

DARTS Policy Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 10:00 A.M.
Hybrid – 240 Pine Ave. Suite 380, Albany, GA 31701

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair B. Dorough called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

PRESENT

Paul Forgey	(Technical Chair) Director, City of Albany Planning & Development
Bo Dorough	Mayor, City of Albany (Vice-Chair of Policy Committee)
Tanner Anderson	Planner II, City of Albany Planning & Development
Jason Tolbert	Transit Planner, Albany Transit
Jason Willingham	District 4 Preconstruction Engineer, GDOT (Proxy for Scott Chambers)
Joseph Longo	FHWA Representative (Non-voting)
Billie Breeden	Mayor, City of Leesburg
Don Gray	Facilities Management Director, City of Albany
Amanda Nava	Assistance Director, Planning & Development, Lee County
Jackie Williams	GDOT Office of Planning Representative (Proxy for Janine Miller)
Barry Brooks	Dougherty County, Interim County Manager

ABSENT

Bob Alexander	Director, City of Leesburg Public Works
Ken Breedlove	Traffic Engineering Manager, City of Albany
Lorenzo Heard	Dougherty County Commission Chairman
Jeremy Brown	Project Engineer, Dougherty County Public Works
Derrick Brown	Interim City Manager, City of Albany
Roberto Pagan	Superintendent, Southwest Georgia Regional Airport
Scott Chambers	GDOT District Engineer, District 4
Janine Miller	GDOT Director of Planning
Billy Mathis	Lee County Commission
Ted Hicks	GDOT Office of Planning, Branch Chief

OTHERS PRESENT

Denise Clark	Transportation Planner II, City of Albany
Marina Rosen	Transportation Planner II, City of Albany
Tanner Anderson	Transportation Planner II, City of Albany

Approval of Minutes (April 18, 2024)

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

2050 MTP

T. Anderson informed the committee that Metro Analytics is working to finalize a draft financial feasibility plan while working with GDOT to finalize Universe of Projects. B. Dorrough questioned this term; with T. Anderson then explaining that once the projects list is completed, prioritization will begin. The Stakeholder & Public Outreach Meetings are scheduled for June 20, 2024, at the Government Center Building, and June 24, 2024, at the Oakland Library. The MTP Draft is expected in June/July of 2024 with its adoption in October/November 2024.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

T. Anderson stated that every 10 years the MPO is required to update its MOU Agreement with all jurisdictions within the MPO to reflect the most recent Census Numbers. The last update was in 2014, and this will need to be adopted before we adopt the 2050 MTP. T. Anderson reminded members of the population shifts seen over the last 10 years and the biggest shift has gone to Lee County, but the City of Albany still holds the majority.

Motion for approval of the MOU by the Policy Committee was made by B. Brooks. Seconded by B. Breeden and approved unanimously.

P.I. #0008384 FY24-27 TIP/MTP Amendment #2 (Signal System Upgrade @ 16 Locations Phase IV)

T. Anderson stated that he has not heard back from GDOT's Office of Financial Management. We currently know that it will be pushed up from FY27 to FY25 but are unsure about the allocation of money for construction costs as the FY27 rates were inflated. During the presentation, T. Anderson mentioned the purpose and cost of this project. The project is for downtown traffic signals. The cost of the preliminary engineering is \$641,000.00, and the phase is 100% Federally Funded.

T. Anderson also presented the Construction (CST) project. The cost of this project is \$4,591,852.23 and will be 50% Federally Funded, 50% Local (City of Albany).

P.I. #0020327 FY24-27 TIP Amendment #3 (SR 520 FM Turner Field Road to Johnny Autumn/Bethel Church Road, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations)

T. Anderson stated that the Construction (CST) cost of this project is \$1,025,000 with \$820,000 in Federal funding and \$205,000 in State funding (80/20 share between Federal and State). Construction is set for FY25. There was some dialogue with B. Dorrough regarding where the charging stations would be placed, e.g. ride shares, gas stations, every 5-10 miles, etc. GDOT will ultimately make the final decision on the locations.

P.I. #0013562 FY24-27 TIP/2045 MTP Amendment (SR 520BU FM SR 91 to CS

905/Thornton Drive)

T. Anderson stated the original project intentions were to expand Oglethorpe from 4 to 6 lanes, but the traffic does not currently warrant this. According to GDOT, the scoping phase of this project will conclude by the end of this year. They will then present, to GDOT's Office of Financial Management and Planning, different scenarios/alternatives for moving forward. B. Brooks commented on the importance of lighting in this area as it is the entryway to the city.

FY 26 UPWP

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 there will be a call for activities in July.

TOPIC II

Transit Update

Jason Tolbert

J. Tolbert provided a transit update, stating that the extension of Saturday transit hours from 2:15 to 6:00, is to begin January 2025. This extension is needed, but staffing is an issue at the present time. He further stated that Transit is in the training phase for the Trip Spark App and will be testing it on the ASU Rams Rush Transit Route soon.

