
**MINUTES
DARTS POLICY COMMITTEE
September 16, 2010**

PRESENT: Jeff Sinyard, Chairman, Dougherty County Commission
Richard Crowdis, Dougherty County Administrator
Al Crace, Interim Lee County Administrator
Cindy Vandyke, GDOT Planner
Joe Sheffield, GDOT District Engineer

ABSENT: Dr. Willie Adams, Mayor, City of Albany
Alfred Lott, City Manager
Ed Duffy, Lee County Commissioner

OTHERS David Hamilton, Transportation Planner
PRESENT: Bob Alexander, Lee County Director of Planning & Engineering
Radney Simpson, Georgia Department of Transportation Planning
Audrey Johnson, GDOT
Gerald Goosby, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Bruce Maples, Engineering Director
Randy Casagrande, Albany Traffic Engineering Manager
Brent Thomas, Georgia Department Of Transportation, Dist. 4
Shane Prigden, Georgia Department Of Transportation, Dist. 4
Ken Breedlove, Albany Signal Engineer
Dr. Charles Gillespie, CTC Chairman
Jennifer Newton, Administrative Secretary, Sr.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sinyard called the meeting to order at 9: 47 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections or changes, a motion was made by Mr. Crowdis to approve the June 17, 2010 minutes. Mr. Sheffield seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the following votes:

Jeff Sinyard	yes
Alfred Lott	absent
Richard Crowdis	yes
Al Crace	yes
Joe Sheffield	yes
Dr. Adams	absent
Ed Duffy	absent
Cindy Vandyke	yes

TOPIC I – Administrative Modification for FY 2011-2014 TIP

Mr. Hamilton reminded the board that the TCC recommended approval for the Administrative Modification for FY 2011 - 2014 TIP. He briefly reviewed the seven modifications.

A motion was made by Mr. Crowdis to approve the Administrative Modifications for the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Ms. Van Dyke seconded the motion, and the Administrative Modifications for the FY 2011-2014 TIP was approved with the following votes:

Jeff Sinyard	yes
Alfred Lott	absent
Richard Crowdis	yes
Al Crace	yes
Joe Sheffield	yes
Dr. Adams	absent
Ed Duffy	absent
Cindy Vandyke	yes

TOPIC II – Bike & Pedestrian Plan Presentation

Mr. Richard Fangmann, from Pond Inc., passed out a fact sheet, summary of needs, overview of recommended strategies, and a draft map of sidewalk and bicycle facility needs for the Committee to review. He stated that the purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Albany Region was to provide a plan 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. Some of the main goals are to connect the community resources and neighborhoods at a human scale, provide access to schools and community facilities, improve safety and accessibility of bicycle and pedestrian travel modes, including street crossings and access to transit, create bikable and walkable downtowns, increase recreational running, walking, and bicycling for a healthy lifestyle, connect neighborhoods, activity centers, and major employers, expand trails and distance bike routes, and preserve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The plan may be presented for approval by the end of the year.

TOPIC III – House Bill 277

Mr. Radney Simpson highlighted the details of the House Bill 277. Mr. Simpson stated that he would discuss the following concerning House Bill 277: draft criteria for project selection, Regional Transportation Roundtable, Executive Committee, draft investment list, final investment list, Citizen Review Panel, and Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission. The Transportation Sales and Use Tax creates 12 special tax districts based on RC boundaries. Each district can levy a 1% sales tax for ten years. Individual counties cannot opt out. The money raised in the District, stays in the District. The money is not subject to Congressional District Balancing. The House Bill 277 also includes elements regarding MARTA, Rural and Human Services Transportation, and Transit Governance Study for Metro Atlanta area. In August 2010, via a letter, the Director of Planning, Tod Long, provided the draft criteria for the development of a draft investment list of projects and programs to be considered by local governments and MPO's within all 12 districts. The draft criteria were developed using four investment goals noted in the current Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan – support Georgia's economic growth and competitiveness, ensure safety and security, maximize the value of Georgia's transportation assets, and minimize the impact of transportation on the environment.

