

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday August 27, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: BR White - Oconee Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Dalton - ACC Planning Department
David Ballard - Athens Transit System
Tom Caiafa – GDOT – Planning Office
Kim Coley – GDOT District 1
Wayne Provost - Oconee Strategic & LR Planning Dept.
Ron Hamlin – UGA Campus Transit System
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works
Steve Decker - ACC Traffic Engineering
Emil Beshara - Oconee Public Works
Dale Hall - ACC Planning Commission
Pamela Thompson - ACC Downtown Development Authority
Blaine Williams – ACC Manager’s Office

Others Present: Kyle Mote - GDOT Planning Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He explained that Mr. Griffin was sick; therefore, he was asked to chair the meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 23, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the July 23, 2014 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2015 – 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND FY 2015 ADDENDUM TO 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reviewed information about the final draft TIP and the public comment received during the comment period of July 7 – August 5, 2014. She also reviewed the changes made to the FY 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FY 2015 Addendum to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) since the last TCC meeting.

Mr. Beshara asked who requested the changes to the Daniells Bridge Road projects, and Ms. McDuffie stated that GDOT and the Chairman requested revisions. Ms. McDuffie asked if there needed to be additional discussion about the changes. Mr. Beshara stated the Oconee County Board of Commissioners is in the process of reviewing all Oconee County MACORTS projects and he

would provide her with Oconee County's desired project list. Ms. McDuffie indicated the changes by the Oconee Board of Commissioners would impact the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan as well as the FY15-18 Transportation Improvement Plan. Ms. McDuffie verified that no further changes needed to be made at this time. Mr. Beshara agreed.

Mr. Hamlin verified that he sent revised University of Georgia transit financial information to Ms. McDuffie and she concurred. Ms. McDuffie also stated the revised information is in the current draft of the 2040 LRTP for public comment.

Mr. Caifia recommended approval of Final Draft FY 15 – 18 TIP and FY 15 Addendum to 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2015 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the amendment would add FY 14 leftover federal funds in the amount of \$360,403.90 to FY 15 UPWP. All line items were increased. Elements 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 4.11 were updated. Tables 2 and 3 were updated with new hourly rates for those providing in-kind hours.

Ms. McDuffie explained that Element 4.11 Long Range Transportation Plan had been increased significantly due to extensive revisions that will be required to the LRTP once the new Federal regulations are in effect. A consultant will be hired for this process. Mr. Clark asked for clarification that the Draft 2040 LRTP is in compliance with the current regulations; however, it does not meet the future regulations that will be in place in the next few months. Ms. McDuffie concurred and stated we are currently working with FHWA on their suggestions and concerns for the 2040 LRTP. She stated there will be some changes made to the LRTP during the public review period. Ms. McDuffie stated that the proposed timeline is still in effect for completion and approval of the plan by October 8, 2014.

Ms. McDuffie stated no public comment period is required for the UPWP. The revisions are taken to Policy Committee for their vote.

Mr. Clark recommended approval of the Amended Draft FY 2015 UPWP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamlin. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Clark stated that the construction of the Mitchell Bridge Road widening project would begin in the next couple of weeks. He stated the roundabout project for Tallassee Road / Whitehead Road would be awarded in early October.

Oconee County Public Works Department

Mr. Beshara stated they had the preconstruction conference for Mars Hill Road Widening, Phase I yesterday, and GDOT has not issued a Notice to Proceed. He also stated that last night the Oconee County BOC awarded a design contract for the extension of Parkway Blvd. (located behind Kohl's on Epps Bridge Parkway). He stated they were almost complete with the design concept for

signalization and additional turn lanes to the intersection of Mars Hill Road / Rocky Branch Road / Virgil Langford Road / Jimmy Daniel Road intersection. He stated there would be several pieces of ROW affected with this project (which will be completed locally).

Mr. Beshara discussed the Project Framework Agreements (PFAs) that Oconee County received from GDOT in reference to three projects that have been in MACORTS for a long time –Daniell’s Bridge Road widening, Jimmie Daniell / Jimmy Daniel Road widening, and the Daniell’s Bridge Road Extension. Mr. Beshara stated the Oconee County Board BOC declined to sign any of the PFAs. Additionally, the Oconee BOC will work with the Citizen Advisory Committee on Land Use & Transportation to review all of the projects within MACORTS. There was some discussion about projects in MACORTS. Mr. Beshara stated he expects changes in scope and description of the projects selected by the Oconee BOC after the review. Mr. Provost stated the Oconee BOC review of MACORTS projects will help the board to verify which projects need to remain in the Plan. Ms. McDuffie asked if the changes from the Oconee BOC will come after the approval of the LRTP, and Mr. Beshara stated that was correct. He stated it might be months before changes are needed to MACORTS documents.

Mr. Beshara asked who makes the request for a change in project scope or schedule. Ms. McDuffie stated she does not see the origins or history of requested changes to projects. She stated she is not involved in the schedule change process. Mr. Mote stated that changes are usually based on funding availability and project progress, which is up to the Director of Planning, Toby Carr. He sets the budget every year for the entire department for the next four years and by law it is his decision. Mr. Beshara asked Ms. McDuffie to notify him directly whenever a request for changes comes from an entity representing themselves as the local government for changes along with who requests the change and the nature of the change. Ms. McDuffie stated again that she does not see any of those requests. Change requests come to the MPO from GDOT without background or history. Mr. Beshara questioned the content and timing of the three Oconee PFAs. Ms. McDuffie stated that she is not involved in the PFA process. Ms. Coley stated the PFA’s are requested by the GDOT project manager in coordination with the local government.

Mr. Mote stated that Brandon Kirby is the project manager and contact for project information. Mr. Mote asked if the Oconee PFA projects contain federal funding for PE Oversight. Mr. Beshara stated all three projects have federal funds for PE oversight. Mr. Mote stated his understanding that a PFA has to be executed for PE, ROW and Construction before they can authorize PE. He stated Mr. Beshara would need to speak with Brandon Kirby for verification. Mr. Mote also referenced the recent conference call with Mr. Kirby and Chairman Davis and Mr. Beshara that discussed the process for the State to take over the ROW for a project would involve a formal written request to Toby Carr. Mr. Beshara expressed strong concerns about the proposed timeline for the Oconee PFAs. He asked why ACC did not receive a PFA for the Jimmie Daniell Road / Jimmy Daniel Road widening. Ms. Coley stated that decision was made above the project manager as to the timing of the PFAs.

VIII. ADJOURN

The next scheduled TCC meeting will be a special called meeting on October 1. There will not be a meeting on Sept. 24. The meeting adjourned at 10:43.

The Policy Committee meeting will be held on Wed, Sept 10, 2014.