

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday June 10, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Kelly Girtz, Athens-Clarke County Mayor
John Scarborough, Madison County Chairman
John Daniell, Oconee County Chairman
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning Office
Sara Beresford, Athens-Clarke County Citizen
Dave Henson, Oconee County Citizen

Others Present: Brad Griffin, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Pat Hale, Athens Transit Department
Jalen Ford, GDOT Planning
Virginia Hamilton, UGA Campus Transit
Jessica Blankenship, GDOT District 1
Ryan Walker, GDOT Intermodal Programs
Victor Pope, ACC Transit Department
Lee Becker, Oconee County Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF THOSE ON CALL

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:11 am. Mrs. Varnum took roll of the members and guests in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Scarborough made a motion to adopt the May 13, 2020 Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Daniell 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.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL TO BEGIN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FOR DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO FY 18 - 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: REVISIONS TO SR 10 LP AT LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT

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. The utilities cost estimate increased from \$1,562,640 to \$2,089,688. The construction cost estimate increased from \$14,541,694 to \$22,781,160.

He discussed the proposed timeline for public comment. The public comment period will be held June 22 – July 6, 2020 (15 days) and will include a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 5 – 6pm. The amendments and public comment received would come back to this committee for final approval on August 12. Mr. Griffin stated TCC recommended approval of this item.

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

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO PROCEED WITH UPDATE OF THE FY 21 – 24 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Griffin stated that recently MACORTS received funding details from GDOT to begin the update of the Transportation Improvement Program. The funding information included a change in funding source for the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Hwy Interchange project's Construction phase and the SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Road Interchange project's Preliminary Engineering phase. During the development of the 2045 MTP, 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.

A project must be included in the MTP to be funded in the TIP with federal dollars. Therefore, if the MPO plans for these projects to continue in their development with federal funds, they need to be added to the TIP, and the MTP must be amended and kept fiscally constrained. Mr. Griffin also stated that in order to include these projects in the upcoming TIP, the MPO needs to identify \$46.7 million to cut from the MTP to keep the MTP fiscally constrained/balanced. He thanked the Public Works staff in all 3 counties for their coordination and hard work in identifying projects to enable the MPO to work through this process. The proposed projects were taken to TCC for discussion and a recommendation to Policy Committee.

Mr. Griffin stated the project sheets and table showing the TCC recommendation was previously sent to members for review. He explained that TCC recommended moving the construction phases of 2 projects out of the MTP:

1. SR 10 Loop at US 29 interchange Project – \$25,396,535
2. SR 316 Frontage Road, Phase 1 - \$22,461,209

He noted this would leave a balance of \$1,163,457 in the MTP. Since that is not enough to bring in another project, this amount will be available to lessen the amount of the next amendment that we have to make.

He explained that once a decision has been reached by the MPO, staff can finish the Draft TIP and the MTP amendments and get all of the information out to FHWA and GDOT for review, and back to TCC & Policy Committee, then out to the public for review and comment.

He noted the MTP amendment will be taken through the process with the Draft FY 21-24 TIP document, so this committee should see both this amendment and the full Draft FY 21-24 TIP document at the August 12, 2020 meeting before they go to the public for review and comment.

Mr. Henson questioned the source of funding projections for the Bishop Farms Parkway project. Mr. Daniell clarified that the funding source is not federal and has been scheduled for a later time in 2024.

Ms. Beresford questioned about HB 170 funding and how it is processed. Mr. Griffin explained the projects were originally proposed to have HB170 state funding which does not affect MACORTS federal funds. However, that funding varies from time to time because GDOT manages the allocation of the HB 170 funds. Mr. Griffin noted that if HB170 funding for a project is not available, federal funds replace the amount of the project in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. When this occurs, projects in the MTP have to be reevaluated to make sure the document remains fiscally constraint. Mr. Simpson also stated that if HB170 state funds are not available, federal funding is allocated for the project.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to recommend approval to begin the process to add SR 10LP at Atlanta Highway interchange and PE and ROW phases of the SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Rd Interchange to the MTP and remove the construction phases of the SR 10LP at US 29 Interchange and SR 316 Frontage Road, Phase 1 from the 2045 MTP. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Girtz adjourned the meeting at 10:36 am. He thanked everyone for their attendance and stated the next PC meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2020 and will be held virtually.