

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
Oconee County Courthouse – Commission Chambers
23 North Main Street – Watkinsville
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: John Daniell, Oconee County Chairman
John Scarborough, Madison County Chairman
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning
Flynn Warren, Oconee County Citizen
Jim Anderson, Athens-Clarke County Citizen

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Brad Griffin, ACC Planning Director
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit System
Lee Becker, Oconee County Citizen
Juliane Dixon-Crump, Athens Transit System
Kai Zuehlke - RS&H
Steve Cote - RS&H
Tom Caiafa - GDOT Planning Office
Matthew Risher - GDOT Planning Office
Justin Kirouac - Oconee County Administrator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Daniell called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 8, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2017 meeting. Mr. Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. McDuffie explained that public comment received by email was sent to members for their information. She noted that the subject project is being funded with state funds and will not be included in the MACORTS process. There was no public comment received at the TCC meeting.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie reviewed a list of the FAST Act compliance deadlines for background information to explain some of the changes made to the Final FY 19 UPWP and review the upcoming actions required of the MPO in regards to performance based planning and programming. This information was previously sent to members for their review.

Ms. McDuffie outlined a few changes since the initial Draft Unified Planning Work Program document. The Transit Planning Grant funding was updated to include FY 2019 and FY 2020. The bylaws were updated to the most recent version, approved on October 11, 2017. The references to performance based planning compliance activities that will be required in FY 19 (ie targets for pavement and bridge condition, travel time & freight reliability, and greenhouse gasses) were incorporated into the Introduction and elements 3.5, 4.11, 4.12. It was clarified that the UPWP does not have to be taken to public review and comment. The Participation Plan was noted to be updated during FY18. In response to FHWA review of the final draft, the priorities were revised to include the 2045 LRTP Update, safety performance measures, and the TIP update to address performance management, and the associated work elements were updated accordingly.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Final FY 2019 UPWP. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT TO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AND FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP): SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that all MPOs must include safety performance targets for the federally-identified safety performance measures in their LRTP and TIP documents by Feb. 27, 2018. MPO's have the option of developing their own numeric safety targets or to agree to support GDOT's approved safety targets. Previously, the Policy Committee accepted the TCC recommendation to agree to support GDOT's safety targets. This was taken to the public for review and comment from November 20 – December 19, 2017. She noted copies of the original public comment and summary had been sent to the membership.

She explained that TCC, on January 24, recommended the approval of the amendment to the 2040 LRTP and 18-21 TIP to include a resolution in which MACORTS agrees to support GDOT's safety performance targets.

Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the amendment to the LRTP & TIP to include a resolution in which MACORTS agrees to support GDOT's safety performance targets. Mr. Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT PARTICIPATION PLAN & PROPOSED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SCHEDULE

Ms. McDuffie stated that the most recent federal regulations require an expansion of the group the MPO coordinates with when public involvement activities are required during the transportation planning process. She noted the regulations stipulated the inclusion of the following groups: groups involved in state & local planned growth, economic development, tourism, environmental protection, airport operations, freight movement, private providers of transportation, bike/ped advocacy, disabled populations, and intercity bus operators.

Ms. McDuffie outlined other changes made to the document. The cover design and format of the Table of Contents were revised. The anti-discrimination statement on the title page was revised to be consistent with the other MACORTS documents. Page 5 explicitly stated that the UPWP and future amendments do not require public involvement. Page 5 also explicitly stated that if a final draft document is significantly different than the version that went to the public for review, it will be taken back out to the public for an additional 15 days of public review. The Participation Plan would require an additional 45 days per FHWA regulations. Whether a document is 'significantly' different would be determined by MACORTS staff in consultation with GDOT & FHWA. She clarified that this is not a change in policy, but it needed to be in writing for clarity and transparency in the Participation Plan. It addresses comments made by FHWA during the compliance review of MACORTS. Page 8 added a timeframe for evaluating the Participation Plan strategies to align with the update of the LRTP. She noted this change was in response to the FHWA review.

Ms. McDuffie noted this document is required to go out to the public for 45 days. She reviewed the proposed public involvement schedule. TCC recommended the approval of the Draft Participation Plan to go to the public for review and comment.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the Draft Participation Plan to go to the public for review and comment for 45 days. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FUTURE (2045) SOCIOECONOMIC DATA (RS&H)

Mr. Cote from RS&H gave a presentation detailing the methodology for developing the 2045 socioeconomic data for submission to GDOT.

Mr. Scarborough made a motion to approve the future year socioeconomic data to be used in the travel demand model for submission to GDOT. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McDuffie stated that 12 hybrid electric buses should be in service by the first of March. These buses were funded through a State Rail & Tollway Authority (SRTA) grant. He extended an invitation to the dedication ceremony of the hybrid buses scheduled for 1 pm on February 23 to the Policy Committee members.

X. ADJOURN

Mr. Daniell adjourned the meeting at 10:35am. He stated the next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2018.