

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, April 28, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Steve Decker - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department
Pat Hale - ACC Transit Department
Kimberly Grayson – GDOT Planning Department
Ashley Finch – GDOT Intermodal Programs
SueAnne Decker- GDOT District
Todd Berven – UGA Transit System
Ann-Marie Day – FHWA (Ex-Officio)
Ross Hinkle – Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission

Others Present: Virginia Hamilton - UGA Auxiliary Services
Victor Pope – ACC Transit Department
Paul Walton – Mayor, City of Hull

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

Mrs. Varnum called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Ms. McDuffie took note of members and public in attendance and welcomed new member, Dr. Ross Hinkle, Chair of Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Decker made a motion to approve the March 24, 2021 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the committee previously reviewed this document in draft form. She noted this document is required to demonstrate MACORTS and ACC Transit Department compliance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166 in regards to persons that do not speak English as their primary language or who have limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. She stated staff had to ensure accessibility to

the programs and services that are provided. The LEP plan public comment period was held February 22 – April 7 and the summary of this public comment was presented along with a summary of the website traffic recorded during that period. She stated that no changes were made to the document since the committee last reviewed it in draft form.

Mr. Berven recommended approval of the Final Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan as presented. Mr. Hinkle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT PARTICIPATION PLAN & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the committee previously reviewed this document in draft form. She explained this document is required to document how MACORTS’ staff interacts with the public in the course of the transportation planning process. The Participation Plan public comment period was held February 22 – April 7 and the summary of this public comment was presented along with a summary of the website traffic recorded during that period. She stated no changes were made to the document since the committee last reviewed it in draft form.

Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend approval of the Final Draft Participation Plan as presented. Ms. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR LUMP SUM PROJECTS, SR 10LP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY, SR 10LP AT MIDDLE OCONEE RIVER, & CLOTFELTER ROAD BRIDGE OVER BARBER CREEK & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the committee previously reviewed these amendments in draft form. The following listed amendments revise the budget and/or schedule of several projects in the 21-24 TIP. She reviewed the project sheets showing:

SR 10Lp at Atlanta Highway, PI#122890, CST Phase: The phase remains in FY 2023, and the cost estimate increased by \$3,281,189 to \$41,515,039. UTL Phase: The phase remains in FY 2023, and the cost estimate increased by \$2,233,406 to \$7,105,412.

Freight Operations Lump Sum – This new Lump Sum category was added with FY 22 funding of \$66,000, FY 23 funding of \$133,000, and FY 24 funding of \$133,000.

Rural Development Operations Lump Sum – This new Lump Sum category was added with FY 22 funding of \$66,000, FY 23 funding of \$133,000, and FY 24 funding of \$133,000.

SR 10 Loop over Middle Oconee River – The CST phase of this project was moved from FY 2024 to FY 2025. Neither the funding amount nor funding codes changed.

Clotfelter Road Bridge over Barber Creek – The ROW phase remains in FY 21. The CST phase of this project was moved from FY 2024 to FY 2025. Neither the funding amount nor funding codes changed.

She stated that the public comment period for these amendments was held March 22 – April 5, and the summary of the public comment received was presented along with a summary of the website traffic recorded during that period. She stated that no changes were made to the amendment since the committee saw the draft version.

Ms. Hale made a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to the 21-24 TIP as presented. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR REVISIONS TO FY 22 SECTION 5307 CAPITAL FUNDING FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY TRANSIT DEPARTMENT & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment would revise the Section 5307 Capital Funding in FY 2022 for the Athens-Clarke County Transit Department to increase it from a total of \$1,735,900 to a total of \$1,910,900 (federal: \$1,528,720; state: \$191,090; local: \$191,090). She stated the line items were updated to match the grant application submitted to GDOT Intermodal Programs. The public comment period for the amendment was held March 22 – April 5, and the summary of the public comment received was presented along with a summary of the website traffic recorded during that period. She stated no changes were made to the amendment since the draft version.

