

Summary Minutes
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin- ACC Planning Department
Butch McDuffie -Athens Transit System
Emil Beshara – Oconee Co. Public Works
Marc Beechuk - Athens Transit System Alternate
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Drew Raessler - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Tom Caiafa - GDOT Planning Office Alternate
Rani Katreeb - ACC Traffic Engineering
Kim Coley - GDOT District 1
Gavin Hassemer- ACC Planning Department Alternate

Others Present: Lee Becker - Oconee County citizen
Russ Page - Oconee County citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Becker stated concern about a project that he recently heard about that involves the widening of State Route 15 with turn lanes, which is located largely in Greene County with a small portion of Oconee County. He wanted to know if this project would be included in the MACORTS process. Mr. Beshara explained that the project is located outside of the MACORTS area. Therefore, MACORTS would not be involved in the project development. Mr. Caiafa confirmed the information.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the September 28, 2016 TCC minutes. Mr. Katreeb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO ENGAGE CONSULTANT TO UPDATE THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO 2045 AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Varnum stated that last year MACORTS was selected to receive up to \$280,000 of ‘leftover’ PL funds to hire a consultant to complete the update of the 2045 LRTP and bring it into compliance with all the current Federal regulations. She noted GDOT and FHWA have reviewed the Request for Proposals. She also

stated the procurement guidelines published by FHWA during FY 16 require a review of the RFP before advertisement from the Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committees. Mr. Griffin stated that previously these updates were completed internally, but consultant assistance is necessary in order to meet the current required federal guidelines.

There was some discussion about changes to the RFP request. Mr. McDuffie clarified that any additional major changes made to the document would require an additional review from FHWA and GDOT. Mr. Beshara noted a minor revision in the Evaluation Criteria section, Item D - References, to change the reference from "Athens Clarke County Government" to "MACORTS member governments". Mr. Katreb verified the Pre-proposal Meeting is not mandatory and noted that on page 18, above the chart in the Cost/Price section, there are a few words that were cut off that needed to be included on that page. Mr. Griffin stated the requested minor changes would be adjusted in the RFP.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft RFP to go out to advertisement with the minor changes. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF CONSULTANT REVIEW COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Varnum stated that once the Request for Proposals is advertised, a review committee would score the submittals and choose a consultant. She reviewed the proposed committee list.

After brief discussion, Mr. Caifia recommend approval of the Draft Consultant Review Committee Membership and process. Mr. Raessler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Oconee County Public Works Office

Mr. Beshara stated that the Mars Hill Road Widening Phase II right-of-way acquisition is almost complete with all of the parcels are being acquired through purchase or condemnation. A few parcels are actively in condemnation waiting for negotiation or settlement. All property owners have been notified to remove all obstacles in the right-of-way or easement (such as signs, walls, and fences). Advertisement for demolition services for removal of any remaining items will begin next month. Parkway Boulevard (located behind Kohl's over to the Oconee Connector) has the graded aggregate base and some curb being installed. The road should be completed by the end of March. A determination to open the road to the public after completion has not been made. There are not many destinations in

the area, and there will still be construction traffic for the Epps Bridge Center 2 & 3 projects coming through that area.

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie stated there is a public input session taking place today at the Multi-Modal Center for the Transit Development Plan Update. He also stated they are closer to execution of the 5339 grant that will provide \$2.5 million for bus stop improvements/enhancements. Youth ridership program is going well. Last month, youth ridership was up 1,075% when compared to the same month last year. Athens Transit management made a presentation to the Athens-Clarke County TSPLOST committee to request proposed projects in three different project areas. The project areas include a continuation of the bus replacement/vehicle replacement program, bus stop expansion and identification of up to 3 decentralized transfer facilities (small transfer hub prevent people from coming downtown so much to make transfers), and expansion of services on all routes. Mr. Griffin questioned if there had been issues with the increase in youth ridership, and Mr. McDuffie said there had not been a substantial number of issues.

Athens-Clarke County Traffic Engineering

Mr. Raessler stated the major construction focus right now is on College Station Road for the bike lanes and bridge replacement. The bike lanes are in progress and scheduled to be completed by March/April. GDOT is on a similar schedule for the bridge replacement project. The bridges are open to traffic, and some final clean up is underway.

The ACC Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan is moving forward to the ACC Mayor and Commission and will take about a year to complete. He noted that current construction projects are primarily sidewalks and resurfacing. The upcoming sidewalk projects at H.T. Edwards and Rowe Road are CDBG grant funded projects. He stated that 14 projects were submitted for the ACC TSPLOST for resurfacing, intersection, interchange, and bicycle pedestrian projects. Mr. Griffin stated he recently reviewed the MACORTS process to the ACC TSPLOST committee.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin stated the next TCC meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2017. He also reminded members that the Policy Committee Meetings will be held in Athens for all of the 2017 calendar year.