

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, August 26, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Butch McDuffie - Athens Transit System
Blaine Williams - ACC Manager's Office
Darius Malone - GDOT Planning Office
David Ballard - Athens Transit
Kim Coley - GDOT District 1
Steve Decker - ACC Traffic Engineering
Wayne Provost - Oconee County Strategic LR Planning
Hank Joiner – ACC Planning Commission

Others Present: Teri Pope - GDOT Communications
Tom Caiafa - GDOT Planning Office
Kyle Mote - GDOT Planning Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. He welcomed the new GDOT planner, Darius Malone, who will replace Tom Caiafa. Mr. Griffin also welcomed Hank Joiner, ACC Planning Commission, to the TCC committee.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

None

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 22, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the July 22, 2015 TCC meeting minutes with a correction to the spelling of Mr. Caiafa's name. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. PRESENTATION OF GDOT'S DRIVE ALERT ARRIVE ALIVE CAMPAIGN

Ms. Pope made a presentation about the Safety Campaign from GDOT named Drive Alert – Arrive Alive. The group asked that Ms. Pope make a similar presentation to the Policy Committee at their next meeting.

V. REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie stated GDOT verified that two bridge projects, SR 10 at the Middle Oconee River and SR 10 at SR 8/US 29, are proposed to be funded with existing transportation dollars. Therefore, if these projects are to be added to the LRTP and TIP, \$14,233,480 needs to be moved out of the 2040 LRTP. She also stated a 15-day public comment period would be required to amend both the LRTP and TIP documents.

Mr. McDuffie stated since there were not many members present to discuss these projects, the amendments may have to be postponed. Mr. Griffin mentioned his concern about the bridge projects being programmed before any discussion with the MPO. Mr. Mote stated that he contacted the project manager and verified that the bridge projects are newly programmed and are structurally deficient bridges. Mr. Mote stated that phases of the project have to be incorporated into the LRTP in order for them to be authorized; however, the entire project does not have to be put in the LRTP at one time. Mr. Mote noted that the possibility of amending in a phase instead of the entire \$14 million may help the board with making a decision.

After some discussion, Mr. Ballard made a motion to table the amendments until the next TCC meeting. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. DISCUSSION OF SHIFTING OF PE FUNDING FOR JIMMIE DANIEL / JIMMY DANIELL ROAD WIDENING PROJECT TO DIFFERENT PROJECT(S) AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated Oconee and ACC representatives met with GDOT about the Jimmie Daniel / Jimmy Daniell project. She stated GDOT was supportive of moving forward with the project. Oconee and ACC representatives were supportive of the project but not the proposed timeline. Due to financial requirements and issues, both counties representatives preferred to stay with the timeframe that was approved in the 2040 LRTP (2025 – 2029). Ms. McDuffie stated that since PE funds can only remain inactive for 1 year and ROW funds for 10 years, the PE funding programmed for Jimmie Daniel / Jimmy Daniell Road project needed to be reassigned. MACORTS staff was told that the MACORTS Policy Committee could request those funds be assigned to a different project(s) in FY 2016. If GDOT approves the request, an amendment to the TIP would be required.

Mr. Provost made a motion to hold this item until the next TCC meeting for further examination. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Griffin stated that MACORTS will be in the process of addressing the FHWA comments received this morning for the FY17 UPWP Draft and will keep the board updated.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

UPDATES:

Georgia Department of Transportation

Mr. Mote introduced Darius Malone and stated that Mr. Caiafa will handle the Rome region.

Athens Transit System

Mr. McDuffie stated that school has started, and ATS is operating on the Fall schedule. Athens Transit information is now offered on the UGA App which allows you to get bus route schedules in real time on your phone. He also stated Sunday service started August 16th and has been successful. He stated it is operating free for the next two Sundays. Mr. McDuffie stated the 1st Sunday ridership was 2,400 riders and the second Sunday was 1,600 riders. He stated the goal is to have an average ridership of 1,400 day.

Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works

Mr. Decker stated the Tallassee roundabout project has had some lane changes and is coming close to being finished. The roundabout itself is not completed, but it should be usable in next 30 days. He also stated they are still working on the Mitchell Bridge project.

IX. ADJOURN

The next TCC meeting will be held on September 23rd. The Policy Committee meeting scheduled for September 9th will not occur. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.