

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee

A-CC Planning Department Auditorium

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Department
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Anie Bassey – GDOT – Planning Office
Steve Decker – ACC Traffic Engineering
Rick Cowick – Athens Transit System (alternate)
Butch McDuffie – Athens Transit System
Wayne Provost – Oconee Co. Strategic & Long Range Planning
Emil Beshara – Oconee County Public Works
B.R. White – Oconee County Planning Dept.
Bruce Lonnee – ACC Planning Commission (alternate)

Others Present: George Rodriguez, Watkinsville Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was no other public comment received at this meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 24, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve the August 24, 2011 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Lonnee seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL AMENDMENT TO FY 2012 – 2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO REVISE 5309 TRANSIT FUNDING AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that this amendment would revise transit funding under the 5309 program. A 15-day public comment period was conducted September 26 – October 10, 2011 with 1 public meeting held in Athens on September 27, 2011. There was no public comment received.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the Final amendment to the FY 2012 – 2015 TIP to revise 5309 transit funding. Mr. White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 2012 – 2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO DECREASE FUNDING FOR THE OLYMPIC DRIVE / PETER STREET INTERCHANGE PROJECT AND RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie presented, at the request of the Georgia Department of Transportation, the proposed administrative modification to revise the funding for the Olympic Drive / Peter Street Interchange project. The construction funding had decreased from approximately \$14.6 million to \$8.7 million. The cost of utilities had increased from approximately \$666,000 to \$2.5 million. As an administrative modification, there would be no public involvement required for this revision.

Mr. Provost asked where the additional funds from this reduction in the cost estimate will be spent. Mr. Basseley replied that the additional funds will be spent somewhere in this congressional district.

Mr. Beshara made a motion to recommend approval of the administrative modification to the FY 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program to revise the funding for the Olympic Drive / Peter Street Interchange project. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES

Mr. White – Oconee County Planning Department

The site development plans for a commercial center to be built adjacent to the Oconee Connector Extension at Epps Bridge Parkway is under review. The development is at a similar scale as previously submitted but with some changes made to the parking lot design.

Mr. Beshara – Oconee County Public Works

The contractor for the Oconee Connector Extension has been shooting for finishing the construction for this project by the Dec. 31, 2011 contract deadline. The methodology is still being worked out for the raising the grade of the road to an adequate level; therefore, it is unlikely that the contractor will meet the contract deadline.

The right-of-way acquisition phase of the Mars Hill Road project is still in progress. The May 2012 timeline to complete the right-of-way acquisition will be challenging to meet with only 12 or 13 parcels acquired of the total 107 necessary.

Mr. Decker – Athens-Clarke County Traffic Engineering

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) has been working to improve conditions and driver awareness in school zones throughout Athens-Clarke County. With the help of a grant, ACC has installed solar signage and worked to make the school zones of ACC consistent. Using a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and local funds, ACC has produced a Public Service Announcement pertaining to being aware in school zones that will be played on local television channels and in theaters. ACC will be working on a public pedestrian safety campaign in the future.

Mr. Bassey – Georgia Department of Transportation Planning

Mr. Bassey reminded the group that the District 1 Preconstruction meeting will be held next Tuesday (November 1, 2011) in Gainesville.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m. The next TCC meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2012. A list of upcoming MACORTS meetings was made available for 2012 and 2013.