

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Kelly Girtz, Athens-Clarke County Mayor
Todd Higdon, Madison County Chairman
Sara Beresford, Athens-Clarke County Citizen
Dave Henson, Oconee County Citizen
Brett Jackson, UGA Transit
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning Office

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Jalen Ford, GDOT Planning
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit
Tom Caiafa, GDOT Planning
Kimberly Grayson, GDOT Planning
Ashley Finch, GDOT Intermodal Programs
Virginia Hamilton, UGA Alternate
SueAnne Decker, GDOT

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Girtz called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Ms. McDuffie took roll of members and guests in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2020 Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Beresford 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 DETERMINATION OF FINAL FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. McDuffie stated the UPWP outlines the activities the MPO staff will focus on in FY 2022. She noted previously the committee adopted the draft in October. The approved Draft was sent to GDOT & FHWA for their review, and their comments were addressed. The committee received a summary prior to the meeting.

She also outlined the priorities listed in the Final Draft as Safety, Performance Management Implementation, MTP & TIP, Congestion Management, Freight, & 2020 Census. She showed the revised budget and noted there were no changes made to the 5303 Transit Planning Grant. TCC recommended approval of the Final Draft FY 2022 UPWP and the associated budget for funded and unfunded work elements.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the Final FY 2022 UPWP as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN

Ms. McDuffie stated the list of changes made to this document were sent to members prior to the meeting. Most of the changes were clarifying existing procedures and codifying the practice of virtual committee and public meetings. She explained that the option for virtual meetings was included as conditions dictate or at the pleasure of the Policy Committee.

She offered an analysis of MPO virtual operations during the pandemic. She stated that attendance at virtual committee meetings was slightly higher in virtual meetings than in-person meeting (2019 vs. 2020). She also noted there is lower attendance at the virtual public meetings; however, the overall approach to connect with the public virtually via the MACORTS website seems to reach more people overall. She explained that website traffic has increased compared to public involvement periods in 2019.

The members discussed the benefits of virtual attendance for meetings and opportunities for public engagement. The committee unanimously agreed in favor of continuing a virtual format for Policy Committee meetings. Ms. McDuffie stated staff will continue to offer a virtual option for Policy Committee meetings and have in-person meetings for public engagement opportunities as an option based on conditions. She also noted that all documentation for public engagement opportunities will continue to be posted on the website for review as usual.

Ms. McDuffie stated the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and Participation Plan will be taken to the public together for 45 days of public review and comment. Staff is prepared will have a virtual public meeting on March 11, 2021, 5:30 – 6:30pm. She noted that both documents and comments received will be presented to the Policy Committee on May 12 for final determination. She noted that TCC recommended approval to take this document to the public for review and comment.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Participation Plan to go to the public for review and comment. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT MACORTS & ATHENS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Ms. McDuffie stated this document is required to demonstrate MACORTS and ACC Transit compliance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166 in regards to persons that do not speak English as their primary language or who have limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. This document is updated every 3 years. She gave a short presentation on the framework of the document and explained the required 4-factor analysis including establishing the eligible service for population & proportion of LEP customers, the frequency that LEP persons encounter services, the nature and importance of services in the transit and MPO area, and the resources available and costs for providing interpretation/translation services.

She stated the LEP Plan and Participation Plan will be taken to the public together for 45 days of public review and comment. Staff is prepared to have a virtual public meeting on March 11, 2021, 5:30 – 6:30pm. She noted that both documents and comments received will be presented to the Policy Committee on May 12 for final determination. She noted that TCC recommended approval to take this document to the public for review and comment.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to approve the Limited English Proficiency Plan to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR SR 10 / US 78 BRIDGE PROJECT OVER NORTH OCONEE RIVER

Ms. McDuffie explained the process of TIP's being approved in Georgia. Once MPO's in the state adopt their TIP document, that TIP is rolled into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and is approved through GDOT. The STIP receives final approval when it is signed by the Governor. The MACORTS FY 21-24 TIP was adopted by the MPO on October 14, 2020, but it is anticipated that the STIP will be signed in the April/May 2021 timeframe. Therefore, the 21-24 TIP is invalid until that time. This will require the MPO to continue amending the 18-21 TIP in the interim.

This amendment increases the Right-of-Way estimate and moves it into FY 21 as it is shown in the 21-24 TIP document, but MACORTS must officially amend the 18-21 TIP to show this information. She stated because of the amount of difference in funding (\$250,000 to \$3,437,400), an amendment and a 15-day public comment period are required. TCC recommended approval to take this to the public for review and comment.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY 18-21 TIP to go to the public for review and comment. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Ms. McDuffie stated that every year the MPO must adopt safety targets for the measures of number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. In previous years the MPO has agreed to support the safety targets developed by GDOT. The MPO staff and TCC recommended supporting the state targets and incorporate them into the MTP, the valid FY 18-21 TIP & the FY 21-24 TIP. This could be done as an administrative modification; therefore, no additional public comment is required beyond that of the committee meetings.

Mr. Henson made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 Safety Targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 2018 -2021 TIP, and FY 2021 - 2024 TIP. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IX. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Ms. McDuffie stated that each year GDOT updates the performance measures and targets in the Group Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan for the rural and small urban transit systems in Georgia. She noted the ACC Transit Department provided MACORTS staff with their endorsement of the measures and targets in the Group TAM Plan. The MPO must incorporate these targets into our MTP, the valid FY 18-21 TIP & the FY 21-24 TIP. As an administrative modification, no additional public comment is required beyond that of the committee meetings. TCC recommended approval of the action.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 Transit Asset Management Plan targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 18-21 TIP, and FY 21-24 TIP. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

X. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Ms. McDuffie stated that beginning this year, the MPO will annually incorporate the targets included in the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) for the ACC Transit Department into the MTP and TIP. As an administrative

modification, no public comment beyond that at the committee meetings was required. TCC recommended approval of the administrative modification.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 PTASP targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 2018-2021 TIP, and FY 2021-2024 TIP. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

XI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO UPDATE BUDGET FOR SR 10 LP AT US 29 BRIDGE PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie stated staff received a request from GDOT to revise the budget for the construction phase of the SR 10 LP at US 29 bridge project. The construction phase would increase from \$9.3 million to \$10,008,024.46. She noted this will be an administrative modification included in the FY 18-21 TIP & FY 21-24 TIP.

Ms. Beresford asked what circumstances cause a change like this in a project. Ms. Decker stated that usually this happens when GDOT goes through the development process of a project, and they recalculate quantities and update cost estimates. TCC recommended approval of the administrative modification.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to update the construction phase funding for the SR10 Lp at US 29 bridge project in the FY 2018-2021 & FY 2021-2024 TIPs. Mr. Higdon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Henson asked about the previously proposed traffic signal for SR 53/Hog Mountain Road at Union Church Road. He stated this project is needed due to the increased traffic in this area. Ms. Decker stated a traffic study had been performed, and there are proposed roundabout projects scheduled near this area by the school. Ms. Decker reviewed some additional contact information for the project and offered her personal contact information. (note: Ms. Decker followed-up with Mr. Henson after the meeting.)

Ms. Beresford asked if MACORTS staff could create a process to update the ACC Planning Commission about meeting information. Ms. McDuffie stated that currently there is an update from MACORTS included on every Planning Commission agenda. Ms. McDuffie said she would follow-up with Mr. Griffin about those updates. There was some discussion about making sure the Planning Commission is notified with MACORTS updates.

XIV. ADJOURN

Mr. Girtz adjourned the meeting at 10:53 am and noted the next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021.