

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
BR White - Oconee Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Butch McDuffie - Athens Transit System
Tom Caiafa - GDOT Planning Office
Ron Hamlin - UGA Campus Transit System
David Clark - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Kim Coley - GDOT District 1
Katie Shepard - ACC Transportation & Public Works (Alt)
Wayne Provost - Oconee Strategic & LR Planning Dept.

Others Present: Delmar Finco - Public
Kyle Mote - GDOT Planning Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

No public comment was received.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

There was a small correction to the January 28, 2015 minutes by Mr. Hamlin. Mr. White made a motion to approve the revised October 1, 2014 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Hamlin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2015 – 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR US 441 / SR 24 SOUTH WIDENING PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. McDuffie reviewed information about the amendment. She stated it involved bringing in \$1,000,000 in preliminary engineering funds in FY 2015 for the US 441 South widening and included a 15-day public comment period (Feb 23 – March 9). All of the public comments were forwarded to TCC members for review. Mr. Griffin stated that the public meeting held in Oconee County for the amendment had great attendance (27 people) and a lot of public concern about preliminary design and potential alignments of the project. He also stated there had been additional correspondence between the public and the MACORTS office via phone and email. Mrs. McDuffie stated the additional correspondence was from both the general public and from those who came to the meeting. Mr. Griffin stated the public concern appeared to be split between those who supported the project and those who did not. Mr. Provost asked for a

timeframe for the first concept review. Mr. Mote stated there was not a specific time frame at this time and it could take years to get the design to that stage. Mr. Clark questioned if the City of Bishop was outside of the MACORTS limits. Mr. Griffin stated that the MACORTS boundary stops at intersection of SR 186.

Mr. Caiafa made a motion to recommend approval of Final Draft Amendment to the FY 2015 – 2018 TIP to add the US 441 / SR 24 South Widening project's preliminary engineering phase in the amount of \$1,000,000. Mr. Provost seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Updates:

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie stated they have made a recommendation to the Manager's Office for a 5-Year On-Call Services Contract for Transit Planning and Transportation Planning and are working on finalizing the vendor selection. He also stated they hope to have the Manager's approval within the week and will announce the official contract information at that time. Mr. McDuffie also stated they would like to start on a Transit Feasibility Study within the next 30 to 60 days. Mr. Clark asked about the proposed hours of operation for Sunday service, if it is included in the FY 2016 budget. Mr. McDuffie stated the hours of Sunday service would be at the same level as Saturday service if it is included in the Mayor's budget when it is released.

University of Georgia Campus Transit System

Mr. Hamlin stated their new Veterinary Services and Riverbend Road / S. Milledge Avenue routes began last week on Monday. The new Veterinary school opens today at their new location so ridership is expected to increase for these routes.

Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Clark stated the Mitchell Bridge Road Widening project and the roundabout at Whitehead Road / Tallassee Road are moving along very well. There is anticipation for utility relocation for the Whitehall Road project during the month of April. He also stated the plan is to close Whitehall Rd. from May 11 to July 31 (with a detour to Macon Hwy/US 441). Mr. Clark also stated the College Station Bike project for Research Drive / Barnett Shoals Road is moving along faster than originally anticipated. He needs to get with Kevin, GDOT, District 1, to see where they are with the College Station Bridge project so both projects do not conflict with each other.

Mr. Clark also questioned the status of the LRTP update in regards to the new Federal regulations. Mrs. McDuffie stated the current LRTP is in compliance. She also stated there are plans to hire a consultant to address the updated Federal Regulations according to financial availability. Mrs. McDuffie stated that we are currently waiting on the Federal Highway Administration's finalized regulations.

VII. ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for April 22. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.