TOPIC III

Engineering Reports

(City of Albany) K. Breedlove's Report:

- E. Broad Ave @ Turner field - traffic signal upgrade - Has been let
- E. Broad Ave@ Broadway - traffic signal upgrade - Re-Bidding
- City's Traffic Management Center preliminary designs June 27th.
- We are currently working on Street Resurfacing Phase C, using LMIG and TSPLOST Funds for 18.58 miles of roadway, with approximately 15 streets remaining.
- We are determining quantities for Street Resurfacing Phase D
- E. Broad Ave sidewalk between the railroad underpass and the traffic signal on Cordele Rd. is in the design phase
- Washington St Ext. is in the design phase.
- Intersection improvement at 2nd Ave and N. Harding Ave.

- PI# 0010571-Westover Blvd from Albany Mall to N of Ledo Rd, 77% complete, and the completion date is 12/14/2024.
- PI# 0011727 R/R Safety Project installing 5-traffic signals on Roosevelt Ave; Construction is complete and traffic signals are operational
- PI# 0008384 16-Intersections downtown, design funded by GDOT, Approved Concept Report, PFPR is complete, FFPR 5/7/2025, Letting **7/15/20'2'** Southeastern Engineering
- PI# 0015401-Albany Downtown Streetscape, Approved Concept Report, PFPR is complete, FFPR 1/31/2025, Letting 7/3/2026, plans to improve five (5) streets in the city's historic commercial center.
- 3-Speed tables sites, Pearce Ave, Ingleside Dr, and Winterwood Ave, Out for bid
- SR91 Jefferson Street from Society Ave. to Broad Ave. is closed to through traffic; a Detour is in place on N. Washington St. and N. Jackson St. East and west roadways between Society Ave. and Broad Ave. will be intermittently blocked due to construction for a stormwater & sewer separate project.

(Dougherty County) Jeremy Brown's Report:

- Bids were received for the Phase III Alley paving project and is currently under construction. Concrete Enterprises got the bid and have started on 3 of the 5 alleys.
- Hope to have procurement started on FY 22 and 23 LMIG project next week. That will be before resurfacing of 45 miles of roads.

(Lee County) Amanda Nava's Report:

LMIG Funds - Closing soon

- **FY2024**

- Funds Received from GDOT: \$690,908.06
 - Total, with 30% match from Lee County: **\$898,180.48**
- Application approved September 18, 2023
- Grant Funds received September 19, 2023
- BOC awarded bid on December 12, 2023 to Oxford Construction Company

Road Resurfacing Projects (including LMIG 2024) - 39 roads - nearing completion

- BOC awarded bid on December 12, 2023 to **Oxford Construction Company** at a total cost of **\$5,032,661.75**

LRA Funds

- March 2024: Governor Kemp announced an additional \$250 million in Local Road Assistance Administration funds (LRA) was to be included in the amended FY 2024 budget
- No required match
- Accepted grant amount of **\$855,690.09**

New York Road Bridge Repair - Completed

- BOC approved the Bridge repair for the Chokey Creek Bridge on New York Road
- April 9, 2024: Southern Concrete Construction Company awarded this bid for \$30,000.00

TSPLOST II - Entered April 1- March 31, 2029

- Joint meeting held Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:00pm
- Voters approved continuation of TSPLOST II in November 2022
- Collection Period: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2029

Westover Extension

- GDOT project - DARTS support
- Will connect Westover Road and Ledo Road at Capstone Connector
- Oxford Construction Company awarded bid from GDOT
 - Project ongoing
- Staff is working with GDOT and DARTS on signal and safety issues for Ledo Road intersection
- Estimated Completion Date: December 2024
- Discussions with GDOT regarding a traffic study and signal installation ongoing
- GDOT committed to conducting a traffic study of this intersection once the project is completed

Round-About at Haley & Cedric - GDOT

- Signed letter of support
- Waiting for cost estimates for lighting and possible landscape and agreements

TOPIC IV

Airport Update

Roberto Pagan

T. Anderson reported for R. Pagan and shared that the airport's next project is the cargo expansion. He mentioned that a contractor has been selected and is going through the procurement process. Hopefully, they will start in late October or early November. The General Aviation Terminal ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on Monday, June 17, 2024.

TOPIC V

Agency Updates

GDOT/FHWA

J. Willingham of GDOT had no updates at this time. No questions were asked of GDOT.

J. Longo of FHWA updated the Committee with his presentation on available grants and meaningful public engagements.

TOPIC VI

Discussion

There was a discussion initiated by B. Dorough on EV charging stations and Oglethorpe Bridge delays. J. Willingham stated that funds were authorized, and the project is set to re-let in September 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson