**CALL TO ORDER**

B. Dorough called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

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| **PRESENT** Bob AlexanderScott ChambersTed HicksJackie WilliamsBarry BrooksBo DoroughChristi DockerySteven CarterBilly BreedenLuke SingletaryJoseph LongoAmanda Nava | City Manager, City of LeesburgDistrict 4 Engineer, GDOTBranch Chief, GDOT Office of PlanningRepresentative, GDOT Office of PlanningDougherty County Assistant Administrator**(Vice-Chair**) Mayor, City of AlbanyCounty Manager, Lee CountyCity Manager, City of AlbanyMayor, City of Leesburg Chairperson, Lee County CommissionFHWA Representative Assistant Director, Lee County Planning & Development |
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| **ABSENT**Lorenzo HeardKen BreedloveJeremy BrownRobert Griffin | **(Chair)** Chairperson, Dougherty County CommissionTraffic Engineering, City of AlbanyDirector, Dougherty County EngineeringInterim, Director of Engineering, City of Albany |
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| **OTHERS PRESENT**Tanner AndersonDenise ClarkJason TolbertMarina RosenRoberto PaganDavid Hamilton | Planner II, City of AlbanyTransportation Planner II, City of AlbanyTransit Planner, City of AlbanyPlanner I, City of AlbanySWGA Regional Airport, SuperintendentTransportation Director |

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| **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** | (September 21, 2023) |  |

Motion to approve minutes by B. Alexander. Seconded by B. Brooks and approved unanimously.

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

**FY24-27 TIP Amendment #1**

T. Anderson stated this would be an MTP and TIP amendment to our Oglethorpe Bridge Project. Since its adoption last year, there have been new construction cost estimates that necessitate reflection in our Planning documents. The cost went from $17,643,727 to $23,530,568 which requires an amendment to our documents. The federal share is $18,824,454.82 and the state share is $4,706,113.71. This project is supposed to be Let sometime in Spring 2024. There will need to be a Special Called meeting on February 21, 2024, to amend our MTP and TIP to reflect the updated cost estimates. B. Dorough stated that there should be a campaign to educate the community about the upcoming bridge construction. T. Anderson replied that we would get this information out. B. Dorough asked a question about the Oglethorpe Bridge Project and what phase is to be started in the Spring. S. Chambers stated that typically it is 30-60 days after let date to award and depending on time frames – when the contractor gets mobilized – it would be fairly soon after.

**FY25 UPWP**

T. Anderson informed the committee that we have sent out our draft FY25 UPWP which begins July 1, 2024, and ends June 30, 2025. This document identifies our basic staffing budget for the year, planning studies and activities, such as maintaining traffic data, trip generation, staff reports for rezoning, variances, special approvals, and working with all jurisdictions to make sure that any changes would not affect the current infrastructure of our transportation system. T. Anderson further stated that we had a call for activities in early 2023 where City of Albany Engineering introduced a discussion about a major corridor study, and Ken Breedlove with Traffic Engineering particularly wants to focus on Dawson Road. T. Anderson said we could bring this up at a later date and ask for funds for a major corridor study when we go to GAMPO. T. Anderson also commented that B. Alexander with Lee County mentioned an interest in a corridor study as well.

*Motion to send out the document for public review was made by B. Brooks. Seconded by B. Alexander and passed unanimously.*

**PM 1 Safety Targets**

T. Anderson stated that every year, per 23 CFR, 490(b), states are required to set safety performance targets. We have 180 days after the State establishes its targets to adopt the State numbers or set a numerical target specific to the MPO planning area. T. Anderson stated that in years past it has been our duty to fall in line with the State and that we have until February 8, 2024, to adopt these targets. The PM 1 Safety Target numbers were shared with the board. T. Anderson stated that in meeting with GAMPO in the fall, he learned that the state numbers have increased. B. Alexander asked one question regarding the safety target numbers (1,680) which was confirmed by T. Anderson.

