
MINUTES
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
December 3, 2009

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Howard Brown, Planning & Development Services Director
Alfred Lott, City Manager
Richard Crowdis, Dougherty County Administrator
Larry Cook, Dougherty County Public Works Director
Dr. Charles Gillespie, Citizen's Transportation Chairman
Alan Ours, Lee County Administrator
Bob Alexander, Lee County Director of Planning & Engineering
Joe Sheffield, GDOT
Brent Thomas, GDOT
Radney Simpson, GDOT
Jabari Parker, GDOT
Bob Takash, Albany Recreation Department
David Hamilton, Transportation Planner
Randy Casagrande, City Engineering

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS Shane Prigden, GDOT
PRESENT: Cindy Vandyke, GDOT
Ken Breedlove, City Engineering
Jennifer Newton, Administrative Secretary, SR

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 9: 09 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Alexander to approve the September 17, 2009 minutes. Mr. Crowdis seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the following votes:

Howard Brown	yes
Alfred Lott	yes
Richard Crowdis	yes
Larry Cook	yes
Charles Gillespie	yes
Alan Ours	yes
Bob Alexander	yes
Radney Simpson	yes
Joe Sheffield	yes
Brent Thomas	yes
Jabari Parker	yes
Bob Takash	yes
David Hamilton	yes
Randy Casagrande	yes
John Proctor	absent
Phil Roberson	absent

Bruce Maples	absent
Yvette Aehle	absent
Nedra Woodyatt	absent
Don Cheek	absent
Bryan Barnett	absent
Audrey Rivers	absent
Quinn Hazelbaker	absent

TOPIC I

Mr. Eric Lusher, from URS, stated that the 2035 LRTP had been completed. Per SAFTEA-LU, Long Range Transportation Plans are required before federal funds can be used on transportation projects within the DARTS boundary. Time frame addresses the next 25 years with a 2035 horizon date. The key tasks for this LRTP update were: review of goals, objectives, and measures of effectiveness; review and collection of socioeconomic data; stakeholder and public opinion; financial analysis; and travel demand modeling (performed by GDOT). The top five projects recommended by the plan are: Broad Avenue Bridge, Liberty Expressway/Jefferson Street Interchange Modification, Leesburg North Bypass, Westover Boulevard Extension from Albany Mall to Fussell Road, and Fleming Road widening. Other notable projects are SR 133/Moultrie Road widening, grade separation at railroad, Forrester Parkway extension, Clark Avenue extension and widening, and East Oglethorpe Boulevard widening. The plan is fiscally constrained. The Federal/State funding anticipated to be available through 2035 is \$491,077,634. The local funding anticipated to be available through 2035 is \$131,714,517. The total funding anticipated to be available through 2035 is \$622,791,674. The cost of projects included in 2035 LRTP is \$613,654,850. The balance of anticipated funding is \$9,136,824. These are projections and it is good to leave some monetary buffer in general. Mr. Lusher recommended that the TCC recommend approval of the LRTP to the Policy Committee. Approval by the Policy is required to maintain federal funding for transportation projects. The plan can still be amended or changed through administrative adjustments.

Mr. Alexander noted that URS had done an outstanding job.

Mr. Ours asked how URS arrived at the costs. Mr. Lusher responded that there were three options that were taken: used costs from previous LRTP and inflated them for smaller projects; used a costing tool that GDOT requested; and used GDOT cost estimates on actual GDOT projects and inflated them to the year that the costs were anticipated to be used. Mr. Ours noted that the previous cost of Westover Blvd. extension was about half of this. Mr. Usher replied that some of that may be conservativeness of the GDOT's tool and a higher cost estimate is better than having a low estimate and having to scramble to find the funds for the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Alexander to recommend approval of the DARTS 2035 LRTP to the DARTS Policy Committee. Mr. Crowdis seconded the motion, and the DARTS 2035 LRTP was approved with the following votes:

Howard Brown	yes
Alfred Lott	yes
Richard Crowdis	yes
Larry Cook	yes
Charles Gillespie	yes
Alan Ours	yes
Bob Alexander	yes
Radney Simpson	yes

Joe Sheffield	yes
Brent Thomas	yes
Jabari Parker	yes
Bob Takash	yes
David Hamilton	yes
Randy Casagrande	yes
John Proctor	absent
Phil Roberson	absent
Bruce Maples	absent
Yvette Aehle	absent
Nedra Woodyatt	absent
Don Cheek	absent
Bryan Barnett	absent
Audrey Rivers	absent
Quinn Hazelbaker	absent

TOPIC II

Mr. Brown reported that Ms. Woodyatt was absent today and there would not be a Transit Report submitted.

TOPIC III

Mr. Casagrande distributed the Engineering Department and Traffic Division Topic Report for the committee to review. He noted that the Slappey Blvd. signal system was upgraded and completed. The Westover and Nottingham improvements were added and a grant was requested from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

TOPIC IV

Mr. Brown noted that the MPO was reimbursed through GDOT. He attended the state conference and after attending classes and having discussions with other MPOs, it was quite apparent that the DARTS MPO was grossly understaffed. He suggested that more work be done in house. The City of Albany, Lee County, and Dougherty County would fund and staff the MPO. Albany would host the MPO because they are the largest jurisdiction. Most of the positions would be for reimbursement. Mr. Brown would provide more info about recommendations to structure the MPO.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no open discussion.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no petitions from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.