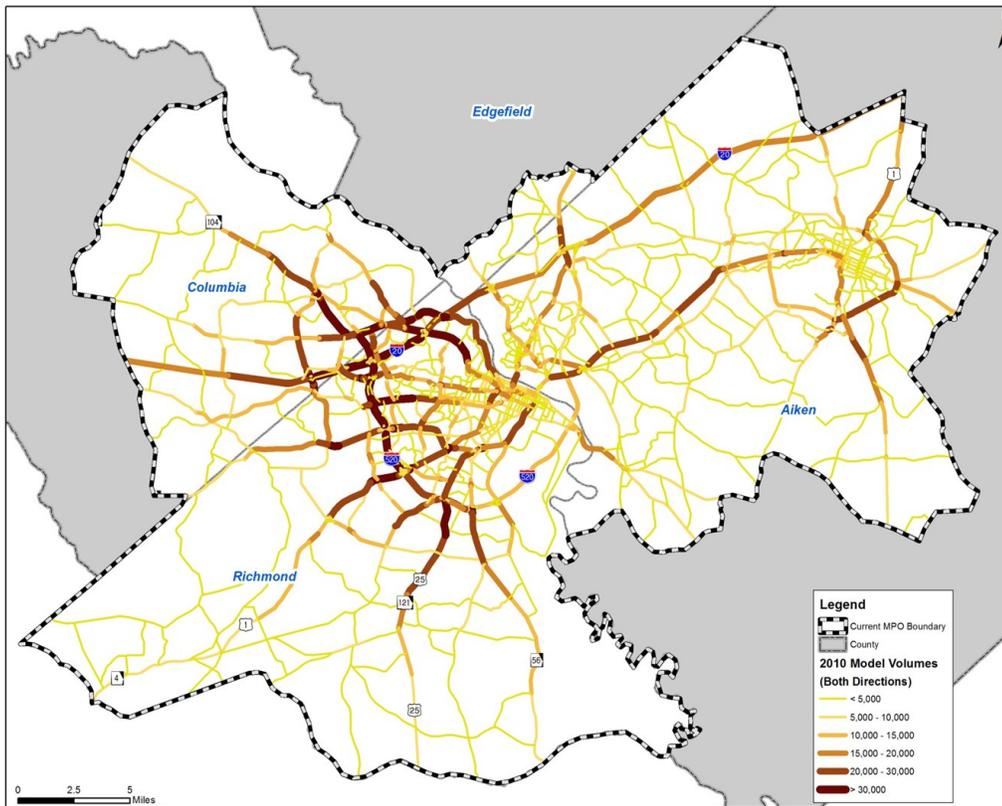
In an effort to spread the news of the ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and get people involved in the transportation planning process, Speaker Bureau sessions have been held throughout the ARTS region. At these formal sessions Paul DeCamp or Carletta Singleton have presented the ARTS Metropolitan Planning Organization, its purpose and function; explained how attendees and their associates can become involved in the transportation process and answered questions from the audience.

Speaker Bureau sessions have been held at the Augusta Canal Authority, Augusta Exchange Club, Columbia County Exchange Club, Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, and Sandridge Community Association. Overall, more than 200 people have been informed about ARTS at these sessions.



*Paul DeCamp presenting at Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce*

## TRANSPORTATION VISION 2040 TRAFFIC GROWTH AND CONGESTION



A key element of the transportation planning process is the modelling of travel behavior and traffic. A 2010 Base Year traffic model has been built by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on behalf of ARTS.

The model identifies major traffic routes in the region as well as associated traffic volumes. At more than 81,000 AADT in 2010 the Wheeler Road—Wrightsboro Road section of the I-520 was the most heavily used route in the region.

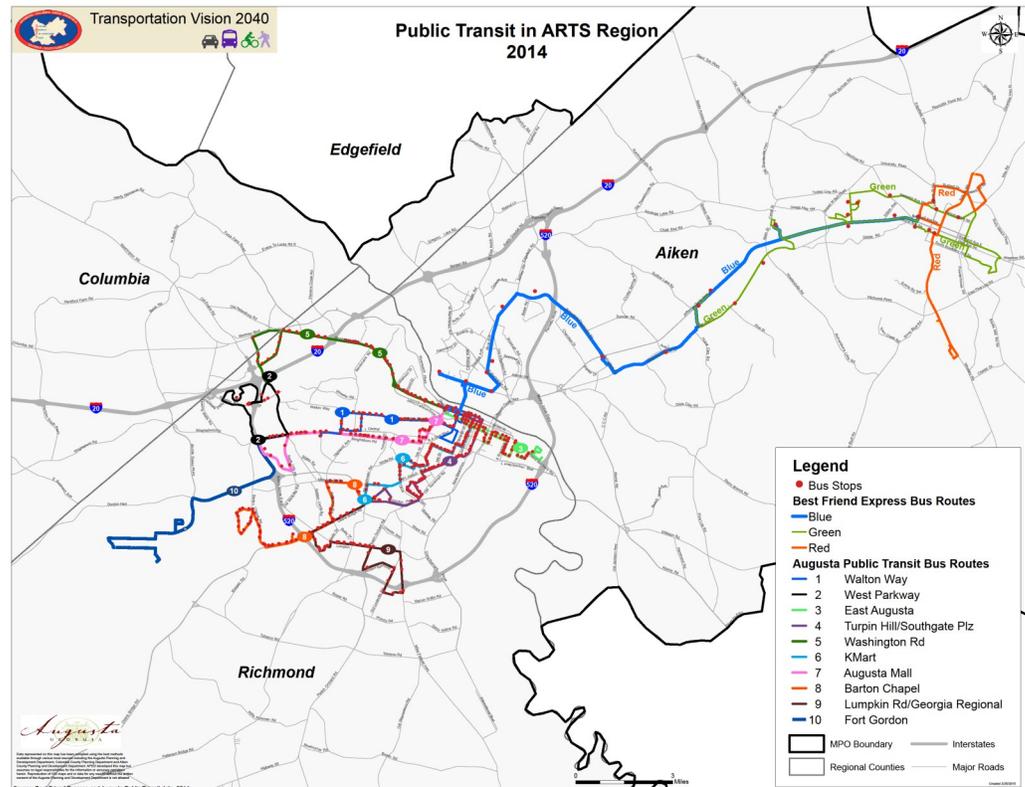
Building a traffic model enables ARTS to evaluate how traffic or land use may impact the road network and plan accordingly.

