**CALL TO ORDER**

P. Forgey called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

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| **PRESENT**  Paul Forgey  Tanner Anderson  Ken Breedlove  Robert Griffin  Jeremy Brown  Jackie Williams  Ted Hicks  Dennis Carter  Jason Tolbert  Jason Willingham  Joseph Longo  Vivian Canizares  David Hamilton  Don Gray  Christi Dockery  Amanda Nava  Ann-Marie Day  Angel Gray | (Technical Chair) Director, City of Albany Planning & Development  Planner II, City of Albany Planning & Development  (Vice-Chair) Traffic Engineering Manager, City of Albany  Interim Director, City of Albany Engineering  Project Engineer, Dougherty County Public Works  GDOT Office of Planning Representative  GDOT Office of Planning, Branch Chief (Non-voting)  District 4 Planning & Programming Coordinator, GDOT (Non-voting)  Transit Planner, Albany Transit  District 4 Preconstruction Engineer, GDOT  FHWA Representative (Non-voting)  GDOT Office of Planning Representative  Transportation Director, City of Albany  Facilities Management Director, City of Albany  County Manager, Lee County (Non-voting)  Assistance Director, Planning & Development, Lee County  FHWA Planning Team Leader, (Non-Voting)  Deputy Director, City of Albany Planning & Development (Non-Voting) |
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| **ABSENT**  Bob Alexander  Kenneth Johnson  Bruce Maples  Chuck Mathis  Michael Persley  Stacey Rowe  Beka Shiver  Janine Miller  Larry McClain | Director, City of Leesburg Public Works  Chief of Police, Dougherty County  Assistant City Manager, City of Albany  Director, Dougherty County Public Works  Chief of Police, City of Albany  Director, City of Albany Public Works  Representative, S.W. Georgia Regional Commission  Staff Representative, GDOT Office of Intermodal (non-voting)  Citizens’ Transportation Committee, Chairman (Non-Voting) |
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| **OTHERS PRESENT**  Denise Clark  Marina Rosen | Transportation Planner II, City of Albany  Transportation Planner I, City of Albany |

**Approval of Minutes (September 21, 2023)**

Motion to approve minutes by K. Breedlove. Seconded by J. Brown and approved unanimously.

**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 in February to amend our MTP and TIP to reflect the updated cost estimates. Technical Chair P. Forgey asked if the MTP/TIP amendments would run concurrently. T. Anderson replied in the affirmative. P. Forgey stated that this process is about the amendment and not the project in general, and there is no action needed, but the Board will all need to gather in February to approve the amendment via Special Called Meeting. P. Forgey brought up the topic of meeting attendance requirements. T. Anderson stated that the TCC and PC may have 2 unexcused absences per year. Because these are state-wide or regional boards Virtual meetings are allowed for State and Federal employees. P. Forgey stated that if you are a local employee you are required to attend in person in order to count as a quorum. You may attend virtually if you want to see what’s going on, but in order to vote and get this bridge project moving next month we will need an in-person quorum. No questions were asked.

**FY 25 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 K. Breedlove introduced a discussion about a major corridor study after we finish our MTP. There was also some buzz on the PC about Lee County being involved in this major corridor study as well. T. Anderson asked if there was any discussion on this or do we want to proceed with doing this after our MTP update. P. Forgey commented that we wouldn’t request funds until Spring 2025 and the project wouldn’t begin until Fall 2025. Technical Chair P. Forgey asked if a trial study would be an eligible expense. T. Anderson stated that he could communicate with GDOT about this. P. Forgey asked if there were any questions. There being none he asked if there was a recommendation from the floor to pass this on to the Policy Committee. **Motion to recommend sending it to the Policy Committee for approval was made by J. Brown. Seconded by K. Breedlove and approved 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 at which time Technical Chair P. Forgey asked, “Is part of our information showing how well the MPO maintained these targets?” T. Anderson stated that he did not think so, but in meeting with GAMPO in the fall, he learned that the state numbers have increased. P. Forgey asked if there were any questions. There being none he asked if there was a recommendation from the floor to pass this on to the Policy Committee. **Motion to recommend sending it to the Policy Committee for approval was made by R. Griffin. Seconded by J. Brown and approved 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 a QR Code. He encouraged everyone on the committee to forward to their constituents so that we may get as much input as possible. All topics on the presentation agenda were covered. At the conclusion, K. Breedlove posed a question to W. Carrol regarding our new projects, e.g. Westover Roundabout, 133 widening, and whether these would be major players in the future. W. Carrol responded that he most certainly did and thought that these projects would generate land use impacts as well. Joe Longo with FHWA commented on Housing Coordination; that there is not a final rule on this yet, but an opportunity to explore what this would look like in the MTP and MPO planning process. Also, adding affordable housing agencies to the MTP Subcommittee is a great start. P. Forgey added that we are involved with the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) Team, which is composed of several different housing agencies and would be another good agency to coordinate with.

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

J. Tolbert began the Transit Report by stating that they have gone live with the new Paratransit and Trip Spark software and that it is going well. They are also awaiting the rollout of 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 that four full-time drivers were hired as a result of the recent job fair and are currently in the HR hiring process. In closing, it was shared that the Albany Transit Center is providing a warming center 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 is averaging 20 citizens per night.

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| **TOPIC III** | **Engineering Update** | **Ken Breedlove** |

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**

T. Anderson stated Leesburg was not present, but a report would be reflected in the minutes. 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** | **David Hamilton** |

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. 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. P. Forgey remarked that the new landscape at the airport is looking good and welcomed R. Pagan. No questions were asked.

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

J. Williams and T. Hicks of GDOT had no updates at this time. No questions were asked of GDOT.

J. Longo reported that FHWA has published the final rule for the Greenhouse Gas Performance measure which went into effect on January 8 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.

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

T. Anderson stated that the one concern brought up by the CTC was attendance. P. Forgey commented that we do need a new member from the Planning Commission.

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION:**

P. Forgey opened the floor for miscellaneous discussion. There being none, he moved to adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 AM.

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| Submitted by: | Tanner Anderson |