**CALL TO ORDER**

Citizens’ Chair L. McClain called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

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| **PRESENT** Charles “Bruce” CappsGlenn “Tyler” HarrisSonya JohnsonLarry McClainBrent Davis | City of AlbanyDougherty CountyDougherty County *(Vice-Chair)*City of Albany *(Chair)*Lee County |
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| **ABSENT**Peter NgwafuDavid GregorsBilly Merritt | Lee CountyCity of AlbanyCity of Albany Planning Commission |
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| **OTHERS PRESENT**Tanner Anderson Jason TolbertDenise ClarkPaul Forgey | Planner II, City of AlbanyTransit Planner, City of AlbanyTransportation Planner II, City of AlbanyDirector, Planning & Development, City of Albany |

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| **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** | (April 19, 2023) |  |

L. McClain asked members to take a minute to review the minutes if they hadn’t done so.

L. McClain made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by S. Johnson and approved unanimously.

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

**FY24-27 TIP**

T. Anderson stated the FY24-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a prioritization list of transportation projects over a 4-year period and current projects happening in the MPO. 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 MPO is aiming to adopt the document in September 2023. Committees should have received a draft of the document and we are asking for the committee’s recommendation to send it out for public review for 30-days.

**2045 Amendment #3**

T. Anderson informed the committee that the MPO is tasked with maintaining a fiscally balance Metropolitan Transportation (MTP) and TIP. During the development of a TIP update the MTP must be amended to reflect the refined project costs for project phases that have not yet been “Authorized” meaning the funding is committed in the TIP but not yet available for expenditure. The adjustment in funding totals and anticipated year of expenditure (YOE) have resulted in changes to the MTP prioritized project list. 8 MTP projects have been impacted by this amendment.

T. Anderson gave a brief breakdown of the Cost Bands in the 2045 MTP and the formula for moving projects around on the prioritized project list.

T. Harris asked if the Moultrie Rd. Bridge replacement was apart of the widening of Moultrie Rd. T. Anderson stated he believed them to be separate. The bridge was further down from widening project where Oakridge Dr. and Moultrie Rd. met.

T. Anderson stated the list could always be adjusted and suggestions could be made on the prioritization list. T. Anderson noted that any adjustments though may push another project back or up for the document to be fiscally constraint. T. Anderson stated while the list is a priority list that GDOT does not necessarily go by that order. GDOT selects projects based off need and available funding for the 5-year period.

B. Capps mentioned the project involving the widening of Whispering Pines realignment and straightening of the curve from Nottingham to Dawson Rd and if it was a good candidate for a Stop Light.

B. Capps asked about the timing of lights at schools and intersections. T. Anderson suggested that B. Capps contact K. Breedlove with City of Albany Engineering for City Traffic Signals.

The 2045 Amendment #3 has been made available for everyone and is going out for 30-day public review.

**2050 MTP**

T. Anderson stated that the selected consultant is awaiting final approval by the Host City (City of Albany). A work session was held on June 6, 2023, and a vote would be made on June 28, 2023. A draft should be available by Summer 2024 and adoption will be needed in Fall 2024.

B. Capps gave admiration for their being a 20-year planning horizon and how far ahead we can play for. B. Capps asked if the recent studies completed would be apart of this process for the 2050 MTP. T. Anderson informed the committee that 2050 MTP would consist of sections that took information from both the Freight Profile and Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. T. Anderson stated that it is even a possibility that projects could be taken from these studies and incorporated into the 2050 MTP.

**FY25 UPWP**

T. Anderson gave a brief overview of the dates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 that runs from July 1, 2024 and end June 30, 2025. This document covers the day-to-day activities of the MPO including Studies and technical support. A Call for activities would go out July 2023 and run until September 2023. T. Anderson stated that the MPO will be wrapping up its 2050 MTP update during FY25. If a study is wanting to be conducted by the committees, we would apply to the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO) in March 2025. T. Anderson says that there has been talks of possibly doing a Major Corridor study.

B. Capps asked if the Economic Development Center was involved with any of the MPO’s documents or studies. T. Anderson stated that they are apart of the stakeholder group that is assembled for the 2050 MTP.

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

**Albany Transportation Center Update:**

J. Tolbert provided an update on the bus driver shortage. Currently, the Transit staff is setting up at a job fairs with one being this past May and one in June. The Transit Center is offering a $1,000 signing bonus. We have incorporated some digital billboards and other signage around the city to encourage drivers. We have hired and trained 4 new drivers.

Transit is currently transitioning to its new app Trip Spark. We are currently in the Operation Review Stage, that is when they are detailing all of our need and shortage we were having with our previous software. We plan to go live with that in August 2023. Our second portion will be our Fixed-Route, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Transit is also looking at Senior Discount Saturdays to encourage ridership.

S. Johnson asked J. Tolbert how these new drivers found out about job. J. Tolbert stated he believed it to be various ways. The new signage has QR codes for drivers to use. The recent drivers hired have come from out of state. Albany Transit and the City are currently awaiting a pay-study to see if Driver Rates will increase.

T. Harris asked if we had any vehicles that didn’t require a CDL. J. Tolbert stated that they have Para-Transit vehicles that don’t require a CDL. We have one driver currently who does not have a CDL, but we do want all of our drivers to be flexible to where they could drive both Bus Routes and Para-transit routes.

T. Harris asked if Albany Transit was partnering with Albany Tech. J. Tolbert stated that they are looking at all avenues. T. Harris said that it is great that transit is making strides at fixing the driver shortage.

S. Johnson asked J. Tolbert if there is anything that the committee can do to please reach out to any of the members for help at Job Fairs or events.

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| **TOPIC IV** | Airport Update |  |

**Corporate Hanger & General Aviation Terminal:**

T. Anderson informed the committee of Mr. Cookson’s departure from the Airport Superintendent and that we wished him well in his future endeavors.

T. Anderson stated that the GA Terminal is still progressing. Last of the structural steel is being put up right now, and work is still on track for completion in December of this year. For the Hangars, the generators have been installed on their pad, and the transfer switch is enroute. Once the transfer switch is installed, the hangars will have reached completion. Director Hamilton and the Aviation Commission are working through leasing of the hangars.

S. Johnson asked how flights were going with the airport. T. Anderson stated that the airport had upgraded from Class 4 to Class 3 Planes. Class 3 planes are 75 seaters, but this led to only two flights a day in Albany.

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| **TOPIC V** | Discussion |  |

B. Capps asked about 2045 MTP Amendment list and how many of the projects are congestion management. T. Anderson stated that in the project list you will notice that none of the intersection or traffic signal projects were shifted. This was mostly due to those projects being assigned P.I Number from GDOT.

**ADJOURNMENT**

B. Capps called of the motion to adjourned. Seconded by T. Harris. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

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| Submitted by: | Tanner Anderson |