

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, July 28, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin – ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Stephen Bailey - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department
Victor Pope – ACC Transit Department
Rani Katreeb - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Kimberly Grayson – GDOT Planning
Sue Anne Decker - GDOT District 1
Todd Berven – UGA Transit System
Ross Hinkle – Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission
Mike Matthews - ACC Airport
Sheridan Soileau - ACC Public Utilities
Daniel Sizemore - ACC Transportation & Public Works

Others Present: Virginia Hamilton - UGA Auxiliary Services
Justin Lott – GDOT District 1
Tom Caiafa – GDOT Planning
Ann-Marie Day – FHWA (Ex-Officio)
Lee Becker - Oconee Citizen
Pat Hale - ACC Transit Department

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. He welcomed Sheridan Soileau, ACC Public Utilities, to the TCC committee. Ms. McDuffie took note of members and public in attendance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Woodall made a motion to approve the minutes from April 28, 2021 TCC. Ms. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO ADJUST THE TIMELINE & BUDGET FOR THE SR 316 AT JIMMIE DANIEL ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the proposed administrative modification would split the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of the SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Road Interchange Project between FY 22 & FY 24 and increase the funding by \$389,276 to a total of \$2,617,813. The Right-of-Way (ROW) phase would shift from FY 25 to FY 24 with a decrease of \$19,484 to \$974,189. She noted that as an administrative modification, no public review and comment is required beyond the committee meetings.

Mr. Woodall made a motion to recommend adoption of the administrative modification to revise the PE and ROW phases of the SR 316 at Jimmie Daniel Road Interchange Project in the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Berven seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Determination Regarding Future Virtual vs. In-Person Meetings & Report from Policy Committee Meeting

Ms. McDuffie reminded TCC that they had previously tabled this item. She explained that staff conveyed that to the Policy Committee at their meeting on May 12. Staff, following the guidance of FHWA, had surveyed the activities and policies of the local governments involved in MACORTS in advance of the Policy Committee meeting. They found a mixture of in-person and virtual activities/meetings being held.

After much discussion, Policy Committee made the determination that their meetings will continue to be held virtually moving forward. The Policy Committee did not, however, want to make that decision for the TCC. They wanted that decision to be made by TCC. Public meetings will be offered in a virtual format and in person as conditions allow.

Mr. Griffin stated staff is willing to proceed virtual or in person, whichever option works best for the committee. Ms. McDuffie included that both options are covered after recent amendments to the Participation Plan and MACORTS Bylaws.

Ms. Day stated that she had previously suggested that the MPO document their process of communicating and coordinating with the local governments to make the decision of whether to continue holding virtual committee meetings. She believed MACORTS has done their due diligence and documented their process; therefore, they should be able to proceed in either format. After some

discussion, Mr. Sizemore made a motion to continue holding the TCC meetings using the virtual format. Mr. Pope seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department

Mr. Pope stated the ACC Transit is preparing for the fall service schedule. The system continues to face staffing shortages, which will delay the availability of night service until October. Transit has been working with UGA to improve operations through campus. Proposed changes include moving service back to Sanford Drive and on-demand transit services on the north side of Athens on Route 30.

Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Day shared priority areas for the MACORTS to consider as development of the next MTP and FY23 UPWP including: equity, economy, climate change/ resiliency and Covid -19 relief.

University of Georgia Transit System

Mr. Berven stated that their transit system returns to full service on August 15th. The University has Sorority Rush happening this week on North Milledge. All 33 electric busses have been delivered and are in service.

Oconee County Public Works Department

Mr. Woodall stated there was a concept team meeting for the roundabouts on SR 53 at Snows Mill Road / Rocky Branch Road and Rays Church Road / Malcolm Bridge Road. They have initiated an update of the pavement index.

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:18 am and stated that the next TCC meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2021.