

MACORTS Policy Committee
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – Auditorium
120 W. Dougherty Street - Athens
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Anthony Dove, Madison County Chairman
Melvin Davis, Oconee County Chairman
Nancy Denson, Athens-Clarke County Mayor
Bob Sanders, Oconee Co. Citizen Representative
Lucy Rowland, Athens-Clarke Co. Citizen Rep
Phil Munro, Madison Co. Citizen Representative
Kyle Mote, GDOT Planning

Others Present: Brad Griffin, ACC Planning
Sherry McDuffie, ACC Planning
Cherie Varnum, ACC Planning
Wayne Provost, Oconee LR & Strategic Planning
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit
David Ballard, Athens Transit
Tom Caiafa, GDOT Planning
Kim Coley, GDOT-District 1
Russ Page, Oconee County Citizen
David Clark, ACC Transportation Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Denson called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 8, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. Denson asked if any of the public present at the meeting wished to address the Board. None did. No comments were received at the TCC meeting or the Planning Commission meeting.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2016 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie reviewed changes made to the UPWP since the last time the committee reviewed the document. These included additional discussion about

the LRTP vision and goals and Planning Emphasis Areas from FHWA to applicable work elements and the Introduction, percentages added to the funding tables, and the addition of Table V. Element 1.2 included a decrease in funding of \$217.34. Element 1.4 included an additional note that any item with a unit price of over \$5,000 will need to be approved by FHWA in addition to GDOT.

Ms. Rowland made a motion to recommend approval of the Final Draft FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Dove seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 15 MACORTS TITLE VI PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained that MPOs and transit agencies are now required to annually submit a Title VI Plan to GDOT's Intermodal Office and the Federal Transit Administration. She stated that MPO staff had coordinated with GDOT staff to ensure the plan meets the requirements for MPOs and Title VI compliance required to retain eligibility for federal funding. Ms. Rowland questioned if the information is on the website. Ms. McDuffie stated the information will be posted on the website once the document is approved. She also stated that there is a section on the website now where you can receive the Title VI policy and it will be emailed to you directly in English or Spanish. This information will be enhanced with the approval of the Title VI plan. She stated the LEP Plan and Participation plan are also currently on the website.

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the Final Draft FY15 MACORTS Title VI Plan for submission to Georgia Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2015 – 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR US 441 / SR 24 SOUTH WIDENING PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment involves bringing \$1,000,000 in preliminary engineering funds into FY 2015 for the US 441 South Widening project. She clarified since this is an amendment it will require a 15-day public comment period. She reviewed the proposed schedule.

Mr. Davis made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft Amendment to the FY 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Plan to add the US 441 / SR 24 South Widening project's preliminary engineering phase into FY 2015 in the amount of \$1,000,000 to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Mote seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rowland asked about proposed changes to the state Transportation Funding Bill currently in process. Mr. Provost explained some aspects of the current bill as it has been proposed. Ms. Denson stated counties are concerned about the possible loss of revenues and school system SPLOST projects due to the proposed changes in the bill. Ms. Rowland questioned about the school system being affected by the changes. Ms. Denson stated the taxes on the school SPLOST projects that are in place now will continue to go to those projects until they are finished. However, future school SPLOST projects would lose that portion of taxes previously received. Mr. Davis also expressed concerned about the possibility of reclassification of sales tax as excise tax and the effect the changes could have on local employment and transportation. Mr. Dove stated concern about the effect the Bill could have on appropriated funds for building projects within their school district. There was some discussion about the bill and the possible effect on the counties.

It was announced to the group that Russell McMurry had been named as the new GDOT Commissioner.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 am. The next scheduled meeting is March 11, 2015.