

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Juliane Dixon-Crump - Athens Transit System
Nat Kuykendall - Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission
Butch McDuffie - Athens Transit System
Matthew Risher - GDOT Planning Office
Sandy Weinel - Oconee County Planning Department
Emil Beshara - Oconee County Public Works
Drew Raessler - ACC Public Works
Conolus Scott - Madison County Planning Commission
Kim Coley - GDOT, District 1
Shannon Giles - GDOT, District 1

Others Present: Lee Becker - Oconee County citizen
Rachel Hatcher - RS&H
Kai Zuehlke - RS&H

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. He welcomed Mr. Kuykendall and Mr. Giles to the meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no one in attendance who wished to speak.

Mr. Griffin explained that public comment received by email was sent to members. There were no comments from the TCC members.

III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 25, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Raessler made a motion to recommend approval of the October 25, 2017, TCC minutes. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated there had been a few changes since the initial Draft Unified Planning Work Program document. She outlined the changes made as follows. The document was updated to include FY 2019 and FY 2020 funding from the Transit Planning Grant. The bylaws were updated to the most recent version, approved on October 11, 2017. The references to performance based planning compliance activities that will be required in FY 19 (ie targets for pavement and bridge condition, travel time & freight reliability, and greenhouse gasses) were incorporated into the Introduction and elements 3.5, 4.11, 4.12. It was clarified that the UPWP does not have to be taken to public review and comment. In response to FHWA review of the final draft, the priorities were ‘fleshed out’ to include the 2045 LRTP Update, safety performance measures, and the TIP update to address performance management. The associated work elements were updated accordingly.

Mr. Beshara made a motion to recommend approval of Final Draft FY 2019 UPWP. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RECEIVED & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that all MPOs must include safety performance targets for the federally-identified safety performance measures in their LRTP and TIP documents by Feb. 27, 2018. MPO’s have the option of developing their own numeric safety targets or to agree to support GDOT’s approved safety targets. Previously, the Policy Committee accepted the TCC recommendation to agree to support GDOT’s safety targets. This was taken to the public for review and comment period from November 20 – December 19, 2017. She noted copies of the original public comment and summary had been sent to the membership.

Mr. Raessler stated the addition of the safety performance targets in the LRTP & TIP is required to follow a restrictive timeline and that additional research could be possible at a later time. Mr. Griffin noted that data analysis was difficult since most data is only available at the county level and the MPO boundary does not follow county boundaries. Mr. Beshara stated that GDOT’s performance targets could be used as the baseline to allow each county to do more extensive documentation if the ability and access to information is available.

After some discussion, Mr. Raessler recommended approval of the amendments to the 2040 LRTP and 18-21 TIP to include a resolution in which MACORTS agrees to

support GDOT's safety performance targets. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW OF DRAFT PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE & PROPOSED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SCHEDULE & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated that the most recent federal regulations require an expansion of the group the MPO coordinates with when public involvement activities are required during the transportation planning process. The regulations stipulated the inclusion of the following groups: groups involved in state & local planned growth, economic development, tourism, environmental protection, airport operations, freight movement, and private providers of transportation, bike/pedestrian advocacy, disabled populations, and intercity bus operators.

She outlined other changes made to the document as follows. The cover design and format of the Table of Contents were revised. The anti-discrimination statement on the title page was revised to be consistent with the other MACORTS documents. Page 5 explicitly stated that the UPWP and future amendments do not require public involvement. Page 5 also explicitly stated that if a final draft document is significantly different than the version that went to the public for review, it will be taken back out to the public for an additional 15 days of review. The Participation Plan would require an additional 45 days per FHWA regulations. Whether a document is 'significantly' different will be determined by MACORTS staff in coordination with GDOT & FHWA. Ms. McDuffie clarified that this is not a change in policy, but it needed to be in writing for clarity and transparency in the Participation Plan.

Ms. McDuffie stated that the Draft Participation Plan is required to go out to the public for 45 days of review and comment. She reviewed the proposed timeline for public involvement.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft Participation Plan to go to the public for review and comment for 45 days. Ms. Dixon-Crump seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. REVIEW OF DRAFT FUTURE (2045) SOCIOECONOMIC DATA & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE (RS&H)

Ms. Hatcher and Mr. Zuehlke from RS&H gave a presentation detailing the 2045 socioeconomic data for submission to GDOT. There was some discussion about development and non-motorized data.

Mr. Beshara made a motion to recommend approval of the 2045 Socioeconomic Data for submission to GDOT with minor changes. Mr. Raessler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

IX. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens Transit

Mr. McDuffie stated that 12 hybrid electric buses should be in service by the first of March. These buses were funded through a State Rail & Tollway Authority (SRTA) grant.

X. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2018.