

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – Auditorium
120 W. Dougherty Street - Athens
Wednesday, June 14, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Nancy Denson, Athens-Clarke County Mayor
John Daniell, Oconee County Chairman
John Scarborough, Madison County Chairman
Krystal Harris, GDOT Planning Alternate
Flynn Warren, Oconee County Citizen
Jim Anderson, Athens-Clarke County Citizen

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Brad Griffin, ACC Planning Director
Darius Malone, GDOT Planning
Lee Becker, Oconee County Citizen
Russ Page, Oconee County Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Denson called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 10, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Daniell made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 10, 2017 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

III. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED AT TCC MEETINGS / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Ms. McDuffie reviewed the public comment received at the ACC Planning Commission meeting held on June 1, 2017. She stated Ms. Gretchen Elsner, an Athens-Clarke County citizen, addressed the group under their standing MACORTS agenda item. She described herself as a life-long cyclist. She expressed her gratitude that different modes of transportation are getting attention at the local level. She emphasized that Transportation Alternatives will be more important as roads become more congested and that bikes cause less damage to roads than cars. She explained the benefits of cycling to the individual, the environment, and the economy. To increase the number of bicycle commuters, she suggested putting the emphasis on connecting work / home destinations. She explained that the low-income populations are often pushed to the outskirts of the

community where transportation options are the fewest. She emphasized the importance of transportation infrastructure and cycling in general to create jobs. Ms. Elsner noted that with all of the divisions within the government today, the local governments are under more pressure to be responsive. She thanked the ACC Planning Commissioners for their service and their attention.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN ASSOCIATED WITH THE DRAFT FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie stated that some of the projects that have been programmed in GDOT's Construction Work Program for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are not currently in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She reminded the committee that all projects in the TIP are required to be in the LRTP.

Ms. McDuffie stated that the LRTP is a fiscally constrained document; therefore, to remain balanced, any additional funds for projects added will require funds to be removed from the document. She noted that MACORTS staff sent out a proposed solution for consideration and TCC recommended approval of the proposal sent to committee members. The proposal included removal of the Daniels Bridge Road Extension project from the LRTP along with the existing surplus in the plan. She noted this amount would be enough to fund the proposed GDOT projects.

She explained that the MACORTS staff would advertise the public involvement for this item and the TIP update (next item on the agenda) at the same time since they are dependent on each other. A copy of the proposed schedule for public involvement was given to committee members and discussed.

Mr. Daniell made a motion to recommend approval to take the Draft Amendments to the 2040 LRTP associated with the Draft 18-21 TIP to the public for review and comment. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie noted that most of the content for the Transportation Improvement Program was previously discussed during the first item for the Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments. The public involvement would be conducted concurrently since the two items are so dependent upon each other. She reviewed the minor changes reflected in the handouts.

Mr. Daniell made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft 18-21 TIP to be taken to the public for review and comment. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

VIII. ADJOURN

Ms. Denson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2017.