

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Anie Bassey – GDOT – Planning Office
David Clark – ACC Transportation & Public Works
David Ballard – Athens Transit System
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System
Ron Hamlin – UGA Campus Transit
Phil Munro – Madison County Engineer
Robert Mahoney – GDOT – District 1
Wayne Provost – Oconee Co. Strategic & Long Range Planning
Ann-Marie Day – Federal Highway Administration

Others Present: Larry McFalls – Mayor, Arnoldsville
John Stephens – Mayor, Maxeys
Billy Pittard – Chairman, Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mr. John Stephens, Mayor of Maxeys, spoke in favor of the US 78 Widening project. As a user of US 78, he has seen the road get more and more crowded through the years. He acknowledged that residents of Arnoldsville have a problem with the alignment in that area. Mr. Stephens suggested that GDOT look at the proposed route of US 78 again.

Mr. Larry McFalls, Mayor of Arnoldsville, spoke about the US 78 Widening project. He expressed his hope that the widening of the road and the opportunities to bring more businesses to Oglethorpe County would be beneficial to Oglethorpe County, but he expressed his dismay that the proposed alignment will cut Arnoldsville in half. The businesses and homes that would be displaced along the current alignment also make it the most expensive alternative. Mr. McFalls suggested that there are better alignments that GDOT should examine further.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the April 27, 2011 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Hamlin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF MADISON COUNTY ALTERNATIVE TO NEW GDOT REQUEST TO ADD LEXINGTON ROAD WIDENING PROJECT TO THE 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that this item was tabled last month. In consultation with Madison County, MACORTS staff has developed the proposed project sheets for the US 29 project and Lexington Road project. This action would modify the project concept of the US 29 to provide improvements to the corridor without a full 4-lane widening. This reduction in the concept would reduce the cost of the project to allow the Lexington Road Widening to be added to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Ms. McDuffie explained that this action will require a 15-day public comment period. The proposed schedule was distributed. To avoid confusion, the public comment period would begin on June 27, after the current comment period ends for the Draft FY 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Mahoney expressed some reservations regarding the proposed concept changes to the US 29 Widening project. He suggested that GDOT and Madison County need to review the concept before anything is finalized. After some discussion, the group decided that the discussions between GDOT and Madison County could be done while the item is taken out to public comment. A decision could be made once the item comes back to TCC. Mr. Mahoney volunteered to set up a meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Mahoney made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft amendments to the 2035 LRTP that would add the Lexington Road Widening project and revise the project concept for the SR 8 / US 29 Widening in Madison County to go to public comment. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Griffin informed the group that it appears in some correspondence that MACORTS received that the project manager for the Lexington Road Widening project, Peter Emmanuel, has agreed to meet with the Arnoldsville government to discuss the design of the project.

VI. NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES

Mr. Clark – Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works

The Barnett Shoals at Old Lexington Road intersection is currently under construction. The area will be closed to traffic on June 5, 2011. Construction should start on the Fowler Mill Road bridge shortly after June 1, 2011.

Mr. McDuffie – Athens Transit System

Summer service is now underway. There are some detours on the UGA Campus due to construction by UGA.

Mr. Mahoney – Georgia Department of Transportation, District 1

GDOT is still working on the right-of-way (ROW) acquisition for the SR 72 project in Madison County. There is a public meeting tomorrow concerning the bridge replacement scheduled for SR 191 over Scull Shoal Creek in Madison County. Oconee County has received the right-of-way acquisition contract for the SR 53 project to begin buying ROW. The Preliminary Field Plan Review was just held for the Old Hull Road project in Athens-Clarke County (ACC). The project managers for the Jennings Mill Road Extension and the Mitchell Bridge Road projects should be contacting ACC soon to get Preliminary Engineering started.

Ms. Day – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Ms. Day reminded MACORTS that Robert Buckley with the Federal Transit Administration needs to be included in MACORTS meeting correspondence. Ms. McDuffie confirmed that he is included in all meeting correspondence.

Mr. Munro – Madison County Engineer

The Notice to Proceed was received for work on the Glenn Carrie intersection at US 29.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m. The next TCC meeting will be a special called meeting on June 29, 2011. The main order of business will be the Final Draft FY 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program.