
MINUTES
CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Lee County Library Conference Center, 445 West Oakland Parkway
Leesburg, Georgia 31763
December 5, 2012

PRESENT: Dinorah Hall
B. J. Fletcher
Lee Johnston
Jason McCoy
Dr. Peter Ngwafu

ABSENT: Billy Merritt
Dr. Surendra Pandey

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Hall called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 20, 2012 and October 2, 2012)

There being no corrections or changes, a motion is made by Mr. McCoy to approve the September 20, 2012 and October 2, 2012 minutes as presented. Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the following votes:

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

TRANSIT ROUTE UPDATE

Ms. Newton noted that Ms. Gresham was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. She reviewed the new transit route proposals, and a discussion was held on the public transportation needs at local colleges. Ms. Newton reported that Albany Technical College has requested more frequent transit stops, and Ms. Gresham is currently conducting an investigation to determine whether there is a need for additional routes to the campus. Members requested that Ms. Gresham provide statistics on the number of people that are currently using public transportation, and information on transit projects that are currently underway.

ALBANY URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARIES

Ms. Newton reported that she has been instructed by GDOT to smooth and adjust the Albany urbanized area boundaries so that they will be easily defined. She reviewed maps of the proposed boundaries, and gave a brief overview of the revision process. During the discussion, Ms. Hall requested information on the criteria that is used for determining MPO's. Mr. Alexander and Ms. Newton replied that a defined process is used for transportation planning, and they explained various details of the process.

LEE COUNTY PROJECTS

Mr. Alexander gave a presentation on various Lee County projects. He discussed the Leesburg Bypass, State Route 32, Westover Blvd. Extension, the widening of Ledo Road, and other recent improvements in the area (the installation of various traffic lights, turning lanes, etc.). He also discussed the projected traffic flow of each project, funding issues, and the impact that each project will have on surrounding areas. Ms. Hall asked whether adjacent property owners are informed when a major project takes place in Lee County, and Mr. Alexander provided a brief overview of Lee County's notification process.

VICE-CHAIR ELECTION

Mr. McCoy made a motion to nominate Dr. Ngwafu as Vice-Chairman, and Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion. Dr. Ngwafu declined the nomination due to a full schedule and numerous prior obligations.

Dr. Ngwafu made a motion to nominate Mr. Johnston as Vice-Chairman. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion, and the nomination was approved with the following votes:

B. J. Fletcher	yes	Billy Merritt	absent
Dinorah Hall	yes	Dr. Peter Ngwafu	yes
Lee Johnston	abstained	Dr. Surendra Pandey	absent
Jason McCoy	yes		

DISCUSSION

Ms. Newton reported that the Board of City Commissioners will vote on the two County vacancies during a special called meeting, which will be held on December 10, 2012.

A discussion was held on public outreach. Members brainstormed for new ways to improve communication with the public, and each member agreed to work with a specific organization to help accomplish the task. Ms. Newton gave an update on the Facebook page and newsletter, and Mr. Johnston suggested creating a twitter account to improve communication.

Ms. Fletcher stated that the poor lighting in front of the old Cooper Tire building is a safety hazard. The committee plans to look into the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.