

DARTS Policy Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 17, 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 10:06 AM.

PRESENT

Bob Alexander	City Manager, City of Leesburg
Jason Willingham	Dist. 4 Preconstruction Eng., GDOT (Proxy for S. Chambers)
Jackie Williams	Representative, GDOT Office of Planning
Billy Breeden	Mayor, City of Leesburg
Amanda Nava	Director, Lee Co. Planning & Dev. (Proxy for Luke Singletary)
Bruce Maples	Assistant City Manager, City of Albany (Proxy for T. Jacobs)
Olivia Lewis	FHWA Planner (Virtually)
Jacqueline Williams	GDOT Office of Planning Representative
Derrick Brown	Assistant City Manager, City of Albany (Virtually)

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
Jeremy Brown	Director, Dougherty County Engineering
Robert Griffin	Interim Director of Engineering, City of Albany
Luke Singletary	(Chair), Chairperson, Lee County Commission
Christie Dockery	County Manager, Lee County
Shawnasi Barron	Superintendent, Albany Transit

OTHERS PRESENT

Tanner Anderson	Planner II, City of Albany
Denise Clark	Planner II, City of Albany
Paul Forgey	Director, Planning & Development, City of Albany
Roberto Pagan	Southwest GA Regional Airport Superintendent
Ken Breedlove	Traffic Engineering, City of Albany

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 16, 2025)

Motion to approve minutes by B. Alexander. Seconded by B. Breeden 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 went out for public review after the January meeting.

Key activities included in this yearly 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 in Albany-Dougherty and Leesburg.
- Studies for the Liberty Expressway and Dawson Road Corridor in Albany-Dougherty County.
- Lee County Comprehensive Road Study

T. Anderson stated that the next round of applications for PL funding would be in September 2025. Cost estimates and scope of work have been provided for the Corridor Study and the Comprehensive Study; an amendment would just be required before applying.

B. Alexander made a motion to approve. Seconded by B. Breeden and approved unanimously

FY24-27 TIP & 2050 MTP Amendment #3 (*Action Needed*)

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. K. Breedlove explained that these boards would be placed to warn drivers of potential congestion, weather, or traffic 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.

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

DARTS Public Participation Plan & By-Laws 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.

TOPIC II

Transit Update

Shawnasi Barron

S. Barron was not present. T. Anderson stated that Transit Updates would be reflected in the minutes. No updates to report from City of Albany Transit.

TOPIC III

Engineering Update

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

- E. Broad Ave@ Turner field - Construction has started
- E. Broad Ave @ Broadway - Construction has started
- The city's Traffic Management Center reviewing bids and plan to presented to City Commission by the second work section of May
- E. Broad Ave sidewalk between the railroad underpass and the traffic signal on Cordele Rd is in the design phases. Change orders to add sidewalk on Carroll, Marie, & Mock, add pedestrian facilities to the traffic signal at Broad & Carroll, and reroute sidewalk up Acorn St to Lenard Ave back to Cordele Rd.
- Washington St Ext. is in the design phase.
- 3-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. ICE determined a roundabout would increase delay, moving forward with the intersection design with the addition of two northbound left and one southbound right turn.
- 9-intersection improvements in the upper CBD. Preliminary plans by April 25th
- PI# 0008384 16-Intersections downtown, design is on track may let 7/15/2025, but maybe delayed a few months.

- 2-Speed tables sites, Marie and Shannon, pending Commission approval, May 27th meeting.
- We have completed our SS4A safety action plan pending approval by the Commission on April 22nd. We will send it to FED in May and apply for projects funding before the June 26th deadline for this year.
- Restriping project Old Dawson, N. Doublegate, Oakridge, Meredyth, & Stuart

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

- The County's '22 and '23 LMIG project is complete which included resurfacing of 45 miles.
- Oxford has completed the installation of speed bumps on Pheobe and Thompson Rds.
- Dougherty County landfill asphalt and parking lot project has been bid and is awaiting approval from the Commission.
- Willson Road Improvements project is currently out for bids. It includes the reconstruction and area elevations of the entire road, which involves base and culvert replacement.
- Working on bid documents for 5 drainage projects across the County, including areas along, River Pointe Drive, Broach, Oakhaven Drive and the County's Fleet Maintenance Facility.
- Currently working on the 2025 LRA LM IG application.

Leesburg – Bob Alexander: B. Alexander reported that Leesburg and Lee County approved an Inter-Governmental Agreement to take over Planning, Zoning, and Building Inspections. The City of Leesburg is expecting growth over the coming years, with the population expected to double in the next 10 years. Leesburg has also applied for a Transportation Alternative (TA) Grant to install new trails, sidewalks, and golf cart trails. Leesburg has a current TA Project in downtown, and Right-of-Way Acquisition is set to start. The City of Leesburg has contracted WSB to do their Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Plan, and they are working to get the plan done before the money runs out for implementation.

Lee County – Amanda Nava: A. Nava presented a summary of Lee County projects:

- LMIG Application has been approved; the funds will be used to resurface Lee County roads to include Ledo Road
- LRA Funds – The funds will be used for Ledo Road resurfacing; Albany will fund their portion of the road and will be bidding the full project.
- GDOT has completed a bridge over Muckaloochee Creek on Smithville Road.
- TPLOST II – Currently in collection period until March 31, 2029.
- Lee County is submitting a request and scope of work for a comprehensive transportation plan; Christi has been in contact with GDOT who has encouraged the request. This study is needed to identify better connectivity with the growth in the County and City. Areas of high concern include State Routes, major intersections, and major collectors.

TOPIC IV

Airport Update

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.

TOPIC V

Agency Updates

GDOT/FHWA

J. Williams from GDOT Planning had no updates. J. Willingham provided an update on the Programming Liason stating Dennis Carter was no longer in this position, and the new contact was Doris Abernathy. J. Willingham informed the committee that pedestrian improvements along S. Slappey between Cedar Ave and Whitney Ave will let this summer. GDOT is preparing to buy Right-of-Way for SR133/Lovers Lane Roundabout, Nelms Rd/State Route 300 R-Cut Improvements, and 12 locations for Traffic Signal Upgrades, with all expected between now and the middle of the year, early fall.

O. Lewis with FHWA had no updates or comments.

TOPIC VI

Citizen Transportation Committee Report

No comments to report from the CTC at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson