

## **MACORTS Policy Committee**

Danielsville Government Annex

Public Meeting Room

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

10 a.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Anthony Dove, Madison County  
Heidi Davison, Athens-Clarke County  
Melvin Davis, Oconee County  
Lucy Rowland, ACC Citizen Representative  
Wayne Provost, Oconee County Citizen Representative (Alternate)  
Phil Munro, Madison County Citizen Representative (Alternate)  
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT – Planning (Alternate)

**Others Present:** Brad Griffin, ACC Planning  
Sherry Moore, ACC Planning  
Iris Cleveland, ACC Planning  
Anie Basse, GDOT – Planning  
Joseph Walter, Mayor of Watkinsville  
David Clark, ACC Transportation & Public Works  
David Ballard, Athens Transit System  
Robert Mahoney, GDOT District 1, Gainesville  
Kim Coley, GDOT District 1, Gainesville  
George Rodriguez, Oconee County Citizen

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

### **II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Davis 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 DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2010-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO ADD US 441 REPAVING PROJECT**

Ms. Moore explained that the ‘Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010’ was signed into law on March 18, 2010; therefore, the funding should be available. There were no comments made during the in 30-day comment period. Three people attended the Athens public comment meeting, but no comments were submitted.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2010-2013 TIP to add the US 441 repaving project to be funded with 'Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010' funds. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT LUMP SUM IN THE FY 2010 – 2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Ms. Moore explained that GDOT has requested the modification of the Transportation Enhancement lump sum page to show FY 10 funds in both Preliminary Engineering and Construction line items. The funds will be used for the Butler's Crossing Sidewalk project in Oconee County. Since the overall funding amount has not changed, this can be done as an administrative modification. No public involvement will be required, and this item will not come back to Policy Committee.

Ms. Davison made a motion to approve the administrative modification of the Transportation Enhancement Lump Sum page of the FY 10-13 TIP to split the funding between the PE and Construction line items. Ms. Rowland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VI. REPORT ON TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION REGARDING LEXINGTON ROAD WIDENING PROJECT**

Mr. Griffin addressed the committee about Chairman Pittard (Oglethorpe County) attending the last Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) meeting at the request of the Policy Committee. Chairman Pittard explained that the Lexington Road Widening would be beneficial to his county and the region, with or without the adjacent Bypass project around Crawford and Lexington. Mr. Griffin explained that the TCC membership reached consensus that the project is viable, but there are no additional funds in the Long Range Transportation Plan that could be used for the project. The TCC agreed not to make a formal recommendation to Policy Committee until any opportunities for funding the project could be explored.

Mr. Davis asked for the estimated project cost for the Lexington Road Widening. Mr. Griffin informed him that the whole project is \$50 – \$60 million. The portion that would fall within the MPO would be smaller than that, but the exact amount is unknown at this time because the project description has changed considerably since the cost estimates were completed. Mr. Davis also inquired about whether or not Oglethorpe County could be included in the MPO area after the 2010 Census. Mr. Griffin responded that a portion of Oglethorpe County was very close to having the population density necessary to be added to the MPO in the 2000 Census; therefore, it is possible that they could be added this time.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. UPDATE OF FY 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND USE OF IN-KIND MATCH**

Ms. Moore informed the committee on the status of the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. The in-kind match proposal has been submitted and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The Athens' MPO was the first submittal in the state using in-kind match for the FY 2011 PL Contract to be approved. Ms. Moore and Mr. Griffin thanked the committee for their contributions to the proposal. The Final FY 2011 UPWP will be brought forward to the committee at the meeting scheduled for May 12.

Mr. Griffin asked the Policy Committee members to consider assigning one contact person from their county that would serve as a liaison to Ms. Moore once it is time to begin administration of the FY 2011 PL Contract on a quarterly basis.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Davis inquired about the second round of ARRA Federal Stimulus funding. He wanted to understand the process used to generate the list of potential projects and to select projects from that list to fund. Mr. Davis expressed his frustration that Oconee County was not awarded any of the ARRA funding and that finding information regarding how the determinations were made has been exceedingly difficult. Mr. Mitchell offered to speak to Mr. Davis about his concerns and get answers to all of his questions promptly after the meeting today.

Ms. Davison informed the committee about the American Public Transit Association's University Communities Conference that was held at the Classic Center in Athens, GA recently. She stated the Federal Transit Administration has encouraged agencies to incorporate more bike and pedestrian projects. The US Department of Transportation has, likewise, issued guidance that strongly encourages incorporation of bike and pedestrian projects facilities into transportation projects. This could have implications on how federal transportation funds are spent in the future.

## **IX. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be May 12, 2010.