

MACORTS Policy Committee
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – Auditorium
120 W. Dougherty Street - Athens
Thursday, November 12, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Melvin Davis, Oconee County Chairman
Nancy Denson, Athens-Clarke County Mayor
Bob Sanders, Oconee Co. Citizen Representative
Phil Munro, Madison Co. Citizen Representative
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning
Jim Anderson, Athens-Clarke Co. Citizen Representative

Others Present: Brad Griffin, ACC Planning
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Wayne Provost, Oconee LR & Strategic Planning
Darius Malone, GDOT Planning
Kim Coley, GDOT - District 1
Russ Page, Oconee County Citizen
Sarah Bell, Oconee County Citizen
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit System
Kyle Mote, GDOT Planning
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
Ratchel Hatcher, RS & H

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Denson called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the July 8, 2015 minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

There was no public comment received.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND FY 2015 – 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – US 441 SOUTH WIDENING & 3 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS ALONG SR 10 LOOP

Ms. McDuffie stated GDOT requested that MACORTS consider adding 3 bridge replacement projects to the LRTP and TIP. The bridges are structurally deficient and located along SR 10 Loop at the Middle Oconee River, North Oconee River, and SR 8 / US 29. She also explained that GDOT had informed MACORTS staff that the US 441 South Widening project is proposed to be funded entirely with state funds from HB170.

Ms. McDuffie shared the TCC recommendation to remove the US 441 South Widening project from the LRTP (but still show it in the unfunded section) which would allow \$11.8 million to be used in the LRTP for the addition of the 3 bridge replacement projects. She explained this amount would entirely fund the bridge replacements at the SR 10 Loop at the N. Oconee River and SR 8 along with the PE and ROW of the SR 10 Loop at Middle Oconee River. She also stated the construction phase of the SR 10 Loop at Middle Oconee River would be shown in the unfunded section of the LRTP.

Ms. McDuffie stated these amendments would require a 15-day public comment period. The proposed amendments and associated public comment would come back to the Policy Committee at their February 10, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to LRTP and TIP to go out for public comment. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. PRESENTATION: GDOT'S DRIVE ALERT ARRIVE ALIVE CAMPAIGN

Ms. Pope was not able to attend. The presentation will be rescheduled for a later time.

VI. OVERVIEW & UPDATE OF ATHENS TRANSIT SYSTEM'S TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY (Consultant: RS&H)

Ms. Hatcher made a presentation on the Athens Transit System's Transit Feasibility Options Study. After brief discussion, Mr. Davis requested the information pertaining to Oconee and Madison Counties be distributed to the associated Policy Committee members. Mr. McDuffie agreed to do so.

VII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF PROPOSED MACORTS REQUEST TO ACCELERATE THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SR 10 LOOP AT LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie stated that ACC representatives have been working with GDOT to get the right-of-way (ROW) plans ready for this project. The TIP currently reflects FY 2019 for ROW and FY 2021 for construction; however, ACC would like to move this project's ROW phase from FY 2019 to FY 2017.

Ms. McDuffie explained that MACORTS staff would need to draft a letter requesting that GDOT shift the schedule. If approved by GDOT, the TIP would need to be amended to show the shift in funds at a later date.

Mr. Davis made a motion for MACORTS staff to draft a letter to GDOT Planning to seek to shift the ROW phase from FY 2019 to FY 2017 for the SR 10 Loop at Lexington Road Interchange project. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF PROPOSED MACORTS REQUEST TO REALLOCATE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING FUNDS FROM MITCHELL BRIDGE ROAD WIDENING PROJECT TO SR 10 LOOP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie stated ACC has been working with GDOT for several years to refine the design of the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway Interchange project. She explained that since ACC completed the Mitchell Bridge Road Widening project without federal funds (using SPLOST funds and a state grant), they would like to request that GDOT move those federal funds into the Atlanta Highway Interchange project in order to facilitate the inclusion of a realignment of the Mitchell Bridge Road/Atlanta Highway/Timothy Road intersection within the limits of the project.

Ms. McDuffie noted that MACORTS staff would need to draft a letter requesting that GDOT modify the budget and project description. If approved by GDOT, the TIP would need to be amended to show the shift in funds at a later date.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve MACORTS staff to draft a letter to GDOT Planning to request a shift of the Mitchell Bridge Road Widening funding into the Atlanta Highway Interchange project and expand the project limit to include the Mitchell Bridge Road/ Atlanta Highway/Timothy Road intersection realignment. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IX. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF AMENDED FY 2016 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TO ADD CARRYOVER FUNDING

Ms. McDuffie stated the FY 2016 will be the last year that unused funds from previous years can be rolled into the PL Grant. She stated MACORTS received notification that the carryover funding from FY 15 is available to roll into the FY 16 UPWP and PL Grant contract. She also explained the substance of the work elements had not changed since the Policy Committee approved it, and the additional funding (\$450,357.31) had been distributed across all of the work elements. Ms. McDuffie stated the document is not required to go to public comment so this is the final vote on the document.

Mr. Simpson recommended approval of the Amended FY 2016 UPWP. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

X. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT FY 2017 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie stated the document had been reviewed by TCC and revised extensively in response to comments received from FHWA. Ms. McDuffie noted the official Draft of the FY 17 UPWP is due to GDOT by December 15, 2015. A final draft of the document will come back to TCC and Policy Committee after the first of the year for final approval.

Ms. McDuffie reiterated that FY 16 will be the last year that carryover funding will be allowed. The amount of funding included in this document is the allocation for MACORTS (\$216,025.86) and represents the entire budget of the MPO for FY 17.

Ms. McDuffie explained that rollover funding from all of the MPO's in Georgia will be consolidated into one pot of money at the state level. Those funds will be awarded to one or more MPOs on a competitive basis for work that cannot be accomplished with funds allocated to the MPO. Therefore, an unfunded section had added to the 17 UPWP that included the work elements that MACORTS staff intends to submit for the competitive pot of funds – the Compliance Update of LRTP (\$250,000) and the Purchase of Traffic Counting Equipment (\$25,000).

Ms. McDuffie noted the following substantive changes to the UPWP. Table III was recalculated based on the 5-year average for in-kind match. It was noted that FY 17 will be the last year that in-kind match will be collected due to the change in funding level. The 'Unfunded Proposed Work Elements' were added to the tables in the Appendices. Table VI was created to present the details of the 'Unfunded Proposed Work Elements'. The Introduction and all elements were revised in terms of how they addressed the Planning Emphasis areas from FHWA. A map of the MACORTS area, the MOU, and the MACORTS bylaws were added to the Appendices of the document.

Mr. Simpsom made a motion to approve the draft FY 17 UPWP to be submitted as the official Draft to GDOT, including the unfunded work elements and the possible associated local financial commitment if the unfunded work elements are awarded funding. Mr. Sanders seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Denson welcomed the new Policy Committee member and Athens-Clarke County citizen representative, Jim Anderson.

XIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:35am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2016 and will be held in Danielsville. Ms. McDuffie thanked Ms. Denson for chairing the meetings during 2015.