

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Steve Decker - ACC Transportation and Public Works
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office
Stephen Bailey - ACC Transportation and Public Works
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works
Guy Herring - Oconee County Planning Department
Victor Pope - ACC Transit Department
Ryan Walker - GDOT, Intermodal Programs
Frank Stephens - ACC Public Utilities Department
Virginia Hamilton - UGA Campus Transit Alternate
Sue Ann Decker – GDOT District

Others Present: Lee Becker - Oconee County citizen
Pat Hale – ACC Transit Department
Ann-Marie Day – FHWA
Rachel Hatcher – RS&H

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:08 am. He announced that Don Walter, UGA Campus Transit, has retired and Todd Berven will be the interim director. Ms. McDuffie took roll of members and guests.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 22, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Woodall made a motion to approve minutes of the July 22, 2020 meeting. Ms. Hamilton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN: ADD SR 10 LP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE AND SR 316 AT JIMMIE DANIEL ROAD INTERCHANGE & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this is the final review of the amendments to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The amendments would remove the construction phases of the SR 10 LP at US 29 Interchange project and the SR 316 Frontage Road, Phase 1 in order to add the construction phase of the SR 10 Lp at Atlanta Highway and the PE and ROW phases for SR 316 at Jimmie

Daniel Rd Interchange project. She noted these amendments are necessary for the added projects to be included in the Draft 21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document. These amendments and the Draft 21-24 TIP were taken through the public involvement process together.

She noted the public comment period was held August 24 – September 22 (30 days) with a virtual public meeting on Aug 27, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. She stated there was no additional public comment received after the mail-out was sent to members.

Mr. Woodall made a motion to recommend adoption of amendments to the 2045 MTP to add the construction phase of SR 10LP at Atlanta Highway interchange and the PE and ROW phases of SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Rd Interchange to the MTP and remove the construction phases of the SR 10LP at US 29 Interchange and the SR 316 Access Road, Phase 1 from the 2045 MTP. Mr. Pope seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the TIP shows the projects, including airport and transit that are currently being funded through GDOT. The counties were given the opportunity to highlight any local transportation projects they wanted in a local section. She stated the only changes made to the document were suggestions from FHWA to connect the TIP numbers to the MTP to show the connection from projects in the MTP to the TIP. The System Performance Report was also updated to reflect conditions for the FY 21-24 TIP.

She also noted the public comment period will be held August 24 – September 22 (30 days) with a virtual public meeting to be held on Aug 27, 5:30 – 6:30. She stated there was no additional public comment received after the mail out was sent to members.

Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend approval to begin public involvement for the Draft FY 2021 – 2024 TIP document. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PRESENTATION FROM FHWA – 2020 CENSUS’ POSSIBLE IMPACT ON MACORTS

Ms. Day, FHWA – Georgia Division, presented information about the importance of the 2020 Census and how it could impact the MPO. If the urbanized area population were to exceed 200,000 per the 2020 Census, the MPO would transition to a Transportation Management Area (TMA). Ms. Day explained the additional requirements and responsibilities that the MPO would have as a TMA. She highlighted the enhanced certification review and requirements for Congestion Management Process specifically. She explained that more detailed information would be shared later if the population of the urbanized area increased beyond 200,000. Mr. Griffin thanked her for the information and asked how long the MPO would have to meet the

requirements of a TMA, if required. Ms. Day stated that after designation, the process of transition would begin immediately.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VIII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens County Transportation & Public Works

Mr. Decker stated staff is working with GDOT for the realignment of Mitchell Bridge and Timothy at Atlanta Hwy.

Athens-Clarke County Transit

Mr. Pope stated the transit system is in the second month of fall service which has continued to see a decrease in ridership. Routes have been modified to accommodate ridership.

Oconee Public Works

Mr. Woodall stated they are working through the procurement process for two roundabouts on SR 53 for Snows Mill Road/Rocky Branch Road and Rays Church/Malcolm Bridge Road. The projects are planned to be funded with federal safety funds, and staff has been working in coordination with the GDOT District 1 to meet the requirements. Staff is preparing for the annual resurfacing program.

FHWA

Ms. Day complimented the MPO on transitioning well to virtual operations. She conveyed the importance of the linkage and connection between the MTP and the TIP and showing consistency between the two products. She stated that safety is a main goal for FHWA and the importance of safety performance measures, including bike/pedestrian projects, and evaluating safety in the region along with the coordination with GDOT. Ms. Day offered her technical assistance services as the Bike/Ped Safety contact person. Mr. Bailey asked for her contact information. It was provided to him after the meeting. Resiliency is another area of focus for FHWA that will look different from MPO to MPO.

GDOT Intermodal

Mr. Walker stated the FY 2022 Call for Projects for FTA programs will begin October 1st and will use a new software, Black Cat, to complete this process. Currently, there are webinars to educate sub-recipients on use of the new software. He thanked the MPO for successfully transitioning to virtual operations.

UGA Transit

Ms. Hamilton stated they are currently processing contracts for 13 electric buses. She noted that they have experienced a decrease in ridership. She thanked the MPO for helping them with the grant process.

IX. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:44 am. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2020.