Ms. Hale made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to revise the 5307 capital funding request in the 21-24 TIP. Mr. Berven seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO MACORTS BYLAWS

Ms. McDuffie stated MACORTS staff received a request to add the ACC Bike, Pedestrian, & Safety Coordinator to TCC. She noted staff also reviewed the bylaws for additional edits. Several job titles were updated. Language was updated to clarify that the Oconee County Chairman appoints the citizen representative, and staff added a clear statement addressing the use of virtual

meetings. She noted additional public involvement is not required for this item.

Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to the MACORTS Bylaws. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IX. AMENDMENT TO FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TO AMEND TRANSIT PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment adds the Transit Development Plan to the UPWP Transit Planning Element 4.2 and is funded with Section 5307 funds which are not usually included in the UPWP. She noted this amendment was requested by GDOT's consultant that is reviewing the Section 5307 applications. Staff addressed the recommendations and added a table to show the 5307 funding. She noted additional public involvement is not required.

Ms. Hale made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to the FY 22 UPWP. Ms. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Staff asked the TCC members about staying with virtual committee meetings going forward or going back to in-person TCC meetings. Ms. Day suggested that the MPO should document the process of communicating and coordinating with the local governments and make a decision for virtual or in person meetings with the majority of the local governments' preference. Mr. Decker stated that ACC government is transitioning for their employees to be in-person by June 1st. Ms. Decker and Ms. Finch, from GDOT, stated they would prefer to have virtual meetings or at least have an option to phone into the meeting. Mr. Walton stated that the City of Hull is still having virtual meetings based upon the state guidance and the Governor's orders. After further discussion, the committee decided to table this item until the next meeting.

XI. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

ACC Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Decker stated staff is working on a safety audit corridor to reduce the number and severity of crashes for Tallasse Road near the roundabout all the way to the county line. This area has had 3 fatalities so far this year and numerous injury crashes. The local Safety Audit team, Law Enforcement, and GDOT will be a part of the review 4E process that supports the Vision Zero program. The safety corridor is proposed to be completed by June or July. Staff is hopeful for positive results to reduce the crashes there and help promote other safety corridors.

Oconee County 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 close to initial concept review. A concept team meeting is scheduled in June. Projects in the local annual resurfacing program are progressing. The quick response project on SR 10 & Epps Bridge Parkway to convert the configuration to include a free flowing right lane currently has received a 'Notice to Proceed', and staff is working on an encroachment permit from the GDOT District Traffic Operations Office. The preliminary concept for the Hog Mountain Road Improvement project should begin work next week.

ACC Transit Department

Mr. Pope stated the transit system is continuing to work on new electronic signage for their buses with several new kiosks are being installed throughout the community. Transit has received two new 35 ft. buses that will be in service next week. Staff will continue to host meetings to encourage public comment involvement for the upcoming Remote Transfer Facility project.

UGA Campus Transit System

Mr. Berven stated they have received 12 of the 13 electric buses recently purchased through the grant process that should be in operation in the next couple of weeks (the last bus is in Greenville and should be received soon). The system has 33 electric buses out of the 70 buses on campus. Ridership has continued to decline as the school year ends and students move out from campus. The UGA Commencement is scheduled for 7 pm on May 13, 14 and 15th (Friday will also have a morning graduation) at the stadium which will include road closures on East Campus Road and the bridge.

GDOT- District 1

Ms. Decker stated she sent out a couple of emails about the TAPP and RAISE discretionary grant programs. For additional information about these programs or to receive updates, please contact her via email.

Oconee Rivers Greenway

Mr. Hinkle stated he was thankful for the opportunity to be a TCC member and able to communicate about utilization of greenways. Since the pandemic, people are hiking/biking more and some trails will need to utilize crosswalk and transportation networks.

FHWA

Ms. Day stated there are opportunities for additional federal funding with the RAISE discretionary grant program and the electric vehicle charging station infrastructure on the national highway.

XII. ADJOURN

Mrs. Varnum adjourned the meeting at 10:42 am and she stated the next TCC meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2021.