



Athens Planning Department
120 W. Dougherty Street
Athens, Georgia 30601
706-613-3515

August 5, 2021

Georgia Dept. of Transportation
Office of Planning
Attn: Radney Simpson
Transmitted via Email

Dear Mr. Simpson:

This letter is to inform you that the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) plans to submit an application to use PL funds for the Update of the MACORTS Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to 2050 at the GAMPO/PL Committee meeting on September 27, 2021. The Update of the MTP to 2050 was included in the FY 22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as an unfunded work element.

In accordance with the 'FHWA GA Division MPO Procurement Guidelines' issued February 2016, MACORTS is submitting the proposed scope of the Update of the MACORTS Metropolitan Transportation Plan to 2050 and required documentation for review and approval by GDOT and FHWA. If approved, MACORTS staff will complete the 'Federal Metropolitan Planning (PL) Fund Application Form' for consideration at the September 27, 2021 GAMPO meeting. If awarded, MACORTS will amend the FY 22 UPWP to include the MTP update as a funded work element. The following documents are included in this packet:

1. Scope of Work for Compliance Update of MACORTS Transportation Plan – to be used in the amendment to the FY 2022 UPWP and the basis of the Draft RFP
2. Minutes from MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee (October 28, 2020 & January 27, 2021) and Policy Committee meetings (November 12, 2020 & February 10, 2021) documenting UPWP and special study development
3. Resolution for Adoption of FY 22 UPWP that shows Compliance Update of MACORTS Transportation Plan as unfunded work element and verifies the local governments' financial commitment
4. Basic Timeline for Update of MTP to 2050 up to first deliverable

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you should need additional information, please contact Ms. Sherry F. McDuffie, of this office at (706) 613-3515 or by e-mail at macorts@accgov.com.

Sincerely,

Brad Griffin, Director
Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional
Transportation Study (MACORTS)

BAG/sfm

CC: Ann-Marie Day, FHWA – GA Division (via email)
Tom Caiafa, GDOT – Planning (via email)
Kim Grayson, GDOT – Planning (via email)
File

Scope of Work for UPDATE MACORTS METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO 2050

The Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) is the metropolitan planning organization for the area including all of Athens-Clarke County, the northern half of Oconee County, the southern quarter of Madison County, and tiny portions of Oglethorpe and Jackson Counties. However, Oglethorpe and Jackson Counties elected not to participate in the transportation planning process. It is unclear what impact the 2020 Census will have on the MPO boundary or operations. MACORTS is charged with carrying out the federally required continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive performance-based multimodal transportation planning process for the area. Staff in the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department administer the MACORTS process.

MACORTS is required to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) every five years. The next update is due on October 9, 2024. At this time, it is uncertain what federal transportation bill will follow the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (FAST Act) which expires September 30, 2021. Additional complication could come from the release of the 2020 Census Bureau during the same timeframe that the model inputs and Plan will be developed (2022/2023).

In broad terms, the scope of this project would include a full update of the MACORTS MTP and the travel demand model including data identification and collection, performance measure development, performance target development, project prioritization, project evaluation, and expanded emphasis on freight planning. The MTP development process and content will prioritize equity, economy, climate change/resiliency, and Covid Relief efforts.

Specific Project Tasks to be Completed Include:

- Prepare a proposed timeline of tasks required to develop the MTP and all associated components for review and approval by GDOT to ensure that the schedule is coordinated with GDOT's model update schedule
- Develop base year (2020) and future year (2050) socioeconomic data and other inputs into the travel demand model maintained by GDOT
- Coordinate with MTP Subcommittee, GDOT, FHWA, FTA and the public to develop a federally-compliant performance-based 2050 MTP that will provide efficient, safe, and convenient mobility, encourages desirable land use, promotes economic development and a strong economy, minimizes adverse social and environmental impacts including those of equity, and addresses climate change/resiliency, and Covid Relief efforts
- Work with MACORTS to refine and develop comprehensive goals and objectives to guide MTP development
- Work with MACORTS to identify and develop targets in support of the state's performance measures or independent performance measures (as chosen by the MACORTS Policy Committee) and incorporate into MTP
- Identify and compile data sources to support the performance measures / targets. Availability of data and cost of continued compilation of data will be important considerations when developing performance measures and targets.
- Update Financial Plan component of the MTP including project costs and reasonably expected revenue sources for the period of the MTP
- Update all sections of the existing MTP document

