

DARTS Policy Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.
Hybrid – 240 Pine Ave. Suite 380, Albany, GA 31701

CALL TO ORDER

Amanda Nava-Estill called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

PRESENT

Barry Brooks	Dougherty County Assistant Administrator
Bob Alexander	City Manager, City of Leesburg
Jason Willingham	District 4 Preconstruction Engineer, GDOT
Jackie Williams	Representative, GDOT Office of Planning
Billy Breeden	Mayor, City of Leesburg
Amanda Nava	Director, Lee Co. Planning & Dev. (Proxy for Luke Singletary)
Scott Chambers	District 4 Engineer, GDOT

ABSENT

Terrell Jacobs	City Manager, City of Albany
Deron King	Dougherty County Administrator
Lorenzo Heard	Chairman, Dougherty County Commission
Bo Dorough	(Chair), Mayor, City of Albany
Joey Davenport	Chief Building Inspector, Lee County
Bruce Maples	Assistant City Manager, City of Albany
Ken Breedlove	Traffic Engineering, City of Albany
Jeremy Brown	Director, Dougherty County Engineering
Robert Griffin	Interim, Director of Engineering, City of Albany
Joseph Longo	FHWA Representative
Luke Singletary	(Chair), Chairperson, Lee County Commission
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	Planner II, City of Albany
Roberto Pagan	Southwest GA Regional, Airport Superintendent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 13, 2024)

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

FY26 UPWP (*Action Needed*)

The UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program) is a planning document that outlines the MPO's budget, planning activities, studies, and technical support anticipated for the upcoming year. T. Anderson informed the Committee that the draft FY26 UPWP is attached to the meeting agenda and is being prepared for public review.

Key activities included in this year's budget are:

- Studies such as the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and the Freight Profile.
- Collaboration with planning departments in various jurisdictions to maintain the Comprehensive Plan, focusing on traffic counts, congestion data, and demographic and employment information.

This FY26 UPWP will prioritize implementing the projects and policies identified in the recently completed 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Additional proposed activities include:

- The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant initiative.
- Studies for the Liberty Expressway and Dawson Road Corridor in Albany-Dougherty County.

Motion to go out for public review was made by B. Alexander. Seconded by B. Breeden and approved unanimously

Public Participation Plan (*Action Needed*)

T. Anderson informed the Committee that GDOT has provided updated criteria and language for the Administrative Modification and Amendment Processes. These updates grant the MPO greater flexibility to make in-house adjustments to projects more efficiently. A PowerPoint slide with detailed numbers was also presented to illustrate the changes.

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

PM 1 Safety Targets (*Action Needed*)

States are required to set annual safety performance targets for their MPOs. The MPO has the option to either adopt the State DOT's targets or establish targets specific to its planning area. In practice, most MPOs align with the state targets. A PowerPoint slide was presented, providing detailed numbers to illustrate both previous and projected statewide safety targets.

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

TOPIC II

Transit Update

Jason Tolbert

J. Tolbert reported on upcoming revisions to the Blue and Purple Lines. These changes will enable better connectivity to key locations, including the Albany Mall and the Walmart on Gillionville Road. The goal is to implement these updates by the end of January 2025.

TOPIC III

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 – construction pending traffic signal and pole delivery
- Traffic Signal Upgrade @ E. Broad and Broadway – construction pending traffic signal and pole delivery
- City's Traffic Management Center bid was posted January 13, 2025, for construction
- 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
- Intersection improvements Westover @ Westgate, Dawson @ Stuart design phase. We are using (ICE) intersection Control Evaluation for Westover @ Dawson to determine whether roundabout vs traffic signal is the best option
- 9 intersection improvements in the upper CBD
- PI #0008384 (16) intersections downtown, design is on track to let July 15, 2025
- TWO (2) speed table sites: Marie and Shannon, ready for bid
- Preliminary selected SS4A engineering firm
- Jefferson @ Roosevelt CSS delayed pending R/R
- Restriping projects on Old Dawson, N. Doublegate, and Stuart

Dougherty County - Jeremy Brown: J. Brown presented a summary of the county projects:

- Phase III Alley Improvements Project has been completed. This project involved paving 5 alleys off of Gillionville, Barbagale, Hollis, and Hibiscus.
- 2022-2023 LMIG resurfacing project is underway. The project, which includes 45 miles of roads, is approximately 20% complete. Since resurfacing is heavily dependent on temperature and weather, we have been a little bit delayed, but that was expected for this time of year
- Oxford Construction is scheduled to install speed bumps on Phoebe Road and Thompson Drive. These two roads are also included in the current resurfacing project, therefore timing will be dependent on that project.
- The County recently applied for a GA Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) loan and grant. The proposed project includes storm and drainage improvements on five rural roads in the County (Adron Drive, Greene Lane, Harris Road, Torrey Pines Lane, and Gravel Hill Road). Applicants should hear something back within three months.

