

Policy Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 19 at 10:00 A.M.
240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300,
Albany, GA 31701

PRESENT: Rozanne Braswell, Lee County Director of Planning and Engineering
Radney Simpson, Assistant State Planning Administration, GDOT
Thomas Caiafa, GDOT, Branch Chief
Sharon Subadan, Albany City Manager (proxy)
Anne Marie Day, U. S. Department of Transportation, FHWA
Conference call
Bob Alexander, Leesburg City Manager
Michael McCoy, Dougherty County Administrator

ABSENT: Chris Cohilas, Dougherty County Commission (excused)
Russell McMurray, GDOT Commissioner
Chad Hartley, GDOT District Engineer, District 4
Billy Mathis, Lee County Commission, Chairman
Dorothy Hubbard, Mayor, City of Albany
Jim Quinn, Mayor, City of Leesburg
Van Mason, GDOT District Engineer, District 4
Russell McMurry,
Don Gray, Director of Albany Facilities Management

OTHERS

PRESENT: Beverly Davis, RS&H Consultant

PRESENT: Kerrie Davis, Transportation Planner, DARTS MPO
Tennasha Gresham, Transit Superintendent of Operations,
DARTS MPO
Gwendolyn McDaniel, Transit Planner, DARTS MPO
Denise Clark, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Rozanne Braswell called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

REVIEW OF MINUTES (June 20, 2019)

Vice-chair, Thomas Caiafa offered a motion to accept the minutes as amended;
seconded by Bob Alexander, the motion carried unanimously.

TOPIC I

Vice-Chair election

Christopher Cohilas

Rozanne Braswell offered a motion to elect Bob Alexander to the office of Vice-chair of the Policy Committee.

Mr. Alexander was present and accepted the office of Vice-chair.

There being no further nominations, the nominations for the Policy Committee Vice-chair was closed.

TOPIC II

Transportation Update

Kerrie Davis

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 101

- Kerrie Davis reported that she will include MPO 101 information on forthcoming DARTS meeting agendas. This project has been implemented to make sure that everyone has adequate knowledge of the purpose and function of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

MTP Update (*Action Needed*)

RS&H

Transportation Planner, Kerrie Davis, introduced RS&H consultant, Rachel Hatcher.

Rachel used a powerpoint presentation to give an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. (on file)

Followed by a discussion.

Action:

Frist request/Lee County: Rozanne Braswell, Lee County Director of Planning & Engineering

- Request for the unfunded project of the two-lane extension of Westover Boulevard from Fussell Road to Oakland Parkway become a funded project on the TIP amendment.
- Second request/Lee County:
Joint project between the City of Albany and Lee County:
Funding to increase the width of Ledo road from two lanes to four lanes, between US 19 and Nottingham Way.
- Third request/Lee County
Request for Corridor Studies. Letter of request and supporting documents on file.

Actions:

- Submit the draft MTP for a 30-day public comment period.
Mr. Michael McCoy offered a motion to submit the draft MTP for a 30- day public comment period; seconded by Mrs. Sharon Subadan, the motion carried unanimously.

Leesburg Connectivity Study**GCA**

Kerrie introduced Mr. Naveed Jaffar, Leesburg Connectivity consultant. Mr. Jaffar stated that the Leesburg Connectivity Study will assist in identifying and developing a course of action to connect the schools within Lee County; by way of sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, and crosswalk signals. He gave a summary of the measures taken for the study, to include: data collection for twenty-seven intersections, speed studies, stakeholder meeting held on last month to discuss suggested improvements. Mr. Jaffar concluded his report with final measures to complete the study, to include: presenting the report to Kerrie Davis and the City, hold a public input meeting, design the final concept layout and, cost estimates for this project.

Functional Classification Change

Kerrie stated that a request has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation to modify North Doublegate's classification to a Major Arterial. Kerrie also informed the committee that supportive data has been approved by GDOT and forwarded to Federal Highway for approval. Kerrie later reported that the classification had been approved by Federal Highway.

Department of Natural Resource Grants

Paul Forgey

Mr. Forgey explained that the Department of Natural Resource Grant provides funding to support parks and recreational trails. He pointed out that the grant application is due in November and there are several opportunities for the City through this grant.

Followed by a discussion.

