
MINUTES
CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Central Square Complex, 240 Pine Avenue, Room 380

Albany, Georgia 31702

June 21, 2012

PRESENT: Commissioner Gloria Gaines
B. J. Fletcher
Dinorah Hall
Jason McCoy
Dr. Peter Ngwafu

ABSENT: Dr. Charles Gillespie, Chairman
Thomas Fratino
Billy Merritt
Dr. Surendra Pandey

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Newton, Transportation Planner
Ginette Mills, Administrative Secretary, Sr.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Caitlyn Cooper, Regional Director, Connect Georgia
Louise Primrose

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Gloria Gaines called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 19, 2012)

There being no corrections or changes, a motion was made by Mr. McCoy to approve the April 19, 2012 minutes as presented. Dr. Ngwafu seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the following votes:

Dr. Charles Gillespie	absent
B. J. Fletcher	yes
Thomas Fratino	absent
Commissioner Gloria Gaines	yes
Dinorah Hall	yes
Jason McCoy	yes
Billy Merritt	absent
Dr. Peter Ngwafu	yes
Dr. Surendra Pandey	absent

TIP FY 2013-2016

Ms. Newton reviewed the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) document, and noted that the three year document must be updated each year in order to receive federal funds for federally funded highway and transit projects. The TIP document provides a list of projects that are being funded for the current year as well as upcoming years. Ms. Newton referenced several projects within the document, and commented on the construction dates and project costs associated with each project. A discussion was held, and Ms. Newton and Commissioner Gaines addressed several questions regarding the program and various projects. The TIP document will be presented to the TCC, and then forwarded to the DARTS committee for approval. A brief discussion was also held on transit funds and the recent changes in transit services.

TSPLOST UPDATE

Caitlyn Cooper, Regional Director at Connect Georgia, spoke in reference to the TSPLOST referendum. She has travelled 32 counties promoting the passage of TSPLOST, which is estimated to bring about \$19 billion dollars to the state of Georgia; particularly \$530 million dollars and 14,000 jobs to this particular region.

Commissioner Gaines asked whether this region has been polled on the proposed referendum. Ms. Cooper replied yes, and stated that things are looking pretty good in this area. She commented that there is a lot of misinformation floating around, and that she would like to inform citizens that every penny raised in this region will stay right here in this region; local funds will not be given to Atlanta. She stated that good infrastructure brings industry, and with the loss of industry in this region, passage of this bill is very important. A discussion was held on what will happen if the referendum does not pass.

A series of three TSPLOST forums will be held in the local area so that representatives from the Regional Commission can provide factual information to local communities. The information will enable citizens to judge the merit of the projects for themselves.

MALL TRAFFIC LIGHT

Ms. Newton reported that Engineering is aware of Dr. Gillespie's concern, and she reviewed an email addressing the pros and cons of the issue. Mr. Casagrande's email noted that the mall was designed and built with six entrance/exit sites around its perimeter in order to minimize the need to install traffic signals. The primary function of Dawson Road is to move traffic as a thoroughfare. Statistics indicate that annual traffic accidents are low, and the additional traffic signal may be detrimental to reducing the level of service along that road. He further noted that this would be an expensive problem to overcome. The city will likely require that all costs be paid by property owners since it is not a publicly owned street or driveway. Discussion on this topic will continue at the next meeting when Dr. Gillespie returns.

DISCUSSION

An election for Chair and Vice Chair will be held during the September 20th meeting.

Commissioner Gaines encouraged new members to contact Ms. Newton regarding any process questions. She stressed the importance of understanding the process by which transportation decisions are made, the impact that committee members have on the process, and how members can involve others in the process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.