

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
Madison County Government Annex – Public Meeting Room
91 Albany Avenue - Danielsville
Wed, October 9, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: John Daniell, Oconee County Chairman
Kelly Girtz, Athens-Clarke County Mayor
Alan Lapczynski, Madison County Chairman Alternate
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning Office
Sara Beresford, Athens-Clarke County Citizen

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Brad Griffin, MACORTS Staff
Beverly Davis, RS & H
Rachel Hatcher, RS & H
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit Dept
Victor Pope, Athens Transit Dept
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
Pat Hale, Athens Transit Dept
Jalen Ford, GDOT Planning
Tom Caiafa, GDOT Planning
Sara Bell, Oconee County Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Girtz called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He welcomed the new citizen representative from Athens-Clarke County, Sara Beresford, to the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 14, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Girtz made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 14th Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Daniell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

III. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED AT TCC MEETINGS / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

There was none.

IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF FINAL AMENDMENT TO FY 18 – 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: MOVE CONSTRUCTION OF SR 10 LP AT LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE TO 2020

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment will move the construction phase of the SR10 Loop at Lexington Road Interchange project from FY 25 to FY 20. The amendment was taken to the public for 15 days of public review and comment with one public meeting in Athens. Comments were shared with the committee. She noted TCC recommended adopting this amendment with no changes.

Mr. Daniell made a motion to adopt the amendment to the FY 18 – 21 TIP to move the construction of the SR 10 Loop at Lexington Road Interchange into FY 2020. Mr. Lapczynski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF FINAL 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. McDuffie noted that the summary of public comment received during the 30-day public comment period was sent to members of the committee for review. She also noted that no substantive changes had been made since the committee last reviewed the document. Mr. Girtz asked if there were any questions about the document or changes that needed to be made to the Final Draft 2045 MTP. There were none requested. She noted that TCC recommended adoption of the 2045 MTP with no further changes.

Mr. Simpson thanked the consultants (RS&H), MACORTS staff, FHWA, TCC, and Policy Committee members for all of their hard work for the completion of this document. Ms. Day stated that, as one of the first performance based MTP's in the state, it was important to work collaboratively and for FHWA to provide the assistance necessary to make the document what it should be.

Mr. Daniell made a motion adopt the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Atlanta – Charlotte Passenger Rail Project

Ms. McDuffie summarized an update from the GDOT Office of Intermodal Programs regarding the proposed passenger rail line to connect Atlanta to Charlotte. The project has taken a small step forward. GDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration have been coordinating for several years on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed alternative corridors.

GDOT released the draft EIS for 45 days of public review and comment (the last day is Nov 4th). There will be a public meeting in Atlanta on October 22, 5:30 – 8pm. She also noted that more information about this project is located on GDOT's website including all of the materials to be presented at the public meeting.

She also explained that once the public comment period is completed, GDOT will finalize the EIS report and select their preferred alternative to be examined further in the required environmental review. The draft identifies three proposed corridors to be considered. They are hopeful that they will be able to finalize the EIS report by the end of the 2019 calendar year. Funding for the next phase of environmental review has not been identified at this time.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Girtz adjourned the meeting at 10:18 am. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2019. Ms. McDuffie committed to bringing cake to that meeting.