

DARTS Citizens' Transportation Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Citizens' Vice-Chair Sonya Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

PRESENT

Charles "Bruce" Capps	City of Albany
Glenn "Tyler" Harris	Dougherty County
Sonya Johnson	Dougherty County (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)
Larry McClain	City of Albany (<i>Chair</i>)
Brent Davis	Lee County

ABSENT

Peter Ngwafu	Lee County
Tommy Gregors	City of Albany
Billy Merritt	City of Albany Planning Commission

OTHERS PRESENT

Tanner Anderson	Planner II, City of Albany
Shaun Cookson	Superintendent of Operations, S.W. Georgia Regional Airport
Jason Tolbert	Transit Planner, City of Albany
Denise Clark	Transportation Planner II, City of Albany
Paul Forgey	Director, Planning & Development, City of Albany

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 21, 2022)

S. Johnson asked members if they had a chance to review the minutes, and if they didn't she would give them a minute. T. Harris motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by L. McClain.

TOPIC I

Transportation Update

Tanner Anderson

FY24 UPWP

T. Anderson stated that Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 will begin July 1, 2023 and run through June 30, 2024. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies and describes the MPO's budget, planning activities, studies and technical support expected in a one-year period. T. Anderson gave examples of the Freight Profile, Bike & Pedestrian Plan, 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

T. Anderson informed the committee that the funding allocation had been released with the total PL funding amount being \$223,368.71. That would be Federal Share (80%) of

\$178,694.95 and Local Share of \$44,673.74. T. Anderson stated this would be the second-year funding is received for Y410 (Increasing Safe & Accessible Transportation Options) with that amount being \$4,940.01.

T. Anderson gave a brief overview of activities planned for FY24.

- 2050 MTP Update
- Transportation Planner I
- Intersection Studies (SR 133 @ Haley/Cedric, Hickory Grove & US 82 Intersection
- Bicycle & Ped Pathway Alternatives
- Monthly Newsletters

U. Capps gave a brief overview of his suggestion for Bicycle & Pedestrian Pathway Alternatives, stating that the City of Albany has the perfect opportunity to separate Bicycle-Pedestrian traffic from regular traffic. B. Capps stated that West and South Albany have run-off ditches and burms; and in the Netherlands these burms are used as walking and bicycle trails. B. Capps suggested that maybe the Y410 funding be used to investigate these ideas.

T. Harris asked about the Transportation Planner I position and who would fill the role of Transportation Planner II. T. Anderson stated the Planner I position was on the City of Albany website and that D. Clark would transition into the Planner II position over the coming months.

T. Harris asked T. Anderson how the monthly newsletters would be made available. T. Anderson stated members that the newsletter would be sent out via email and made available on the website. T. Anderson advised another medium of getting the newsletter out would be with Albany Transit buses.

T. Anderson stated that these activities would go before the Technical Committee for recommendation and Policy for a vote before sending the FY24 UPWP out for public comment.

2023 Safety Performance Targets

T. Anderson briefed members that every year the Georgia Department of Transportation set safety performance targets that MPOs adopt. The MPO can follow the State targets or identify its own targets. T. Anderson stated that in the past the MPO had decided to fall in line with State targets. T. Anderson advised that the numbers were based off a 5-year rolling average but 2020 was not considered due to COVID-19 causing an anomaly.

T. Anderson presented the 2023 PM 1 Safety Targets to members of the committee.

- Number of Fatalities -To maintain the 5-year rolling average for traffic fatalities under the projected 1,680 (2019-2023) 5-year average by December 2023.

- Fatality Rate -To maintain the 5-year moving average traffic fatalities per 100MVMT under the projected 1.36 (2019-2023) 5-year average by December 2023
- Number of Serious Injuries -To main the 5-year moving average serious traffic injuries under the project 8,966 (2019-2023) 5-year average by December 2023.
- Serious Injury Rate - To maintain the 5-year moving average serious injury per 100MVMT under the projected 7.69 (2019-2023) 5-year average by December 2023.
- Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries - maintain the number of non-motorist serious injuries and fatalities under the projected 802 (2019-2023 rolling average) by 2023.

