

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Andrew Heath – GDOT – Planning Office
Steve Decker – ACC Traffic Engineering
Wayne Provost – Oconee Co. Strategic & Long Range Planning
Lucy Rowland – ACC Planning Commission
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System
David Ballard – Athens Transit System
Emil Beshara – Oconee County Public Works
Richard White – ACC Manager’s Office
B.R. White – Oconee County Planning Department

Others Present: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Griffin introduced Mr. Andrew Heath to the committee. He will be the interim Georgia Department of Transportation Planner until a replacement is found for Mr. Anie Bassey. Mr. Griffin announced Mr. Robert Mahoney’s retirement from the Georgia Department of Transportation and the appointment of Mr. Brent Cook to that position.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment received at this meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Rowland made a motion to approve the June 13, 2012 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 2013 – 2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reviewed the changes made to the SR 10 Loop at Lexington Road interchange project. The project description has been revised from widening to 3 travel lanes in each direction to remaining 2 travel lanes in each direction with 2 auxiliary lanes in the vicinity of the interchange. As an administrative modification, no public involvement activities are required beyond the TCC and PC meetings.

Mr. Richard White noted a correction that was needed for consistency between the TIP and LRTP. Mr. Beshara made a motion to recommend approval of the administrative modification to the FY 2013 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, with the noted correction. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION BILL REAUTHORIZATION: MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY (MAP-21)

Ms. McDuffie informed the committee that President Obama signed the reauthorization of the Transportation bill on July 6, 2012. The new law is called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The law will expire on Oct. 1, 2014. Ms. McDuffie distributed a summary of MAP-21 from the Federal Highway Administration. She then outlined highlights of the legislation to the committee members. Mr. Heath answered questions posed by committee members.

On behalf of Mr. David Clark, Ms. McDuffie invited all of the committee members to attend a briefing on MAP-21 hosted by ITE on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. The location of the webinar is not finalized, but Ms. McDuffie will distribute the details as to the location as soon as it is available.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES

Mr. Beshara – Oconee County Public Works

In regards to questions from committee members about the posted speed limit (35 mph) of the Oconee Connector, Mr. Beshara explained that 35 mph is the design speed because of the vertical curvature. Right-of-way acquisition is still underway for the Mars Hill Road Widening. It is anticipated that the ROW acquisition will be completed by the end of the calendar year. He noted that he is waiting to see whether or not the TSPLOST passes in the Northeast Georgia region. He presented his theory as to why there does not seem to be abundant public support for the TSPLOST.

Mr. McDuffie – Athens Transit System

Athens Transit System is preparing for upcoming fall service.

Mr. Decker - Athens-Clarke County Traffic Engineering

Permits have been approved for the road network of the Caterpillar site. Work on the design will start soon. Mr. McDuffie asked whether transit amenities had been discussed for the Caterpillar site. Mr. Decker said he would check on it.

Athens-Clarke County will be continuing their campaign this fall for awareness in school zones. The signage improvements made as part of the Safe Routes to School program have been completed.

Ms. Rowland – Athens-Clarke County Planning Committee

Ms. Rowland offered an example of why some do not support the TSPLOST referendum. She discussed the needs of small business and their fear that another penny of tax will be detrimental to them.

Mr. Andrew Heath – Georgia Department of Transportation Planning Office

Mr. Heath offered his assistance to committee members.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. Ms. McDuffie reminded the committee that the next scheduled meeting will be on August 22, 2012.