

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, August 24, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
David Ballard - Athens Transit System
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Ron Thomas - Greenway Commission
BR White - Oconee County Planning Department
Butch McDuffie -Athens Transit System
Emil Beshara - Oconee County Public Works
Kelly Gwin - GDOT Planning Office
Don Walter - UGA Transit
Steve Decker - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Rani Katreeb - ACC Transportation & Public Works

Others Present: Derek Doster – ACC SPLOST Office
Sarah Bell - Oconee County citizen
Stephen Bailey - ACC Transportation & Public Works
Elliot Caldwell - Georgia Bikes
Carl Jordon - ACC Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 27, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Decker made a motion to approve the July 27, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**IV. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 15 – 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO MOVE THE
RIGHT-OF-WAY PHASE TO FY 2017 FOR THE SR 10 LP AT LEXINGTON
ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Griffin stated that a summary of the public comment was sent to members. He also noted there were two additional letters received regarding the Firefly trail associated with this project. The letter from the Board of Directors of Firefly Trail,

Inc. recommended GDOT review certain points of the Lexington Road Interchange project design that involves the Firefly Trail. The letter from GDOT clarifies that they recognized the grade crossing requirements on the North bound ramp to the SR 10 Athens Loop to allow the trail project access. Additionally, they will continue to move forward in this process to review other pedestrian crossings at Old Winterville and Oconee Street intersection and the other items requested by Firefly Trail, Inc.

Mr. Thomas stated concerns about the Oconee River Greenway to the Firefly Trail. He noted the Greenway Commission sent a letter to GDOT about the connectivity between the Oconee River Greenway and the Firefly Trail as it is currently shown. He also stated the Greenway Commission would like to be included with the concerns of the Firefly Trail, Inc. Mr. Griffin clarified the area Mr. Thomas made reference to is at the Oconee Street Southbound on ramp at the Lexington Road Interchange. There was some discussion about how to contact GDOT via email or letter. Mr. Thomas stated he would forward the Greenway Commission letter to Mr. Griffin.

Mr. Decker stated the original design for this project took place several years ago and has been in process since that time. He noted that he and Derek Doster would continue to stay in contact with the project manager.

Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to FY 15-18 TIP to move the ROW phase of the SR 10 Loop at the Lexington Road Interchange to FY17. Mr. Beshara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT TO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO ADD AN INTERCHANGE PROJECT AT SR 316 & OCONEE CONNECTOR AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the amendment to the LRTP involves the addition of the SR 316 interchange and the deletion of the Union Church Road Improvement project and the Simonton Bridge Road project. There was a 15-day public comment period was held July 25 – Aug 8 with 3 public meetings. She noted TCC members received a summary and copy of the original public comment.

Mr. Beshara made a motion to recommend approval of amendment to the 2040 LRTP to add an interchange project at SR 316 & Oconee Connector and delete the Union Church Rd Improvement project and the Simonton Bridge Rd Widening project. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Oconee County Public Works

Mr. Beshara stated that the Mars Hill Phase I construction has paving operations scheduled for the middle of September. There will be several lane shifts that will take place (one will be located in front of the Oconee County Middle School). Hodges Mill Road is proposed to be abandoned from its old location and moved to the new intersection of the Mars Hill Phase I project. He noted the county is scheduled to close out ROW acquisition for Mars Hill Phase II by September 7th. The right-of-way acquisition has been slightly delayed due to objections from the University of Georgia for the realignment of Government Station Road; however, Oconee is in the process of resolving this matter.

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie stated that the fall schedule service is going well. He also noted they are still waiting on SRTA grant information for the purchase of hybrid electric buses.

UGA

Mr. Walter stated that the fall semester started and things are going extremely well.

Athens-Clarke County Transportation and Public Works Department

Mr. Decker stated they had their first meeting with the committee for the Bike / Pedestrian Master Plan Update. He noted it is a combination of the update to the Bike Masterplan and Sidewalk plan merged together. The scope for the update is currently on Google Docs and there will be a follow up meeting next Monday. The goal at that meeting is to have the final version of the scope ready for an RFP as quickly as possible. GDOT is continuing to replace all of the signal software for all of the traffic signals for the state of Georgia (Athens was third on the list). He stated they are currently experiencing problems with this transition of the new software. The new software for the traffic controllers will require more components to operate. GDOT is currently fixing these problems and it should hopefully be taken care of in 6 months.

Athens Clarke County Traffic Engineering

Mr. Katreeb stated currently the project for College Station is in progress and scheduled to be completed later this year. The College Station Bike lane project is scheduled to be completed in February. He also stated they have a few local construction projects that include sidewalks and storm water that will start in the spring. The MLK bridge replacement is scheduled to start later in the spring and is scheduled to be completed before the opening of the school year.

Greenway Commission

Oconee River Greenway Commission stated concerns about planning for the greenway. They plan to stay informed about projects and proceed with the update to the Greenway Network Plan. He noted they would like to see Leisure services and the Greenway Commission represented on the Bike / Pedestrian Master Plan Update Committee. The Greenway Commission is planning a visit to Carrolton to see the

wonderful greenway projects done there. He invited anyone interested to contact him to be included.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:24 am. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for September 28th. Mr Griffin reminded everyone that the Policy Committee meeting in September has been moved from September 14 to September 7, 2016.