

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, October 23, 2019
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 and Public Works
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department
Stephen Bailey - ACC Transportation and Public Works
Pate Hale - ACC Transit Department
Victor Pope - ACC Schools Transit Alternate
Amy Riddering – ACC Public Utilities Alternate
Don Walter - UGA Transit Director

Others Present: Lee Becker - Oconee County citizen
Ann Marie Day - FHWA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Woodall made a motion to approve the revised minutes from the September 25, 2019 TCC meeting. Mr. Pope seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. McDuffie made a presentation to explain the Draft 2021 UPWP document. She noted this document describes the transportation activities to be conducted from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 for MACORTS. She stated this document outlines the budget for the proposed areas of work programs into five major work elements. She reviewed the goals and each work element in the UPWP. She also noted the 5303 Transit Planning Grant funding amount was slightly adjusted.

Mr. Katreeb made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Committee of the Draft FY 2021 UPWP for submission to FHWA & GDOT for review. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VI. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens-Clarke County Transit

Mr. Pope stated transit ridership for senior citizens has had a significant increase. The FY21 5307 Capital Grant and 5339 Discretionary Grant applications continue to be processed for federal funding.

Athens-County Transportation & Public Works

Mr. Katreeb stated there were upcoming public forums about the intersection of West Broad Street and Hancock Avenue that will include proposed intersection improvements and roundabout discussion. The Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement project over CSX has a proposed construction time of March/April 2020. The proposed sidewalks for South Milledge Avenue at Baxter Street and Southview Drive are on hold due to utility coordination. There is a gap sidewalk project on West Broad Street near Camellia Drive with minor signal improvements. He also noted that the county has a new Inclusion Officer.

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 still under construction. The proposed design for the Bishop Farms Parkway Extension should start soon and will begin at the University of North Georgia entrance and continue to the other side of Bishop Farms Parkway. The contract for the Mars Hill Phase II Project has been awarded to Moreland Altobelli and will continue to move forward in 2020 with HB170 funds.

UGA Transit

Mr. Walter stated that they have 20 electric buses in production. They have a charging infrastructure station on Riverbend Road that is almost complete and could charge 40 buses. The Park and Ride continues to be successful and has an additional 200 spaces. Ridership has increased about 400,000 rides from last year.

Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Day noted the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is updated every 5 years. Once the MTP document has been approved, it is recommended to start working toward the next update 2 years out from the previously approved document. This time helps the MPO to be proactive in the process and allow for adjustments in funding. She noted the Census 2020 would help evaluate areas of growth that help determine MPO boundaries.

Greenway Commission

He stated there were two ribbon-cutting ceremonies for two projects that have recently been completed. The first project was East Campus Connector Bridge over to East Campus Performing Arts Area (SPLOST 2011). The second project was the extension of the North Oconee River Greenway trail under College Avenue along the riverside to North Avenue. (SPLOST 2018).

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:33 am. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2020.