

## SUMMARY MINUTES

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

**Members Present:** Brad Griffin – ACC Planning Department  
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department  
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department  
Rani Katreeb - ACC Transportation & Public Works  
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department  
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department  
Mike Matthews – Athens Airport  
Steve Decker – ACC Transportation & Public Works  
Kimberly Grayson – GDOT Planning  
Ashley Finch – GDOT Intermodal Programs  
SueAnne Decker- GDOT District  
Conolus Scott – Madison County Citizen Rep  
Todd Berven – UGA Transit System  
Ann-Marie Day – FHWA (Ex-Officio)

**Others Present:** Virginia Hamilton - UGA Auxiliary Services  
Lee Becker - Oconee Citizen  
Tom Caifia-GDOT Planning  
Pat Hale – Athens-Clarke County Transit Department  
Victor Pope – Athens-Clarke County Transit Department

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

Mr. Griffin 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 FEBRUARY 24, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2021 TCC meeting. Mr. Berven seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **IV. REVIEW OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR SR 10 / US 78 BRIDGE PROJECT OVER NORTH OCONEE RIVER & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment increases the right-of-way estimate in the FY 18-21 TIP and moves it into FY 21 as it is shown in the FY21-24 TIP document. She explained that staff has to officially amend the FY18-21 TIP

document to reflect this change. She noted the amendment was taken to the public for review and comment from February 22 – March 8 with one public meeting on February 25, 2021. A summary of the public comment received was shared with the committee.

Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to the FY 2018-2021 TIP for the SR 10/US 78 Bridge project over North Oconee River. Mr. Berven seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **VI. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Athens-County Transportation & Public Works Department**

Mr. Katreeb stated the local sidewalks on Holman Avenue have been completed, and Magnolia Street should be finished soon. The sidewalk gap projects on Milledge Avenue at Baxter Street and Southview Drive have been completed. The Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement over CSX project is currently on hold with utility coordination and relocation underway. Staff has multiple bike/pedestrian projects in preliminary design that are in the development process. The West Hancock Avenue roundabout project is in the preliminary design phase. A public engagement period for the project will be held this summer. The Pavement Program for last year has reached 95% completion, and the new program will start in late May/June with potential for completion in November.

### **Oconee 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 and are on schedule. The preliminary concept for the Hog Mountain Road Improvement project includes a 2 ft. shoulder widening with center left turn lane in some areas and overlay from Twelve Oaks Drive to US 441. The annual resurfacing contract will include the overlay areas for the Hog Mountain Road Improvement project and will start in early April. Staff is also working with GDOT for several bridge repair projects and a quick response project on SR 10 & Epps Bridge Parkway to convert the configuration to include 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 as a local project to help ease some of the traffic in this area. There is a median U-turn project on Malcolm Bridge Road in the vicinity of Malcolm Bridge Elementary and Middle School, currently proposed for summer completion.

### **Athens-Clarke County Transit Department**

Mr. McDuffie stated the transit system is working on new electronic signage for their buses with several new kiosks being installed throughout the community. The system continues to operate at reduced service level and fare free. The system currently operates 16 buses and has had continued decrease

in ridership (about 50%). The transit system continues to explore other funding sources in order to operate fare free. Transit has proposed a new Transit Operation Maintenance Bus Storage Facility hopefully to be funded by 5339 funds in the 2023/24 cycle. Mr. McDuffie announced his retirement effective in mid –April.

#### **UGA Transit System**

Mr. Berven stated that their transit system has continued to decrease in ridership. Ridership has been about 6,000 - 7,000 students/day. The University plans to run on a full schedule for fall. They have received 6 of the 13 electric buses with the rest arriving in the coming weeks.

#### **Athens-Ben Epps Airport**

Mr. Matthews explained they are exploring different sources of FAA funding (Federal Aviation Administration) funding to improve the main taxiway/runway (some of these funds are local match free). The taxiway rehabilitation project will begin on April 12. This project would require the airport to shut down for 2 periods of 12 days during football season so staff is evaluating how this process will be completed.

#### **GDOT – District 1**

Ms. Decker stated GDOT recently received stimulus funding projected to be used for maintenance and resurfacing money projects. Since this funding will replace some of the HB 170 funds, some projects will be able to advance. The SR 211 Widening Project in Braselton (near Chateau Elan) is the only project in this region that is proposed to advance.

#### **GDOT – Intermodal Programs**

Ms. Finch stated the GDOT Intermodal Office will host the FY 22 Section 5303 Contract workshop for sub-recipients on April 8<sup>th</sup> to review reimbursement, projects and financial processes. She also stated the GAMPO (Georgia Association of MPO's) meeting takes place on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **GDOT - Planning**

Mr. Caiafa stated the FY21-24 TIP has been sent to the Governor for review, and the GDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program should be approved in late April / early May.

## **VII. ADJOURN**

Ms. McDuffie adjourned the meeting at 10:22 am and stated that the next TCC meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021.