

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, July 26, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
BR White - Oconee Planning Department
Conolus Scott, Jr. - Madison County Planning Commission
Juliane Dixon-Crumb - Athens Transit System
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System
Darius Malone - GDOT Planning Office
Emil Beshara - Oconee County Public Works
Drew Raessler - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Jestin Johnson – ACC Manager’s Office

Others Present: Lee Becker - Oconee County citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF MAY 24, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Beshara made a motion to approve the May 24, 2017 minutes. Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN ASSOCIATED WITH UPDATE OF DRAFT FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie noted that the handout given to the committee consisted of the additional public comments received since the original mail out. She gave the members time to review this information. She also explained that ACC experienced a network failure this week that could have possibly delayed any additional public comment received. Any additional public comment received will be given to the Policy Committee and made available to TCC members upon request. There was some brief discussion about the public comment. She noted a large portion of the public comment received was in support of the deletion of the Daniels Bridge Extension project from the LRTP.

She noted the proposed amendments were taken to the public for comment from June 26 to July 25. She stated the board was provided a summary of the public comment received for these amendments and the Draft 18-21 TIP document for review. There were no proposed changes to the document since the board last reviewed it. Mr. Beshara asked for verification that this action was to include the deletion of the Daniels Bridge Road Extension (flyover) with funds moved to the SR 316 interchange at the Oconee Connector. Ms. McDuffie clarified that the proposal included the deletion of the Daniels Bridge Road Extension (flyover) entirely from the LRTP. Those funds would be used to add the following projects to the LRTP: SR 316 interchanges at Dials Mill Extension and SR 10 Loop, SR 10 Loop Bridges at the Middle Oconee River, Belmont Road bridge over Shoal Creek, and Clotfelter Road bridge over Barber Creek.

Mr. White recommended approval of the Final Draft Amendments to the 2040 LRTP associated with the 18-21 TIP. Mr. Raessler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reviewed several changes made to the TIP document since the committee last received it. She noted a copy of the legal ad, timeline for public involvement, and summary of public comment received has been included in the Final Draft document. A typo was corrected in Section II of the 2nd Tier, page A3 – the description was corrected to name the correct terminus. The graphic and title were already correct.

She stated, at the request of GDOT, staff has removed the Jimmie Daniel Road widening project from the 2nd Tier. She noted there was some confusion as to where the project should end in Oconee County at the last meeting. Mr. Beshara stated the last time he spoke with David Clark about this project, Athens did not have funding available for this project until 2020, at the earliest. In order for the project to work, it has to be a joint project and both counties would need to have funds available for ROW, therefore, if ACC is not ready, Oconee is not ready to proceed either. GDOT has asked that the project be re-evaluated during the LRTP update process when both counties are ready to move forward together.

Mr. Beshara made a motion to recommend approval of Final Draft 18-21 TIP. Mr. Raessler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Griffin stated staff was in the process of awarding the contract to update the 2045 LRTP. The contract will be awarded to RS&H. Ms. McDuffie noted that safety targets will be a required part of the LRTP update. She noted that GDOT will do a presentation at the next TCC meeting to discuss the state's safety targets. MACORTS will be required to either

support the state's safety targets or develop independent safety targets. The MPO will have only 6 months from the date the state reports their targets to adopt their targets. Both the TIP and the LRTP must be amended to reflect the safety target information. The GDOT presentation will give the board a lot more information at the next TCC meeting.

Updates:

Oconee County Public Works Department

Mr. Beshara stated construction of Mars Hill Road Widening Phase I continues and was proposed to have single lane traffic on the new road by October. He noted the project was expected to be finished by the contractual deadline of May 31, 2018. He stated that the county is close to certifying the ROW for phase II of Mars Hill Road Widening. Oconee County is going to partner with the GDOT Planning Office and consultants to do a countywide transportation study. Mr. Malone will be the contact at GDOT.

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie noted Transit had another public meeting on July 13th as part of the Transit Development Plan that is currently ongoing. There was also a recent stakeholder meeting that went very well. The plan is proposed to be completed by RS & H around October of this year. Fall service starts on August 7th that will include a new fixed route to provide service for the northeastern part of Athens which includes Danielsville Road, SR 29, and the Spring Valley Road corridors. This will not be traditional fixed route, however. It will be a fixed route with point deviation. He noted there had been a lot of advertisement of the new route and flyers have been handed out to proposed riders. He also stated that transit had 1.7 million rides for fiscal year FY 2017 representing about 100,000 increase in ridership. The new route will utilize a standard 30 ft. bus, and it will offer deviating service within a mile of the route. Mr. McDuffie explained the bus will not go into driveways nor into the mobile home/residential communities. Instead, there will be a pickup in the front of these neighborhoods. The roads inside some of the areas were not set up for that type of bus traffic. Transit has been coordinating with the management and leasing home agencies for the best location of pickup areas.

ACC Public Works

Mr. Raessler stated they were in the process of public outreach for the ACC Bike/Pedestrian Master plan that is scheduled to be completed by May 2018. He also noted the College Station Road project is complete with bike lanes and the bridge replacement. The MLK bridge replacement with the bottomless culvert had a few minor issues; however, it should be open sometime next week. Mayor and Commission met last night to discuss the ACC TSPLOST with a vote scheduled for next week to finalize the slate of projects to be voted upon by the citizens in November. Some of the proposed ACC projects include improvements to South Milledge and Whitehall Road, sidewalk improvements and resurfacing projects.

Ms. McDuffie asked Mr. Malone if there was a proposed timeframe for the Oconee County Transportation Study. Mr. Malone stated that he is currently waiting on the contract to come back from procurement. He will follow up with staff once the timeline is set.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:33 am. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2017.