**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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| **PRESENT**  Charles “Bruce” Capps  Glenn “Tyler” Harris  Sonya Johnson  Larry McClain | City of Albany  Dougherty County  Dougherty County *(Vice-Chair)*  City of Albany *(Chair)* |
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| **ABSENT**  Peter Ngwafu  David Gregors  Billy Merritt  Brent Davis | Lee County  City of Albany  City of Albany Planning Commission  Lee County |
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| **OTHERS PRESENT**  Tanner Anderson  Shaun Cookson  Jason Tolbert  Denise Clark  Paul Forgey  David Hamilton  Richard Fangmann | Planner II, City of Albany  Superintendent of Operations, S.W. Georgia Regional Airport  Transit Planner, City of Albany  Transportation Planner II, City of Albany  Director, Planning & Development, City of Albany  Director, Transportation, City of Albany  Project Manager, Pond & Co. |

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| **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** | (January 18, 2023) |  |

S. Johnson asked members if they had a chance to review the minutes, and if they didn’t she would give them a minute. B. Capps asked that a correction be made from “burns” to “berms.” T. Harris made the motion to approve the correction. Seconded by B. Capps and approved unanimously.

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| **TOPIC I** | Transportation Update | Tanner Anderson |

**FY24 UPWP**

T. Anderson stated that work began on the FY24 UPWP in September 2022 with the committee voting in January 2023 to send the document out for public review.

T. Anderson briefly went over the changes made from the draft document to the final document. He stated the biggest difference was the small change in the PL Funding amount and spelling corrections. The total amount now is $221, 823.84 with the Federal match being $177,459.07 and Local match being $44,364.77.

T. Anderson stated the Technical Committee and Policy Committee would vote on this Item at Thursday’s committee meetings.

**2023 Safety Performance Targets & Report (PM2 & PM3)**

T. Anderson briefed members the committees recently voted to adopt the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Safety Performance Targets for PM1 in January 2023. Those targets are voted on every year.

T. Anderson stated that the target’s presented today are PM2 & PM3 Safety Targets that are adopted every 4-years. PM2 Targets are established to assess pavement condition and bridge condition for the National Highway Performance Program. T. Anderson informed the committee that in the FY21-24 TIP there was $872,000.00 programmed for bridge replacement and conditions.

PM3 Targets assess performance of the National Highway System, Freight Movement on the interstate system, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. T. Anderson informed the committee that in the FY21-24 TIP there was $247,000.00 programmed to address truck travel time reliability.

B. Capps asked where the funding numbers could be found in the Report. T. Anderson stated that there should be funding numbers at the end of both PM2 & PM3.

T. Anderson stated that these targets needed to be adopted before the June Quarterly meeting and the MPO had followed state targets previous times.

T. Anderson stated that new guidance would be coming out soon on revising the System Report and amending it with the FY24-27 TIP.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update:**

T. Anderson stated that the draft went out in January, 2023 for review. FHWA/GDOT did comment on the document and the document has been revised and sent out to the committees. No formal resolution is required. T. Anderson introduced R. Fangmann of Pond & Co to present the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Discussion followed with questions and remarks. B. Capps asked if any consideration was given toward Carbon Reduction. Fangmann stated that some funding is being made available from Carbon Reduction with it taking away from Vehicle transportation but that was not quantified in the study.

B. Capps asked if the Existing Infrastructure could be modified to separate vehicles from Bicycles. B. Capps

For example, a parcel-to-parcel system or Ad-Hoc system alley system, are other organizations and jurisdictions doing anything like this that we could replicate. Fangmann informed everyone that its called Access Management and that most people get the sense of that being Driveway and Encroachment Manual with GDOT. Fangman stated that one of the reductions in congestion being used is conflict points and reducing those on corridors. Another thing is how to do you connect between parcels, its not just spacings but also how can you provide interpersonal connectivity.

B. Capps asked if there was any Federal Legislation or recommendations for Access Management and if it has been reduced to the Bicycle & Pedestrian level or was it still at the automobile level. Fangmann stated that its still generally at the automobile level, but the idea of inter-parcel connections though is still apart of it.

B. Capps asked if Fangmann was familiar with efforts in Sandy Springs for inter-parcel connections. Fangmann stated that he knew several in the Metro Atlanta Area that had ordinances and regulations that promoted inter-parcel connectivity.

**2050 MTP**

T. Anderson informed members that proposals were received and reviewed by the PAG Committee. The Selected Consultant will go before the Host City (City of Albany). A draft should be available by Summer 2024 and adoption will be needed in Fall 2024. The plan is not due until November 2024 but we would like to have this adopted with our regularly scheduled meeting in September 2024.

T. Harris asked if the 2020 Census would have any part of implementation in the 2050 MTP. T. Anderson informed everyone that the recent Census data would be use in the redrawing of boundaries for the MPO. MPO staff has been working already with 2020 Census data to layout base year Socioeconomic data in to Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ). The socioeconomic data includes residents, job classifications such as commercial retail, manufacturing and agricultural. This data is being handled by GDOT’s consultant Modern Mobility who staff have worked with over the last several months. T. Harris asked if the remapping using Census data was suggestion or requirement. T. Anderson stated that before the 2050 MTP can be adopted the boundaries will have to be updated based off Census numbers.

