

Summary Minutes of
MACORTS Policy Committee
Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – Auditorium
120 W. Dougherty Street - Athens
Wednesday, February 10, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Anthony Dove, Madison County Chairman
Melvin Davis, Oconee County Chairman
Bob Sanders, Oconee Co. Citizen Representative
Phil Munro, Madison Co. Citizen Representative
Kyle Mote, GDOT Planning Alternate
Brad Griffin, Athens-Clarke Co. Citizen Representative
Alternate

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Darius Malone, GDOT Planning
Russ Page, Oconee County Citizen
Sarah Bell, Oconee County Citizen
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit System
David Ballard, Athens Transit System
Tyler Dewey, Bike Athens

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dove called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the November 12, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Munro seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. McDuffie reviewed Mr. Page's concerns about MACORTS involvement with the US 441 South Widening project. Mr. Page explained that the citizens would prefer MACORTS to stay involved with the project rather than GDOT. He also made reference to a meeting held by GDOT on Dec. 22 that created a sounding board group as an advisory committee to provide two-way communication between the residents of Oconee County and GDOT. There was some discussion about the lack of communication from GDOT and continued involvement from MACORTS as a local reference for the public.

The Technical Coordinating Committee instructed staff to contact the project manager and request a courtesy copy of any materials that are made public about the US 441 S

project so that staff would have the most recent information to share with interested citizens. Ms. McDuffie stated the request was made to the project manager that afternoon.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND FY 2015 – 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – US 441 SOUTH WIDENING & 3 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS ALONG SR 10 LOOP & CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED

Ms. McDuffie stated these proposed amendments included removal of the US 441 South Widening project out of the LRTP since it is scheduled to receive HB 170 funds. This will allow funding for 3 proposed bridge replacement projects along SR 10 Loop in the LRTP that will include all phases of the bridges at SR8/US29 and North Oconee River, and the PE & ROW phases of the bridges at the Middle Oconee River. She noted the necessary changes would be reflected in the TIP as well.

The proposed amendments to the 2040 LRTP & 15-18 TIP went to the public for review and comment from Nov. 30 – Dec. 14, 2015. Ms. McDuffie stated the Policy Committee received the public comment summary and copies of the original public comment. She stated that TCC recommended approval of these amendments.

Mr. Mote made a motion for approval of the final draft amendments to the 2040 LRTP and 15-18 TIP to reflect the deletion of the US 441 South Widening project and the addition of the bridge replacement projects on SR 10 Loop at SR 8 / US 29 (all phases), North Oconee River (all phases), and Middle Oconee (PE/ROW). Mr. Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN TO ADD REQUIRED FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION LANGUAGE

Ms. McDuffie stated the GDOT Office of Intermodal Programs informed MPO staff that the Participation Plan needed specific language required by the Federal Transit Administration. She noted the highlighted areas of the draft sent out in the mail-out are the only changes to the Participation Plan.

Ms. McDuffie explained any change to the Participation Plan requires a 45-day public comment period. Staff sent out a proposed timeline showing the comment period Feb. 22 – April 6, 2016 with 1 public meeting in Athens on March 21, 2016, 4-6pm. Ms. McDuffie noted the document and any public comment received would come back to TCC on April 27 and PC on May 11, 2016.

Mr. Munro made a motion for approval to take the Draft Amended MACORTS Participation Plan to the public for review and comment. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO ADD SR 316 AT OCONEE CONNECTOR INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie stated that, at the request of an Oconee County representative on TCC, a draft amendment to the LRTP was prepared to add a project for an interchange at SR 316 and the Oconee Connector. She noted the estimated cost of the project would be \$18 million. She explained that TCC was asked to identify what would be removed from the current plan in order to keep the plan balanced. TCC recommended the deletion of the Union Church Rd Improvement Project and a reduction in funding for the Mars Hill Rd Widening – Phase 3 project to include only PE and ROW. She also noted copies of the proposed project pages and proposed timeline for public involvement were sent to Policy Committee.

Mr. Davis stated he supported the potential interchange at SR 316 but had concerns about the reduction Mars Hill Phase III project. He explained he would like to have further discussion locally about what should be removed from the plan and would prefer this item be sent back to TCC for additional review.

Mr. Davis recommended the proposed amendment go back to TCC for further review by the TCC. Mr. Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- UPDATE ON MACORTS REQUEST TO ACCELERATE THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SR 10 LOOP AT LEXINGTON ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT & REQUEST TO REALLOCATE FUNDS FROM MITCHELL BRIDGE ROAD WIDENING TO SR 10 LOOP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie stated the letter given to members reflected that GDOT will be taking the request into consideration, and it will be under advisement during GDOT'S annual balancing process.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. McDuffie stated the new transportation funding bill is called the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act) and it replaced MAP-21 on December 4, 2015. It is set to expire on Sept 30, 2020.

IX. ADJOURN

Mr. Dove adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.