

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, June 22, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
David Ballard - Athens Transit System
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Ron Thomas - Greenway Commission
Pamela Thompson - ACC Downtown Development Authority
Kelly Gwin - GDOT Planning Office
Kim Coley - GDOT -District 1
Rani Katreeb - ACC Public Works
Steve Decker - ACC Public Works Interim Director
Emil Beshara - Oconee County Public Works

Others Present: Sarah Bell - Oconee County citizen
Russ Page - Oconee County citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. He introduced Rani Katreeb as the new ACC Engineering Administrator to the group.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment received at this meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MAY 25, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Gwin made a motion to approve the May 25, 2016 minutes. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 15 – 17 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO MODIFY THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SR 10 LOOP AT LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment would revise the ROW phase from 2019 to 2017 and slightly increase the funding (\$7,546,414 to \$7,548,000). She explained the timeline for the required 15-day public comment period.

Ms. Thompson recommended approval of the amendment to revise the SR 10 Loop at Lexington Road interchange project schedule and funding for public review and comment. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2017 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment includes moving the Compliance Update of the MACORTS Long Range Transportation Plan out of the unfunded section of the UPWP (shown now as work element 4.11.1) into the funded section. She also explained that Work Element 4.11 Transportation Plan Update was revised to include information about the funding process for consultant involvement in element 4.11.1. MACORTS will follow FHWA's final planning regulations that will become effective June 27, 2016 with a deadline of December 2017 for compliance with the regulations.

She also explained that MACORTS will follow the new FHWA procurement guidelines that were released in February 2016. Following that process, MPO staff will submit this amendment (if approved) and a preliminary scope to GDOT & FHWA for approval. If approval is received, an RFP and more detailed scope will be developed and brought to TCC and PC for discussion and comment before it is advertised. Some members may be called upon to be a part of the review committee for the selection of a consultant.

Ms. Gwin stated that there will be a separate contract for Work Element 4.11.1 - Compliance Update to Long Range Transportation Plan. She noted this will allow the funding to be used over a longer period of time since it may extend past FY17. Once the amendment is approved, GDOT would begin the request for authorized funding concurrently with MACORTS working on the RFP at the local level.

Mr. Beshara recommended approval of the amended FY 17 UPWP. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. RE-EXAMINATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO ADD SR 316 AT OCONEE CONNECTOR INTERCHANGE PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Griffin stated that this item was postponed multiple times. The request was originally recommended to the Policy Committee with a proposal that involved the deletion of the Union Church Rd Improvement Project and the construction phase of the Mars Hill Rd Widening project, leaving PE & ROW funded; however, the committee did not approve the original request and it was sent back to the TCC for further consideration.

Mr. Beshara emphasized the proposed grade separation interchange project for Hwy 316 at the Oconee Connector is the #1 transportation need for Oconee County. He stated the new proposal will delete Union Church Road. Improvement Project and the Simonton Bridge Road project during the 2020-2024 time frame of the LRTP and insert SR 316 at Oconee Connector Interchange project. He noted GDOT previously had ROW and Engineering concept for the SR 316 project. Mr. Beshara stated one of the main considerations for removing Simonton Bridge project was because there needs to be a complementary project in Athens-Clarke County in order to make the project effective. He would like to meet with ACC at a later time to discuss when this type of project can occur with Oconee and Athens-Clarke County.

Ms. McDuffie clarified that both projects (Simonton Bridge and Union Church Rd.) in the proposal would be moved into the unfunded section. Mr. Beshara stated that there will be some funding that is not allocated for the cost of the projects selected. He stated Oconee will propose to move something into the 2020- 2024 time frame with the remaining unallocated funds at a later time. There was some discussion about funding options for the proposal.

Ms. Thompson asked if it would be a problem to leave unallocated funds in the LRTP. Ms. McDuffie clarified that the TIP is where real funding is allocated and the Long Range plan is a projection of the anticipated funding. Therefore, there was no danger of losing any funding from current projects. Mr. Beshara stated concern about funding a special study for the SR 316 Oconee Connector area because it may help support the project.

Mr. Beshara made a motion to move Union Church Road Improvements and Simonton Bridge Road into the unfunded section of the LRTP and insert the SR316/Oconee Connector Interchange project into the funded section. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. McDuffie noted the public meetings will be the same as the scheduled sessions for the TIP amendment. The amendments would come back to the TCC on August 24, 2016.

VII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Oconee County Public Works

Mars Hill Phase I Construction is ongoing and recently had a traffic shift to work on box culverts, grading and filling. Mars Hill Phase II ROW acquisition is also in progress with a goal to have all 54 parcels for certification by September 2016. He stated the construction let date is still scheduled for December of this year. The

realignment of Government Station Road with Experiment Station Road will require a demolition of a few structures on that property. He also expressed interest in having a corridor study completed along with ACC that could include Atlanta Highway up to Timothy Road area.

Athens Transit System

Mr. Ballard stated ACC Transit was awarded funding from SRTA for hybrid electric buses. Transit is in the process of submitting an application to GDOT to receive funding for additional bus stop enhancements/bus stop improvements.

Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Decker stated that the College Station bike lane project is on schedule. The College Station Bridge project will move traffic from the old bridge to the new bridge and coordinate with UGA to move their fiber lines by August. Athens has a local project involving the Baxter Street car wash sinkhole that has become a major project for Public Works. He also stated the traffic signal software modification process has started and has a few minor glitches that are being worked out. GDOT has given Athens a \$20,000 server to help operate the new system as the data conversion is in process. GDOT wants to run fiber optic cable around the loop in order to provide monitoring locations for communication (such as message boards and crash info). They will run a line through our traffic signals around the ramps in order to provide communication to Atlanta to help monitor traffic data in our area. Mr. Decker introduced Rani Katreeb, as the new Public Works Engineering Administrator.

Athens-Downtown Development Authority

Ms. Thompson stated feedback she has received about the Dougherty Street parking spaces has been given to Mr. Decker. There will be some road closures downtown on Friday night beginning at 4pm on July 1st for the fireworks celebration for Independence Day. It will be located at the Classic Center parking deck. The event starts at 5pm and the fireworks start at 9:30pm.

Greenway Commission

Mr. Thomas stated he would like more information on for Bike/Ped Facility Planning and the possibility of future grants that may be available.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2016.