

MACORTS Policy Committee

Oconee County Courthouse
Commission Chambers
Wednesday, February 9, 2011
10 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Anthony Dove, Madison County
Melvin Davis, Oconee County
Bob Sanders, Oconee County Citizen Representative
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT – Planning
Paul Dellaria, Athens-Clarke County Representative

Others Present: Brad Griffin, ACC Planning
Sherry McDuffie, ACC Planning
Anie Basse, GDOT – Planning
David Ballard, Athens Transit System
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit System
Wayne Provost, Oconee Co. Strategic and Long Range Planning

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Davis thanked staff for providing cake for this meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Dellaria made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Dove seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

There was no public comment received at these meetings.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF AMENDED FINAL DRAFT FY 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie reminded the group that they would be seeing the UPWP twice per year from now on. The amendment involved adding the carryover funding from the FY 2010 PL contract into the FY 2011 contract. The Section 5303 Transit Planning Grant decreased by \$0.25 also. Ms. McDuffie noted that the Spanish language publication listed in Element 2.1 had been updated to *Mundo Hispanico*. Element 1.4 was revised to include 1 traffic counter and accessories for each county instead of 2 counters after discussions with the county staff. There was no discussion.

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the amended FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Dellaria seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL DRAFT FY 2012 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie explained that the Final Draft FY 2012 UPWP is very similar to the version that the committee saw in November. The Final Draft was written under the assumption that MACORTS would like to continue using in-kind match in FY 2012. After an analysis of the in-kind hours used in the first half of FY 2011, it was determined that the estimates provided were fairly accurate with the exception of the traffic monitoring task in Oconee County. Therefore, 15 hours of in-kind match hours were added to the FY 2012 proposal. If the Policy Committee approves the FY 2012 UPWP with in-kind match, MACORTS will request permission from GDOT and FHWA to use in-kind match. The other change to the document since the October version was in Element 1.4. The proposal for 1 traffic counter and accessories replaced the one for 2 traffic counters for each county.

Mr. Davis asked if there was any reason why the Georgia Department of Transportation or the Federal Highway Administration would not approve MACORTS request to use in-kind match in FY 2012. Mr. Mitchell answered that he was not aware of any issues.

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the Final Draft FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF THE FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC COMMENT

According to Ms. McDuffie, the public comment period for the Draft Amendments to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan was conducted December 6 – 20, 2010 with a public meeting held in Oconee County on December 7, 2010. A summary and the original public comment were circulated to the committee. There was no discussion.

Mr. Dellaria made a motion to approve the Final Draft Amendments to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Sanders seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. DISCUSSION OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION'S *NORTHEAST GEORGIA PLAN FOR BICYCLING AND WALKING*

Mr. Griffin explained to the committee that this item was placed on the agenda at the request of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACC). Before the ACC government takes action on the resolution requested by the Regional Commission, they would like to hear input from MACORTS concerning the subject report. A summary of the comments from the Technical Coordinating Committee was circulated to the Policy Committee members.

No formal action was required on this item. Policy Committee members had no additional comments.

VIII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO FY 2011 – 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD SR 10 LOOP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie informed the committee that the Georgia Department of Transportation has requested that the FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be amended to bring the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway project into the first tier of the TIP. The right-of-way phase would move from FY 2015 to FY 2011. Funding would remain the same with construction remaining in Long Range. Ms. McDuffie explained that this would be an amendment to the TIP; therefore, a 15-day public comment period will be required. This item will come back to Policy Committee for final approval at the April 13th meeting.

Ms. McDuffie noted that the Technical Coordinating Committee recommended approval of the proposed amendment to go to the public for comment with the condition that the Georgia Department of Transportation provide additional information regarding the origin of the funds and the process by which the SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway project was chosen to move forward. Mr. Mitchell explained that statewide construction costs have been lower than anticipated. The surplus funds were divided among the congressional districts. The SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway project was the project in the district that was ready to proceed to the right-of-way phase and had the appropriate level of investment necessary. Mr. Dellaria asked if it was unusual to purchase right-of-way for a project that would not be ready for construction for 6-8 years. Mr. Mitchell responded that the construction could possibly be advanced as funding becomes available if the right-of-way was already purchased. He continued that even if the construction date stayed in FY 2015, the right-of-way would cost less now than in the future; therefore, there would be a cost savings.

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the Draft amendment to the FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program to add SR 10 Loop at Atlanta Highway project to go to the public for a 15-day public comment period. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business for discussion.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business for discussion.

XI. ADJOURN

Mr. Davis and Mr. Dove expressed their appreciation to the members of the Technical Coordinating Committee for all of their hard work and time invested in reviewing MACORTS items. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.