

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry Moore - ACC Planning Department
David Ballard – Athens Transit System
Anie Bassey – GDOT – Planning Office
Wayne Provost – Oconee Co Strategic & Long Range Planning Dept.
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System
Linda Fortson – Madison County Planning Department
Steve Decker – ACC Traffic Engineering
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works
Ron Hamlin – UGA Campus Transit
Cornelius Davis – Federal Highway Administration
Sandy Thursby – Oconee County Public Works
Emil Beshara – Oconee County Public Works
B.R. White – Oconee County Planning Dept.
Robert Mahoney – GDOT District I

Others Present: Corbin Davis – Federal Highway Administration
George Rodriguez – Oconee County Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2009 TCC meeting. Mr. Bassey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL AMENDED FY 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore informed the committee that there was additional carryover funding available from FY 2009 that can be moved into the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Therefore, MACORTS needs to add \$47,248.02 in federal funds to the FY 2010 UPWP. She explained that most of the elements in the document were increased slightly.

Mr. Hamlin made a motion to recommend approval of the Amended Draft FY 2010 UPWP. Mr. White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED LOCAL FUNDING COMMITMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore explained that there were no changes in the text of the individual elements made since the Draft was shown last year. She noted that the proposed local match amounts have been shown more clearly on the project pages. The additional funds that were added to the FY 2010 UPWP have been added to the FY 2011 UPWP in anticipation of it being carried forward into FY 2011 from FY 2010. Therefore, the federal funds in the FY 2011 UPWP have increased to \$327,248.02, with the local match increasing to \$81,812.01 for a total \$409,060.03.

Ms. Moore reminded the committee that GDOT had pulled the state match out of the PL grant that funds MPO planning activities. Therefore, the local match required has doubled from 10% to 20%. Mr. Griffin explained that Athens-Clarke County has traditionally paid the 10% match, but it has been proposed that the burden of the additional local match be shared between the member counties of MACORTS to allow for the MPO's budget to be fully funded. Table II has been added to show the proposed breakdown of the local match between the counties for the PL transportation planning grant with 13% paid by Athens-Clarke County, 3.5% paid by Oconee County, and 3.5% paid by Madison County.

Mr. Provost expressed some concern that Oconee County would have to commit to providing their portion of the local match before their local budget is approved for FY 2011. Mr. Griffin explained that Athens-Clarke County typically has the same issue and must commit annually to provide for this funding in the pending budget cycle. Mr. Griffin offered himself or Ms. Moore to come speak to the Oconee County Board of Commissioners if they require more information to consider this change in funding. Mr. Griffin also shared that there is a conference call scheduled with the Federal Highway Administration tomorrow to discuss the possibility of using in-kind match to cover a portion of the required local match. As information is available, it will be provided to TCC members regarding this possibility.

Mr. Davis mentioned that he would be sending his comments on the FY 2011 UPWP next week.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the Final Draft FY 2011 UPWP to go to Policy Committee. Mr. Provost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDED MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore informed the committee that the Participation Plan contained a circular reference now that the Georgia Department of Transportation has changed their guidelines for public participation. The Plan referred to following the GDOT guidelines in matters of the length of public comment periods and meetings to be held. The GDOT guidelines now defer to the Participation Plan of each Metropolitan Planning Organization. Therefore, MACORTS needs to codify what will be done for administrative modifications and formal amendments. For a full update or formulation of

the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a 30- day comment period will be conducted with at least 1 public meeting held. For amendments to either the TIP or LRTP, a 15-day comment period will be conducted with one public meeting held.

Mr. Ballard made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft Participation Plan to go to the public for 45 days of public review. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2010-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD ARRA2 PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore informed the committee that last week staff was informed that there was potential for another federal stimulus bill for transportation, the Jobs for Main Street Act. The main difference between the potential bill and its predecessor is the requirement that 50% of these funds be ‘under contract’ 90 days from the signing of the bill. GDOT has identified one project in our area that they believe could be under contract within 90 days of the signing of the bill. This project would consist of repaving US 441/SR 15 from the SR 10 Loop to just south of Newton Bridge Road. GDOT has asked us to go ahead and amend it into the TIP in anticipation of the stimulus bill. Since this is a new project being added to the TIP, this will be an amendment requiring a 30-day public comment period according to our current Participation Plan.

The comment period for this TIP Amendment and the comment period for the Participation Plan update will run concurrently. Both periods would begin on February 22nd. However, the TIP amendment comment period would end on March 23rd. We would conduct one joint public meeting in Athens on March 16 from 4-6 pm.

Mr. Beshara asked how projects were selected by GDOT. Mr. Mahoney responded that projects had to meet criteria similar to the last group of stimulus projects, ie being ‘shovel ready’, but he emphasized that the Districts did not select projects. Mr. Beshara expressed some concern that Oconee County had not received any information regarding the status of their proposed stimulus projects. Mr. Mahoney stated that he would consult with the GDOT Planning Office and follow-up with Mr. Beshara after the meeting. Mr. Clark inquired as to how the US 441 repaving project was chosen for funding, as it is not a high priority project locally. Mr. Mahoney had to defer that answer to the Office of Planning. He agreed to research with them and get the information for distribution to TCC. Mr. Clark and Mr. Beshara expressed their frustration with the lack of coordination between GDOT and the locals in terms of project selection and solicitation.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft Amendment to FY 2010-2013 the Transportation Improvement Program to include ‘Jobs for Main Street Act’ project. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Provost, on behalf of Mr. Pittard, Chairman of Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners, asked for some information regarding the status of the Lexington Road Widening. Mr. Griffin reminded the group that the project was moved to the unfunded

section of the LRTP as a matter of fiscal constraint and local priorities of Athens-Clarke County. Mr. Provost stated that he would be in contact with Mr. Pittard to clarify the situation for him.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mahoney – GDOT District 1

Mr. Mahoney informed the committee that the Preliminary Field Plan Review (PFPR) for the Park and Ride project is scheduled for February 10, 2010. The Danielsville Road Widening project is in the process of being closed-out.

Mr. Clark – Transportation & Public Work Department

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Mahoney to follow-up on the status of the county contract for the Fowler Mill Road project. He noted that the PFPR for the Park and Ride project is set for next week. The challenge with this project will be determining what can be accomplished with the limited funding available for the project. The close-out for the Danielsville Road project will be on January 28, 2010.

Mr. White – Oconee County Planning Department

Mr. White informed the committee that the auditors presented their results and favorable review of Oconee County's finances.

Mr. Emil Beshara – Oconee County Public Works

Mr. Beshara inquired as to the status of the LARP program, specifically a section of Rocky Branch Road that Oconee County will have to do emergency repairs upon soon. Mr. Mahoney assured Mr. Beshara that the project is still on the list but the contractor sets the schedule. There was a communication difficulty cited for letters soliciting projects for LARP and how they are distributed to the counties.

Mr. McDuffie – Athens-Transit Systems

The four 40 ft. buses ATS purchased through the first ARRA bill will be delivered in 14-18 months from now. The cost will be about \$1.6 million.

Mr. Hamlin – UGA Transit Systems

UGA got an earmark for buses from the Federal government for FY 2009 to hire a consultant to help with the process. Hopefully, we will be able to order new buses in July 1, 2010.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010. Mr. Griffin reminded the committee that Policy Committee meetings will be held in Danielsville this calendar year.