S. Johnson asked if the MPO had access to Georgia Electronic Accident Reporting System (GEARS). T. Anderson stated that they just got access and they also have access to GDOT's Numetric system as well.

B. Capps asked how detailed these systems were in the report. T. Anderson stated that numetric did not have data for 2022, but reports included recommendations based off the cause of the accident. GEARS was more up to date but did not include recommendations.

Freight Profile Update

T. Anderson reminded members that the draft went out before the September 2022 quarterly meeting. Metro Analytics has addressed comments from GDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). There is no formal resolution or adoption, just that the MPO addresses all comments before acceptance.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update:

T. Anderson stated that the draft went out the first week of January 2023. The document is out for public comment, and it can be accepted at the April Quarterly meeting.

2050 MTP

T. Anderson informed members that the contract had been received and the signature process was underway. Request for Proposals (RFP) went out at the beginning of January 2023 and would close in February 2023. T. Anderson reminded everyone that this long-range plan was lasted updated in 2019 and of its importance.

FY24-27 TIP

T. Anderson stated that the MPO is currently working on the FY24-27 TIP. GDOT is also working on its FY24-27 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). T. Anderson sent out a timeline in late 2022 but it would need to be adjusted. The MPO's FY24-27 TIP cannot be adopted until the GDOT had adopted its STIP.

S. Johnson asked members if there were any questions for T. Anderson. T. Harris asked if the Freight Profile acknowledged Southwest Georgia Regional Airports cargo movement went from #97 to #94. T. Anderson stated that it was addressed but Mr. Cookson could speak more on the airport side of things. S. Cookson stated that the airport was #2 in the state and that UPS did more operation in Albany than in Atlanta. S. Cookson informed members that GDOT did just complete its Air Cargo Study and it also elaborated more on the operations going on in Albany.

TOPIC III

Transit Update

Jason Tolbert

Albany Transportation Center Update:

J. Tolbert gave a brief overview on the new transit center. J. Tolbert stated the facility was 90% complete and they are waiting on an electronic panel box to be shipped. The delay in shipping has pushed back the opening date several times. J. Tolbert informed members that Greyhound would still run at the new transit center but no staff would be onsite.

S. Johnson asked J. Tolbert if he could elaborate on the bus driver shortage. J. Tolbert stated there will be more advertising coming and that they are looking into programs that would collaborate with some of the schools used for CDL training.

J. Tolbert stated the shortage has led to shift changes with the major change being seen on Saturdays with routes stopping at 2:00PM instead of 6:00PM.

S. Johnson asked that the driver shortage continue to be a topic discussed at future meetings.

T. Harris suggested that Transit could possibly partner with the Dougherty County School System on getting bus drivers to drive while kids are in school.

TOPIC IV

Airport Update

Shaun Cookson

Corporate Hanger:

S. Cookson stated that project is dealing with the same issues as the Transit Center with some items not available. S. Cookson says the transition between the hangers and terminal building should begin soon.

General Aviation Terminal:

The asbestos abatement of the terminal is currently being done and will be demolished once completed. S. Cookson informed members that the Technical Summary Report for the GDOT Air Cargo Study would be found in the chat and to go ahead and review the information.

TOPIC V

Discussion

S. Johnson asked if there was any new business to discuss. T. Anderson stated that in years past we have done a collaboration with Albany State University during the June meeting for students. T. Anderson said that the June meeting is being planned to be held at the new Albany Transportation Center.

B. Capps asked where the idea of the Transit Connection with Lee County started. T. Anderson says he had heard of the idea but that would be a question for J. Tolbert. S. Johnson asked T. Anderson to put this on the agenda for next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson

Approved by: