

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office
Sue Anne Decker – GDOT, District 1
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department
Don Walter - UGA Campus Transit
Frank Stephens – ACC Public Utilities
Steve Decker - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Kim Coley – GDOT, District 1
Ryan Walker – GDOT, Intermodal Programs

Others Present: Tom Caiafa – GDOT Planning
Marilyn Hall – ACC Public Utilities
Virginia Hamilton - UGA
Victor Pope - ACC Transit Department
Dave Henson- Oconee County Citizen Representative for
Policy Committee
Lee Becker- Oconee County Citizen

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

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order 10:02 am. Ms. McDuffie took roll of members and guests.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. McDuffie stated there was a minor correction in the minutes to add Ms. Decker to the member attendance list. Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the April 22, 2020 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF AMENDMENT TO FY 18 – 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: SR 10 LP AT LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Griffin stated this amendment to the 18-21 TIP involves shifting the construction phase from FY 20 (June) to FY 21 (Fall) and updating the cost estimate. He noted the utilities cost estimate increased from \$1,562,640 to \$2,089,688 and the construction cost estimate increased from \$14,541,694 to \$22,781,160.

Mr. Griffin presented the proposed timeline for the required public comment that was previously sent to members. The public comment period would be held June 22 – July 6, 2020 (15 days) that will include a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 5 – 6pm. The amendments and public comment received would come back to the TCC committee on July 22 then to Policy Committee for final approval on August 12.

Mr. Stephens made a motion to recommend approval to begin the public involvement for the amendment to the SR 10 Loop at Lexington Rd interchange. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF AMENDMENT REQUEST TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN: ADD SR 10 LP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE AND SR 316 AT JIMMIE DANIEL ROAD INTERCHANGE – WHAT PROJECTS MOVE TO UNFUNDED? - & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Griffin reviewed the funding details received from GDOT to begin the update of the Transportation Improvement Program. He noted the funding information included a change in funding source for the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Hwy Interchange construction phase and the SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Road Interchange project's Preliminary Engineering phase. During the development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, both projects were to be funded with HB 170 funding (state); therefore, they were not included in the Plan. Now both projects are to be funded with federal funding.

Ms. McDuffie explained a project must be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to be funded in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with federal dollars. Therefore, if the MPO plans for these projects to continue in their development with federal funds, they will need to be added to the TIP, and the MTP must be amended and kept fiscally constrained. To do so, \$45,294,287 must be removed from the MTP to make room for these projects. She noted that once a decision has been reached, staff can finish the Draft TIP and send it to FHWA and GDOT for review. After that review is completed, the TIP would come back to TCC & Policy Committee and then out to the public for review and comment.

Ms. McDuffie explained staff has been coordinating with the Public Works staff in all three counties since the mail out. Through this coordination two projects were identified that could be moved into the Unfunded Section - SR 10 Loop at US 29 interchange Project (ACC) and the SR 316 Access Road, Phase 1 (Oconee). After discussion with all the counties about these projects, it was determined that these projects would not have to be deleted completely from the Plan but their construction phases could be moved to the Unfunded Section so that any potential Design and ROW could still be completed. She explained with the phases moved out of the Plan, there would be \$2,563,457 left over. Some of that could be added to the ROW funds for SR 316@ Jimmie Daniel Interchange. She noted the remaining amount would be approximately \$1,5 million that could be left in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for future amendments since it's not enough to bring in another project.

Ms. McDuffie stated the MTP amendment will be taken to the public with the Draft FY 21-24 TIP document, so TCC will see both these amendments and the full Draft TIP at the July 22 TCC meeting before they go to the public for review and comment.

Mr. Caiafa stated that GDOT appreciates all of the hard work staff has done to process the amendments for the MTP and is favor of the proposed projects to be removed.

After brief discussion, Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend approval of adding construction phase of SR 10LP at Atlanta Highway interchange and the PE and ROW phases of SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Rd Interchange to the MTP and remove the construction phases of the SR 10LP at US 29 Interchange and the SR 316 Access Road, Phase 1 from the 2045 MTP. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

UGA TRANSIT

Mr. Walter stated transit is still not running service and classes are still cancelled.

ACC TRANSIT

Mr. McDuffie stated that the transit system is currently operating their normal summer schedule which is 10 routes /16 buses per hour. The previous summer had an average of 2,800 to 3,200 passenger trips per day; however, current ridership is 3,500 to 4,000 passenger trips per day. Some of the increase in ridership is due to the transit system operating fare free until June 30. After this date, children and seniors will continue to ride for free but other adult fare should begin again (pending the budget being approved by the Mayor and

Commission). The transit system continues to process operating and capital assistance through the CARES Act program. This program is providing additional funding for transit systems affected by COVID-19. Transit continues to practice social distancing (face masks encouraged) on the buses and working through issues with the limited bus space. The transit service to the Park and Ride at Lexington/ Loop 10 will be discontinued during the construction phase of the Lexington Road Interchange Project. There is a new RaceTrac located at this interchange and 2 bus shelters across the street from the Park and Ride, so there will be public access to transit in and out of the downtown area 6 times per hour. However, buses will not be going in and out of the Park and Ride. Most of this service will be moved to Route #27.

GDOT - DISTRICT 1

Ms. Decker stated GDOT had their Board meeting to discuss the required 14% reduction of the preliminary budget. The Capital Projects program will have a significant decrease in their budget, and there may also be some changes to future funding allotments for the next fiscal year. Over the next few weeks, an update will be provided once the budget is approved.

GDOT - PLANNING

Mr. Caiafa also stated the preliminary budget for the Capital Projects Program has been decreased; however, layoffs are not proposed at this time. They currently still have a vacant GDOT Planning Director position.

GDOT - INTERMODAL

Mr. Walker stated the Intermodal Office has done some reorganizing to include Lee Ann Trainer as acting Assistant Division Administrator, and Kaycee Mertz will be the acting Transit Program Manager with support from Patricia Smith.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am. The next meeting scheduled for June 24, 2020.