

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, April 27, 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
Steve Decker - ACC Traffic Engineering
BR White - Oconee County Planning Department
Ronald Thomas - Greenway Commission
Don Walter - UGA Transportation
David Clark - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Blaine Williams - ACC Manager

Others Present: Sarah Bell - Oconee County citizen
Russ Paige - Oconee County citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. He introduced Ron Thomas with the Greenway Commission to the group. Mr. Griffin announced that this would be Mr. Clark's last meeting before he begins work as Director of Public Works for Fulton County. He thanked Mr. Clark for his many years of service to TCC & MACORTS.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the March 23, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDED PARTICIPATION PLAN AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this document was amended to include 2 sentences required by GDOT and FTA and updated legislative references to include the FAST Act. There was a 45-day public comment period from February 22 to

April 6, including a public meeting held on March 21st. There was no public comment received.

Mr. Clark recommended approval of the Final Draft Amended Participation Plan. Mr. White 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 explained the original proposal involved the deletion of the Union Church Rd Improvement Project, at a cost of \$15 million, and the deletion construction phase of the Mars Hill Rd Widening project, (leaving PE & ROW funded) in order to add an interchange project at SR316 at the Oconee Connector. The SR 316 interchange has an estimated cost of approximately \$18 million. The original proposal was not approved by the Policy Committee, and was sent back to TCC for further consideration. She stated there is still \$3 million needed to balance the cost of the project.

Mr. Clark stated that he spoke with Mr. Beshara via phone before the meeting and notified him that ACC did not find it feasible to reduce any of the current projects by the amount Oconee requested. He also noted that Mr. Beshara stated he would review the Oconee County projects and have an alternate proposal at the next TCC meeting.

After some brief discussion, Mr. Clark recommended tabling the proposed amendment to add an interchange project at SR316 at the Oconee Connector to the LRTP for one month. Mr. White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON UNFUNDED PROJECTS FROM FY 17 UPWP

Ms. McDuffie explained that the PL Funds Review Committee met on March 31st in Atlanta. They chose to fund the Compliance Update of the LRTP with 'leftover' statewide PL funds; however, the traffic counters were not chosen for funding. She stated an amendment to bring the project into the funded section of the UPWP may be necessary in the next couple of months. GDOT will be working out the details of how these projects will be administered.

Ms. McDuffie explained the new procurement process issued by FHWA for PL-funded studies will involve seeking approval from GDOT & FHWA of the proposed scope. If approval of the scope is received, the RFP and detailed scope will be brought to TCC & PC for approval before the project is advertised. She stated that some of the TCC members may

be asked to serve on the RFP review committee. There was some discussion about project selection.

B. UPDATE ON STATUS OF MAP-21 / FAST ACT FINAL RULES – NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES: HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FINAL RULE

Ms. McDuffie explained that the Safety Final Rule is the first of 3 rules to be published by FHWA that will “establish performance measures for State DOTs and MPOs to use to carry out Federal-aid highway programs and assess performance in each of 12 areas.” The Safety Rule was published on March 15, 2016 with an effective date of April 14, 2016. Ms. McDuffie explained the requirements of the safety measures. Summary handouts were provided to members.

C. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Clark stated the College Station Road Bridge project is moving forward and is set to be open to traffic in July. The bike lanes on College Station are scheduled for new curb and gutter installation this week.

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie stated transit is still waiting for a response about the SRTA grant for hybrid electric vehicles. The Mayor and Commission approved the youth ridership program to allow youth under 17 years of age to ride free from May 20 to August 9. Transit has submitted an application to GDOT for \$450,000 with 20% local match in SPLOST funds for additional bus stop enhancements/bus stop improvements. He also stated the summer service schedule starts May 10th.

UGA Campus Transit System

Mr. Walter thanked Mr. Clark for all the years of service he provided.

Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission

Mr. Thomas stated he had received calls from citizens about the intersections of the greenway with roads and highways. He looks forward to working with the committee to address these and other concerns. There is a new initiative for the Georgia Trail Summit conference with interest around accelerating the construction of trails and greenways. ACC sponsored the conference for two years and Carrolton sponsored it this year. He stated the conference was very informative about crosswalks and handling greenways. He discussed the importance of private donations for greenway initiatives.

ACC Manager's Office

Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Clark for the technical expertise and years of service with ACC. Steve Decker will be the interim director for the Transportation and Public Works department as of May 6th. He stated that ACC has been working with the Youth Development Task Force and

community partners such as UGA, Chamber of Commerce, school system, police department, and public health agencies. ACC is also working with the Great Promise Partnership program at industrial settings to provide youth additional job training opportunities.

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25.