

MACORTS Policy Committee

Danielsville Government Annex

Public Meeting Room

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Anthony Dove, Madison County
Heidi Davison, Athens-Clarke County
Melvin Davis, Oconee County
Lucy Rowland, ACC Citizen Representative
Frank Watson, Oconee County Citizen Representative
Phil Munro, Madison County Citizen Representative (Alternate)
Matthew Fowler, GDOT – Planning

Others Present: Brad Griffin, ACC Planning
Sherry Moore, ACC Planning
Iris Cleveland, ACC Planning
Wayne Provost, Oconee Co Strategic and Long Range Planning
Anie Basse, GDOT – Planning
Ellison Fidler, BikeAthens
Joseph Walter, Mayor of Watkinsville
Linda Fortson, Madison County Planning

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2009 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

III. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED AT TCC MEETINGS / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

There was no public comment received at these meetings.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL AMENDED FY 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. Moore informed the committee that there was additional carryover funding available from the 2009 fiscal year. Therefore, \$47,248.02 in federal funds was added to the FY 2010 UPWP. Most of the elements of the document were increased slightly. No public comment is required for this action. This committee's approval is all that is required.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the Final Amended FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED LOCAL FUNDING COMMITMENTS

Ms. Moore explained to the committee that there were no changes in the text of the individual elements have been made since the Draft was shown last year. Changes have been made to the way the funding was shown on each element and the overall tables in the back of the document. 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 2011 from FY 2010. Therefore, the federal funds in the FY 2011 UPWP have increased to \$327,248.02; local match increased to \$81,812.01 for a total \$409,060.03.

Ms. Moore reminded the committee that GDOT has pulled the state match out of the PL grant that funds MPO planning activities. Therefore, the local match required has increased from 10% to 20%. Athens-Clarke County had traditionally paid the 10% match, but it had 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. The funding tables attached to each element have been expanded to show the amounts that have been proposed to be paid by each county. Table II has been added to show the proposed breakdown of the local match between the counties for the PL transportation planning grant.

MPO staff recently received information from FHWA that in-kind match could be allowed to match a portion of these funds. If in-kind match is proposed, it will have to be incorporated into the FY 2011 UPWP line items. MACORTS interpretation of what FHWA described as allowable in-kind match included such expenses as MPO office space and staff time of other county personnel. Any proposal for using in-kind match must be approved in advance by FHWA; therefore, if we are directed by this body to pursue that option, it is recommended that this item be tabled until the particulars of what will be allowed and how much of the local match is anticipated to be covered by in-kind match.

After some discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion to table the Draft FY 2011 UPWP and pursue the in-kind match option to the extent possible. Ms. Davison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT AMENDED MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN

We realized recently that our Participation Plan contained a circular reference after GDOT changed their guidelines for public participation. The MACORTS plan referred to following the GDOT guidelines in matters of the length of public comment and meeting to be held. Their guidelines now refer to whatever is in the Participation Plan of the MPO. Therefore, we had to spell out what we would do in matters of an

administrative modification and a true amendment. For a full amendment or update/formulation of the TIP or LRTP, a 30 day comment period will be conducted with at least one public meeting held. For administrative modifications, the items have to go through TCC and PC for notification then a letter is sent to the state and federal agencies (no change here because that is mandated federally). For amendments to either the TIP or LRTP, staff recommends a 15 day comment period with one public meeting held.

Ms. Davison made a motion to approve the Draft MACORTS Participation Plan to go the public for a 45-day public comment period. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

There is potential for another federal stimulus bill for transportation – ‘Jobs for Main Street Act’. The main difference between this potential bill and its predecessor is the requirement that 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. Putting this project in the TIP is considered an amendment that requires a 30-day public comment period according to our current Participation Plan.

Since we are having a comment period for the Participation Plan update, we are proposing beginning the comment periods at the same time. Both periods would begin on February 22. However, the TIP amendment comment period would end on March 23rd. One joint public meeting in Athens would be conducted on March 16 from 4-6pm. This will come back for approval by Policy Committee at the April 14th meeting.

Ms. Davison made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2010-2013 TIP to include the ‘Jobs for Main Street Act’ project. Ms. Rowland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Davis asked the committee to consider directing the TCC to reexamine the deletion of the Lexington Road Widening project from the 2035 LRTP. He explained that the Chairman of Oglethorpe County, Mr. Billy Pittard, had contacted him regarding the regional impact of the deletion of project. After some discussion, Ms. Davison reminded the committee that the Lexington Road Widening project is not a priority for Athens-Clarke County. If the desire exists to bring this project into the LRTP, Ms. Davison expressed her hopes that all of the MACORTS counties would be willing to reprogram their projects to enable the addition.

Mr. Davis made a motion to send the reexamination of the Lexington Road Widening Project to TCC. Ms. Davison seconded the motion. Staff was instructed to invite Mr.

Pittard to the TCC meeting during which this item will be discussed. The vote was unanimous.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be March 10, 2010.