

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, July 22, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
BR White - Oconee Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Butch McDuffie - Athens Transit System
Tom Caiafa - GDOT Planning Office
Ron Hamlin - UGA Campus Transit System
Emil Beshara - Oconee Public Works
David Ballard - Athens Transit
Kim Coley - GDOT District 1
Steve Decker - ACC Traffic Engineering

Others Present: Ann-Marie Day - Federal Highway Administration
Kadian Hollenquest - Federal Highway Administration
Russ Page - Public
Don Walter - UGA Campus Transit System

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

None

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 24, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the June 24, 2015 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. McDuffie stated the FY 2017 UPWP had some significant differences from the FY 2016 UPWP. She noted the amount of funding included in this document was the basic allocation and would be the entire budget of MACORTS (\$216,025.86) for FY 2017. Historically, the leftover funds from the previous year would be rolled into the planning contract during the year. Ms. McDuffie stated, beginning with FY 2017, this will no longer happen. All of the 'leftover funding' from all of the MPO's in Georgia will now be consolidated into one pot of money at the state level that will be awarded to one or more MPOs on a competitive basis.

Ms. McDuffie stated there had been an unfunded section added to the FY17 UPWP that includes the work element for the Compliance Update of LRTP that MACORTS staff intends to submit for the competitive pot of funds. She stated MACORTS staff will ask for \$250,000 (\$200,000 federal, and \$50,000 local) to engage a consultant to complete the update.

Other notable changes to UPWP were outlined to the committee. These changes included that no traffic counters would be purchased through MACORTS in FY 17. Also, in-kind match would not be used beyond FY 17.

Mr. Griffin stated that MACORTS is being conservative right now because there will no longer be availability of carryover funds. Mr. Griffin stated that MACORTS could possibly revisit inkind match next year, but it is unlikely after FY17.

Ms. Day stated FHWA had concerns about the FY17 UPWP. She stated there needed to be more discussion about transitioning to Performance Based Planning in the UPWP. Ms. Day also stated she would like to see additional discussion about annual priorities, goals and objectives, and Planning Emphasis Areas. There was extensive discussion about the changes to the FY17 UPWP between members of TCC and Ms. Day. She recommended that MACORTS should make the FHWA requested changes to the UPWP prior to sending the information to the Policy Committee. Mr. Beshara stated there should be some additional guidance in place to prepare the UPWP. There was some additional discussion about the approval process for the FY17 UPWP. Ms. Day stated that FHWA is willing to assist the MPO staff with the FHWA comments for the UPWP.

Mr. Beshara made a motion to defer submission of the Draft FY 2017 UPWP until next month as it would involve substantial rewriting of the document. Mr. Caiafia seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one opposed, Mr. McDuffie.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FROM GDOT TO ADD 2 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS ON SR 10 LOOP TO 2040 LRTP AND 2015-18 TIP

Ms. McDuffie stated GDOT had programmed two bridge replacement projects along SR 10 Loop – one at SR 8 / US 29 and one at the Middle Oconee River (between Atlanta Hwy and Tallassee/Oglethorpe). GDOT had requested that these projects be added to the LRTP and TIP. She also stated as of that morning, the funding category for these projects was questionable. Mr. Caiafia stated that he was unsure if these bridges were proposed to be funded with an existing funding category or with HB170 funding (new source). Ms. McDuffie stated if the source is existing funding for these projects,

MACORTS will need to identify \$14.2 million of projects to be removed from the LRTP in order to add these projects.

Mr. Griffin stated that his recommendation to the group is to put this on hold until the funding source is verified. Mr. Caiafia stated the original funding source was M001, but he could verify if HB 170 funding was a possibility. Mr. Beshara stated that he could volunteer a project to remove if it became necessary.

Mr. McDuffie recommended to table the request from GDOT to add 2 bridge replacement projects on SR 10 Loop to the 2040 LRTP and FY 15-18 TIP until the funding type could be verified. Mr. Hamlin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

UPDATES:

Georgia Department Of Transportation

Deputy Commissioner Todd Long is retiring effective October 1st.

Oconee County Planning Department

Mr. White stated they will have a public forum for a zoning overlay district for the Mars Hill Road corridor tomorrow.

Oconee County Public Works

Mr. Beshara stated that Oconee County received a PFA for Jimmie Daniel road widening (project R-27); however, GDOT did not send Athens-Clarke County a PFA. Mr. Beshara noted the project manager wants Oconee County to proceed without ACC involvement. Ms. Coley stated she could check with the project manager about the PFAs.

Mr. Beshara also stated Oconee would like MACORTS to fund a corridor study for the SR316/Epps Bridge corridor. Mr. Griffin stated he recommended Oconee put together a proposal of what they would like to do specifically and how much the anticipated cost would be in order for it to be placed on the agenda. Ms. McDuffie stated an amendment to the FY16 UPWP would have to take place and the corridor study would need to be completed before July 1, 2016 since funds for it could not be carried into FY 17. Mr. McDuffie stated that Oconee County could request a task order on the existing On-call Transit and Transportation Planning contract with RS&H, if it would be acceptable to the Oconee County Finance Office. Mr. Griffin stated Mr. Provost was supposed to be submitting a proposal to MACORTS.

University of Georgia Campus Transit System

Mr. Hamlin stated the electric bus project is getting a lot of interest from vendors. There will be one more bus manufacturer bringing an electric bus to campus in August if anyone would like to see it.

Athens-Clarke County Transit

Mr. McDuffie is looking into electric buses through the current Gillig contract. He also stated Sunday service starts August 16th and the regular Fall

service schedule starts on August 17th. Mr. McDuffie stated that Transit Feasibility Study stakeholder meeting information was sent out, and the stakeholder meeting will be held August 4th discuss transit options.

Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Decker stated Whitehall Road is now open, earlier than expected. He also stated the roundabout at Whitehead Road and Tallassee Road is on schedule and should be open in about another week. He also asked Ms. Coley to include David Clark in discussion about the PFA for the Jimmie Daniel Road project.

VII. ADJOURN

The next TCC meeting is scheduled for August 26. The next PC meeting is scheduled for August 12th. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.