- Develop and implement project prioritization process for the MTP development process
- Perform Environmental Justice / Title VI Analysis to inform the public involvement process with a focus of equity
- Expand the Freight section to be more robust and comprehensive including potential mechanisms to strengthen the economy in light of climate change/resiliency needs
- Required public involvement including outreach efforts to reach the traditionally underserved such as minority and low-income populations. All public involvement will be documented for MPO records and future compliance review purposes
- Work with MACORTS MTP Steering / Stakeholder Committee throughout the development process ensuring equity
- Provide updates to MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee throughout the process
- Include an Unfunded Section / Aspirations Plan as supplement to MTP
- Document the update process for staff records and federal review purposes

Deliverables:

- Approved socioeconomic data input to be incorporated into the GDOT travel demand model model for the MACORTS area and any revisions required due to the release of the 2020 Census data
- All documentation of process and products (hardcopy and/or electronic)
- Hardcopy (20) and reproducible electronic version of final deliverables (pdf and original file type)
- Federally compliant 2050 MTP that has been approved by the MACORTS Policy Committee

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
A-CC Planning Department Auditorium
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Steve Decker - ACC Transportation and Public Works
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office
Stephen Bailey - ACC Transportation and Public Works
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department
Ryan Walker - GDOT, Intermodal Programs
Kim Coley – GDOT District
Frank Stephens - ACC Public Utilities Department
Sue Ann Decker – GDOT District

Others Present: Pat Hale - Athens Transit Department
Victor Pope - Athens Transit Department
Rani Katreeb - ACC Transportation and Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order 10:05 am. Ms. McDuffie took roll of members and guests.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the FY 2022 UPWP outlines the work that the MPO will complete during the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. She reviewed the list about major changes made to the FY 22 UPWP that was sent to members. She highlighted a few of the changes:

- Staff continued to show the incorporating/reporting performance targets throughout the document.

- The use of virtual meetings were highlighted in FY 21 and kept as an option open for FY 22.
- The update of the LEP Plan and Participation Plan are written as though they are completed. The draft version of both documents will be presented to the committee in January 2021 and should be completed at the end of FY 21 / beginning of FY 22.
- Staff noted that the committee can make any adjustments to the priorities listed in the introduction that are listed as safety, MTP/TIP, congestion management, freight, 2020 Census. No changes were made by the committee.
- Staff included requesting PL Committee (associated with GAMPO) funding for the unfunded element to hire a consultant to complete the next update of the MTP during FY 22 (Sept 2021). If awarded, the UPWP will have to be amended to show it as a funded work element and the local match shown will be required. Payment of the local match by all 3 counties would be required at 50% and 100% completion.
- The FY 22 & 23 Transit Planning Grant Amounts reflect the amount for FY 22 based on the pending grant application and an estimate of 5% increase for the FY 23 amount.

Mr. Stephens made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2022 UPWP for submission to GDOT and FHWA. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VI. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens-Clarke County Transit Department

Mr. McDuffie stated the transit system continues fall service and has been fare-free since September 10th. There has been a significant decrease in ridership (70% decrease from last year at this time and UGA ridership down by 95%). Several routes have been modified to accommodate ridership changes. The current system operating hours are 6am – 7 pm instead of 9:45pm daily. The Bus Stop Improvement Program has produced new site-specific bus stop signs, new electronic kiosks at 15 locations and new signage inside the buses and at the Multi-modal Center. The Bus Stop Improvement Program will be closing out this year in December. Over \$3.2 million dollars of bus stop improvement projects have been made under the program.

Athens-County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Katreeb stated the Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement project, currently in the design phase, has been delayed due to issues with utility coordination and relocation. Staff continues to work on multiple sidewalk and multi-use Athens in Motion projects. The Belmont Road Bridge replacement project is scheduled to have a let date in 2022. There are several ongoing construction

projects that include a culvert replacement project on Carriage Lane and sidewalks on Barnett Shoals Road and West Broad Street.

