

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, March 23, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
David Ballard - Athens Transit System
Butch McDuffie - Athens Transit System
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Darius Malone - GDOT Planning Office
Phil Munro - Madison County Citizen
Kim Coley - GDOT District 1
Steve Decker - ACC Traffic Engineering
Sandy Wienel - Oconee County Planning Department
Emil Beshara - Oconee County Public Works
David Clark - ACC Transportation & Public Works

Others Present: Kyle Mote - GDOT Planning Office
Janet Burns - GDOT District 1
Sarah Bell - Oconee County citizen
Russ Paige - Oconee County citizen
Tyler Dewey - Bike Athens

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the February 24, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2017 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained the text of this document has been modified extensively to address all of the comments from our federal and state partners. The most significant changes were explained to the committee. There was some discussion about modifications made to the document and process of approval for the UPWP.

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of the Final Draft FY 17 UPWP including the unfunded work elements and the associated local match funding if those elements receive funding. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

RE-EXAMINATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO ADD SR 316 AT OCONEE CONNECTOR INTERCHANGE PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this item was put on hold last month. Approximately \$18 million must be removed from the LRTP in order to add the proposed project. Mr. Clark stated the ACC Manager's office is very supportive of the project but there is some concern about the impact (such as reducing the scope or removing projects) to ACC projects. He also noted the ACC Manager's Office requests another month for additional time to review. There was some discussion. Mr. Beshara explained that Oconee County is still proposing to remove Union Church Hill project, a \$15 million project, in order to help balance the amount needed.

Mr. Beshara recommended tabling the proposed amendment to add an interchange project at SR 316 at the Oconee Connector to the LRTP for one month. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Georgia Department of Transportation

Mr. Malone stated that they are waiting on the final version of the UPWP to begin processing the FY17 PL Contract.

Oconee County Public Works

Mr. Beshara stated that the Mars Hill Road Phase 1 construction project has included some paving operations over the last two days. There will be another major traffic shift at the box culvert to facilitate demolition of the existing road and begin the extension and build out of the new box culverts. Mr. Beshara stated they recently created a dual left turn lane at the intersection of US 441 and Hog Mountain Road. It was a joint project that included GDOT

providing the asphalt and Oconee County completing the grading and base. He stated this location had excessive traffic during the a.m. peak hours in the past, but this improvement has created much more efficient traffic flow.

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie stated two public meetings in February and March were held in conjunction with the development of the Transit Feasibility Study. The public comment period was a little over a month long. There were a total of 128 people in attendance at the meetings and over 400 online surveys that were submitted. He stated the predominant areas that people were interested in improving included: US 29 N, Epps Bridge Center, US 441 Hwy N, and access out to Caterpillar on Atlanta Highway. Mr. McDuffie stated that people would like to see expansion of the transit services in other parts of the community. The Transit Feasibility Study will go before the Mayor and Commission on the June work session, and then feedback will be evaluated to determine funding for some of the recommendations. He also stated Athens Transit services are now on Google Services.

Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Clark stated the roundabout at Tallassee Road and Whitehead Road is open and receiving good response. The College Station Road Bridge project is a little behind schedule but is expected to be open for traffic by August 15th. Mr. Clark stated the Mitchell Bridge Road project is open to traffic. This was a project that Governor Deal funded through the GTIB grant and was one of the first grant projects to make it all the way to construction in the state. The construction on the new traffic signal at the intersection of Riverbend Road and South Milledge Avenue is expected to be operational at the end of April. He also stated the College Station Road Bike lane project should get started this week but will be slightly delayed due to weather. He noted they plan to begin the first week of spring break if the weather holds up. He also stated they are converting Dougherty Street from 5/4 to 3 lanes with on-street parking as part of the Mayor and Commission's initiative.

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:15am.