

DARTS Technical Coordinating Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

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

CALL TO ORDER

P. Forgey called the meeting to order at 9:01 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
Jason Tolbert	Transit Planner, Albany Transit
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
Barry Brooks	Dougherty County
John Shepherd	City of Albany Engineering (<i>Proxy for Robert Griffin</i>)
Don Gray	Facilities Management Director, City of Albany (Virtual)
Larry McClain	City of Albany (Virtual)
Joe Longo	FHWA Planner (Virtual)
Shawnasi Barron	Superintendent of Transit Operations (Virtual)
Roberto Pagan	Southwest Georgia Regional Airport, Superintendent

ABSENT

Robert Griffin	Interim Director, City of Albany Engineering
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
Bruce Maples	Assistant City Manager, City of Albany
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)
Vivian Canizares	GDOT Office of Planning Representative
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA Planning Team Leader (Non-Voting)

OTHERS PRESENT

Marina Rosen	Transportation Planner II, City of Albany
Denise Clark	Planner II, City of Albany

Approval of Minutes **(November 13, 2024)**

Motion to approve minutes by K. Breedlove. Seconded by R. Griffin 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.

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

Public Participation Plan Amendment (*Recommendation 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 recommend sending this to the Policy Committee was made by B. Brooks. Seconded by K. Breedlove and approved unanimously

PM 1 Safety Targets (*Recommendation 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 recommend sending this to the Policy Committee was made by B. Brooks. Seconded by J. Williams 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

Ken Breedlove

City of Albany – Ken Breedlove: K. Breedlove summarized 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 summarized the county's current 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. Total project cost is approximately \$1.45M.

Lee County – Amanda Nava: A. Nava summarized Lee County's current projects:

- **2025 LMIG:** LMIG application approved November 5, 2024. Funds received.
- **Sidewalks:** GDOT has approved the City of Leesburg's request for funding assistance for sidewalks on State Route 3, State Route 32, and Firetower Road. GDOT is committing up to

\$304,000.00, or 70% of the project cost, whichever is less. December 22, 2022, Board voted to pay the County's share of the costs for sidewalks on Firetower Road (\$13,500.00). This is an ongoing project – waiting on Leesburg for contractor to complete.

- **TSPLOST II:** Currently in collection period until March 31, 2029
- **Speed Limit Ordinance:** Waiting for GDOT's review and approval for speed limits on a few state routes.

TOPIC IV

Airport Update

Roberto Pagan

R. Pagan provided an update on the airport. He noted that the UPS cargo ramp expansion project is ongoing and that the Airport Master Plan is nearing completion.

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 9:40 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson