

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – Auditorium
120 W. Dougherty Street - Athens
Wednesday, August 9, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: John Daniell, Oconee County Chairman
John Scarborough, Madison County Chairman
Krystal Harris, GDOT Planning
Flynn Warren, Oconee County Citizen
Jim Anderson, Athens-Clarke County Citizen

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Brad Griffin, Athens-Clarke County Planning
Darius Malone, GDOT Planning
Penny Mills, Oconee County Citizen
Monica Ali, Oconee County Citizen
Sandra Kittle, Oconee County Citizen
Thomas Kittle, Oconee County Citizen
Justin Kirouac, Oconee County Administrator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Daniell called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 14, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Flynn made a motion to approve the June 14, 2017 minutes. Mr. Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

III. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED AT TCC MEETINGS / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Sandra and Tommy Kittle, long time Oconee County citizens, requested to address the Policy Committee regarding their views about the Daniels Bridge Road Extension project. The Committee approved their request. Mrs. Kittle explained the impacts on their property along Daniels Bridge Road since the 1990's. She expressed their frustration with the appearance and disappearance of this project over the years. She cited the increasing traffic generated from development along Daniels Bridge Road and in the Epps Bridge area and the need to complete envisioned loop with the Oconee Connector as reasons that the

Daniels Bridge Road extension needs to be kept in the LRTP and constructed. She noted that the public comment received during our public involvement is not representative of everyone since it is predominantly from people who live along Daniels Bridge Road. Mrs. Kittle encouraged the Policy Committee to look beyond the public comment received to what is good for Oconee County to reduce congestion and keep Daniels Bridge Road Extension in the LRTP. Additionally, she questioned the need for the Dials Mill Road Extension interchange at SR 316 due to the lack of traffic issues at this time. She postulated that there might be a linkage between the motivation for the project and whom had been marketing the land, a high-ranking GDOT official.

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

Ms. McDuffie reviewed the amendments that included the deletion of the Daniels Bridge Road Extension project from the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Additions to the LRTP included the construction phase of SR 10 Loop Bridges at the Middle Oconee River, the SR 316 interchange at SR 10 Loop, the SR 316 interchange at Dials Mill Road, and bridge replacements at Belmont Rd over Shoal Creek and Clotfelter Rd over Barber Creek.

She noted the proposed amendments were taken to the public from June 26 to July 25. A copy of all of the comment received as well as a summary to be included in the published TIP document was sent to committee members. She stated that TCC recommended approval of these amendments.

Mr. Warren questioned what would happen if the board followed Ms. Kittle's recommendation to keep the Daniels Bridge Road Extension project in the LRTP. Ms. McDuffie stated if the board's decision is to keep the project in the LRTP, a vote not to approve the amendments for the LRTP and the TIP document would have to happen. Staff would then have to consider if there is another project in the region that can be removed and start the process again.

Mr. Daniell asked questions about the SR 316 interchange at the Oconee Connector. Ms. McDuffie clarified that the project is not part of the amendments being voted on today. That project is already in the TIP with obligated funds. She also noted the project has preliminary engineering funding proposed in FY 2019.

Ms. Harris asked for clarification that the Daniels Bridge Road Extension project was being moved into the Unfunded section of the LRTP. Ms. McDuffie clarified that the project would be in the LRTP's unfunded section and would not be in the LRTP by strict definition. Projects shown in the unfunded section are not a part of

the funded section of the LRTP. She also clarified that unfunded projects are for informational purposes only.

Mr. Daniell stated that Oconee County is about to take part in a countywide transportation study with GDOT that will examine needs in all of Oconee County. He also noted that since MACORTS is about to begin work on the LRTP, and this project will be reevaluated during that process.

Mr. Scarborough made a motion to recommend approval of the Amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Ms. Harris stated that the wording in the documentation needed to state the project being moved to the unfunded section. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF THE FINAL DRAFT FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie stated there have been several changes to the TIP document since the committee last seen it in the draft form. A copy of the legal ad, public involvement timeline, and summary of public comments received was included in the final draft document. A typo was corrected on the project sheet for SR 316 at SR 10 Lp interchange. The Jimmie Daniel Road Widening project has been deleted from the Second Tier at GDOT's request. There was some confusion as to what the appropriate southern terminus was for the project. Neither county is financially prepared to construct this project until after 2020.

She also noted that staff will add Justin Kirouac's name to the Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee member lists in the TIP document.

Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the Final Draft FY 18 – 21 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

STATUS REPORT ON 2045 LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE CONTRACT

Ms. McDuffie stated that staff is in the process of negotiating the contract with RS&H to begin the update of the LRTP to 2045. She also noted that GDOT staff will be coming to the next meeting (September 13) to make a presentation concerning the Safety Performance Measures & Targets that the state is in the process of adopting. MACORTS is now required by federal regulation to include performance based planning and programming into our process. As part of that incorporation, MACORTS will have a choice to make soon – whether to support

the state's safety targets or developing independent targets. The MPO will only have 6 months from the date that the state approves their safety targets to have safety targets incorporated into our LRTP and TIP documents. This discussion will begin with the GDOT presentation.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Daniell adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am. He noted that September 13 is the next scheduled Policy Committee meeting.