

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

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Gavin Hassemer - Athens Transit System Alternate
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Steve Decker - ACC Traffic Engineering
Butch McDuffie - Athens Transit System
Darius Malone - GDOT Planning Office
Kim Coley - GDOT District 1
Vicki Buschbom - ACC Greenway Commission Alternate
BR White - Oconee Planning Department

Others Present: Flynn Warren - Oconee County citizen
Russ Page – Oconee County citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the February 22, 2017 TCC minutes.
Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2018 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained the UPWP is an annually updated document with planning activities the MPO staff will engage in during the coming Fiscal Year and the associated budget elements. She noted that the final draft is taken to the TCC and Policy Committees in the spring before the fiscal year starts and after GDOT and FHWA have reviewed the document.

Ms. McDuffie summarized the changes made to the document since the last time it was presented to the TCC including:

- Changed the introduction in Planning Factor #5 to match required federal language
- Updated overall funding due to slight increase in federal allocation – from \$221,285.61 to \$226,004.96 (+4,719.35) – revised tables I, II
- Additional funds were distributed to elements 1.1 Program Coordination, 2.2 EJ/Title VI, and 4.11 LRTP
- In response to FHWA’s comments, Performance Matrix language, was added under 4.11 LRTP
- In response to FHWA’s comments, language from the LRTP Update RFP was incorporated into 2.2 EJ/Title VI, 3.1/3.2 Land Use & SE Data, 3.4 Travel demand model, 3.5 System monitoring, 4.11.1 LRTP Update, 4.2 Transit/Paratransit Planning, and 4.5 Bike/Pedestrian Planning.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the Final Draft FY 18 UPWP. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VI. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie stated the transit planner, David Ballard, is retiring in May. He also noted that Athens Transit management made a presentation to request \$28 million from the Athens-Clarke County TSPLOST committee for 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 hubs that prevent people from having to go downtown to make transfers), and expansion of services on all routes. The Youth ridership program continues to make progress and has over 1,000% increase with about 125,000 youth trips this year. The execution of the 5339 grant that will provide \$2.5 million for bus stop improvements/enhancements is still underway.

Athens-Clarke County Traffic Engineering

Mr. Decker stated that GDOT has hired a consultant to work on the retiming of the traffic signals along Broad Street and Atlanta Highway from Hancock Road to Timothy Road. He also noted that progress is being made to use the signal timing software GDOT provided. ACC is close to having another fiber connection that will allow the ACC Traffic Engineering office to manage data collected from Lexington Road, near the Traffic Engineering office, out to Jimmie Daniel Road. Funding was recently received to install a fiber connection on College Station Road from Riverbend Road to East Campus Road. Major intersection improvements on East Campus will require different

phases of installation of fiber connection. After this is completed, the goal will be to get roadways into an adaptive system that allows traffic to be analyzed during the daytime and adjust the traffic signal timing. Athens has asked GDOT to install fiber on College Station Road along the loop to Oconee County so that more data could be collected and managed.

ACC has applied for a GDOT Multi-modal grant for pedestrian facilities on state routes. This would help prevent pedestrian accidents and address the gaps in the sidewalk and crosswalk network. ACC is exploring funding opportunities for pavement markings, restriping roadways from 2007, and safety issues with the bridge on College Avenue. He also noted they would like to pursue a new alert system and additional signage on certain streets such as MLK Avenue and Dougherty Street.

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:21 am. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017.