

## SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee  
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium  
Wednesday, October 28, 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  
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department  
Ryan Walker - GDOT, Intermodal Programs  
Kim Coley – GDOT District  
Frank Stephens - ACC Public Utilities Department  
Sue Ann Decker – GDOT District

**Others Present:** Pat Hale - Athens Transit Department  
Victor Pope - Athens Transit Department  
Rani Katreeb - ACC Transportation and Public Works

### **I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order 10:05 am. Ms. McDuffie took roll of members and guests.

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

There was none.

### **III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **IV. REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. McDuffie stated the FY 2022 UPWP outlines the work that the MPO will complete during the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. She reviewed the list about major changes made to the FY 22 UPWP that was sent to members. She highlighted a few of the changes:

- Staff continued to show the incorporating/reporting performance targets throughout the document.

- The use of virtual meetings were highlighted in FY 21 and kept as an option open for FY 22.
- The update of the LEP Plan and Participation Plan are written as though they are completed. The draft version of both documents will be presented to the committee in January 2021 and should be completed at the end of FY 21 / beginning of FY 22.
- Staff noted that the committee can make any adjustments to the priorities listed in the introduction that are listed as safety, MTP/TIP, congestion management, freight, 2020 Census. No changes were made by the committee.
- Staff included requesting PL Committee (associated with GAMPO) funding for the unfunded element to hire a consultant to complete the next update of the MTP during FY 22 (Sept 2021). If awarded, the UPWP will have to be amended to show it as a funded work element and the local match shown will be required. Payment of the local match by all 3 counties would be required at 50% and 100% completion.
- The FY 22 & 23 Transit Planning Grant Amounts reflect the amount for FY 22 based on the pending grant application and an estimate of 5% increase for the FY 23 amount.

Mr. Stephens made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2022 UPWP for submission to GDOT and FHWA. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **VI. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Mr. McDuffie stated the transit system continues fall service and has been fare-free since September 10<sup>th</sup>. There has been a significant decrease in ridership (70% decrease from last year at this time and UGA ridership down by 95%). Several routes have been modified to accommodate ridership changes. The current system operating hours are 6am – 7 pm instead of 9:45pm daily. The Bus Stop Improvement Program has produced new site-specific bus stop signs, new electronic kiosks at 15 locations and new signage inside the buses and at the Multi-modal Center. The Bus Stop Improvement Program will be closing out this year in December. Over \$3.2 million dollars of bus stop improvement projects have been made under the program.

### **Athens-County Transportation & Public Works Department**

Mr. Katreeb stated the Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement project, currently in the design phase, has been delayed due to issues with utility coordination and relocation. Staff continues to work on multiple sidewalk and multi-use Athens in Motion projects. The Belmont Road Bridge replacement project is scheduled to have a let date in 2022. There are several ongoing construction

projects that include a culvert replacement project on Carriage Lane and sidewalks on Barnett Shoals Road and West Broad Street.

**Oconee Public Works Department**

Mr. Woodall stated they are in the final stages of the design and environmental updates for the Mars Hill Phase II widening project scheduled for January 2021 letting. They have awarded design services for the 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 reviewing preliminary concept work on Hog Mountain Road to include sidewalks, multi-use path, and / or possibly widen lanes to 12 ft. lanes.

**GDOT - District 1**

Ms. Decker stated the following projects are coming up soon. Project # 0013716, Athens-Clarke County, SR 10 Loop at SR 8 to include the updating of bridges and the ramps. Project #0013723 Oconee/ Greene County, SR 15 (being processed by District 2) is getting a passing lanes (section in Oconee). Staff is also in review of a quick response project on 10 Loop at Chase Street to extend the ramps.

**GDOT – Intermodal Programs**

Mr. Walker stated the FY 2022 Call for Projects for FTA programs are open and, a new program, Black Cat, will be used to apply for grants.

**VII. ADJOURN**

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am. Staff wished the committee Happy Holidays and stated the next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2021. The Policy Committee meeting will be in Oconee County next year.