Oconee Public Works Department

Mr. Woodall stated they are in the final stages of the design and environmental updates for the Mars Hill Phase II widening project scheduled for January 2021 letting. They have awarded design services for the roundabouts on SR 53 for Snows Mill Road / Rocky Branch Road and Rays Church / Malcolm Bridge Road. The projects are planned to be funded with federal safety funds, and staff has been working in coordination with the GDOT District 1 to meet the requirements. Staff is reviewing preliminary concept work on Hog Mountain Road to include sidewalks, multi-use path, and / or possibly widen lanes to 12 ft. lanes.

GDOT - District 1

Ms. Decker stated the following projects are coming up soon. Project # 0013716, Athens-Clarke County, SR 10 Loop at SR 8 to include the updating of bridges and the ramps. Project #0013723 Oconee/ Greene County, SR 15 (being processed by District 2) is getting a passing lanes (section in Oconee). Staff is also in review of a quick response project on 10 Loop at Chase Street to extend the ramps.

GDOT – Intermodal Programs

Mr. Walker stated the FY 2022 Call for Projects for FTA programs are open and, a new program, Black Cat, will be used to apply for grants.

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am. Staff wished the committee Happy Holidays and stated the next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2021. The Policy Committee meeting will be in Oconee County next year.

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Thursday, November 12, 2020
11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin, Athens-Clarke County Alternate
John Scarborough, Madison County Chairman
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning Office
Sara Beresford, Athens-Clarke County Citizen
Dave Henson, Oconee County Citizen
Virginia Hamilton, UGA Alternate

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Brad Griffin, MACORTS Staff
Jalen Ford, GDOT Planning
Victor Pope, Athens Transit
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit
Lee Becker, Oconee County Citizen

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 11:07 am. Ms. McDuffie took roll of members and guests in attendance. Note: Mr. Griffin chaired the meeting for Mr. Scarborough who was only available by phone.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 14, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes from October 14, 2020 Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

There were no comments received.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. McDuffie stated the FY 2022 UPWP outlines the work that the MPO will complete during the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. She reviewed the list of major changes made to the FY 22 UPWP that was sent to members. She highlighted the following:

- Staff continued to show the incorporating/reporting performance targets throughout the document.

- The use of virtual meetings were highlighted in FY 21 and kept as an option open for FY 22.
- The update of the LEP Plan and Participation Plan were written as though they are completed. The draft version of both documents will be presented to the committee in January 2021 and should be completed at the end of FY 21 / beginning of FY 22.
- Staff noted that the committee can make any adjustments to the priorities listed in the introduction that are listed as safety, MTP/TIP, congestion management, freight, and 2020 Census. No changes were made by the committee.
- Staff included requesting GAMPO PL Committee funding for the unfunded element to hire a consultant to complete the next update of the MTP during FY 22 (Sept 2021). If awarded, the UPWP will have to be amended to show it as a funded work element and the local match shown will be required. Payment of the local match by all 3 counties would be required at 50% and 100% completion. There was no discussion among committee members.
- The FY 22 & 23 Transit Planning Grant Amounts reflect the amount for FY 22 based on the pending grant application and an estimate of 5% increase for the FY 23 amount.

Mr. Scarborough made a motion to recommend approval of Draft FY 2022 UPWP for submittal to GDOT & FHWA. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 11:18 am. Ms. McDuffie thanked the committee for all of their hard work during 2020 and wished everyone Happy Holidays from the MPO staff. She also thanked Mr. Scarborough for his service on the Policy Committee as his term ends on December 31, 2020. She noted this is the last meeting of the year and the next meeting will be held on February 10, 2021 (in Oconee County if we can hold them in-person).

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Griffin - ACC Planning Director
Sherry McDuffie - ACC Planning Department
Cherie Varnum - ACC Planning Department
Rani Katreeb- ACC Transportation & Public Works
Jalen Ford - GDOT Planning Office
Jody Woodall - Oconee County Public Works Department
Butch McDuffie - ACC Transit Department
Mike Matthews – Athens Airport
Todd Berven - UGA Transit
Conolus Scott, Jr - Madison County Citizen Rep
Sue Anne Decker - GDOT

Others Present: Virginia Hamilton - UGA Transit
Kimberly Grayson - GDOT

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to approve of the minutes from the October 28, 2020 TCC meeting. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REVIEW OF FINAL FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the UPWP outlines the activities the MPO staff will focus on in FY 2022. She noted previously the committee recommended approval of the draft in October. The approved Draft was sent to GDOT & FHWA for their review, and those comments were addressed and sent out to members in the mail-out prior to the meeting.

