
MINUTES
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Central Square Government Complex, 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 380
Albany, Georgia 31702
September 18, 2014

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Paul Forgey, Chairman TCC, Director Planning & Development Services
Bruce Maples, Vice-Chairman, Albany Director of Engineering
Danny Ball (for Jackie Battle) Dougherty County Chief of Police
Jeremy Brown, Dougherty County Engineering Manager
William Clark, Leesburg Public Works Director
William Eastin, GDOT Office of Planning Transportation Planner, Atlanta
Brent Thomas, GDOT Pre-Construction Engineer, District 4
Ken Breedlove, City Engineering
Bob Takash, Albany Recreation Department
David Anderson (for Hubert Smigelski) Marine Corp Logistic Base
Jennifer Newton, Transportation Planner
Tennasha Green-Gresham, Transit Planner, DARTS MPO

ABSENT:

John Proctor, Albany Chief of Police
Phil Roberson, Albany Public Works Director
Yvette Aehle, S.W. Georgia Regional Airport Director
David Hamilton, Albany Transit Director
Larry Cook, Dougherty County Public Works Director
Matthew Inman, Lee County Director Planning & Engineering
Steve O'Neil, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Orlando Rambo, Destiny Tours

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Shane Pridgen, GDOT, District 4
Radney Simpson, GDOT, Asst. State Transportation Planning Administrator

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Mary Teter, Planning Manager
Roy Tucker, GDOT
Olivia Lewis, US Department of Transportation, District 4
Sanford Hillsman, Albany Dougherty Planning Commission
Dr. Surendra Pandey, Citizens' Advisory Committee Representative

OTHERS

PRESENT:

Gloria Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Bob Alexander, Leesburg City Manager
Joe Sheffield, GDOT District Engineer
Jim Brown, URS
James Lawson, URS
Mary Huffstetler, URS

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Forgey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June 19, 2014)

A motion was made by Mr. Taskash to approve the June 19, 2014 minutes as written. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TOPIC I – Vice-Chair Election

Mr. Brown nominated Mr. Maples to remain as Vice-Chair. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.

TOPIC II – Draft FY 15-18 TIP Review

Ms. Newton stated the FY 15-18 TIP has been up for public review and needs a recommendation from this Committee to the Policy Committee for adoption. She pointed out a change was made by GDOT (when balancing the budget for the STIP) from the last draft to this one was Project 473 (page 7) Road Widening; Project 475 (page 8) should be year 2017 instead of 2016.

A motion was made by Mr. Maples to send the draft FY 15-18 TIP to Policy for approval. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

TOPIC III – Transit Report

Ms. Gresham stated in the next year or so transit would be converting to natural gas, more cost efficient for the city. She noted as of September 22nd transit would be introducing into circulation the new fare system, upgrading to Odyssey Validating Farebox (on file) and it will have two features: the Smart Card and a transfer card.

A discussion followed in relation to increasing the awareness of public transportation. Mr. Forgey stated some towns have designed t-shirts to help publicize ridership. Ms. Gresham added there are plans to incorporate in the Transit Development Plan to readjust routes to make them attractive to the commuter population.

TOPIC IV – Engineering Report

Mr. Maples gave a brief report on the following: continue to work on the railroad crossing; Broad Avenue Bridge and the underpass; appraisals for Stuart to the by-pass; widen route of Stuart from Nottingham to Dawson Road; working with GDOT on signal project on Jefferson and Oglethorpe; and working with consultants on the Westover extension project.

A discussion was held concerning construction near the Marine Base, with Mr. Anderson expressing traffic concerns with the gates being temporarily closed. Ms. Gresham noted it could be a Transit problem with the VA clinic now being located on base.

TOPIC V – Airport Report

Ms. Newton read a report (on file) from Yvette Aehle.

TOPIC VI – Draft 2040 LRTP Review

A powerpoint presentation (on file) was given by Jim Brown, URS consultant. He stated the December meeting date needs to move forward because the comment period starts today for 30 days, then the draft will be revised accordingly based on comments and input with the LRTP final document produced in late November and coming back to Policy by December 3, 2014.

Ms. Newton noted she needs input on changing the date of the next meeting which is regularly scheduled for December 4, 2014 (first Thursday in December), but the LRTP actually expires on December 3rd and the date needs to be moved for TCC and Policy meetings to either December 3 (Wednesday) or December 2 (Tuesday). Ms. Newton added the December meetings are held in Lee County at The Bindery, Oakland Plantation Library.

