

**MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee**

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

10:00 a.m.

**Summary Minutes**

**Members Present:** Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department  
Sherry Moore - ACC Planning Department  
Anie Bassey – GDOT – Planning Office  
Wayne Provost – Oconee Co Strategic & Long Range Planning Dept.  
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System  
Ron Hamlin – UGA Campus Transit  
Steve Decker – ACC Traffic Engineering  
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works  
Sandy Thursby – Oconee County Public Works  
Emil Beshara – Oconee County Public Works  
David Ballard – Athens Transit System  
Ann-Marie Day – FHWA  
Kim Coley – GDOT Planning-District 1

**Others Present:** Kelley Whitson – FHWA  
Corbin Davis – FHWA  
Cornelius Davis – FHWA  
Frank Watson – Oconee County Citizen

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Griffin introduced Ms. Ann-Marie Day as the new FHWA representative to the committee.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

There was no public comment.

**III. APPROVAL OF MAY 26, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the May 26, 2010 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2011 - 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms Moore explained that the committee was provided a copy of the public comment received and the final draft document. She summarized the changes to the document since the TCC last saw it. They included:

- Correction of a typo in the members section
- MPO Self certification added

- Olympic Drive / Peter Street interchange on SR10 Loop project description and cost estimates were updated to reflect the changes approved to the 2010-2013 TIP last month
- Daniels Bridge Rd Extension graphic has been modified to show a little more detail
- Typo corrected in description of Mars Hill Rd Widening-Phase III in 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier
- Update of the transit funding numbers
- Summary of the public comment has been added to the document

Mr. Clark stated that the Lexington Road Widening project is not in the TIP, and announced that GDOT will be holding a public meeting for the project on July 27. He expressed his frustration with GDOT's disregard of the MPO's decision regarding this project. Mr. Clark asked that this topic be discussed further under Old Business.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of Final FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Bassey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **DISCUSSION OF LEXINGTON ROAD / US 78 WIDENING PROJECT**

The committee discussed their frustration with the Lexington Road/US 78 Widening project. A public meeting is scheduled for July 27 in Athens-Clarke County. MACORTS staff has contacted Matthew Fowler, at GDOT Planning and he did not know anything about the public meeting. Mr. Clark asked how GDOT could continue to work on this project even though it is not in the MACORTS Long Range Transportation Plan. Ms. Coley explained that the project incorporates both counties in the environmental document.

Mr. Clark commented that the Atlanta office staff's refusal to talk to the locals is fostering bad relations. Mr. Bassey replied that he would convey Mr. Clark's comments back to Atlanta. Mr. Griffin provided the FHWA members background on the history of the Lexington Road/US 78 Widening project.

Mr. Provost commented that someone higher up had to be making the decision. Mr. Davis suggested meeting with Todd Long, GDOT Planning Director, as he is the person that would have that information. Ms. Coley explained that Mr. Long instructed the District to schedule the meeting. Mr. Clark suggested that a meeting could be scheduled with Mr. Long after the August 16th HB277 meeting in Athens at the Regional Commission office.

Ms. Day noted that as long as the project is not federally funded, FHWA would not have any input. However, she explained that the project would hit a roadblock at FHWA Environmental when it gets there because the project is not in the MACORTS LRTP.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### Mr. Beshara – Oconee County Public Works

The right-of-way phase of Mars Hill Road Widening Project is still at the Federal Highway Administration awaiting approval. Oconee Connector Extension is proceeding well. The traffic has switched to the southbound lanes just north of SR316 and up the Jennings Mill Road alignment.

The Daniels Bridge Road turning lanes from Mars Hill Rd. to Founders Blvd have been completed. There will be traffic lights, a center turn lane, and sidewalks through a Public/Private partnership with Springhill Suites Marriott and QuikTrip. This is an in-house project.

### Mr. Clark – Athens-Clarke County Public Works

The Athens West Parkway turning lane project at Mitchell Bridge Road will begin Tuesday, July 6, 2010.

### Mr. Bassey – GDOT Planning

The Preconstruction status meeting is scheduled for July 19 at 8 a.m. in Gainesville.

## **VII. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2010.