Comments on the recommended criteria are due to the Director of Planning by September 30, 2010. The non-Atlanta draft criteria are: roadway capital 50-70%, transit capital 0-10%, transit operations and maintenance 0-10%, safety 15-30%, traffic operations 0-20%, non-motorized (bike/pedestrian) 0-5%, freight and logistics 2-10%, aviation 0-5%, and roadway and bridge maintenance (asset management) 0-5%. In consideration of the comments received, the recommended district criteria will be issued by the Director of Planning on or before November 15, 2010. The recommended criteria report must include notice of the first meeting of the Regional Transportation Roundtable. At the initial Roundtable meeting, the recommended criteria may be approved as written or amended by the Roundtable. The bill establishes a Regional Transportation Roundtable in each special district. It consists of two members from each county (14 counties) which are the County Commission Chairman plus one mayor from the county and a Mayor elected by mayors of the county. The bill establishes an Executive Committee which includes five members from the Roundtable committee selected by its members and two non-voting legislators selected by Transportation Chair of House and one non-voting legislator selected by Senate Transportation Chair. The first meeting will be held after November 15, 2010 and the final meeting will be held after August 15, 2011. After the final criteria is developed, the Director of Planning will provide an example investment list and provide to districts Executive Committee. The draft list does not have to be fiscally constrained. Local governments, MPOs and members of the General Assembly whose districts are within or partially within the RC boundary may submit projects to the Planning Director. The Executive Committee and Planning Director creates a fiscally constrained draft investment list, which is approved by Executive Committee and Roundtable. By August 15, 2011 the Planning Director will provide a financially constrained draft investment list to local governments, MPOs, and members of the General Assembly. The draft list will include specific public benefits of the investment list, including congestion mitigation, increased lane capacity, public safety, and economic development. The draft list will also include a notice of the date, time, and location of each district's Executive Committee meetings and final Roundtable Committee meeting. Prior to the final Roundtable meeting, the Executive Committee must hold two public meetings on the final investment list. After the public meetings, the final project list goes to the Roundtable for approval. A majority vote is required. The Roundtable can approve the final project list as submitted or amend with substitute projects from the draft project list. The final project list is completed no later than October 15, 2011. By October 15, 2011, if the final investment list is not approved by the Roundtable, a "special district gridlock" is declared. The gridlocked district cannot call a new vote for 24 months. The local governments in the district must match 50% of their Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants (formerly known as State Aid/LARP). There will be a statewide vote in the general primary of 2012. If the tax is not approved in the district, then the local governments in the district must match 30% of their Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants. It cannot be revisited for 24 months. If the tax is approved in the district, then collection begins at least 80 days from election. The local governments in the district would then only match 10% of their Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants for the next ten years. A portion of each district's revenues will be designated for discretionary use by local governments within the district, based on the LARP formula. The discretionary portion is 15% in the Metro Atlanta Region and 25% in all other districts. The City of Albany would receive approximately \$905K for local projects in 2013. Unincorporated Dougherty County would receive approximately \$450K for local projects in 2013. 12% of the Southwest Georgia Region's discretionary money would be spent in Dougherty County (there are 14 counties in the region).

Mr. Crace asked if the Lee County data was available. Mr. Simpson noted that it could be found on the website. Ms. VanDyke added that the total for unincorporated Lee County was projected to be \$618,000 and total for Lee County may be \$667,000.

Proceeds of the tax may only be used for projects identified on final project list, which includes construction, maintenance, and operations (excludes maintenance and operations of MARTA's existing system). The projects may include transit capital expenses and revenues may also be used to fund a 20-year reserve for a district's transit maintenance and operations requirements (includes new MARTA capital projects). Upon conclusion of the ten year levy, the list development process and ballot may be reinitiated per a majority of the district's counties and a special act of the General Assembly. A five member Citizens Review Panel will be charged with the review of the administration of the projects and programs included on the final investment list. Members of the panel must be residents of the region. The Speaker has three appointees and the Lt. Governor has two. Beginning January 1, 2013, this panel must annually report to the General Assembly on project progress and expenditures. The Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) will serve as the trustee for each district's funds. GDOT will manage the budget, schedule, execution, and delivery of all projects in the state, except bus and rail mass transit systems and passenger rail in the Metro Atlanta Region, which will managed by GRTA. GDOT and GRTA are authorized to determine whether a project should be designed and constructed by the department, by a local government, or by another public or private entity. The DOR Commissioner will publish and maintain a website that shows a project's status and whether the project is over or under budget. Information on House Bill 277, the Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan, project criteria, revenue projections, and SB 200 can be found at www.it3.ga.gov.

Mr. Sinyard noted that there would be a meeting concerning House Bill 277 next Tuesday. Mr. Goosby stated that there would be a meeting in the Candy Room at noon on next Tuesday, September 21, 2010 with the following counties: Dougherty, Baker, Terrell, Lee and Worth counties. The next meeting, later that day, in Thomas county will include Thomas, Grady, Decatur, and Mitchell counties. The roundtable members will be selected from these meetings and the comments for the criteria to be submitted will be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.