
MINUTES
CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Central Square Complex, 240 Pine Avenue, Room 380
Albany, Georgia 31702
April 17, 2013

PRESENT: Dinorah Hall, Chairman
Jason McCoy
B.J. Fletcher
Matt Trice
Haryl Dabney
Lee Johnston, Vice-Chairman

ABSENT: Dr. Surendra Pandey
Dr. Peter Ngwafu (Lee County)
Billy Merritt (Albany/Dougherty Planning Commission)

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Newton, Transportation Planner
Tennasha Gresham, Transit Planner
Gloria Thompson, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hall called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections or change, a motion was made by Ms. Fletcher to approve the December 5, 2012 minutes as presented. Mr. Johnston seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the following votes:

Dinorah Hall	yes	Lee Johnston	yes
Jason McCoy	yes	Billy Merritt	absent
B.J. Fletcher	yes	Dr. Peter Ngwafu	absent
Matt Trice	yes	Dr. Surendra Pandey	absent
Haryl Dabney	absent		

TOPIC I - Introductions

Mrs. Hall introduced and welcomed Dougherty County's new appointee, Matt Trice, to the CTC.

Ms. Newton introduced staff personnel, Gloria Thompson, Administrative Assistant.

TOPIC II - Bike Community

Mrs. Hall introduced Mitch Mercer, avid bike rider, for a river trail presentation (see attached).

9:10 Haryl Dabney enters.

Mr. Mercer gave a brief background of himself and how he started cycling. He stated as he attends bike rides in different communities, he has noticed the crowds are getting bigger and bigger and with that the economic impact is tremendous. Mr. Mercer added Anniston, Alabama is developing 4,000 acre tract (Coldwater Mountain) into bike trails, with the involvement of The International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) and this will be good for other businesses as well, shops, hotels and restaurants, etc. Pointing to a map displayed, he stated we have the opportunity from the Civic Center all the way down to Wells Avenue to develop 8 miles of trails – hiking, biking and running. It would require a certified construction crew to make it sustainable and at that point events could be held and it would bring people in. Funding is the key thing and this would need corporate funding (Phoebe, Miller, P&G) as well as government (local, state and federal) funds, private donations and cycling clubs; this is how other communities have coordinated. Mr. Mercer stated four people started a bike trail at Chehaw with two events hosted, generating over \$3,000 in ticket sales alone; and doubling as a running trail - a running event will double that amount. He stated the benefits would be school trips, after school events, and local bike shops could hold clinics.

A discussion was held with Ms. Newton stating this project would be different as it does not require sidewalks, concrete, etc. She noted this would be natural, but wondered about maintenance, adding maybe Public Works or Parks Department could be involved. Ms. Newton added that biking is at the bottom and there never seems to be any money left over. A suggestion was made that ADICA could do its part and become involved, with Ms. Fletcher stating she is seeing it first hand and it is amazing what has happened downtown and they are looking for good healthy projects.

The benefit of bringing riders and their families to Albany was discussed, along with possible funding options.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fletcher to adopt this project. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion and it was approved with the following votes:

Dinorah Hall	yes	Lee Johnston	yes
Jason McCoy	yes	Billy Merritt	absent
B.J. Fletcher	yes	Dr. Peter Ngwafu	absent
Matt Trice	yes	Dr. Surendra Pandey	absent
Haryl Dabney	yes		

Mr. Dabney was introduced by Mrs. Hall, as a new board member.

TOPIC III - Albany & Dougherty County Projects

Ms. Newton noted that Ken Breedlove was not available for the meeting today and distributed a handout (attached). She noted these are SPLOST projects and will be happen in the next year: Nottingham Way Road Improvements; Dawson Road at Third Avenue, Magnolia Street Signal Upgrade; and Old Dawson Road at East Doublegate Road New Signal.

TOPIC IV - Transit Planning

Mrs. Gresham distributed a handout (attached) and gave a brief overview of route assessment: 61,000 ridership public transportation; Albany Tech, additional routes, portion altered; Albany Mall – add route; no service on Meredith Drive; updated fare system.

A discussion followed on marketing and educating people on how to ride the bus and read the schedules. Ms. Newton noted

Ms. Fletcher made a motion to see Mrs. Gresham come back on this and take this under our wing and learn more about it.

TOPIC V - FY 2014 UPWP

Ms. Newton reported the UPWP is comprised of a 20% match by City of Albany and 80% Federal Funds; Transit is 80% Federal, 10% City and 10% State. She pointed out UPWP page 9 show DARTS meeting schedules; page 10 Funding Source; and 22 shows contract totals (attached).

TOPIC VI - Members Report

Ms. Hall: resource citizen list – send neighbors and friends reminder and fill room with citizens; facebook – contact organizations and get in newsletters; contacted Lee County Ledger will print information about meeting and how to get in touch with members; use of e-mail for committee use; discuss with Bob Alexander and use paper to let Lee County know about projects; made a list of 10 personal friends who are interested; create blog on facebook – make comments and stir interest.

Mr. Johnston: spoke with Fox 31 and received e-mail address, WFXL.com and all reporters will get information; WALB.com to send information; let them know Committee meeting times and they will do small story; mentioned Albany Tech has a newsletter.

Ms. Newton: noted if members are uncomfortable giving out personal e-mails they can use hers because it is public and on the website.

Ms. Fletcher: reached out to Albany Herald, WALB, Fox News.

Mr. McCoy: Chamber of Commerce, spoke with Ms. Bitterman and whatever is forwarded can be mentioned in bi-monthly magazine.

Mr. Trice: Albany Tech has internal website that can be utilized

It was noted that the more we put a face to this community and they get comfortable and build trust, the phones will be burning over. Mr. Trice asked if the bus schedules could be added. Mrs. Hall asked for good writer to help with drafts and provide any e-mails or info.

TOPIC VIII - Discussion

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.