*Motion to approve the PM 1 Safety Targets was made by B. Alexander. Seconded by B. Brooks and passed unanimously.*

**2050 MTP (Metro Analytics)**

Wade Carrol represented Metro Analytics with an update on the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This overview consisted of an MTP definition; project schedule; outreach activities; DARTS goals, objectives, and performance metrics; SE Data review; Baseline Condition; and Next Steps. Key aspects of an MTP include Long-term Term Vision; a Multimodal Approach; Integration with Land Use; Public Involvement; Policy and Investment Framework; Compliance with Federal and State Laws; and Regular Updates. W. Carrol thought it important to mention that our Project Schedule is driven by the GDOT Model Development Schedule. W. Carrol highlighted the new survey coming out which is simplified using a QR Code. He encouraged everyone on the committee to forward it to their constituents so that we may get as much input as possible. B. Brooks asked if there was anything in the plan that addressed alternative fuels/vehicles and how transportation infrastructure supports that in our region. W. Carrol replied that MA will document trends but at this point folks are still trying to get a handle on what EV infrastructure looks like and a lot of regions are saying ‘we are going to let the private sector drive this’ (e.g. apartment complexes and gas stations). Some communities are being more proactive in their approach and developing EV plans. B. Dorough brought up that there are hundreds of millions of dollars available for EV programs and the Federal government only got applications for about $380 million. He further stated that a city like Albany, that has its own municipality, could benefit from having EV charging stations. B. Brooks added that since this is a long range plan, our region and MPO should have some interest in how EV will look in our area; especially where freight is concerned, and that with the technology moving forward in EV, we need to make sure we are accepting this move and fit into it. B. Alexander followed up with a question as to whether the UPWP could facilitate an EV study. T. Anderson answered in the affirmative; that it would be at the preference of the committee. S. Chambers stated that GDOT is trying to stay ahead of the curve on EV, and that their planning office is really into NEVI (National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program) and identifying corridors from Albany to Brunswick where charging stations are projected to be every 50 miles. He also opined that statutorily only power companies can sell electricity and how will the sale of electricity from a commercial vendor be regulated; that there are stakeholders such as power companies; government agencies; local stakeholders; and fuel vendors. Needless to stay there will be wide stakeholder discussions with the legislature on the topic of EV. There being no further questions for W. Carrol, B. Dorough introduced the Transit Update.

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| **TOPIC II** | **Transit Update** | **Jason Tolbert** |

J. Tolbert began the Transit Report by stating that they have gone live with our new dispatch software, Trip Spark, and fixed route and paratransit also. Weekly meetings with Trip Spark are ongoing so the kinks can be worked out. There are also two elements waiting to rollout: the Passenger Portal and My Ride App. This will allow Albany Transit passengers to see locations in real time, and allow our paratransit riders to book rides through the app. There will be a testing phase on these features, and this will be advertised to the public in our local newspaper. J. Tolbert stated they participated in the January 10, 2024, Job Fair hosted by the city. Transit was able to interview and hire four full-time drivers as a result of this event. These new hires are currently in the HR hiring process. In closing, it was shared that the Albany Transit Center is providing a warming station from 6:30 pm to 6:00 am for citizens to come in off the street for a warm place to stay and a cup of coffee. The Transit Center warming station is averaging 20 citizens per night. B. Dorough asked how many covered bus shelters there are in the city. D. Hamilton replied that there are 40.

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| **TOPIC III** | **Engineering Update** |  |

**Tanner Anderson for Ken Breedlove – City of Albany:**

K. Breedlove is not present for update. T. Anderson briefed members from the report shared by K. Breedlove at the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting, incorporated as follows.

K. Breedlove stated that the city has quite a few projects in progress outlined as follows: 2 traffic signal upgrades at E. Broad @ Turner Field and E. Broad @ Broadway – re-bidding; negotiations with an engineering firm to upgrade the city’s Traffic Management Center; PI # 0010571-Westover Blvd. from Albany Mall to north of Ledo Road, 45% complete, completion date is 12/14/2024; PI # 0011727 R/R Safety Project installing (5) traffic signals on Roosevelt Ave., construction 81% complete, completion date 9/30/2023, completion pending railroad connectivity; PI # 0017843 Gillionville @ ASU West and Magnolia, Slappey and Lippitt, Oglethorpe @ Radium Springs, Thornton, Edison and Loftus, Oakridge @ Radium Springs, Clark at Turner Field, Mock and Cordele (10) isolated intersections on GDOT roads. Field survey 83%, Preliminary Plans 50%, Let Date 12/15/2025; PI # 0008385 (16) intersections downtown, design funded by GDOT, approved concept report, PFPR 2/19/2024, FFPR 5/7/2025, Letting 7/15/2025, Southeastern Engineering is doing the project design, Flint and Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Washington, Pine and Davis, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Washington, Broad and Davis, Madison, Monroe Jackson, Washington, Front and Highland @ Jackson; PI # 0015401 Albany Downtown Streetscape, Approved concept report, PFPR 1/18/2024, FFPR 1/21/2025, Letting 7/3/2026, plans to improve (5) streets in the historic commercial center of the city including improvements to Pine Avenue (2 blocks), N. Front Street (1 block), West Broad Avenue (1 block), N. Washington Street (1 block) and North/South Jackson Street (2 blocks), these improvements will be funded with a Transportation Assistance Grant (TAP) from GDOT; (14) Speed table sites, construction complete, (1) additional site added; SR91 Jefferson Street from 7th Avenue to Society Avenue is closed to through traffic; detour is in place on N. Washington Street and N. Jackson Street. The 4th Avenue phase is complete. East and west roadways between 7th Avenue and Society Avenue will be intermittently blocked due to construction. No questions for K. Breedlove.

