

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

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.
Robert Mahoney – GDOT Planning-District 1
Steve Decker – ACC Traffic Engineering
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works
John Devine – Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
David Ballard – Athens Transit System
Kim Coley – GDOT Planning-District 1
B.R. White – Oconee County Planning Dept.
Emil Beshara – Oconee County Public Works
Sandy Thursby – Oconee County Public Works
Ron Hamlin – University of Georgia Campus Transit System
Ann-Marie Day – Federal Highway Administration
Linda Fortson – Madison County Planning
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System

Others Present: George Rodrigues – Watkinsville
Frank Watson – Oconee County Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 27, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the October 27, 2010 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that they would be seeing the UPWP twice per year from now on. This amendment involves adding the carryover funding from the FY 2010 PL contract into the FY 2011 contract. The Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant decreased by \$0.25 also. Ms. McDuffie noted that the Spanish language publication listed in Element 2.1 had been updated to *Mundo Hispanico*. Element 1.4 was revised to include 1 traffic counter and accessories for each county instead of 2 counters after discussions with the county staff. There was no

discussion. Mr. Ballard made a motion to recommend approval of amended FY 2011 UPWP. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2012 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained that the Final Draft FY 2012 UPWP is very similar to the version that the committee saw in October. The Final Draft was written under the assumption that MACORTS would like to continue to use in-kind match in FY 2012. After an analysis of the in-kind hours used in the first half of FY 2011, it was determined that the estimates provided were fairly accurate with the exception of the traffic monitoring task in Oconee County. Therefore, 15 hours of in-kind match hours were added to the FY 2012 proposal. If the Policy Committee approves the FY 2012 UPWP with in-kind match, MACORTS will have to request permission from GDOT and FHWA to use in-kind match. The other change to the document since the October version was in Element 1.4. The proposal for 1 traffic counter and accessories replaced the one for 2 traffic counters for each county.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of the Final Draft FY 2012 UPWP. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reminded the committee that the public comment period for the Draft Amendments to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan was conducted December 6 – 20, 2010 with a public meeting held in Oconee County on December 7, 2010. A summary and the original public comment were circulated to the committee. Mr. Provost noted that the individual that made the comments about these amendments may not be aware that the Watkinsville project that connects with Simonton Bridge Road is included in the Transportation Improvement Program in the local section.

Mr. Provost made a motion to recommend approval of the Final Draft amendments to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. DISCUSSION OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION'S 'NORTHEAST GEORGIA PLAN FOR BICYCLING AND WALKING' AND COMMENT FORWARDED TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Griffin explained to the committee that this item was placed on the agenda at the request of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACC). Before the ACC government takes action on the resolution requested by the Regional Commission, they would like to hear input from MACORTS concerning the subject report.

The following is an excerpt from the summary that will be forwarded to Policy Committee. It summarizes the consensus of the Technical Coordinating Committee:

The Technical Coordinating Committee is supportive of the overall vision represented by the Northeast Georgia Plan for Bicycling and Walking; however, there were some reservations about recommending adoption of the Plan at the county level. Upon adoption of the Plan, the local government, as stated in the resolution proposed by the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, “will implement the *Northeast Georgia Plan for Bicycling and Walking* by pursuing the development of recommended bicycle and pedestrian facilities and utilizing the suggested/provided policies, tools, and programs as listed in the plan text”.

Overall, endorsement of the kind of policies presented in the Plan was supported. Adoption of the Plan would carry with it an accountability at the public and private level that the policies and projects will be implemented without delay. Unfortunately, not all of the policies proposed in the Plan are practical for implementation. For example, the school board ultimately makes the determination of school siting, and that is unlikely to change. Most of the projects in the Plan are unfunded with no clear funding source available beyond local funding, which is in high demand.

Specific to Athens-Clarke County, there was concern that there is no acknowledgement or recognition of bicycle/pedestrian planning that was done by MACORTS in the Long Range Transportation Plan or Athens-Clarke County in the Bicycle Master Plan. An unintended consequence of adoption of the Northeast Georgia Plan for Bicycling and Walking could be a lack of clarity as to which plan(s) would or should take precedence.

There was no formal action on this item.

VIII. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2011 – 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD ST 10 LOOP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie informed the committee that the Georgia Department of Transportation has requested that the FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be amended to bring the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway project into the first tier of the TIP. The right-of-way phase would move from FY 2015 to FY 2011. Funding would remain the same with construction remaining in Long Range. Ms. McDuffie explained that this would be an amendment to the TIP; therefore, a 15-day public comment period will be required. The timeline of public comment period was presented to the committee.

Mr. Clark asked if another project would be moving out to allow for the acceleration of this project. Mr. Bassey replied that no other projects would be affected by this action. Mr. Clark and other committee members questioned Mr. Bassey as to where these funds originated and why this particular project was chosen to move forward. Mr. Clark emphasized that from the local perspective there are higher priority projects that could be moved forward. Mr. Bassey

explained that he did not have this information, but he would attempt to get it before the Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Clark proposed that it would be beneficial if GDOT would contact the local governments for input on where to spend additional funding, if it becomes available in the future.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the FY 2011 – 2014 TIP to add the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway project to go to public comment contingent upon GDOT providing answers to the questions of where the additional funding came from and how the decision was made to apply those funds to this particular project. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Note: Mr. Bassey provided answers to these questions via e-mail on January 28, 2011. The following e-mail was forwarded to TCC members that attended this meeting.

“During our last TCC meeting (01-26-2011), there was an issue with the above referenced subject. The TCC members wanted to know where the money for the acceleration of project 122890 ROW from 2015 to 2011 came from and secondly why that particular project was chosen to be funded. I met with the Director of Planning-Mr. Todd Long yesterday. The issue is that, the statewide bid for construction came so low and the state decided to share the extra money among the 13th Congressional Districts. In your Congressional District (CD 10), the only project that was ready was project 122850. We (GDOT) decided to use that money to accelerate the ROW of that project from FY 2015 to 2011 to begin the process of acquiring the R/W.”

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Beshara – Oconee County Public Works

Oconee County has received RFP’s from consultants to complete the right-of-way acquisition for the Mars Hill Rd Widening – Phase I. The Board of Commissioners will be voting in early February on their consultant selection.

Mr. Clark – Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works

The new bridge that will allow access from the new Water Treatment Plant to College Station Road should be open in 30 – 45 days.

Mr. Hamlin – University of Georgia Campus Transit System

The University of Georgia will be holding classes on Saturday, January 29 and Saturday, February 12 to make up for the snow days in January; therefore, UGA Campus Transit will be providing some increased service on those days.

Mr. McDuffie – Athens Transit System

The Park and Ride lot on Lexington Road is close to moving into the right-of-way acquisition phase.

Mr. Mahoney – GDOT Planning-District 1

Mr. Mahoney updated the group on the following GDOT endeavors:

- Right-of-way appraisals for the Park and Ride lot in Athens are in review.
- Still buying right-of-way on the SR 72 project in Madison County
- The Carlton / Comer bypass project in Madison County is in the right-of-way acquisition phase.
- The position that administers the LMIG program is vacant. GDOT is hopeful that the program will move beyond gathering local submittals soon.
- The HB 277 regional roundtables have all approved the project criteria. Work is beginning on developing the unconstrained project list.
- \$5.5 million and 25,000 man hours were spent on snow and ice removal in January statewide by GDOT

Mr. Griffin made the announcement, for those who had not heard, that a long time employee had recently left the Regional Commission. Mr. Devine confirmed that Lee Carmon had left the Regional Commission after 23 years and verified that her position will be refilled.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2011.