

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – Auditorium
120 W. Dougherty Street - Athens
Wednesday, October 11, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: John Scarborough, Madison County Chairman
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning
Flynn Warren, Oconee County Citizen
Jim Anderson, Athens-Clarke County Citizen
Nancy Denson, Mayor Athens-Clarke County Citizen

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Brad Griffin, Athens-Clarke County Planning Director
Matthew Risher, GDOT Planning
Lee Becker, Oconee County Citizen
Kai Zuehlke, RS & H
Ratchel Hatcher, RS & H
Beverly Davis, RS & H

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Denson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve minutes from August 9, 2017 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. McDuffie stated public comment was received via email from concerned citizens in Bishop regarding the Bishop Bypass project, which is now using state funds and is not required to come through the MACORTS process. She noted that any comments received by staff are shared with the committee. Staff shared the comment with the members of the board for informational purposes only.

Ms. McDuffie introduced Mr. Lee Becker, a citizen of Oconee County, to the committee. He had requested an opportunity to address the committee. Mr. Becker noted that he lives just off Daniels Bridge Road. He stated his wish to response to Sandra Kittle's comments presented at the August 9th Policy Committee concerning the Daniel's Bridge Road extension, also known as the

“Daniel’s Bridge Flyover.” He stated that through his research, with Oconee County and MACORTS staff, he was not able to find any documentation for the proposed loop that was referenced by Ms. Kittle. He stated he was aware of previous discussions about the proposed project that involved a loop, but he could find no documents to support that. He noted that Ms. McDuffie provided him with a copy of the earliest records from 1994 that showed a flyover from Oconee Connector across SR10 Loop to Daniel’s Bridge Road. Mr. Becker emphasized that the problem is not with the flyover itself, but what to do with the traffic once it crosses the SR 10 Loop onto Daniel’s Bridge Road. After a brief description of the possible alternatives, Mr. Becker concluded that there is no logical terminus for the project. He noted that the Kittle’s have a vested interest in the Flyover since they own property that would be bought for the project, and they want to sell it. He pointed out that there is a good alternative to the Flyover in the Long Range Transportation Plan that would connect Epps Bridge Parkway to Puritan Road to US 441. *(Note: This is project OC-1, Epps Bridge Parkway/US 441 Connector in the Unfunded Section of the LRTP.)* He noted that this project would be expensive, but it would relieve the traffic issue. He commended the Policy Committee for deleting the Flyover from the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Warren expressed his surprise to Mr. Becker that there was not more documentation of the numerous discussions that the Land Use and Transportation Committee had concerning this project. Mr. Becker clarified that there was no reference to the loop that the Kittle’s referenced in those documents.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF THE AMENDED MACORTS BYLAWS

Ms. McDuffie stated there had been a few changes that necessitated an update of the MACORTS bylaws. The changes made included:

- Added language specifically addressing the fact that Jackson County joined the Gainesville-Hall MPO
- Added ‘performance based’ to describe the transportation planning process in deference to federal regulations
- Updated the title of Oconee County Administrator (from Administrative Officer)
- Deleted the Strategic & Long Range Director from the Oconee County membership since that position does not exist anymore
- Updated title of GDOT Assistant State Transportation Planning Administrator on PC
- Updated title of Environmental Coordinator for ACC is now the ACC Sustainability Officer

Mr. Flynn made a motion to approve the amended MACORTS bylaws. Mr. Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT FY 2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie stated that the Unified Planning Work Program outlines staff activities that will be do done in FY 19 support the federally required planning activities associated with MACORTS. This document also outlines the budget associated with completing those activities.

She noted the introduction defined the annual priorities of safety and congestion management since the safety targets will be approved and ready to implement in FY 19. She stated this UPWP continues efforts to transition to performance based planning. She also noted the document refers to the LRTP update during FY 19 and the Participation Plan update that will occur after the first of the year (2018).

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Draft FY 19 UPWP for submittal to GDOT/FHWA as the official draft. Mr. Flynn seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGET PRESENTATION FROM GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms. McDuffie stated the safety performance presentation was postponed to the next Policy Committee meeting. The board will vote next month regarding the public involvement schedule for the amendments to the LRTP & TIP.

VII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF SOCIOECONOMIC DATA (PRESENTATION FROM RS&H)

Ms. Hatcher and Mr. Zuehlke from RS & H gave a presentation to discuss socioeconomic data submission use in the travel demand model. There was brief discussion.

Mr. Scarborough made a motion to approve the socioeconomic data for submission to GDOT. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

X. ADJOURN

Ms. Denson adjourned at 10:45 am. Next meeting scheduled for November 8, 2017.