B. Capps asked if there were any expectations of where the boundaries would go. T. Anderson said that would be up to suggestions from the consultants and based on the base year and future year data. Consultants would look at these TAZs and the census blocks within them to determine if the boundaries should move. The TAZs covered in the base year data not only included the MPO boundary but also the northern half of Lee County that is not included in the MPO. T. Anderson stated that with Census numbers going down there is a possibility that the boundaries do not move.

**FY24-27 TIP**

T. Anderson stated that the MPO is currently working on the FY24-27 TIP. The TIP is a prioritization list of transportation projects over a 4-year period. The last update was done in June 2021. The FY24-27 will not be able to go in effect until the STIP is adopted, which is expected in August 2023. The draft will be going out in the next week with an adoption expected in June 2023.

B. Capps asked if projects from the Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan could be interjected into the TIP. T. Anderson informed everyone that there has been one official who has asked to add a Bike-Ped project into the TIP. The TIP relies on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and also staying fiscally constraint. These projects in our TIP are based off the MTP. The main rule that we must follow is that we if put a project on the list, we will have to take one off.

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| **TOPIC III** | Transit Update | Jason Tolbert |

**Albany Transportation Center Update:**

J. Tolbert stated as of March 27th the new transit center is open and is being used as our hub for fixed-routes and greyhound. We are currently transitioning our Rider app from Route Match to Trip Spark. This should help with reliability, on-time ratio, and ridership as well.

We are still dealing with a driver shortage, but we are actively and aggressively looking for drivers. We have digital and physical billboards around the City of Albany. We are also offering a $1,000 signing bonus.

J. Tolbert informed staff there has been no recent news on the expansion of a fixed route to the Ledo Rd. area. The driver shortage has hindered us from expanding our route system.

B. Capps asked if the idea of making a hub and spoke model has been discussed, like a route that would go from East to West side Albany without having to go to the Transit Center.

B. Capps asked if discussion had been going on between Lee County Transportation and Albany Transit. T. Anderson stated that Lee County did not have transportation, he believed it maybe within the Engineering department.

S. Johnson stated the Albany Transit Center is amazing and that the ribbon cutting ceremony was an outstanding job.

S. Johnson asked if she could get feedback on Transportation issues in regard to some employment issues at Phoebe related to having no routes in the evening. J. Tolbert said that the issue could be resolved with the increase in drivers.

S. Johnson asked if Mr. Harris’s idea of tapping into the school system for bus drivers had been explored. J.Tolbert said that Transit has looked at the possibility but with only 6 weeks of summer this would only be a short-term solution. T. Harris suggested that in regards to employees having the difficulty of getting to work that those individuals can be transported in a van or vehicle that does not require CDL.

J. Tolbert stated that the Transit department would be at a local job fair tomorrow to promote the driver positions.

B. Capps asked if Transit looked at dropping fees as some did to during COVID. J. Tolber stated that they have not looked at dropping fees but that somedays like on opening day of the transit center, citizen’s did ride free.

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| **TOPIC IV** | Airport Update | Shaun Cookson |

**Corporate Hanger & General Aviation Terminal:**

S. Cookson was not present for the meeting. T. Anderson informed members of latest updates.

The asbestos abatement has been completed on the terminal building and it has been demolished. Currently, the new terminal building is going up. We also received a Certificate of Occupancy for the new hangers. Leasing agreements are underway between the City of Albany’s legal team and companies.

B. Capps asked if the deal with UPS was exclusive at the airport or could FedEx also use the airport. T. Anderson stated that he would ask S. Cookson.

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| **TOPIC V** | Discussion |  |

S. Johnson asked if there were any new members present. T. Anderson said that Mr. David Gregors was appointed to take the place of Tommy Gregors. He is not present, but we have reached out to him. Mr. McClain and Mr. Capps were reelected in January 2023.

D. Hamilton asked if there were any transportation concerns we could answer before adjourning for the day. S. Johnson explained the situation regarding Phoebe employees having to resign because of transportation issues.

S. Johnson asked if there were any other questions that we may need answered while Mr. Hamilton was present. T. Harris asked if the Community Room and computers were open to the public.

D. Hamilton informed the committee that the computer lab was accessible to the public during hours of operations. The community room is also available to the public and it would need to be scheduled with a small deposit fee that is refundable.

D. Hamilton said that Transit has been fighting the driver shortage like a lot of transit agencies across the country. The biggest issue is the salary with jobs that require CDL’s offering more. It’s about being competitive, and we are looking at all avenues. D. Hamilton says that if Transit can get back to 80% employment, routes and times can go back to normal.

S. Johnson asked if there was anything else to discuss this quarter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

T. Harris called of the motion to adjourned. Seconded by L. McClain. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.

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| Submitted by: | Tanner Anderson |