
MINUTES
DARTS POLICY COMMITTEE

Central Square Complex, 240 Pine Avenue, Room 380
Albany, Georgia 31702

June 21, 2012

PRESENT: Jeff Sinyard, Chairman, Dougherty County Commission
Dave Cox, GDOT Planning (voting for Cynthia VanDyke)
Richard Crowdis, Dougherty County Administrator
Ed Duffy, Lee County Commissioner
Dorothy Hubbard, Mayor, City of Albany
Tony Massey, Lee County Administrator
James Taylor, City Manager

ABSENT: Joe Sheffield, GDOT District Engineer
Cynthia VanDyke, State Transportation Planning Administrator

OTHERS

PRESENT: Bob Alexander, Lee County Director of Planning & Engineering
Randy Casagrande, Albany Traffic Engineering Manager
Krystal Harris, Georgia Department of Transportation
Gerald Goosby, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Olivia Lewis, U. S. Department of Transportation, FHWA
Bruce Maples, Engineering Director
Ginette Mills, Administrative Secretary, Sr.
Jennifer Newton, Transportation Planner
Brent Thomas, Georgia Department of Transportation
Kirby Browning, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sinyard called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 19, 2012)

There being no corrections or changes, a motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the April 19, 2012 minutes. Mayor Hubbard seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the following votes:

Dave Cox	yes (in the absence of Cynthia VanDyke)
Richard Crowdis	yes
Ed Duffy	yes
Mayor Dorothy Hubbard	yes
Tony Massey	yes
Joe Sheffield	absent
Jeff Sinyard	yes
James Taylor	yes
Cynthia VanDyke	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. She referenced several projects within the document, and commented on the construction dates and project costs associated with each project.

There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the TIP FY 2013-2016 as presented. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, and the TIP FY 2013-2016 was unanimously approved with the following votes:

Dave Cox	yes (in the absence of Cynthia VanDyke)
Richard Crowdis	yes
Ed Duffy	yes
Mayor Dorothy Hubbard	yes
Tony Massey	yes
Joe Sheffield	absent
Jeff Sinyard	yes
James Taylor	yes
Cynthia VanDyke	absent

EAST DOUBLEGATE STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Casagrande reported that they have received four quotes, ranging from \$17, 000 to \$45,000, on the East Doublegate/Weymouth proposal. One quote is within the budget parameter, and they are in the process of reviewing the references. The responses have been good, and they anticipate moving forward with the study very soon. The study will consist of speed studies, traffic counts, and the possibility of reclassifying East Doublegate from a collector street to a local residential street.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT ACT UPDATE

Caitlyn Cooper, Regional Director at Georgia Connect, commented on her efforts to get the facts out about TSPLOST. She has travelled across the state of Georgia advocating the passage of the referendum. The floor was opened for discussion, and then turned over to Mr. Alexander for a review of the projects in this area.

Mr. Alexander pointed out that the DARTS area, which includes all of Dougherty County and two-thirds of Lee County, has \$172 million dollars worth of projects. This amount includes the 25% discretionary funds, which go back to the local government. He gave a detailed review of several projects in the plan, and he discussed the impact that they will have on the region. He also reviewed labor statistics for the metropolitan area of Albany, which includes Dougherty, Lee, Terrell, Worth and Baker counties. He commented that 7,000 jobs have been lost over the past four years, and that some type of stimulus needs to be developed to bring those jobs back. He noted that passing the TSPLOST referendum would create 8,500 jobs, and it would also address recent criticism regarding minority participation. He further noted that 55% of the federal funds coming into this area would require federal participation from minority businesses.

Mr. Alexander addressed questions regarding the Broad Avenue Bridge. Mayor Hubbard inquired about the estimated 8,500 jobs that are projected to be created with the passage of TSPLOST. She asked whether there was anything the city should be doing to get people ready for those jobs if the referendum passes. A discussion was held on various things that could be done to make sure the labor force is ready.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Goosby commented on recent community outreach efforts, and the importance of getting the facts out about TSPLOST. Mayor Hubbard requested a list of the meeting dates so that elected officials and SPLOST representatives can be proactive in notifying citizens of scheduled meetings. A discussion was held on the need to be transparent, the 25% discretionary funding, and the importance of explaining how the bottom up approach and the needs of citizens were used to select the projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.