

## **DARTS Citizens' Transportation Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

Hybrid Meeting – Zoom

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

B. Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

### **PRESENT**

Glenn "Tyler" Harris	Dougherty County
Van Mason	Lee County
Larry McClain (Virtual)	City of Albany
Brent Davis	Lee County (Chair)
Charles "Bruce" Capps	City of Albany
Perry Ford	Dougherty County
Roberto Pagan	City of Albany, Airport Superintendent

### **ABSENT**

Aaron Johnson	Albany/Dougherty Planning Commission (Vice-Chair)
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### **OTHERS PRESENT**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 15, 2025)**

B. Capps offered the motion to approve minutes, seconded by V. Mason and approved unanimously. T. Harris established that in the last meeting, a staffer voted on minutes, and only members needed to vote. T. Anderson acknowledged this and would assure staff members do not vote.

### **TOPIC I**

### **Transportation Update**

### **Tanner Anderson**

### **FY 26 UPWP**

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 document went out for public review since the last meeting and would be up for approval at the Technical and Policy Committee meetings.

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.
- Lee County Comprehensive Road Study

T. Anderson stated that Dawson Road Corridor Study and Lee County Comprehensive Road Study would all depend on how much funding is allocated from GDOT for PL Funds. The MPO would have to exclude the Smithville Area in the Lee County Study.

T. Harris asked how far the MPO limits went and T. Anderson stated it goes all the way just northern city limits of Leesburg.

### **FY 24-27 TIP & 2050 MTP Amendment #3**

This project would use Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds to install three variable message boards (VMBS) along the Liberty Expressway in Dougherty and Lee Counties. This project would alert drivers of hazards congestion, and public service announcements. Preliminary engineering would start in fiscal year 2025, with construction slated for FY26. T. Anderson stated that construction could be pushed back if funding was unavailable. A PowerPoint slide was presented, providing detailed numbers to illustrate the cost breakdown of the project.

T. Anderson noted that his funding may not be available in future years, with changes in policy.

B. Capps noted he was not for this project. L. McClain asked if the signs would be going one direction or both directions. T. Anderson said that the three signs would be going in different directions, both north and south, varying by location. B. Capps asked if anyone was opposed to this amendment and if they could speak to the Technical Committee. T. Anderson assured him he could speak at the meeting.

### **DARTS Public Participation & Bylaws Update**

T. Anderson informed the committee that the participation plan was recently updated to align with the State's public participation plan regarding amounts that constitute an amendment. T. Anderson stated that typically, after every long-range plan update, the public participation plan is revised to reflect practices learned during the update.

T. Anderson noted changes needed in the Public Participation Plan were addressing issues encountered in the 2050 MTP and to address public comment periods from 30 to 15 days, to be more consistent with other Georgia MPOs.

T. Anderson stated changes needed in the Bylaws would need to be updating the membership on the TCC Committee, updating Quorum Rules, and possibly adjusting the meeting schedule.

B. Capps stated it maybe beneficial to separate out the meetings in order for staff to pay on information from committee to committee more efficiently, since currently each committee meets in two days and back to back. T. Harris stated that he believes the schedule is good, but maybe a brief little summary from each meeting for each committee.

T. Harris asked T. Anderson to speak to the attendance at the Safe Streets and Road For All Plan (SS4A) for Albany-Dougherty. T. Anderson stated they had a decent turnout, and the contractor is working on an expedited schedule so that the County and City can apply for Construction money. T. Harris was impressed with the contractors and their knowledge. B. Capps discussed concerns he on the plan, with the meetings that were held by the city and contractors. Discussions between members of the committee were held.

## **TOPIC II**

### **Transit Update**

#### **Shawnasi Barron**

T. Anderson stated S. Barron was out due to a death in the family, updates would be provided in the minutes. Transit states there are no updates at this time.

## **TOPIC III**

### **Aviation Update**

#### **Roberto Pagan**

R. Pagan provided an update on the airport. He noted that the UPS cargo ramp expansion project is 100% Complete, with the Final Inspection being conducted today. The airport master plan is 95% finalized; we expect to go May 20th, 2025, to the City Commission. Taxiway Charlie, Sierra, and commercial apron improvements are currently out for bid. This improvement is due to bigger planes landing at the airport. April 23rd, 2025, will be the Airports Tri-Annual, where the airport conducts a mass casualty exercise that is required every 3 years.

Discussion on the exercise and a possible flight over were held.

## **TOPIC IV - Discussion**

T. Harris asked if information had been provided for the Oglethorpe Bridge Project as it pertains to Detours and the design of the bridge. There are concerns and the City of Albany and GDOT are working together.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by V. Mason, Seconded by T. Harris. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_