

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. Dorrough 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

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

- Traffic Signal upgrade @ E. Broad and Turner Field - Let
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- 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

Dougherty County - Jeremy Brown: 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson