#### **DARTS Policy Committee Minutes**

Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. Hybrid – 240 Pine Ave. Suite 380, Albany, GA 31701

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bo Dorough called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**PRESENT** 

Bo Dorough (Chair), Mayor, City of Albany

Lorenzo Heard Chairman, Dougherty County Commission

Terrell Jacobs City Manager, City of Albany
Deron King Dougherty County Administrator

Barry Brooks Dougherty County Assistant Administrator

Bob Alexander City Manager, City of Leesburg

Jason Willingham GDOT District 4, Preconstruction Eng. (Proxy for S. Chambers)

Jackie Williams Rep. GDOT Office of Planning Billy Breeden Mayor, City of Leesburg

Dennis Carter District 4 Planning & Programming Coordinator, GDOT Amanda Nava Director, Lee Co. Planning & Dev. (Proxy for C. Dockery)

Ken Breedlove Traffic Engineering, City of Albany

Joseph Longo FHWA Representative

Vivian Canizares GDOT, Assistant Office Head, Rural & Metro Planning

**ABSENT** 

Joey Davenport Chief Building Inspector, Lee County Bruce Maples Assistant City Manager, City of Albany

Scott Chambers District 4 Engineer, GDOT

Jeremy Brown Director, Dougherty County Engineering

Robert Griffin Interim, Director of Engineering, City of Albany Luke Singletary Chairperson, Lee County Commission (Vice-Chair)

Christie Dockery County Manager, Lee County

**OTHERS PRESENT** 

Tanner Anderson Planner II, City of Albany Denise Clark Planner II, City of Albany

Paul Forgey Director, Planning & Development, City of Albany

Jason Tolbert Transit Planner, City of Albany

Marina Rosen Transportation Planner II, City of Albany

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (June 13, 2024)

Motion to approve minutes by L. Heard. Seconded by A. Nava and approved unanimously.

## TOPIC I Election of Vice-Chair

L. Heard made a motion to nominate Luke Singletary as Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee. B. Alexander seconded the motion, which the committee unanimously approved.

### TOPIC II Transportation Update Tanner Anderson

#### 2050 MTP

- V. Matheney of Metro Analytics delivered an in-depth PowerPoint presentation to the Board, providing an update on the progress of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to date. Following the presentation, the Board engaged in discussion on the subject.
- B. Alexander motioned to approve sending the 2050 MTP out for Public Comment. L. Heard seconded the motion and unanimously approved by the committee.

#### **FY24-27 TIP and 2045 Amendment #2)**

T. Anderson addressed the Board, introducing the first project for discussion—a proposed amendment to move the (16) Downtown Traffic Signal Project from FY28 to FY26. K. Breedlove provided a summary of the project, and following his presentation, the Board discussed the Traffic Signal Upgrades, agreeing that the upgrades should move forward in tandem with the Downtown Streetscape Project.

The next amendment involved the addition of NEVI, EV charging stations along the 82 corridor, which is a federally funded program and will not require local funding. The proposed funding is for PE and Construction in the amount of \$1,280,000.

Lastly, the amendment to widen a portion of Oglethorpe Blvd. from Radium Springs to Thornton Drive has been eliminated, pending the results of GDOT's scoping phase.

Motion to recommend Policy Committee approval was made by L. Heard. Seconded by A. Nava and approved unanimously.

### **Public Participation Plan**

T. Anderson stated that GDOT has given us new verbiage on the Administrative Modification Process and Amendment Process giving the MPO a bit more leeway, in-house, to make quick adjustments on projects. Updates to the Public Participation Plan typically happen after the Long-Range plan has been adopted, and to expect a draft by January 2025.

#### **FY26 UPWP**

The UPWP is a planning document that identifies and describes the MPO's budget, planning activities, studies, and technical support expected to be undertaken in a one-year period. T. Anderson informed the Committee that the FY26 UPWP will start up with a call for activities (Aug-Sept 2024) where we will begin asking for studies throughout the jurisdictions, e.g. SR 32 corridor study, Albany-Dougherty Liberty Expressway, SS4A, etc. B. Dorough informed the Board that the Interim President of ASU had requested the construction of a pedestrian bridge at Radium Springs to enhance student safety. T. Anderson added that the SS4A grant would help facilitate the development of a plan addressing this concern.

## TOPIC III Transit Update Jason Tolbert

J. Tolbert provided an update, stating that Albany Transit is getting closer to full staffing and is participating in the upcoming City of Albany Job Fair on October 8, 2024. They are hoping to implement extended Saturday transit hours from 2:15 to 6:00, beginning January 2025.

## **TOPIC IV** Engineering Update

<u>City of Albany – Ken Breedlove:</u> K. Breedlove presented a summary of the city's current projects:

- Traffic Signal upgrade @ E. Broad and Turner Field Let
- Traffic Signal Upgrade @ E. Broad and Broadway Let
- City's Traffic Management Center preliminary designs to be completed October 25, 2024
- We are currently working on Street Resurfacing Phase C, using LMIG and TSPLOST Funds for 18.58 miles of roadway with one street remaining
- E. Broad Avenue sidewalk between the railroad underpass and the traffic signal on Cordele Road is in the design phase
- Washington Street extension is in the design phase
- PI #0008384 (16) intersections downtown, design is on track to let July 15, 2025
- Three (3) speed table sites: Pearce Avenue, Ingleside Drive, and Winterwood Avenue to begin construction October 7, 2024

**<u>Dougherty County - Jeremy Brown:</u>** T. Anderson presented a summary of the county projects in J. Brown's absence:

- Phase III Alley Improvements Project CE Construction should be completing construction towards the end of October. This involves paving 5 alleys off of Gillionville, Barbagale, Hollis, and Hibiscus.
- 2022-2023 LMIG Bid has been completed. We anticipate taking a recommendation to the Commission at the next work session. This project will include resurfacing 45 miles of roads.
- Currently designing the 2024 Resurfacing and Additional LMIG funds (LRA Local Road Assistance) project. The project includes a turn lane off Honeysuckle Drive into Radium Springs Middle School as well as a sidewalk along that section of Honeysuckle.

• Oxford Construction recently completed the installation of nine (9) speed bumps on Van Cise Lane. Additionally, speed studies are scheduled at eight (8) other locations to determine if traffic calming measures are warranted.

<u>Leesburg – Bob Alexander:</u> B. Alexander reported that Leesburg is continuing its efforts under the Georgia TAP Beautification Program in the downtown area, with one parking lot now complete. Additionally, sidewalk work has been completed on Fire Tower Road, SR 32, and US 19.

### **<u>Lee County – Amanda Nava:</u>** A. Nava presented a summary of Lee County projects:

- **2025 LMIG:** Letter from GDOT received July 9, 2024; formula mount for 2025 is \$704,454.79, plus 30% local match of \$211,336.44 for a total of \$915,791.23; LMIG applications will be submitted before February 1, 2025
- LRA FUNDS: Received funds on June 6, 2024, from Governor Kemp additional \$250 Million LRA funding
- TSPLOST II: Currently in collection period until March 31, 2029
- **Speed Limit Ordinance:** Requested GDOT examine Old Leesburg Road/State Route 133; Documents submitted to GDOT have been reviewed and approved as of September 6, 2024; BOC adopted ordinance September 10, 2024
- Westover Extension: GDOT project DARTS Support; this project will connect
  Westover Road and Ledo Road at Capstone Connector; staff working with GDOT and
  DARTS on signal and safety issues for Ledo Road intersection; estimated completion date
  is 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 and Cedric GDOT: BOC approved lighting and landscape agreements; awaiting updates from GDOT
- Ledo Road: Lee County and City of Albany have been in contact; repaving is scheduled for Fall 2025

# **TOPIC V** Airport Update

T. Anderson shared the airport update in R. Pagan's absence, stating that the airport continues its UPS cargo ramp expansion project, runway painting and markings, fence line clearing to increase visibility, and LED lighting upgrades.

# TOPIC VI Agency Updates GDOT/FHWA

J. Williams reported no updates from GDOT Planning. FHWA was not present for comment

# TOPIC VII Discussion/Comment

T. Jacobs inquired about citizen feedback and concerns related to ongoing projects. T. Anderson responded, noting that the majority of public input has been centered around the Oglethorpe Bridge Project.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson