

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Rani Katreeb - ACC Engineering Administrator
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department
Stephen Bailey - ACC Transportation and Public Works
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department
Victor Pope - ACC Transit Dept (ACC Schools Transit Alternate)
Monica Sagastizado - NEGRC

Others Present: Lee Becker - Oconee County citizen
Rachel Hatcher - RS&H
Beverly Davis - RS&H
Ann Marie Day - FHWA
Tom Caiafa – GDOT Planning

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 24, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2019 TCC meeting. Mr. Pope seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. FINAL AMENDMENT TO FY 18 – 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO MODIFY SR 10 LP AT LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE CHANGE & REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT RECEIVED & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this amendment will move the construction phase of the SR10 Loop at Lexington Road interchange project from FY 25 to FY 20. She also noted a summary of the public comment received was sent to members

for review. Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend adoption of the amendment to the FY 18-21 TIP to bring the construction of the SR 10 Loop at Lexington Road into FY 2020. Mr. Katreeb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. FINAL DRAFT 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT RECEIVED & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie noted the summary of public comment received since the mail out was sent to members of the committee. This was to be included in the Final document before it is forwarded to the Policy Committee. Mr. Griffin asked if there were any questions about the document or changes that needed to be made to the Final Draft 2045 MTP. No members spoke. Mr. Griffin thanked the consultants (RS&H) and TCC members for all of their hard work for the completion of this document.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend adoption of the Final Draft 2045 MTP to the Policy Committee. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Atlanta – Charlotte Passenger Rail Project

Ms. McDuffie summarized an update from the GDOT Intermodal regarding the proposed passenger rail line to connect Atlanta to Charlotte. The project has taken a small step forward. GDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration have been coordinating for several years on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed alternative corridors. The draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on Friday, Sept 20th for 45 days of public review and comment (the last day is Nov 4th). There will be a public meeting in Atlanta on October 22, 5:30 – 8pm. She also noted that more information about this project is located on GDOT's website including all of the materials to be presented at the public meeting.

She also explained once the public comment period is completed, GDOT will finalize the EIS report and select their preferred alternative to be examined further in the required environmental review. The draft identifies three proposed corridors to be considered. They are hopeful that they will be able to finalize the EIS report by the end of the 2019 calendar year. Funding for the next phase of environmental review has not been identified at this time.

Athens-Clarke County Transit

Mr. McDuffie stated Fall transit service started in August and is up about 6% in ridership. There are 4 additional hydroelectric buses in the process of being purchased through existing grants. Transit has a fare free ridership program for senior citizens and disabled passengers that has had a significant increase in ridership. Staff has created over 3,000 new identification cards for senior and disabled passengers to help boarding efficiency.

Athens County Transportation & Public Works

Mr. Bailey stated there was an official ribbon cutting ceremony for the South Milledge Avenue / Whitehall Road roundabout project. The TSPLOST funded project finished ahead of schedule and without road closures.

Athens Clarke County Traffic Engineering

Mr. Katreeb stated there are current sidewalk projects on Southview Road, Baxter Street and Chase Street (near Bishop Park) to be completed by January. There are concept meetings scheduled for the Athens in Motion proposed sidewalk projects on Riverbend Road, Jefferson Road, and Cherokee Road. The Local Paving program, supported by TSPLOST, has completed about 40 projects and has 12 more to finish for the year.

Oconee County Public Works

Mr. Woodall stated both Mars Hill Road, Rocky Branch Road, and Virgil Langford intersection project and the roundabout at Mars Hill Road are under construction and working on utilities. The proposed design for Bishop Farms Parkway extension will begin at the University of North Georgia entrance and continue to the other side of Bishop Farms Parkway. This project will allow the college to have two ways to enter/exit the college campus and improve connectivity. The Mars Hill Phase II project has a contract with Moreland Altobelli and will continue to move forward in 2020 with HB170 funds. The Local 2020 Resurfacing program has been presented to the commission for review.

Northeast GA Regional Commission

Mr. Griffin welcomed Monica Sagastizado, project specialist for the NEGRC, to the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin he meeting adjourned at 10:20 am. The next meeting is October 23, 2019.