She also explained the priorities listed in the Final Draft are Safety, Performance Management Implementation, MTP & TIP, Congestion

Management, Freight, & 2020 Census. She showed the revised budget and noted there were no changes made to the 5303 Transit Planning Grant.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend adoption of the Final FY 2022 UPWP. Mr. Berven seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW OF DRAFT MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated the list of changes made to this document were sent to members prior to the meeting. She noted most of the changes were clarifying existing procedures and codifying the practice of virtual committee and public meetings. She explained that virtual meeting could be used as conditions dictate or at the pleasure of the Policy Committee.

She also explained an analysis of the MPO virtual operations during the pandemic. She stated that attendance at virtual committee meetings has increased. She also noted there is lower attendance at the virtual public meetings; however, the overall approach to connect with the public virtually via the MACORTS website seems to reach more people overall. She explained that website traffic has increased compared to previous years.

Ms. McDuffie stated the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and Participation Plan will be taken to the public together for 45 days of public review and comment. Staff is prepared to have virtual or in-person meetings depending on conditions. She noted that the TCC will review the Final Draft and all public comment received at the April 28th meeting.

Mr. Woodall made a motion to recommend approval of the Participation Plan to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW OF DRAFT MACORTS & ATHENS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated this document is required to demonstrate MACORTS and ACC Transit compliance of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166 in regards to persons that do not speak English as their primary language or who have limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. This document is updated every 3 years. She gave a short presentation on the framework of the document and explained the importance of the 4-factor analysis. These four factors include:

- **Factor 1** - Establish eligible service for population & proportion of LEP customers.
- **Factor 2** - Frequency that LEP persons encounter services via surveys that were conducted with the ACC Planning, MPO, & Transit Staffs.
- **Factor 3** - Nature & importance of services in the transit and MPO arena.
- **Factor 4** - Resources available and costs for providing interpretation/translation services.

She stated the LEP Plan and Participation Plan will be taken to the public together for 45 days of public review and comment. Staff is prepared to have virtual or in-person meetings depending on conditions. She noted this committee will see the Final Draft and all public comment received at the April 28th public meeting.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend approval of the Limited English Proficiency Plan to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. REVIEW OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR SR 10 / US 78 BRIDGE PROJECT OVER NORTH OCONEE RIVER & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie explained the process of TIP's being approved in Georgia. She stated that once MPO's in the state adopt their TIP document, that TIP is rolled into the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) and is approved through GDOT. The STIP receives final approval when it is signed by the Governor. The MACORTS FY 21-24 TIP was adopted by the MPO on October 14, 2020, but it is anticipated that the STIP will be signed in the April/May 2021 timeframe. Therefore, the 21-24 TIP is invalid until that time. This will require the MPO to continue amending the 18-21 TIP in the interim.

This amendment increases the ROW estimate and moves it into FY 21 as it is shown in the 21-24 TIP document, but MACORTS must officially amend the 18-21 TIP to show this information. She stated because of the amount of difference in funding (\$250,000 to \$3,437,400), this requires an amendment and a 15-day public comment period.

Mr. Katreeb made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to the FY 18-21 TIP to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated that every year the MPO must adopt safety targets for the measures of number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. In previous years the MPO has agreed to support the safety targets developed by GDOT. The MPO recommends supporting the state targets and incorporate them into the MTP, the valid FY 18-21 TIP & the FY 21-24 TIP. This would be an administrative modification; therefore, no additional public comment is required beyond that of the committee meetings.

Mr. Scott made a motion to recommend adoption of the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 Safety targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 2018 -2021 TIP, and FY 2021 - 2024 TIP. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IX. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 MTP & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated that each year GDOT updates the performance measures and targets in the Group Transit Asset Management Plan for the rural and small urban transit systems in Georgia. She noted the ACC Transit Department provided MACORTS staff with their endorsement of the measures and targets in the Group TAM Plan. She also explained the MPO must incorporate these targets into our MTP, the valid FY 18-21 TIP & the FY 21-24 TIP. As an administrative modification, no additional public comment is required beyond that of the committee meetings.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend adoption of the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 Transit Asset Management Plan targets into the 2045 MTP, 2018-2021 TIP, and 2021-2024 TIP. Mr. Bervan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

X. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 MTP & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated that beginning this year, the MPO will annually incorporate the targets included in the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for the ACC Transit Department into the MTP and TIP. As an administrative modification, no public comment beyond that at the committee meetings is required.

