

MACORTS Policy Committee

Madison County Government Complex

Public Meeting Room

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

10 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Anthony Dove, Madison County
Heidi Davison, Athens-Clarke County
Melvin Davis, Oconee County
Frank Watson, Oconee County Citizen Representative
Matthew Fowler, GDOT – Planning
Paul Dellaria, Athens-Clarke County Representative
Phil Munro, Madison County Citizen Representative

Others Present: Brad Griffin, ACC Planning
Sherry McDuffie, ACC Planning
Iris Cleveland, ACC Planning
Anie Bassey, GDOT – Planning
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT – Planning
David Ballard, Athens Transit System
Wayne Provost, Oconee Co. Strategic and Long Range Planning
Amy Johnson, BikeAthens

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Dove introduced Paul Dellaria, the Athens-Clarke County citizen representative, to the committee.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 07, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Davison made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

There were no public comments received at these meetings.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS TO FY 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ms. McDuffie explained that the construction phase of the Olympic Drive / Peter Street project has been shifted from 2012 to 2013. The construction costs have increased from approximately \$15.1 million to \$15.7 million, and utility costs have increased from approximately \$692,000 to \$720,000. The revenue summary sheet was also revised to include these new figures.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the administrative modifications to FY 2011-14 TIP. Ms. Davison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Ms. McDuffie explained that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was recently informed of a requirement to have a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan to show that MACORTS is taking the appropriate steps to accommodate those who do not speak, write, read, or understand English. The USDOT has established a framework to determine ‘reasonable steps’ that organizations should take to make sure that LEP persons are not left out of the process or denied service simply because they do not speak English. MPO staff wrote this plan in consultation with the Athens Transit System. Both agencies are required to have an LEP Plan so it made sense to write one plan for both agencies.

Since this is a new plan, a 30-day public comment period is required. There will be one public meeting in Athens on Oct. 5 from 5-7 pm. The public notices for this comment period will be printed in English and Spanish in all three newspapers.

Ms. Davison questioned using data for only those over 17 in the analysis of the LEP plan. Ms. McDuffie explained that the Census Bureau data is limited to either under 18 years of age or over 18 years of age.

Mr. Watson asked why the MPO and Athens Transit System staff chose Spanish as the language into which public comment materials are to be translated. Ms. McDuffie explained that in surveys, MPO staff and Athens Transit System staff indicated that the LEP individuals they came in contact with most frequently were Spanish speakers.

Mr. Davis asked how a person who could not speak English would be accommodated at a MACORTS meeting. Ms. McDuffie said that she would need advance notice to accommodate the person with an interpreter. Mr. Davis wanted to know if in-kind match funds could be derived from using ATS staff that speaks Spanish as interpreters for the Policy Committee, Technical Coordinating Committee, and Public meetings. Ms. Davison noted that the ATS staff personnel would have to be certified to be used as interpreters. Ms. McDuffie explained that the FY11 UPWP would have to be revised to include the new in-kind match. The Federal Highway Administration would have to approve the revisions prior to MPO approval.

Mr. Watson made a motion to approve of the Draft LEP Plan for review by the public. Mr. Dellaria seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. DISCUSSION OF MACORTS LETTER CONCERNING HB 277 / T-SPLOST DRAFT CRITERIA COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. McDuffie explained that TCC had submitted their comments concerning HB 277 to be submitted to GDOT upon PC approval. The Draft criteria have been distributed by the Director of GDOT Planning for comment until Sept. 30. After much discussion, the Policy Committee directed Ms. McDuffie to revise the letter.

Since comments were made concerning the content of HB 277 as well as the Draft Criteria, the committee decided that a copy of the letter needed to be sent to the area state level representatives as well. Ms. McDuffie will make the changes to the letter and resend the document to the Policy Committee members for approval. Once approved, she will forward the letter to GDOT and the appropriate General Assembly members.

Mr. Dellaria made a motion to approve the HB 277 / T-SPLOST Draft letter to be sent to GDOT and the appropriate General Assembly members, with changes noted. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Davis expressed his gratitude to Mr. Watson for his years of services on MACORTS as the Oconee County citizen representative.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.