**Dougherty County - Jeremy Brown:**

J. Brown stated that the ASU to downtown multipurpose trail is complete. Ribbon cutting is planned for Monday, January 22, 2024, at 2:30 pm on ASU East Campus by the softball fields; 2023 drainage improvements project is complete and is in the punch list phase and should be 100% in the next week or so; the 2024 LMIG application is complete and will be presented to the Commission next Monday and submitted to GDOT; Phase III alley improvements are out for bid. Bids are to be received next Friday, January 26, 2024; the County Commission will vote on Monday to apply for a Georgia Tollway Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) grant. The proposed project includes paving or other improvements to 5 roads as well as the design for the replacement of (2) bridges on Gravel Hill Road. No questions for J. Brown.

**Lee County – Amanda Nava :**

T. Anderson stated Leesburg was not present, but a report would be reflected in the minutes. Lee County has begun 2024 LMIQ Projects with resurfacing taking place on Chokee Road, County Drive, Knollwood Drive, Springlake Drive and Wiregrass Way for a total estimated cost of $1,087,668.02

**Leesburg – Bob Alexander**

Lee County and the City of Leesburg are currently focusing on improving the downtown Leesburg area. B. Alexander stated there is an upcoming SPLOST that, if passed, will add a court annexation. They are currently moving forward with the TAP program that is a Georgia downtown beautification/sidewalk program. There is also a school connectivity program ongoing as well as two parking lots under construction in Leesburg’s downtown.

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

D. Hamilton began the Airport report by introducing Roberto Pagan, the new Superintendent of Operations at the Airport. He began in November 2023 and comes to Albany by way of Iowa and will be giving future presentations. R. Pagan gave the board a brief greeting and overview of his experience. The General Aviation Terminal Project is 95% complete and slated for completion by the end of January. They hope to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony sometime in February. No questions were asked when the floor was opened.

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| **TOPIC V** | **Agency Updates** | **GDOT/FHWA** |

T. Hicks stated there were no updates from GDOT at this time.

J. Longo reported that FHWA has published the final rule for the Greenhouse Gas Performance measure which went into effect on January 8th FY23, the final rule provides MPOs with the framework for measuring and reporting transportation related GHG emissions, and MPOs will be required to establish these performance targets similar to PM#1, 2 and 3. GHG will fall under PM#3. FHWA published a final rule adopting the 11th Edition of the MUTCD, effective today. The updated MUTCD supports the USDOT’s National Roadway Strategy and includes new pedestrian safety enhancements. J. Longo made statements regarding discretionary grants: (1) first a reminder that discretionary grants are not reasonably available so they can not be part of the fiscally constrained financial plan, however you can definitely identify these grants that would make sense for the MPO to go after, and (2) Mr. Longo shared two (2) resources for grants; billaunchpad.com and dotnavigator.com. No questions were asked of J. Longo, but B. Dorough asked if the Oglethorpe Bridge Project was expected to take 18 or 24 months. T. Anderson answered that it is a 24 month project.

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| **TOPIC VI** | **Citizens’ Transportation Committee** |

T. Anderson informed the committee that the only concerns to be passed on from the Citizens Transportation Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee were regarding the Oglethorpe Bridge Project and meeting attendance. There is currently an open position for the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Lee County as well as another appointment coming from the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission. B. Dorough asked if these positions were out for notice; T. Anderson replied in the affirmative. With no other discussion being brought to the table, B. Dorough adjourned the meeting.

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| **TOPIC VII** | **Discussion/Comment** |

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

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| Submitted by: | Tanner Anderson |