Mr. McDuffie made a motion to recommend adoption of the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 PTASP targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 2018-2021 TIP, and FY 2021-2024 TIP. Mr. Berven seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

XI. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO UPDATE THE BUDGET FOR THE SR 10 LP AT US 29 BRIDGE PROJECT & RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. McDuffie stated staff received a request from GDOT to revise the budget for the construction phase of SR 10LP at US 29 bridge project. The construction phase would increase from \$9.3 million to \$10,008,024.46. She

noted this will be administrative modification included in the FY18-21 TIP & FY 21-24 TIP.

Mr. Katreeb made a motion to recommend adoption of the administrative modification to update the construction phase funding for the SR10Lp at US29 bridge project in the FY 2018-2021 & FY 2021-2024 TIPs. Mr. McDuffie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

XIII. UPDATES / OTHER BUSINESS

Athens Transit

Mr. McDuffie stated the transit system continues to operate at reduced service and will operate fare free through June 30th. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the ridership of their transit system. The system currently operates 16 buses and has had continued decrease in ridership (40% decrease from last year at this time and 98 % decrease UGA ridership). The transit system will have to explore other funding sources in order to operate fare free.

UGA Transit

Mr. Berven stated their transit system has continued to decrease in ridership. Ridership has been about 7,200 students/day versus pre-Covid 42,000 students/day. There are 33 buses in operation with limited seating. They have 20 electric buses in operation and will have 13 more electric buses soon, this will allow them to retire diesel buses.

Oconee Public Works

Mr. Woodall stated the roundabouts SR 53 for Snows Mill Road / Rocky Branch Road and Rays Church / Malcolm Bridge Road are currently in the design phase. The Mars Hill Phase II widening project was let on January 22, 2021, and construction should begin soon. Staff is working with GDOT for a quick response project on SR 10 & Epps Bridge Parkway to convert the configuration to a free flowing right lane. This would also lead to a proposed extension of the existing left turn lane traveling from Epps Bridge to the Oconee Connector for a local project to help ease some of the traffic in this area. There is preliminary concept work for Hog Mountain Road Improvement project to include 2 ft. shoulder widening with center left turn lane in some areas and overlay from Twelve Oaks Drive to US 441. There would need to be a quote for the design phase of the center left turn lane where this project ties to the Mars Hill Phase two project.

Madison County

Mr. Scott stated they have a new Board of Commission Chairman and two new members on the Madison County Commission board. They are in the process of evaluating the MACORTS projects for Madison County.

Athens-County Transportation & Public Works Department

Mr. Katreeb stated the Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement project is currently in the final design phase, with utility coordination and relocation underway. Staff has completed multiple sidewalk projects with traffic signal upgrades and ramps: Baxter Street/Milledge Avenue, Southview Drive/Milledge Avenue and Southview Drive/ Agriculture Drive. The West Broad Gap Sidewalk project near Camelia Drive has been completed. There was also a double 8 x 8 culvert replaced on Carriage Lane. Several projects are in the preliminary design phase for Cherokee Road, Jefferson River Road, and Riverbend Road, and Barber Street. There was a public comment survey completed for the Riverbend Road project, and there will be a future public comment survey for the Barber Street project multi-use path.

Athens Airport

Mr. Matthews stated operations have been slow due to the Covid-19 pandemic (operations is defined when plane takes off and lands counted by the control tower). Previously, operations were about 4,500-5,000 monthly but since March 2020 the average has reduced to about 1,600 monthly. However, operations are slowly beginning to increase up to 2,800 monthly due to Gwinnett County Airport being closed for 2 months for major construction to their runway and increased activity involving UGA basketball games. Projects to improve the runway will begin as FAA funding (Federal Aviation Administration) becomes available.

