

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Anie Bassey – GDOT – Planning Office
Wayne Provost – Oconee Co Strategic & Long Range Planning
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works
David Ballard – Athens Transit System
Kim Coley – GDOT Planning-District 1
B.R. White – Oconee County Planning Dept.
Ann-Marie Day – Federal Highway Administration
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System
Audrey Johnson – GDOT Intermodal Office
Eric Blair – ACC Central Services

Others Present: Frank Watson – Oconee County Citizen
Blake Aued – Athens Banner Herald

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 26, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the January 26, 2011 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL AMENDMENT TO FY 2011 – 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD THE SR 10 LOOP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that this amendment involves bringing the right-of-way acquisition phase from FY 2015 to FY 2011. The public comment period was conducted from February 21 – March 8, 2011. There was no public comment received during this period nor was there any attendance at the public meeting held in Athens on March 1, 2011.

Mr. Clark noted that there was an owners' meeting at the end of March for this project. Mr. Clark also thanked Mr. Bassey for supplying the committee with necessary information after the last TCC meeting.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of the final amendment to the FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program to shift the right-of-way acquisition phase for the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway project to FY 2011. Mr. White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF UPDATE TO MACORTS BYLAWS AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained that with the U. S. Navy Supply Corps School no longer located in Athens, an adjustment is required to the MACORTS bylaws to remove their membership to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Policy Committee. Ms. McDuffie reviewed the other miscellaneous changes to the document to update titles and general housekeeping in the bylaws. An additional change was noted before the meeting in regards to the title of the Planning Director in Oconee County. Ms. McDuffie assured the group that the change will be made before the document is sent to Policy Committee. Mr. Clark asked whether public comment would be required for this action. Ms. McDuffie responded that no public comment is required, only a single vote from the TCC and Policy Committee is needed.

Mr. White made a motion to recommend approval of the updated MACORTS bylaws. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW OF JACKSON COUNTY REQUEST TO RECLASSIFY SR 15 / US 129 (JEFFERSON ROAD) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Griffin relayed a request from Jackson County via the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to reclassify the portion of SR 15 / US 129 in Athens-Clarke County from the Jackson County line south to the SR 10 Loop. The roadway would be reclassified from an Urban Minor Arterial to Urban Principal Arterial. GDOT has asked that MACORTS make a determination on this request. Mr. Griffin explained that Jackson County, like other counties, is making sure that they have their roads classified as high as possible to ensure their access to federal and state funding.

Ms. Day asked where the request will go after it is approved by MACORTS. Mr. Basseley stated that, if approved by all of the municipalities in the affected region, the request would be forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Clark asked if there are different design standards for minor arterials and principal arterials. Ms. Coley expressed that the design standards are the same for both classifications.

Mr. Provost made a motion to approve the Jackson County request to reclassify SR 15 / US 129 in Athens-Clarke County from an Urban Minor Arterial to Urban Principal Arterial. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Griffin informed the committee that MACORTS has received formal approval from FHWA and GDOT to continue using in-kind match for FY 2012.

He noted that Sonny Timmerman, President of the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, made a presentation last week to the State Transportation Board and requested they restore the 10% match to MPO's around the state. At the state level, Mr. McDuffie stated that the Georgia Transit Association has sent a letter to the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee encouraging them to restore the \$700,000 proposed to be cut from the GDOT Intermodal Programs Office budget.

Mr. Griffin conveyed the appreciation of the Policy Committee to the members of the Technical Coordinating Committee for all of their hard work and time invested in the technical review of the various MACORTS materials throughout the year.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Griffin asked the group for a status report on the counties' work in relation to the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 project lists that are due to GDOT at the end of March. Mr. Provost said that Oconee County's project list has been reviewed by the Land Use and Transportation Committee and the public. The list will be presented to the Board of Commissioners before the 30th. Mr. Clark noted that Athens-Clarke County has a project list that will be approved by the Mayor and Commission on March 29, 2011.

Mr. Provost - Oconee County Strategic & Long Range Planning

Mr. Provost told the group that it is anticipated that construction on the Oconee Connector should be completed by December 2011.

Mr. Clark – Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works

Mr. Clark noted that Athens-Clarke County officials met with the new State Transportation Board member for our area, Mr. Don Grantham, this week. The Fowler Mill bridge project is out for bid. Work is anticipated to begin this summer on the Barnett Shoals Road / Old Lexington Road intersection project.

Mr. McDuffie – Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie informed the group that the Park and Ride project has entered the right-of-way phase. A request has been made to extension the duration of the grant contract for this project. It is being processed by the GDOT Office of Intermodal Programs.

Ms. Day – Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Day encouraged MACORTS to include the Federal Transit Administration in meeting invitations.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2011.