

**MACORTS Policy Committee**  
Oconee County Courthouse – Commission Chambers  
23 North Main Street - Watkinsville  
Wednesday, June 25, 2014  
10:00 a.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Anthony Dove, Madison County Chairman  
Melvin Davis, Oconee County Chairman  
Nancy Denson, Athens-Clarke County Mayor  
Bob Sanders, Oconee County Citizen Representative  
Lucy Rowland, Athens-Clarke County Citizen Representative  
Phil Munro, Madison County Citizen Representative  
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning

**Others Present:** Brad Griffin, ACC Planning  
Sherry McDuffie, ACC Planning  
Cherie Dalton, ACC Planning  
Thomas Caiafa, GDOT Planning  
Kyle Mote, GDOT Planning  
Wayne Provost, Oconee LR & Strategic Planning  
Jim Thompson, Athens Banner Herald

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00am

**II. APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. McDuffie stated there was a correction needed to the May minutes. Ms. Rowland made a motion to approve the May 14, 2014 meeting minutes with the correction. Ms. Denson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

There was none.

**IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2014 – 2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Ms. McDuffie reviewed the amendment to add funds to the ROW acquisition phase of the Mars Hill Rd Widening – Ph 2 project, increasing it from \$2.7 million to \$3.8 million. This addition would not impact any other MACORTS area project. A public comment period was held from May 27 to June 10.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY 14 – 17 Transportation Improvement Program to increase the ROW funding for the Mars Hill Road Widening – Phase 2 to \$3.87 million. Ms. Denson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT FY 2015 – 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND DRAFT FY 2015 ADDENDUM TO 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Ms. McDuffie presented the Draft TIP and Addendum to LRTP as approved by the TCC. She explained that public involvement activities would be held July 7 – August 5 with a public meeting in Oconee County on July 8, in Athens on July 22, and in Danielsville on July 29. The final draft would come back to TCC on August 27 and PC on September 10 for final approval.

Ms. Denson made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2015 – 2018 TIP and Draft FY 2015 Addendum to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to be submitted to GDOT, FTA, and FHWA and to go to the public for a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Rowland seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**2040 LONG RANGE PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Ms. McDuffie stated that the LRTP subcommittee was in the process of reviewing the final two model networks and finalizing the draft project list for the 2040 LRTP. She stated that the goal is to have a Draft 2040 LRTP to TCC for their July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. It would come to the Policy Committee on Aug 13<sup>th</sup> for consideration. If the Draft is suitable, then it would go out to public for 30 days of review and comment from August 25 to September 23. There would be a special called meeting of TCC on October 1 then the regularly scheduled meeting of the PC on Oct 8 for final approval.

Ms. McDuffie noted that the proposed schedule would put the approval of the LRTP approximately 1 month beyond the September 9<sup>th</sup> expiration date of the 2035 LRTP. Therefore, the LRTP will lapse for at least a month. For that month, FHWA / GDOT will not be able to obligate new funds to the MACORTS area. Ms. McDuffie stated that it was not anticipated that any projects would be adversely affected by the lapse. She made the committee aware that the schedule was tentative depending upon the actions of the LRTP subcommittee regarding evaluation of the travel demand model and project selection and the ability of staff to prepare the Plan for the full TCC by the deadline.

Mr. Munro stated his frustration about the GDOT/FHWA directive that all projects that are chosen to be in the funded section of the LRTP must be on roads that are functionally classified at an urban minor collector or higher. He and Mr.

Dove expressed their concern about having part of Madison County inside the MPO as 'urban' but not being able to get 'urban' highway funds for many of its roads. Ms. McDuffie explained that MAP-21 mandated that all Principal Arterial roadways are now included in the National Highway System (NHS) and that all road classifications were being reexamined. Mr. Simpson stated that the GDOT Office of Transportation Data may be a good resource for follow-up on this matter. Ms. McDuffie stated she had been in contact with that office in regard to functional classification in some other areas. The committee requested some simplified information about how roads are classified.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was some discussion about the state gasoline tax, the expiration of the Transportation bill (MAP-21), and Federal budget issues in relation to the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. Depending on the actions of Congress, some road projects could be affected in the coming months. Mr. Simpson explained that GDOT had pared down the let lists for the next few months in anticipation of the slow-down in federal funding until Congress takes action to 'fix' the Highway Trust Fund and the Transit Trust Fund. He warned the group to expect slower reimbursement from GDOT as funds slow from FHWA.

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 am. The next scheduled PC meeting is August 13, 2014.