GDOT

Ms. Decker stated the following projects are coming up soon:

Oconee County

- * 0013723 – Oconee & Greene County Passing Lane Project on SR 15
GDOT decided to remove the Oconee section from this project and place these areas into a new passing lane project due to public concerns about the passing lane locations and impact to driveways
- * SR316 from the Barrow County line to the Oconee Connector resurfacing project - to begin in April
- * Bishop Bypass project forwarded to project team initiation this year to identify risks to schedule
- * Mars Hill Phase II widening project was let this past Friday
- * Off system project scheduled for June letting

Madison County

- * 013996- SR 8 at South Fork of Broad River scheduled for May letting
- * 013997- SR 281 at Broad River scheduled for November letting
- * Off-system project for safety improvements went to preconstruction meeting this past November so construction may happen soon
- * SR 72 resurfacing project scheduled to begin in August

Athens-Clarke County

- * SR 10 / SR10 Loop scheduled for April letting
- * Bridge Rehabilitation for SR 10 Loop at Oconee River moved to July

- * Bridge Rehabilitations for SR 8, SR10 and SR 10 Loop are scheduled for March. These group bridge rehabilitations will remain scheduled for March if maintenance funds are available. If more stimulus funding passes, GDOT is proposing \$320 million dollars to go into maintenance funds.
- * SR 10 / North Oconee River was moved out to June 2022.
- * Jennings Mill project is scheduled for this February.
- * SR 10 Loop / Middle Oconee River scheduled for October but funding has been pushed to 2025 so the project will go on the shelf until funding is available.

GDOT Planning

Mr. Ford introduced Kimberly Grayson as the MPO's new GDOT planner. Ms. Decker also stated the GDOT Planning Office went through a major reorganization, and there are several changes to the department structure.

XIV. ADJOURN

Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am and reminded the members the next TCC meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2021.

SUMMARY MINUTES

MACORTS Policy Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Kelly Girtz, Athens-Clarke County Mayor
Todd Higdon, Madison County Chairman
Sara Beresford, Athens-Clarke County Citizen
Dave Henson, Oconee County Citizen
Brett Jackson, UGA Transit
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning Office

Others Present: Sherry McDuffie, MACORTS Staff
Cherie Varnum, MACORTS Staff
Jalen Ford, GDOT Planning
Butch McDuffie, Athens Transit
Tom Caiafa, GDOT Planning
Kimberly Grayson, GDOT Planning
Ashley Finch, GDOT Intermodal Programs
Virginia Hamilton, UGA Alternate
SueAnne Decker, GDOT

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Girtz called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Ms. McDuffie took roll of members and guests in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2020 Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

There was none.

IV. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. McDuffie stated the UPWP outlines the activities the MPO staff will focus on in FY 2022. She noted previously the committee adopted the draft in October. The approved Draft was sent to GDOT & FHWA for their review, and their comments were addressed. The committee received a summary prior to the meeting.

She also outlined the priorities listed in the Final Draft as Safety, Performance Management Implementation, MTP & TIP, Congestion Management, Freight, & 2020 Census. She showed the revised budget and noted there were no changes made to the 5303 Transit Planning Grant. TCC recommended approval of the Final Draft FY 2022 UPWP and the associated budget for funded and unfunded work elements.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the Final FY 2022 UPWP as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT MACORTS PARTICIPATION PLAN

Ms. McDuffie stated the list of changes made to this document were sent to members prior to the meeting. Most of the changes were clarifying existing procedures and codifying the practice of virtual committee and public meetings. She explained that the option for virtual meetings was included as conditions dictate or at the pleasure of the Policy Committee.

She offered an analysis of MPO virtual operations during the pandemic. She stated that attendance at virtual committee meetings was slightly higher in virtual meetings than in-person meeting (2019 vs. 2020). She also noted there is lower attendance at the virtual public meetings; however, the overall approach to connect with the public virtually via the MACORTS website seems to reach more people overall. She explained that website traffic has increased compared to public involvement periods in 2019.

The members discussed the benefits of virtual attendance for meetings and opportunities for public engagement. The committee unanimously agreed in favor of continuing a virtual format for Policy Committee meetings. Ms. McDuffie stated staff will continue to offer a virtual option for Policy Committee meetings and have in-person meetings for public engagement opportunities as an option based on conditions. She also noted that all documentation for public engagement opportunities will continue to be posted on the website for review as usual.

