

## SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee  
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium  
Wednesday, July 24, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director  
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department  
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department  
Rani Katreeb - ACC Engineering Administrator  
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office  
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department  
Frank Stephens - Public Utilities Director (Interim Public Works Director)  
Stephen Bailey - ACC Transportation and Public Works  
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit  
Victor Pope – ACC Schools Transit Alternate

**Others Present:** Sarah Bell - Oconee County citizen  
Tom Caiafa - GDOT Planning Office  
Beverly Davis - RS&H  
Elliott Caldwell – Georgia Bikes / BikeAthens

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed the new GDOT Planner, Jalen Ford, to the TCC. He also welcomed Stephen Bailey, ACC Public Works Assistant Director, and Frank Stephens, ACC Interim Director for Public Works.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

There was none.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MAY 22, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2019 TCC Meeting. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**IV. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 18 – 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: ADJUSTMENTS TO BRIDGE PROJECTS’ SCHEDULE & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. McDuffie explained that the administrative modifications to the FY 18 - 21 TIP include changes to two bridge projects: SR 10 Loop at Middle Oconee and US 78/SR10 at North Oconee River Bridge. The right-of-way phase of the SR10 Loop Bridges at Middle Oconee River project will move from 2019 to 2020 with a reduction of cost from \$250,000 to \$112,363. The right-of-way phase of the US 78 / SR 10 (Oconee Street) at North Oconee River Bridge project will shift from 2019 to 2020 with no change in cost.

Mr. Stephens made a motion to recommend approval of the administrative modification to FY 18-21 TIP to update the schedules and funding for the SR 10 LP Bridges over the Middle Oconee River and SR 10/US 78 at North Oconee River projects. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**V. REVIEW OF AMENDMENT TO FY 18 - 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: MOVE SR 10 LP @ LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 2025 TO FY 2020**

Ms. McDuffie noted that materials related to this request was on the table since it arrived after the mail out to the group. The amendment will move the construction phase of the project from FY 2025 to FY 2020. A 15-day public comment period will be required. There was some discussion about the proposed timeframe of when the project will begin and how transit routes in this area would need to be detoured during the construction.

Mr. Woodall made a motion to recommend approval to take the amendment to shift the construction of the SR 10 Loop @ Lexington Road into FY 2020 out to the public for review and comment. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VI. FINAL AMENDMENT TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. McDuffie stated the amendment to the LEP that added language to page 13 was taken out for the 45 days of public review. A summary of the public comment received was previously sent to members for review. She noted there were not any changes to the document since the last time TCC reviewed the document.

Mr. Woodall made a motion to recommend approval of the amended LEP Plan. Mr. Katreeb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VII. DRAFT 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO GO TO THE PUBLIC FOR REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE (RS&H)**

Ms. Davis, with RS & H, gave a presentation about the current 2045 MTP Draft Plan. Ms. Davis discussed the proposed schedules for public comment as the completed draft goes into the next phase. She stated the document has been in local and agency review from the planning partners of GDOT, FHWA and FTA to assure compliance with the federal and state goals as well as the planning factors.

She explained that comments were received from Oconee County officials and addressed in the Draft sent out to the committee. The project description for Project P-28 (Hog Mountain Road Widening) was changed to widening to two standard 12 ft. lanes instead of four lanes. She also stated this revision reduced the original project cost and allowed for the construction phase of P-44 (SR 316 Frontage Road) to be moved in from the unfunded list. She explained that in response to the comments from the FHWA, the draft more clearly expressed the importance of the performance based planning process and monitoring compliance with the performance based requirements.

Mr. Pope made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft 2045 MTP to go to the public for review and comment for 30 days. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

**IX. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS**

**Athens Clarke County Transit Department**

Mr. McDuffie stated the FY20 5307 Capital grant through FTA should be awarded for \$6 million with \$3 million designated for capital expenses. This grant will help service the existing buses and replace some vehicles. The 5339 discretionary grant through FTA is \$1.5 million to be used for two additional replacement hydroelectric buses. The Fall transit service begins on August 13<sup>th</sup> and will include several route changes to Prince Avenue. The proposed State Route 10 loop @Lexington Road project would require detours when the

project begins. Transit ridership is down about 18% locally and about 14% nationally due to the economy and access to vehicle services.

#### **Athens County Transportation& Public Works**

Mr. Stephens stated the bike/pedestrian improvements with landscaping and striping for Hancock Avenue have begun. There are also road improvements for additional ROW at the intersection of Hawthorne and Oglethorpe. Project P-21, SR10 Loop @ Chase Street, has been suggested to have a double roundabout. Project P-15, Mitchell Bridge Road/Timothy Road realignment has proposed road improvements.

#### **Athens Clarke County Traffic Engineering**

Mr. Katreeb stated there are several sidewalk changes proposed for Tallassee Road Bridge SPLOST replacement project as staff continues to wait on a response from CSX for utility relocation information. The Whitehall Road / Milledge Avenue roundabout should be completed by September. West Broad Street has two projects that involve GDOT. The first is a sidewalk project from Hawthorne Avenue to the Beech Haven Shopping area (near Swifty Car wash) that utilized sidewalk funds proposed to let in November. The other project is the West Broad Street roundabout that GDOT may contribute additional funding to in the near future. This would be proposed to be in the next cycle of the TIP document in 2022. There are also several local sidewalk projects in process that require coordination with transit.

#### **Oconee County Public Works**

Mr. Woodall stated the Mars Hill Road, Rocky Branch Road, and Virgil Langford intersection project is out for bid and includes adding turn lanes / signal. The roundabout at Mars Hill Road is proposed to be completed by October. The Mars Hill Phase II project will move forward to 2021 with HB170 funds.

#### **GDOT**

Mr. Caiafa stated that GDOT is expecting to send out Draft TIP information for FY 21-24 in late July or August.

### **X. ADJOURN**

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:38 am. He stated the next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2019.