## TRANSPORTATION VISION 2040 PUBLIC TRANSIT

Did you know that there are two fixed-route Public Transit providers in the ARTS Region? Augusta Public Transit and Best Friend Express - together they operate 13 routes.

Talking about Public Transit during the Transportation Vision 2040 Community Meetings in March has resulted in lively discussions. Some participants have even asked when will the region have a Light Rail System or Trolley Bus.

As the region continues to grow in population and job opportunities the availability of public transit allows ARTS residents to benefit from these positive developments while reducing traffic congestion.



## AIKEN COUNTY NEWS

### SURFACE ROADS

#### SC 302 (Silver Bluff Road) Corridor Improvements:

The right-of-way phase is approximately 35% complete. Environmental documents have been approved and no permit is required. Utility coordination is also underway. Construction letting is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2015.

#### SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway) Widening:

Since the Purpose-and-Need statement has been amended to reflect corridor improvements, Aiken County is in the process of re-ranking the project using the Aiken County Project Prioritization Tool. Further development of the project will continue after ARTS and SCDOT approve the re-ranking so that it can be re-programmed into the ARTS TIP and SCDOT STIP.

#### SC 19 (Whiskey Road) Drainage Improvements:

Coordination is currently underway to de-program the project and remove it from the TIP. This is due to the additional scope requirements/associated cost of \$5M that grossly exceed the available budget (ARRA funding) of \$520K for construction.

#### SC 126 (Belvedere-Clearwater Road) Widening:

The environmental documents/permitting coordination and preliminary design/plans development are currently underway. A public hearing is anticipated around spring/summer of 2015. The right-of-way phase/initial contacts are anticipated summer of 2015.

#### SC 125 (East Buena Vista Avenue/Atomic Road) Corridor Improvements:

The environmental documents have been approved, and no permit is required. The right-of-way phase is approximately 10% complete. Utility coordination is currently underway. Construction letting is anticipated to be held in fall of 2015.

### AIR QUALITY

The City of Aiken is in the process of applying to SCDOT for two sets of projects under the Transportation Alternative Projects (TAP) Program: 1) Bicycle Infrastructure Phase 1; installing bike lanes, shared lane markings, a buffered bike lane, bike route signage and destination signs throughout several streets in the city limits; and 2) Crosland Park Pedestrian Walkways; installing concrete sidewalks and crosswalks on Crosland Park Street rights-of-way.

## SOCIAL MEDIA & ARTS

ARTS has recently developed a strong online presence. With more ways to connect with ARTS it is anticipated that the public will contribute more to the transportation planning process through online activity. You can reach ARTS via:



[www.augustaga.gov/arts](http://www.augustaga.gov/arts)



[www.facebook.com/planningaugusta](https://www.facebook.com/planningaugusta)



[@planningaugusta](https://twitter.com/planningaugusta)

## COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

We want to hear your views on the region's transportation system. Take the Community Transportation Survey now! Find it on the ARTS home page [www.augustaga.gov/arts](http://www.augustaga.gov/arts)

With your input together we can plan for a better region with an efficient multimodal transportation system!

## ARTS WEBSITE

The [ARTS Website](#) is hosted by the city of Augusta and includes committee meeting agendas and minutes, documents, back copies of the newsletter, links to other websites and archived reports. You can also sign up to receive e-mails about ARTS meetings, events and public notices. Visit the website today. We welcome your feedback at any time.

### *Tips to Save Gas and Reduce Air Pollution*

- ~Walk, bike, take a bus or carpool when possible*
- ~ Combine errands into one trip*
- ~ Avoid revving or idling engine over 30 seconds*
- ~ Use air conditioning only when necessary*



**Augusta Planning and Development Department**  
525 Telfair Street  
Augusta, GA 30901

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE

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AUGUSTA, GA  
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### UPCOMING ARTS MEETINGS

**Joint Special TCC and CAC Policy Committee Meeting** March 5, 2015, 10:30 AM

ARTS committee meetings are held on the 2nd Floor of the Municipal Building at 530 Telfair Street, Augusta, GA. Please call (706) 821-1796 to verify the time and location.

### Augusta Regional Transportation Study Contacts

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**Transit Planner** Vacant

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**Visit Us at the Web!**

**<http://www.augustaga.gov/arts>**