Ms. McDuffie stated the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and Participation Plan will be taken to the public together for 45 days of public review and comment. Staff is prepared will have a virtual public meeting on March 11, 2021, 5:30 – 6:30pm. She noted that both documents and comments received will be presented to the Policy Committee on May 12 for final determination. She noted that TCC recommended approval to take this document to the public for review and comment.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Participation Plan to go to the public for review and comment. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF DRAFT MACORTS & ATHENS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Ms. McDuffie stated this document is required to demonstrate MACORTS and ACC Transit compliance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166 in regards to persons that do not speak English as their primary language or who have limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. This document is updated every 3 years. She gave a short presentation on the framework of the document and explained the required 4-factor analysis including establishing the eligible service for population & proportion of LEP customers, the frequency that LEP persons encounter services, the nature and importance of services in the transit and MPO area, and the resources available and costs for providing interpretation/translation services.

She stated the LEP Plan and Participation Plan will be taken to the public together for 45 days of public review and comment. Staff is prepared to have a virtual public meeting on March 11, 2021, 5:30 – 6:30pm. She noted that both documents and comments received will be presented to the Policy Committee on May 12 for final determination. She noted that TCC recommended approval to take this document to the public for review and comment.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to approve the Limited English Proficiency Plan to go to the public for review and comment. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF AMENDMENT TO FY 2018 – 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR SR 10 / US 78 BRIDGE PROJECT OVER NORTH OCONEE RIVER

Ms. McDuffie explained the process of TIP's being approved in Georgia. Once MPO's in the state adopt their TIP document, that TIP is rolled into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and is approved through GDOT. The STIP receives final approval when it is signed by the Governor. The MACORTS FY 21-24 TIP was adopted by the MPO on October 14, 2020, but it is anticipated that the STIP will be signed in the April/May 2021 timeframe. Therefore, the 21-24 TIP is invalid until that time. This will require the MPO to continue amending the 18-21 TIP in the interim.

This amendment increases the Right-of-Way estimate and moves it into FY 21 as it is shown in the 21-24 TIP document, but MACORTS must officially amend the 18-21 TIP to show this information. She stated because of the amount of difference in funding (\$250,000 to \$3,437,400), an amendment and a 15-day public comment period are required. TCC recommended approval to take this to the public for review and comment.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY 18-21 TIP to go to the public for review and comment. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Ms. McDuffie stated that every year the MPO must adopt safety targets for the measures of number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. In previous years the MPO has agreed to support the safety targets developed by GDOT. The MPO staff and TCC recommended supporting the state targets and incorporate them into the MTP, the valid FY 18-21 TIP & the FY 21-24 TIP. This could be done as an administrative modification; therefore, no additional public comment is required beyond that of the committee meetings.

Mr. Henson made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 Safety Targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 2018 -2021 TIP, and FY 2021 - 2024 TIP. Ms. Beresford seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IX. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Ms. McDuffie stated that each year GDOT updates the performance measures and targets in the Group Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan for the rural and small urban transit systems in Georgia. She noted the ACC Transit Department provided MACORTS staff with their endorsement of the measures and targets in the Group TAM Plan. The MPO must incorporate these targets into our MTP, the valid FY 18-21 TIP & the FY 21-24 TIP. As an administrative modification, no additional public comment is required beyond that of the committee meetings. TCC recommended approval of the action.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 Transit Asset Management Plan targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 18-21 TIP, and FY 21-24 TIP. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

X. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN & FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO INCORPORATE THE 2021 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Ms. McDuffie stated that beginning this year, the MPO will annually incorporate the targets included in the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) for the ACC Transit Department into the MTP and TIP. As an administrative

modification, no public comment beyond that at the committee meetings was required. TCC recommended approval of the administrative modification.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to incorporate the 2021 PTASP targets into the 2045 MTP, FY 2018-2021 TIP, and FY 2021-2024 TIP. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

XI. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO FY 2018 – 2021 TIP & FY 2021 – 2024 TIP TO UPDATE BUDGET FOR SR 10 LP AT US 29 BRIDGE PROJECT

Ms. McDuffie stated staff received a request from GDOT to revise the budget for the construction phase of the SR 10 LP at US 29 bridge project. The construction phase would increase from \$9.3 million to \$10,008,024.46. She noted this will be an administrative modification included in the FY 18-21 TIP & FY 21-24 TIP.

