

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Anie Bassey – GDOT – Planning Office
Wayne Provost – Oconee Co Strategic & Long Range Planning Dept.
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System
Robert Mahoney – GDOT Planning-District 1
Steve Decker – ACC Traffic Engineering
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works
Linda Fortson – Madison County Planning
John Devine – NEGRC
David Ballard – Athens Transit System
Kim Coley – GDOT Planning-District 1
Iris Cleveland – ACC Planning Department

Others Present: George Rodriguez – Oconee County Citizen
Joseph Walter – Oconee County Citizen
Blake Aued – Athens Banner Herald
John Huie – Flagpole

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 30, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the June 30, 2010 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS TO FY 2011 – 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained that the project sheet for the Olympic Drive / Peter Street interchange project was modified to show construction moved from 2012 to 2013. The construction cost and utility cost have increased from \$15,167,919 to \$15,742,244 and \$692,224 to \$719,913 respectively. The revenue summary sheet was updated as well. As an administrative modification, no public comment period is required.

Mr. Mahoney added that this project is moving into the right-of-way acquisition phase.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of administrative modifications to the FY 11-14 TIP. Mr. Mahoney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained to the committee that the MPO was recently informed of a requirement to have a Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) to show that it takes the appropriate steps to accommodate those who do not speak, write, read, or understand English. The USDOT has established a framework to evaluate what is considered to be 'reasonable steps' that organizations should take to make sure that LEP persons are not excluded from the process or denied service simply because they do not speak English.

MPO staff wrote this plan in consultation with the Athens Transit System. Both agencies are required to have an LEP Plan so it made sense to write one plan for both agencies. Since this is a new plan, a 30-day public comment period is required. The public involvement schedule was provided to the committee. There will be one public meeting in Athens on Oct. 5 from 5-7pm. The public notice for this meeting will be printed in English and Spanish in all three newspapers.

Mr. Provost wanted to know if the document is on the website. Ms. McDuffie explained that once it is approved to go to the public, the document will be placed on the website.

Mr. Griffin expressed his appreciation to Ms. McDuffie and the Athens Transit System staff for their work on the Limited English Proficiency Plan.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft LEP Plan for review by the public. Mr. Devine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING HB 277 / T-SPLOST DRAFT CRITERIA COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. McDuffie explained that GDOT is soliciting comments on the Draft Criteria until September 30, 2010. She asked members to submit comments to be relayed to GDOT from the MPO by Sept.15.

The committee discussed the role of the MPO in the process of HB 277. Some of the members wanted to know, with the new funding source, if the projects would have to follow federal regulations and guidelines. Mr. Mahoney stated that in the regions where there is a MPO, federal regulations and guidelines would have to be followed. Mr. Clark stated that if a project falls within the MPO boundary, the roundtable could force the MPO to put the project in the Long Range Plan. Mr. Mahoney noted that the state could use the funds to match federal funds. Ms. McDuffie recounted a conversation with Mr. Matthew Fowler, Assistant Planning Administrator-GDOT. The Federal Highway Administration will not consider HB 277 as a new funding source until the voters have approved it.

Mr. McDuffie stated that Georgia Transit Association will be providing input on the bill. There is potentially to do great things in the transit world with these funds.

September 8, 2010 will be statewide Transit Day. The event, hosted by the Regional Commission, will give the public a chance to learn how important transit is in their world. There will be some informational webinars to inform the public about transit. HB 277 may be the only opportunity transit systems have for new funding in the next ten years.

The committee agreed comments regarding HB277 would be appropriately submitted in a letter from the Policy Committee. The committee agreed to have all the comments submitted to Ms. McDuffie by September 1.

Note: Transit Day has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2010.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Clark – Athens-Clarke County Public Works

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Mahoney for an update on the status of the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) program. Mr. Mahoney stated that he did not know how soon projects will be selected. He will email Mr. Clark the LMIG timeline.

Mr. McDuffie – Athens Transit System

With school starting last week, we provided 47,000 rides in 5 days. However, ridership was down about 3,000 trips or 3% from last year. Mr. McDuffie thinks it might be due to the two new dormitories and the parking deck that UGA built. Mr. McDuffie also noted that Hickory Street is scheduled to be closed due to cell tower work on Saturday.

Mr. Mahoney – GDOT Planning-District 1

The right-of-way for Phase 1 of the SR 53 / Mars Hill project has been authorized. This project has been split into three phases. Mr. Mahoney has to get with Mr. Clark to get the Old Hull Road project back up and running again. GDOT held public meetings on the Lexington Road / US 78 Widening Project. Attendance was estimated at about 60 people at each meeting. Mr. Mahoney discussed several projects in Madison County. Right-of-way is being purchased for the bridge project on SR 191 over Skull Shoal Creek. Construction is expected late in FY 2011 or FY 2012. Right-of-way is also being purchased for the SR 72 project. Construction could start in FY 2012 or FY 2013.

Mr. Provost – Oconee County Strategic & Long Range Planning Dept

The Oconee Connector is proceeding on or ahead of schedule. An unintended consequence of the project is that a couple of roads will have to be renamed. Oconee County will have to reassign addresses throughout the corridor. They are working in advance with the businesses so they have time to notify their vendors and clients of the address change.

Mr. Devine – Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

On September 8, the Regional Commission will host the statewide Transit Day from 1-3 pm at the Athens Area Council on Aging. They will have a webinar from 1-1:30 pm.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22, 2010.