
MINUTES
DARTS POLICY COMMITTEE
April 14, 2011

PRESENT: Richard Crowdis, Dougherty County Administrator
James Taylor, City Manager
Tony Massey, Lee County Administrator
Ed Duffy, Lee County Administrator
Brent Thomas, Georgia Department of Transportation (voting for Joe Sheffield)
Radney Simpson, Georgia Department of Transportation Planning (voting for
Cynthia VanDyke)

ABSENT: Jeff Sinyard, Chairman, Dougherty County Commission
Dr. Willie Adams, Mayor, City of Albany
Cynthia VanDyke, State Transportation Planning Administrator
Joe Sheffield, GDOT District Engineer

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Hamilton, Deputy Transit Director
Jennifer Newton, Transportation Planner
Bruce Maples, Engineering Director
Davida Walker, Georgia Department of Transportation Planning
Bob Alexander, Lee County Director of Planning & Engineering
Dr. Charles Gillespie, Citizen's Transportation Chairman
Dwain Cosby, Albany Transit System Director
Randy Casagrande, Albany Traffic Engineering Manager
Ken Breedlove, City Engineering
Shane Pridgen, Georgia Department of Transportation, Dist. 4
Richard Bramlett, City of Albany Public Works
Matthew Inman, EMC Engineering
Richard Fangmann, Pond, Inc.
Jim Gray, GCA Engineering
Ritchey Marbury, Civil Engineer
Peggy Hegarty, Planner II
Ginette Mills, Administrative Secretary, Sr.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Crowdis called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 16, 2010)

Mr. Crowdis welcomed Tony Massey, Lee County's new Administrator, to the committee. He also welcomed and recognized Mr. James Taylor as the new City Manager.

There being no corrections or changes, a motion was made by Mr. Simpson to approve the September 16, 2010 minutes. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the following votes:

James Taylor	yes
Richard Crowdis	yes
Tony Massey	yes
Ed Duffy	yes
Radney Simpson	yes (in the absence of Cynthia VanDyke)
Brent Thomas	yes (in the absence of Joe Sheffield)
Jeff Sinyard	absent
Dr. Willie Adams	absent
Joe Sheffield	absent
Cynthia VanDyke	absent

TOPIC I (FY 12 UPWP)

Mr. Hamilton noted that Topic I on the agenda should be corrected to read FY12 UPWP for the year 2012.

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the DARTS 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (FY12 UPWP). He referenced the DARTS meeting schedule listed on Page 9, and asked members to mark their calendars with the upcoming fiscal year meeting dates. Mr. Hamilton announced the 2012 contract totals for highway and transit planning purposes, and opened the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. Simpson to approve the FY 12 UPWP. Mr. Massey seconded the motion, and the FY 12 UPWP was approved with the following votes:

James Taylor	yes
Richard Crowdis	yes
Tony Massey	yes
Ed Duffy	yes
Radney Simpson	yes (in the absence of Cynthia VanDyke)
Brent Thomas	yes (in the absence of Joe Sheffield)
Jeff Sinyard	absent
Dr. Willie Adams	absent
Joe Sheffield	absent
Cynthia VanDyke	absent

TOPIC II (Bike and Pedestrian Plan)

Mr. Fangmann @ Pond, Inc. gave a presentation on the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. He noted that additional information could be found on the website and the DARTS fact sheet. He stated that the purpose of the plan is to provide a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Albany Region that establishes goals and objectives for safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian travel as well as a list of prioritized pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects. The draft goals of the plans were presented to the public, the stakeholder committee, the advisory committee, and to the DARTS MPO for comments and revisions. Mr. Fangmann highlighted the plan's goals, strategies, policies,

programs, and projects. He also discussed several new traffic control devices that will be included in the list of projects (share roads, hawk signals, road diet, and wayfinding). Mr. Alexander commented that he felt that this study was very timely, and he added that the study is currently being used by the city of Leesburg as part of their request for SPLOST.

Mr. Taylor asked how much coordination was done with the Rails to Trails Program. Mr. Fangmann replied that Rails to Trails was not a part of the assessment; however, routes along that corridor would be included as one of the projects. Mr. Crowdis inquired about the funding sources for this project, and he suggested that City and County Commissioners be made aware of this plan in the near future so that they would be familiar with it. It was also noted that this is the first Bike and Pedestrian Plan that the region has adopted.

Mr. Simpson suggested that upon approval, this recommendation should be given to the Regional Commission Staff so that it can be coordinated with the regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan for Southwest Georgia.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Simpson to approve the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Massey seconded the motion, and the Bike and Pedestrian Plan was approved with the following votes:

James Taylor	yes
Richard Crowdis	yes
Tony Massey	yes
Ed Duffy	yes
Radney Simpson	yes (in the absence of Cynthia VanDyke)
Brent Thomas	yes (in the absence of Joe Sheffield)
Jeff Sinyard	absent
Dr. Willie Adams	absent
Joe Sheffield	absent
Cynthia VanDyke	absent

TOPIC III (Westover Extension Project)

Mr. Alexander stated that Jim Gray would provide an update on the Westover Extension Project, and Matthew Inman would give an update on the Lee County construction.

Mr. Gray @ GCA Engineering gave a presentation on the background and current activities of the project. He discussed the results of the Nottingham Way Alternative Corridor Study, the 3 Phases of the Nottingham Way Implementation, and the design overview of the extension. The total estimated cost for the East-West construction project is 9.7 million dollars. Mr. Inman @ EMC Engineering reported that the section between Fussell Road and Ledo Road has been designed and completed. He stated that funds are available for the project, and it should be ready for construction by early Fall.

Mr. Taylor questioned the decision to add just one lane to handle such a high volume of traffic. He stated that conceptually he thought this project was a good idea, but he was very concerned about the impact it would have on that area. A brief discussion was held on various options to address this issue, and it was noted that the study was done five years ago in 2006. Mr. Alexander added that a lot of the

information in the presentation would be reconfigured and modified in the detailed analysis. He noted that a full scale study would address their concerns, and adding two lanes would certainly be something they would consider. Mr. Taylor stated that the committee would definitely need to take a serious look at everything.

A motion was made by Mr. Simpson to recommend that the Westover Extension Project be considered for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Massey seconded the motion, and the Westover Extension Project was approved to be considered for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with the following votes:

James Taylor	yes
Richard Crowdis	yes
Tony Massey	yes
Ed Duffy	yes
Radney Simpson	yes (in the absence of Cynthia VanDyke)
Brent Thomas	yes (in the absence of Joe Sheffield)
Jeff Sinyard	absent
Dr. Willie Adams	absent
Joe Sheffield	absent
Cynthia VanDyke	absent

TOPIC IV (Transportation Investment Act Update)

Mr. Goosby was present to give an update on the implementation of the Transportation Investment Act. He reported that the Regional Commission has received 179 projects totaling a little more than a billion dollars. All of those projects have been reviewed for accuracy and transmitted onto GI. The next step involves creating a list of approved projects that will benefit the region as well as promote economic development. The list will then be sent to the Roundtable Committee. Copies of the timeline for the entire Transportation Investment Act were available for review.

Mr. Taylor commended Mr. Goosby for the great job he has done, and Mr. Simpson thanked the Regional Commission Staff for their assistance and cooperation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Simpson requested that the Extension of Westover Blvd. from Ledo onto Fussell Road be placed in the upcoming FY12-15 TIP just for informational purposes. He noted that a lot of effort has already been taken on this project, and this would be another opportunity for the public to see what's going on in the area of transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.