Ms. Beresford asked what circumstances cause a change like this in a project. Ms. Decker stated that usually this happens when GDOT goes through the development process of a project, and they recalculate quantities and update cost estimates. TCC recommended approval of the administrative modification.

Ms. Beresford made a motion to adopt the administrative modification to update the construction phase funding for the SR10 Lp at US 29 bridge project in the FY 2018-2021 & FY 2021-2024 TIPs. Mr. Higdon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Henson asked about the previously proposed traffic signal for SR 53/Hog Mountain Road at Union Church Road. He stated this project is needed due to the increased traffic in this area. Ms. Decker stated a traffic study had been performed, and there are proposed roundabout projects scheduled near this area by the school. Ms. Decker reviewed some additional contact information for the project and offered her personal contact information. (note: Ms. Decker followed-up with Mr. Henson after the meeting.)

Ms. Beresford asked if MACORTS staff could create a process to update the ACC Planning Commission about meeting information. Ms. McDuffie stated that currently there is an update from MACORTS included on every Planning Commission agenda. Ms. McDuffie said she would follow-up with Mr. Griffin about those updates. There was some discussion about making sure the Planning Commission is notified with MACORTS updates.

XIV. ADJOURN

Mr. Girtz adjourned the meeting at 10:53 am and noted the next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021.

**RESOLUTION BY THE MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MACORTS) POLICY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) must be adopted by the MACORTS Policy Committee and,

WHEREAS, the Technical Coordinating Committee has reviewed the technical merit of the elements of the FY 2022 UPWP and has recommended the adoption of the final draft:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MACORTS Policy Committee adopts the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program in its present form for submission to the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the MACORTS Policy Committee approves the proposed planning projects outlined in the 'Unfunded Section' of the FY 2022 UPWP should any of them be selected to receive funding. All member counties of MACORTS acknowledge and resolve to provide the necessary local match requirement for the completion of these projects, if funded by the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study Policy Committee at their meeting held on February 10, 2021.



Kelly Girtz for John Daniell
MACORTS Policy Committee Chairperson

February 10, 2021



Brad Griffin
MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee Chairperson

February 10, 2021

Draft Timeline 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Development

Timepoints to Hit: Plan Due October 9, 2024 & Base Year Data for Model Due October 2022

Aug-Oct 2020	Develop Draft Scope, budget breakdown, & timeline
October 28, 2020	Draft FY 2022 UPWP to TCC (including MTP as unfunded element)
November 11, 2020	Draft FY 2022 UPWP to PC (including MTP as unfunded element)
January 27, 2021	Final FY 2022 UPWP to TCC (including MTP as unfunded element)
February 10, 2021	Final FY 2022 UPWP to PC (including MTP as unfunded element)
<u>FY 2022</u>	
August 2021	Send Scope and Minutes from above meetings to FHWA & GDOT for review and approval (get approval to apply for federal funds)
Sept 10, 2021	Submit application to PL Committee for consideration
Sept 27, 2021	PL Committee Meeting – vote on application
Oct - Dec 2021	Execute PL Contract through ACC & GDOT Develop Draft RFP while getting PL contract executed (ACC won't proceed with processing RFP until contract is fully executed)
Oct 27, 2021	Amendment to FY 22 UPWP to show MTP as funded element to TCC
Nov 10, 2021	Amendment to FY 22 UPWP to show MTP as funded element to PC
December 2021	Finalize RFP with ACC Finance Dept Staff RFP to FHWA & GDOT for final review
January 26, 2022	RFP & Recommended Review Committee to TCC
February 9, 2022	RFP & Review Committee to PC Submit to ACC Finance as approved RFP
March 2022	RFP advertised for 30 days
April 2022	Proposals reviewed & Award Recommendation to ACC Finance Agenda Item to Award Due to ACC M&C
May 17, 2022	Agenda Item to Award – to ACC M&C Agenda Setting Meeting
June 7, 2022	Agenda Item to Award – to ACC M&C Voting Meeting Award Letter to Consultant (after Voting Meeting)
<u>FY 2023</u>	
July - August 2022	Execute Contract with Consultant & ACC - Work Begins
October 2022	Base Year Model Due to GDOT (First Deliverable)