

## **DARTS Technical Coordinating Committee Minutes**

Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

Hybrid – 240 Pine Ave. Suite 380, Albany, GA 31701

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

P. Forgey called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

### **PRESENT**

Paul Forgey	(Technical Chair) Director, City of Albany Planning & Development
Tanner Anderson	Planner II, City of Albany Planning & Development
Ken Breedlove	(Vice-Chair) Traffic Engineering Manager, City of Albany
Robert Griffin	Interim Director, City of Albany Engineering
Jackie Williams	GDOT Office of Planning Representative
Roberto Pagan	Southwest Georgia Regional Airport, Superintendent
Jason Willingham	District 4 Preconstruction Engineer, GDOT
Jeremy Brown	Project Engineer, Dougherty County Public Works
Amanda Nava	Director, Planning & Development, Lee County
Don Gray	Facilities Management Director, City of Albany (Virtual)
Bruce Capps	Citizens' Transportation Committee Member
Olivia Lewis	FHWA Planner (Virtual)
Shawnasi Barron	Superintendent of Transit Operations (Virtual)
Roberto Pagan	Southwest Georgia Regional Airport, Superintendent
Bruce Maples	Assistant City Manager, City of Albany
Vivian Canizares	GDOT Office of Planning Representative (Virtually)

### **ABSENT**

Joey Davenport	Planning & Development, Lee County
David Hamilton	Transportation Director, City of Albany
Bob Alexander	Director, City of Leesburg Public Works
Kenneth Johnson	Chief of Police, Dougherty County
Chuck Mathis	Director, Dougherty County Public Works
Michael Persley	Chief of Police, City of Albany
Stacey Rowe	Director, City of Albany Public Works
Beka Shiver	Representative, S.W. Georgia Regional Commission
Janine Miller	Staff Representative, GDOT Office of Intermodal (non-voting)
Angel Gray	Deputy Director, City of Albany Planning & Development (Non-Voting)
Christie Dockery	County Manager, Lee County (Non-Voting)
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA Planning Team Leader (Non-Voting)

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Denise Clark	Planner II, City of Albany
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**Approval of Minutes**

**(January 16, 2025)**

Motion to approve minutes by K. Breedlove. Seconded by J. Brown and approved unanimously.

## **TOPIC I**

### **Transportation Update**

**Tanner Anderson**

#### **FY26 UPWP (*Recommendation 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.
- Lee County Comprehensive Street 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.

Motion to recommend sending out for public review to the Policy Committee was made by J. Brown Seconded by K. Breedlove and approved unanimously

#### **FY24-27 TIP & 2050 MTP Amendment #3 (Recommendation 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.

B. Capps of the Citizens' Transportation Committee (CTC) was granted a chance to speak in opposition to the Amendment.

Motion to recommend sending this to the Policy Committee was made by K. Breedlove. Seconded by A. Nava 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.

P. Forgey noted that he didn't think the frequency needed to change for TCC or PC, but if the CTC wants to meet more then that is up to them.

## **TOPIC II**

### **Transit Update**

**Jason Tolbert**

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**

**Ken Breedlove**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>
- 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 summarized the county's current projects:

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 was not in attendance but provided a report 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**

#### **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.

### **TOPIC V**

#### **Agency Updates**

#### **GDOT/FHWA**

J. Williams reported no updates from GDOT Planning. J. Willingham noted that Dennis Carter has transitioned to a new role as the district's Local Grants Coordinator. J. Longo had no updates but addressed an earlier question regarding functional classification, explaining that this system is maintained by GDOT's Office of Transportation Data.

## **TOPIC VI**

## **Citizens' Transportation Committee Report**

No report from the CTC.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Submitted by:       Tanner Anderson