

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Thursday, April 29, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry Moore - ACC Planning Department
Iris Cleveland – 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
Phil Munro – Madison County Planning Department
Steve Decker – ACC Traffic Engineering
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works
Sandy Thursby – Oconee County Public Works
Emil Beshara – Oconee County Public Works
B.R. White – Oconee County Planning Dept.
John Devine – NEGRC

Others Present: Frank Watson – Oconee County Citizen
George Rodriguez – Oconee County Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the March 24, 2010 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore explained that the Participation Plan had a public comment period from Feb. 22 – April 9. There was only one comment submitted. The comment was provided for the committees’ consideration. No changes were made to the content of this document since this committee last saw it.

Mr. Devine asked if any of the people who attended the public meetings had any comments. Ms. Moore explained that they looked over the materials and had no comments to offer.

Mr. Provost made a motion to recommend approval of the updated MACORTS Participation Plan. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore explained the document had to be removed from the agenda due to an issue with GDOT and the anticipated FY 10 carry-forward funds. Ms. Moore said the committee would be seeing the updated UPWP in the coming weeks. There may need to be a special called meeting if the federal/state timeline dictates.

VI. REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 2011 – 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore explained that funding levels have been received from GDOT. There are only seven road projects and one bridge project funded in the TIP. There will be a 30-day required public comment period for the TIP. The proposed public comment period would be conducted from May 24 – June 24, 2010. The public meetings would be held:

Thurs, May 27, 4-6pm in Athens
Tues, June 8, 5-7pm in Oconee County
Wed, June 16, 4-6pm in Danielsville

The final document would come back to the committee at a special called meeting on June 30 (move the scheduled June 23 meeting to the 30th). Policy Committee would review the document at their July 14th meeting.

Mr. Clark inquired as to whether or not there are plans available for Olympic Drive / Peter Street interchange project. Ms. Moore will check with the District Office. Mr. Clark noted that the project sheet on Old Hull Road is in need of updating.

Mr. Beshara wanted to know why the construction on the Mars Hill Widening project had been moved to 2020. Ms. Moore confirmed that construction had been moved to 2020 according to GDOT Office of Financial Management. Mr. Bassey told Mr. Beshara that the project manager, Brad McManus, could provide more information. Mr. Bassey also encouraged Mr. Beshara to contact the Director of Planning, Todd Long.

Mr. McDuffie explained that transit had an earmark from FY08 worth \$309,000 of 5309 funding for Buses and Bus Facilities that GDOT just informed them about. He is going to attempt to gain local approval to apply for the funds before they lapse in September. This funding will need to be shown in the TIP.

Mr. Munro questioned the continued design activities on the Highway 29 Widening projects. He expressed that the Madison County does not want the projects. Madison County has transportation needs greater than these projects. Ms. Moore said that she and Chairman Dove had told GDOT the same.

Mr. Beshara expressed that he did not want to recommend approval of the document with the construction of the Mars Hill Widening project in 2020. After some discussion, Mr. Clark suggested sending the Draft FY 11-14 TIP document to Policy Committee without a recommendation. The committee members agreed.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend presentation of the Draft FY 11-14 TIP to Policy Committee with strong concerns about the funding and schedule for the Olympic Drive and Peter St. interchange and the Mars Hill Rd. Widening-Ph I projects. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The motion passed with thirteen votes for and one abstention.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Work Department

Mr. Clark will be opening bids today for the Athens West Parkway turn lanes project. This is the last sales tax project to be funded under SPLOST 2005. The currently proposed list for SPLOST 11 does not include Public Works projects except \$10 million for bike lanes and sidewalk projects. Athens-Clarke County is still waiting for authorization to purchase right-of-way for the Park and Ride project.

Mr. McDuffie – Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie explained HB 277 and noted that the Georgia Transit Association is not going to support it. He noted that it seems to be a mechanism for GDOT to get another one-cent sales tax for GDOT projects. This Bill does not provide funding for transit providers beyond MARTA. GTA is going to try to work to change it in the next legislative cycle.

Mr. Devine – NEGRC

“Bike to Work Day” will be on May 21st this year. There will be a rally on May 20 at Jittery Joe’s from 4-7 pm in Athens. This will serve as the first public meeting for the NEGRC’s Draft Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Mr. McDuffie will have a bus there so people can learn to use the bicycle racks. Two more public meetings will be held in the cities of Madison and Danielsville later in May. The meeting time and place will be announced later.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2010.