A discussion followed concerning times and dates, with Mr. Forgey stating he would like to have the meeting on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. Ms. Newton asked the GDOT representatives if that would be a problem to meet on Wednesday instead of Thursday.

Mr. Forgey asked if a motion was needed to change the date and it was decided to schedule the meeting date for Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. and the GDOT members would work around it. Ms. Newton stated she would send out meeting notices.

As a reminder, Mr. Forgey reminded stated that parking in Albany on the street is limited to two hours.

Ms. Newton asked everyone to be sure there are on the sign-in sheet.

Ms. Newton opened the floor for discussion concerning projects on the list sent with the meeting notice. She noted the list has changed since then and from all the discussions today, it may change again. Mr. Brown stated there are handouts (on file) that contain both lists and distributed them to those present.

Ms. Newton opened the floor for discussion concerning projects on the list sent with the meeting notice (on file). She noted there are two projects (Table 6.2-2040 DARTS LRTP Fiscally Constrained Capital Roadway Projects – on file) to discuss; the first #15 – SR 234 & SR 520BU fm Colquitt Avenue N to Tift Avenue. Ms. Newton stated this apparently is an older project 4 to 6 lanes and there were some questions about the cost being estimated correctly and would like to discuss a need for the project.

A discussion followed and Mr. Eastin commented in 2040 LOS was a level C and does not appear to be needed. Ms. Newton stated there was a need which does not seem to be great right now and the cost estimate which GDOT had much higher. She commented, in a discussion with Mr. Thomas before the meeting, he noted if you move or acquire that property with a lot of businesses you do not need the \$46 million anyway.

Mr. Maples pointed out that taking the parking in the front and driveways and access, it would be expensive and utilities would need to be relocated and Mr. Thomas responded it is a very expensive project and stated the need is there. Mr. Maples stated traffic has been on the decline, the past 5 year trend has shown a decline in traffic and it probably needs to be checked to be sure. He asked if there were any comments from the survey about the property.

Mr. Thomas stated that you don't usually make people walk across 6 lane highway without some type of signalized traffic.

Ms. Newton stated the general consensus is to move it to the aspirations list and asked if that would cause problems with the GDOT side. Mr. Eastin responded it would not cause any problems because of fiscal restraints and would free up more money for another project.

In response to Ms. Newton's request for any other project discussion, Mr. Maples brought up S Westover Boulevard where Wal-Mart is going on the corner and noted they need to be more proactive. He stated during peak hour it is pretty tough and will be worse once McDonalds goes in. Mr. Maples stated he would like to see consideration for that.

Ms. Newton stated that is #29 (on file) on the 6.3-2040 DARTS LRTP Aspirations Projects (unfunded) to widen from 4 to 6 lanes from Dawson to Gillionville, it is not the intersection.

A discussion followed with Mr. Breedlove noting an additional turn lane would be expensive and could use some improvements. He pointed out there is stacking along the westbound of Gillionville, making a right turn headed back north on Westover. An additional lane there would greatly improve the efficiency of the intersection, the biggest problem is the concrete utility pole there and that would be a very expensive fix.

Mr. Forgey suggested moving #15 to the aspirations list, but if moved completely would free up money. A discussion followed.

Ms. Newton stated there are two more projects for discussion: Clark Avenue on the aspirations list now. She noted after traffic counts, GDOT says it is not needed, not to mention the costs are astronomical. She asked the committee if they wanted to keep it on the aspirations list or if it is time to let it go.

In response to a question by Mr. Forgey, Ms. Newton stated this includes the bridge.

Mr. Forgey stated we do not need it at the moment.

Mr. Eastin commented there is proposed widening project for Liberty Expressway.

Mr. Breedlove stated that when the widening project begins they should elevate the roadway so that it can be open if there is ever an event and it would take a lot of pressure off the Clark Avenue Bridge. He stated it should be noted and considered on that project.

Mr. Simpson commented on concerns from the GDOT Planning Office on Clark Avenue it appears to not be needed and GDOT is trying trying to see how federal funding can be justified, capacity needs to get federal funding approval are not shown.

Mr. Thomas recommended to keep it on the aspirations list.

In response to a question by Mr. Simpson as to how this would migrate into the fiscally constrained LRTP, Mr. Maples stated there were a lot of people that had concerns about the railroad tracks and there were concerns during the flood of '94 when you could not get from the east side to the west side. He noted it needs to stay and had hoped to get a response from the city commissioners about taking it off.

Ms. Newton stated this is the executive summary and the full draft is online for review and the comments can be reviewed.

TOPIC VII – Discussion

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.