

MACORTS Policy Committee

Oconee County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

10 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Melvin Davis, Oconee County
Anthony Dove, Madison County
Wayne Provost, Oconee County Citizen Representative (alternate)
Tom McQueen, GDOT Planning
David Ballard, Athens-Clarke County (alternate)
Phil Munro, Madison County Citizen Representative

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, ACC Planning
George Rodrigues, Watkinsville
Norma Craddock, Arnoldsville
Robert Mahoney, GDOT – District 1
Anie Basse, GDOT Planning

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Davis welcomed Mr. McQueen as the Georgia Department of Transportation member to Policy Committee.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2011 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. McDuffie shared the following summary of the public comment received at the May 25, 2011 Technical Coordinating Committee meeting.

Mr. John Stephens, Mayor of Maxeys in Oglethorpe County, spoke in favor of the US 78 Widening project. As a user of US 78, he has seen the road get more and more congested through the years. He acknowledged that residents of Arnoldsville have a problem with the alignment and suggested that GDOT look at the proposed route again.

Mr. Larry McFalls, Mayor of Arnoldsville, spoke about the US 78 Widening project as well. He expressed his hope that the widening and the associated opportunities to bring businesses to Oglethorpe County would be good for the county, but he expressed his dismay that the proposed alignment will cut Arnoldsville in half. He told the TCC that the alignment that GDOT has chosen is the most expensive due to the number of

businesses and homes being displaced. Mr. McFalls suggested that there are better alignments that should be examined further.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF MADISON COUNTY ALTERNATIVE TO GDOT REQUEST TO ADD LEXINGTON ROAD WIDENING PROJECT TO 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. McDuffie presented the proposed project sheets for the US 29 project and the Lexington Road Widening project for consideration for inclusion in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. She presented the proposed schedule for public involvement activities. Ms. McDuffie noted that there was discussion at TCC that the revised concept of US 29 needed further discussion between GDOT and Madison County to resolve any issues existing with the revised project description. TCC recommended approval of the project sheets to go to the public for review while those discussions were underway.

Mr. Davis asked for Mr. Dove's opinion on this item. Mr. Dove explained that he was not comfortable at this time taking this proposal to the public for input. More discussion is needed between Madison County and GDOT representatives before this proposal goes any further. Mr. Dove noted that they have scheduled a meeting for June 21, 2010 to discuss the project.

Mr. Mahoney explained to the committee that the main concern with the project, as it has been revised, would be that of logical termini. The proposed 3-lane section tapering into the existing 2-lane section south of Diamond Hill might not be approved by the Federal Highway Administration for federal funding. After some discussion of the project elements, Mr. Davis noted that further discussion of project details should be left for the meeting on June 21st.

Mr. Dove made a motion to table this item until the July 13, 2011 meeting of the Policy Committee. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be July 13, 2011.