

MACORTS Policy Committee

Oconee County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

10 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Anthony Dove, Madison County
Melvin Davis, Oconee County
Bob Sanders, Oconee County Citizen Representative
Matthew Fowler, GDOT - Planning
Paul Dellaria, Athens-Clarke County Citizen Representative
Phil Munro, Madison County Citizen Representative
George Stafford, University of Georgia

Others Present: Brad Griffin, ACC Planning
Sherry McDuffie, ACC Planning
Anie Basse, GDOT - Planning
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT - Planning
David Ballard, Athens Transit System
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit System
David Clark, Athens-Clarke County Transp. & Public Works
Wayne Provost, Oconee County Long Range & Strategic Planning

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Dellaria made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Dove seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

III. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED AT TCC MEETINGS / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

There was no public comment received at these meetings.

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

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that this amendment involves moving the right-of-way acquisition phase for the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway interchange project from FY 2015 to FY 2011. A public comment period was held from February 21 – March 8, 2011.

There was no public comment received during this period or anyone in attendance at the public meeting held in Athens on March 1, 2011.

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program to move the right-of-way acquisition phase from FY 2015 to FY 2011 for the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway Interchange project. Mr. Dellaria seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF UPDATE TO MACORTS BYLAWS

Ms. McDuffie explained that it is necessary to update the MACORTS bylaws since the U.S. Navy Supply Corps School is no longer located in Athens. This update includes the deletion of the Navy School membership and updating of certain job titles that have changed since the bylaws were adopted. No public comment is required for the update of the bylaws.

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the amended MACORTS bylaws. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF JACKSON COUNTY REQUEST TO RECLASSIFY SR 15 / US 129 ALT (JEFFERSON ROAD)

Ms. McDuffie explained to the committee that MACORTS has received a request from Jackson County via the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). This request is to petition the Federal Highway Administration to reclassify SR 15 Alt / US 129 Alt in Athens from the SR 10 Loop to the Jackson County line from urban minor arterial to urban principal arterial. The portion of this road north of I-85 is already classified as an urban principal arterial. Many counties in Georgia are re-examining their roadway inventories to ensure that they are taking advantage of Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program funding and preparing for possible Transportation Investment Act 2010 funding. Ms. McDuffie explained that this item was brought forward because GDOT asked that Mr. Griffin sign the resolution as Director of MACORTS. All communities along the corridor have been asked to sign the resolution.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Stafford made a motion to approve the request to petition the Federal Highway Administration to reclassify the portion of SR 15 / US 129 Alt in Athens-Clarke County to urban principal arterial. Mr. Dellaria seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McDuffie informed the committee that MACORTS has received formal approval from the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation to continue using in-kind match for FY 2012. Mr. Munro asked if the in-kind match seemed to be working well for the counties. The consensus was that the counties had benefitted by not having to provide as much cash match.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Fowler to provide a status report on Transportation Investment Act of 2010 (aka TSPLOST / HB 277). Mr. Fowler stated that the Northeast Georgia region was the first to submit projects to Mr. Todd Long. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Planning Office is vetting the list for adherence to the adopted criteria. The unconstrained list should be sent back to the Regional Roundtable in June for their consideration. Mr. Davis commented that there are 3 public meetings scheduled tentatively in May to allow the public to see the unconstrained list. Mr. Fowler added that GDOT has hired a consultant to provide analysis of the public benefit and provide technical background for the projects that remain on the unconstrained list.

With no other new business to discuss, Mr. Davis commented on the brevity of the recent Policy Committee meetings. He attributed that brevity to the diligent work of the Technical Coordinating Committee.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.