

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Rani Katreeb - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department
Mike Matthews – Athens Airport
Virginia Hamilton - UGA Campus Transit System
Steve Decker – ACC Transportation & Public Works
Pat Hale – Alternate for ACC Public Utilities
Victor Pope – Alternate for ACC Planning
Kimberly Grayson – GDOT Intermodal Programs

Others Present: Lee Becker - Oconee Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Varnum called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Ms. McDuffie took note of members and public in attendance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Decker made a motion to approve minutes from the January 27, 2021 TCC meeting. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR 5 PROJECTS' BUDGET &/OR SCHEDULES & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie gave a short presentation on the updated numbers sent to the MPO from GDOT for the 21-24 TIP. She noted this amendment revises the budget and/or schedule of several projects in the TIP. The changes include the following projects listed below.

- 1) SR 10Lp at Atlanta Highway, PI#122890, CST Phase: The phase remains in FY 2023, and the cost estimate increased by \$3,281,189 to \$41,515,039.

UTL Phase: The phase remains in FY 2023, and the cost estimate increased by \$2,233,406 to \$7,105,412.

- 2) Freight Operations Lump Sum – This new Lump Sum category was added with FY 22 funding of \$66,000, FY 23 funding of \$133,000, and FY 24 funding of \$133,000.
- 3) Rural Development Operations Lump Sum – This new Lump Sum category was added with FY 22 funding of \$66,000, FY 23 funding of \$133,000, and FY 24 funding of \$133,000.
- 4) SR 10 Lp over Middle Oconee River – The CST phase of this project was moved from FY 2024 to FY 2025. Neither the funding amount nor funding codes changed.
- 5) Clotfelter Road Bridge over Barber Creek – The ROW phase remains in FY 21. The CST phase of this project was moved from FY 2024 to FY 2025. Neither the funding amount nor funding codes changed. (SLIDE)

Ms. McDuffie explained that the amendment will require a 15-day public comment period.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to the 21-24 TIP to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO REVISE THE FY 22 TRANSIT SECTION 5307 CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the Section 5307 Capital Funding in FY 2022 for the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department was increased from a total of \$1,735,900 to a total of \$1,910,900 (federal: \$1,528,720; state: \$191,090; local: \$191,090). The line items were updated to match the grant application submitted to GDOT Intermodal. Ms. McDuffie stated the amendment will require a 15-day public comment period.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval to take the amendment to revise the 5307 capital funding request in the 21-24 TIP to the public for review and comment. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McDuffie gave a brief update from the Policy Committee meeting about the discussion of virtual option for future meetings. The Participation Plan includes the option for meetings to take place in a virtual format or in person as conditions allow. She stated the Policy Committee was in favor of

Committee meetings staying virtual; however, they were in favor of public meetings being held in-person with a virtual option when possible.

VII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department

Mr. McDuffie stated the transit system continues to operate at a reduced service level and will operate fare free through June 30th. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the ridership of their transit system. The system currently operates 16 buses and has had continued decrease in ridership (60% of ridership from last year at this time). The transit system will have to explore other funding sources in order to operate fare free.

Athens- Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Katreeb stated there are several local sidewalk and multi-use path projects in the advanced design phase for Cherokee Road, Jefferson River Road, and Riverbend Road. There was a public comment survey completed for the Riverbend Road project, and it will proceed to Mayor and Commission for a final vote next week.

Oconee County Public Works Department

Mr. Woodall stated the roundabouts on SR 53 at Snows Mill Road / Rocky Branch Road and Rays Church Road / Malcolm Bridge Road are currently in the design phase with environmental studies being finalized. Staff is working with GDOT for a quick response project on SR 10 & Epps Bridge Parkway to convert the configuration to a free flowing right lane. This would also lead to a proposed extension of the existing left turn lane traveling from Epps Bridge to the Oconee Connector for a local project to help ease some of the traffic in this area. They are currently preparing for their 2021 Resurfacing Program to begin. There is preliminary concept work for the Hog Mountain Road Improvement project to include a 2 ft. shoulder widening with center left turn lane in some areas and overlay from Twelve Oaks Drive to US 441. There would need to be a quote for the design phase of the center left turn lane where this project ties to the Mars Hill Phase two project.

Athens Airport

Mr. Matthews stated that operations have steadily increased as the UGA basketball games continue to attract more customers to the airport. Projects to improve the runway will begin as FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) funding becomes available. There are currently proposed meetings for the reconstruction of the Taxiway Asphalt Project to include new lighting and signage estimated at an \$11 million cost.

VIII. ADJOURN

Ms. Varnum adjourned the meeting at 10:22 am and stated that the next TCC meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021.