

MACORTS Policy Committee

Oconee County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

10 a.m.

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

Others Present: Brad Griffin, ACC Planning
Sherry McDuffie, ACC Planning
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit System
George Rodrigues, Watkinsville
Norma Craddock, Arnoldsville
Robert Mahoney, GDOT – District 1

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 13, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2011 Policy Committee meeting, with the noted changes. Mr. Dellaria seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ms. McDuffie shared the following summary of the public comment received at the April 27, 2011 Technical Coordinating Committee meeting.

Ms. Norma Craddock, a resident of Arnoldsville in Oglethorpe County, spoke about the Lexington Road Widening project. She expressed her opinion that the project should not go through Arnoldsville because it would destroy the serenity of the area. The residents of Arnoldsville do not want the additional lights and noise that the roadway would bring to the area. Ms. Craddock acknowledged that the project could bring business to Oglethorpe County, but she told that group that the residents of the area do not want the project.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 2011 – 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE SR 10 LOOP AT ATLANTA HIGHWAY PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie informed the committee that this is the same project that MACORTS amended last month to bring the right-of-way phase from FY 2015 to FY 2011. The project manager passed along the incorrect cost estimate for the project. Therefore, the right-of-way cost estimate needs to be updated to \$10,475,776 from \$13,329,550. This will be an administrative modification. No additional public involvement is required.

Mr. Dove made a motion to approve the administrative modification to the FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program to update the right-of-way acquisition phase cost estimate. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT FY 2012 - 2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. McDuffie presented the Draft FY 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program as approved by the Technical Coordinating Committee. She presented the proposed schedule for public involvement activities. There was no discussion.

Mr. Dellaria made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. McDuffie shared with Policy Committee that the Georgia Department of Transportation has requested again that MACORTS consider adding the Lexington Road Widening project back into the MACORTS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The GDOT proposal involved the deletion of the US 29 Widening project in Madison County, and the Lexington Road Widening project would be moved back into the Plan in its place. The request was discussed at the April 27, 2011 Technical Coordinating Committee meeting, and they tabled the item to allow Madison County more time to consider the request. Therefore, it is anticipated that the request will come to Policy Committee for a determination at the June 8, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Mitchell if there was anything he would like to add from the Georgia Department of Transportation. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Lexington Road Widening project is ready to move forward and reminded the group that the public does not support the US 29 Widening project in Madison County. Mr. Dove added that Madison County still has an interest in improvements along the US 29 corridor. He assured the group that he had been in contact with Todd Long (GDOT) and that Madison County is reviewing the options for a resolution to this issue.

Mr. Davis asked the audience if there was anyone who desired to offer public comment. Ms. Norma Craddock, an Arnoldsville resident, made a brief presentation to the committee. She reiterated what was presented to the committee by Ms. McDuffie. She acknowledged that the widening of US 78 may be needed for economic growth and safety issues, but she emphasized that bringing the project through Arnoldsville would destroy the rural character of the area. She asked that MACORTS and GDOT find another route for the Lexington Road Widening that does not go through Arnoldsville. She thanked the committee for their attention.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.