

## SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee  
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium  
Wednesday, January 22, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director  
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department  
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department  
Rani Katreeb - ACC Transportation & Public Works  
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office  
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department  
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department  
Victor Pope - ACC Schools Alternate  
Frank Stephens – ACC Transportation & Public Works  
Don Walter - UGA Transit  
Marilyn Hall - ACC Public Utilities  
Nat Kuykendall - Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission

**Others Present:** Lee Becker - Oconee County citizen  
Pat Hale - ACC Transit Department  
Ann-Marie Day - FHWA  
Tom Caiafa - GDOT Planning

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He welcomed new member, Marilyn Hall, from ACC Public Utilities to the TCC meeting.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

There was none.

### **III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the minutes from October 23, 2019 TCC meeting. Mr. Katreeb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**IV. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 18 – 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM : PM1 (SAFETY) 2020 TARGETS & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. McDuffie cited the information about safety targets sent to members for review prior to the meeting. She explained that safety targets are required to be adopted every year by February 27. She noted that in previous years the MPO, along with those throughout the state, have agreed to support the safety targets developed by GDOT. As an administrative modification to the MTP and TIP documents, public involvement beyond the MACORTS meetings is not required.

Mr. Woodall made a motion to recommend approval of the administrative modification to the 2045 MTP and 18-21 TIP to agree to support the 2020 Safety Targets as approved by GDOT. Mr. Stephens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**V. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 18 – 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM : TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020 TARGETS & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. McDuffie stated transit agencies were required to develop performance targets to be included in a Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan for transit state of good repair. GDOT developed a TAM Plan that includes the small urban systems in Georgia. Athens Transit Department agreed to support the targets in the GDOT Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM). MACORTS was asked to reflect that support as an administrative modification to the 2045 MTP and 18-21 TIP. As an administrative modification to the MTP and TIP documents, public involvement beyond the MACORTS meetings is not required.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the administrative modification to the 2045 MTP and 18-21 TIP to agree to support the 2020 TAM Plan Targets as approved by the GDOT. Mr. Pope seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VI. REVIEW / DISCUSSION OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. McDuffie stated the Final Draft document was previously sent to board members for review. She noted the changes were highlighted for easy reference and stated the GDOT and FHWA comments were addressed in the document including: references to the Planning Emphasis Areas from FHWA were deleted since they were outdated and language was revised and/or added about the 2020 Census. The list of priorities for FY 21 was modified to include the analysis and incorporation of census data. It is anticipated that data would become available beginning toward the end of FY 21. She stated the funding levels did decrease slightly (\$349) for the Planning Transportation Grant, but there was no change in

the 5303 transportation planning grant. This amount will be deducted from Element 1.4 Equipment and Supplies.

Mr. Katreeb made a motion to recommend approval of Final Draft FY 2021 UPWP with the included changes. Mr. Pope seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **VIII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Athens-Clarke County Transit**

Mr. McDuffie stated the transit services in the area of the Lexington Road Interchange Project will be revised during the 36 month construction phase of the interchange project. Currently there are 4 buses that travel under the interchange and service The Park and Ride. The Park and Ride will be closed during this time and detours are being created to accommodate this area. Recently, Transit has received 2 more 40 ft. hybrid electric buses and replaced 5 vehicles with hybrid electric Toyota RAV 4 vehicles. The FLIX Bus, similar to the Megabus, has recently started service with the Multi-modal center and is providing four trips a day that allow access to Atlanta (the stop in Atlanta is the Civic Center area ) and Charlotte. The FLIX Bus service is popular in the Northeast and is beginning to expand its service across the Southeast. He stated the current bus services to take residents out of the Athens area are Southeastern Stages, Mega Bus and FLIX Bus.

### **Athens Clarke County Transportation & Public Works**

Mr. Katreeb stated the West Broad and Hancock roundabout concept plan is in the Preliminary Engineering phase. This project is projected to have a Notice to Proceed in 2024. The Tallassee Bridge replacement had an original Notice to Proceed projected for April; however, it will be late May or early June before that project will be ready. There are current sidewalks projects on Baxter Street and Southview Drive / Milledge Avenue intersections that will both have signal operations and pedestrian improvements. Currently staff is waiting on final coordination from GA Power and finalized plans and permits from GDOT. Future sidewalk / multi-use path concepts have been reviewed for Cherokee Road, Jefferson River Road, and Riverbend Road as options for future Mayor and Commission backed actions.

### **Oconee County Public Works**

Mr. Woodall stated that both the Mars Hill Road / Rocky Branch Road / Virgil Langford Road intersection project and the roundabout on Mars Hill Road are open to traffic. Several proposals were received for the Bishop Farms Parkway Extension. They should go the Board of Commissioners by the end of February and begin construction by the end of the

fiscal year. Staff is currently working with GDOT for potential roundabouts at SR 53 in the area of North Oconee High School and Snow's Mill Road / Ray's Mill Road.

**GDOT**

Mr. Caiafa stated the GDOT Planning Department has named Janine Miller as the New Planning Director, since Paul Tanner will retire April.

**Oconee Rivers Greenway**

Mr. Kuykendall shared the new brochure showing the greenway network with TCC members. It included changes in the East Campus Connector Bridge and new river-based pedestrian trail between College Avenue, North Avenue, and MLK. Both areas have experienced a lot of usage from pedestrians.

**IX. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am. Mr. Griffin stated the next TCC meeting is scheduled for February 26. He noted that all Policy Committee meetings are held in Athens this year with Mayor Girtz as Chair.