TIP Amendment (*Action Needed*)

Downtown Signal Upgrade Project – 16 Signals

Kerrie reported that the FY 2018-2021 TIP amendment includes a 16-signal upgrade that will incorporate the MaxTime signal software system. As it relates to the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan; Kerrie explained that the preliminary engineering on this project has been moved up to fiscal year 2020 on the TIP amendment. She also stated that construction for the signal upgrade will be moved to fiscal year 2022

Thomas Caiafa offered a motion to approve the TIP amendments as stated; seconded by Mrs. Sharon Subadan, the motion carried unanimously

TOPIC III

Transit Update

Gwendolyn McDaniel

Albany Transportation Center update

Transit planner, Gwendolyn McDaniel stated that the transit department has acquired the property at 300 West Oglethorpe and 303 West Highland Avenue for the new Albany Transportation Center. She also informed the committee that the transit department will employ a design consultant and a project manager. She concluded that the project is scheduled to begin in October of 2019.

Followed by a discussion.

Albany State Ridership/Additional Bus

Gwen reported that patron usage has increased and therefore, one additional bus has been included on the Albany State Ridership route to improve efficiency of service.

New Bus Purchase

Gwen informed the committee that the City of Albany transit system has purchased eight additional buses scheduled to arrive in 2020.

TOPIC IV

Engineering Report

Kerrie gave an overview of the engineering reports for Ken Breedlove, City of Albany Traffic Engineering and Jeremy Brown, as stated below:

Ken Breedlove/City of Albany Traffic Engineering

- Oglethorpe and Jefferson project 40% complete – 10-12 mast-arms to install
- Cleveland, Harding, Davis, Madison underground piping complete
- Underground interconnect in from 7th to Pine Ave.
- Concrete work of wheel chair ramps has started at the intersections/sidewalk improvements

Gillionville and Westover Project

- Rough in Conduit will take place August 19 thru September 20th
- Drill and pour foundations around September 17- September 25th
- Start drilling pole bases on September 24th
- New poles will be installed beginning October 28th
- Install Signals September 30 thru October 28th
- Demo intersection October 14 thru December 31st
- Road work Jim Boyd Construction November 1 thru December 31st

3rd and Dawson

- Estimated delivery of poles November to December/construction will begin afterwards.

Signal Storm Repair

Bass Signal has completed repairs and documentation on 5 intersections:

- Westover and Old Dawson
- Dawson and Westover
- Martin Luther King Jr. and Gains
- Broad Ave. and Davis
- Oakridge and Old Pretoria

Speed tables sites have been approved for the 400 Block of Forest Glen and 3000 block of Harvest Lane/ Construction will begin on October 7th for Autumn Lane

- MaxTime Conversion on traffic signal controllers will begin at 131 sites on September 30th

*Please note all dates are subject to change.

Jeremy Brown/County Engineering

- Radium Springs Subdivision/Asphalt paving will begin soon/2 miles of widening
- 2019 LMIG Project 50% complete. Bryon Plantation Road, Oakhaven, Upland and Over Ct. remain/ Paving will start on Monday with 8 miles to completion
- Storm damage sign replacement project has begun. Contractor is currently surveying to order signs/Approximately 170 locations with issues
- 2020 LMIG road selection has begun. Staff recommendations will be submitted to the commission for approval soon/about \$2 million will be allocated to the project and will include resurfacing of roads and full depth reclamation on a few roads that have base failure
- 2019 LMIG Safety Action Plan fund have been receive for GDOT. Specifications are being put together for bid. This will allow striping for 22 miles of roads.
- Eight-mile railroad crossing improvements. There is an agreement between the County and RR under legal review to have the crossings upgraded to concrete panels/Final RR improvement
- Radium Trailheads Plans 90% complete

Bob Alexander

Driveway project on the US bypass from Leesburg Control access/100-acre recreation site. Received approval from GDOT, funding and moving forward with the driveway.

Rozanne Braswell /Leesburg

- 3 roadway improvement projects will be completed by November 1st

- Bids came in on September 10th for the roadway construction project /completed by March 2020. LMIG and TSLOTS funds will be allocated for this project
- Westover extension and Forestry Parkway project will be funded by LMIG
- Rerouted the alignment of the Forestry Parkway to make a more direct route to avoid the wetlands. Plans to move this project up to a priority and begin construction.
- TAP grant submitted for street scaping, parking and other adjustments and incentives for the area/City also applied for a Rural Zone designation awaiting response to the application

TOPIC V

Airport Report

Tennasha Gresham

- Passenger boarding bridge will be shipped in January of 2020 for installation
- Runway 422/paving project complete

TOPIC VI

Discussion

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by
Denise Clark
Administrative Assistant

