

DARTS Policy Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 12, 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

Bob Alexander	City Manager, City of Leesburg
Jason Willingham	Dist. 4 Engineer, GDOT
Jackie Williams	Representative, GDOT Office of Planning (Virtually)
Vivian Canzaires	Branch Chief, GDOT Office of Planning (Virtually)
Billy Breeden	Mayor, City of Leesburg
Amanda Nava	Director, Lee Co. Planning & Dev. (Proxy for Luke Singletary)
Olivia Lewis	FHWA Planner (Virtually)
Jacqueline Williams	GDOT Office of Planning Representative
Derrick Brown	Assistant City Manager, City of Albany (Virtually)
Doris Abernathy	Dist. 4 Planning & Programming Liasion, 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
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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 17, 2025)

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

FY26 UPWP Admin Mod & Amendment

T. Anderson gave a brief overview of the proposed PL Funds Studies for Lee County and the City of Albany that have been discussed over the past year.

Dawson Rd. Corridor Study

- Dawson Rd (Slaphey Blvd to Lee Co./Terrell Co. line)
 - Total: \$200,000
 - 80%: \$160,000
 - 20%: \$40,000

Lee Co. Comprehensive Road Study

- All areas except those not in the MPO.
 - Total: \$100,000
 - 80%: \$80,000
 - 20%: \$20,000

T. Anderson stated that it was suggested by the Citizens' Transportation Committee (CTC) that maybe we combine these studies into one. A meeting between all parties was suggested and would be scheduled.

The applications would be need to be submitted by the end of August 2025 and would go before the PL Funds Committee in September 2025.

FY27 UPWP

T. Anderson informed the committee Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 begins July 1, 2026 and ends June 30, 2027

The UPWP is a planning document that identifies and describes the MPO's budget and activities.

Activities include planning, studies, and technical support expected to be undertaken in a one-year period. Examples of Activities include Studies (Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, Freight Profile), Planning Documents (2050 MTP, FY27-30 TIP) Maintaining Comprehensive Data (Demographic & Employment Information, Traffic Counts and Congestion), Carrying out Recommendations of the MTP, Maintaining relationships with City/County Planning organizations to integrate land use and transportation planning.

T. Anderson stated the call for activities would go out in August 2025 and run through September 2025.

A few tasks that will be going on during FY 2027 are our PL Funds Studies.

Public Participation Plan/Bylaws Update

T. Anderson informed the committee that he had sent out examples of what other MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Bylaws look like, that the DARTS MPO could utilize.

T. Anderson stated that the Citizens' Transportation Committee would like more time between the CTC and the Technical and Policy Committee so that information could be passed along to each committee. The CTC proposed meeting the Wednesday the week before the Technical and Policy Committees meet.

A draft Public Participation Plan and bylaws would be before the Technical and Policy at the August 2025 meeting.

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 was absent. T. Anderson presented a summary of the city's current projects:

- E. Broad Ave @ Turner field - Construction has started, delayed pending equipment.
- E. Broad Ave @ Broadway - Construction has started, delayed pending equipment.
- The city's Traffic Management Center review is complete, and Purchasing plans to present the RFP to the City Commission's work section in July.
- The E. Broad Ave sidewalk between the railroad underpass and the traffic signal on Cordele Rd is in the design phase. Change orders approved to add a sidewalk extension on Carroll, Marie, and Mock, design pedestrian facilities & traffic signal at Broad and Carroll, and reroute the sidewalk up Acorn St to Leonard Ave back to Cordele Rd.
- Washington St Ext. is in the design phase of the routing of the roadway.
- 3-Intersection improvements Westover@ Westgate, Dawson@ Stuart design phase is moving forward. (ICE) Intersection Control Evaluation for Westover@ Dawson ICE determined that a roundabout would increase delay; therefore, moving forward with the

intersection design involves adding a northbound left turn, creating two left-turn lanes, and adding a southbound right turn.

- 9-intersection improvements in the upper CBD. Preliminary plans were reviewed and sent back to the engineering design firm for correction.
- 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, approved by the Commission.
- We have completed our SS4A safety action plan, and the Commission approved it on April 22nd. We send it to the FED in May. We are moving forward with project implementation funding before the June deadline for this year. Special Call meeting for seeking approval to use TSPLOST Intersection funds as a match for the design & construction of four roundabouts: ASU East at Radium Springs & Joseph Holley, E. Broad & Blaylock, Moultrie & Mobile, and Whispering Pines & Nottingham.
- Restriping project approved for Old Dawson, N. Doublegate, Oakridge, Meredyth, & Stuart.

Dougherty County - Jeremy Brown:

J. Brown was absent. T. Anderson presented a summary of the county projects:

- Completed the construction of the FY 22/23 LMIG Resurfacing project in May.
- Currently, we are working on the contracts for the FY 24/25 LMIG resurfacing project which includes the paving of over 28 miles of roads in the County. We anticipate this being let in a couple months.
- A contractor has been selected for the improvements to Willson Road. This project is part of the FY '25 LMIG-LRA funding and includes reconstruction of the road base and asphalt, as well as drainage improvements. A preconstruction meeting is to be scheduled within the next couple of weeks.
- A contractor has also been selected for paving the alley behind the 300 block of Raintree Drive and includes approximately 600 feet of paving.
- The County's 2025 Drainage Improvements project is currently at procurement for advertisement of bid. It involves drainage improvements along River Pointe Drive, Oakhaven Drive, Broach Ave., and at our fleet maintenance compound.
- SS4A Application. County's portion is shoulder improvements for Eight Mile Road and Tarva Road.

- The County has out an RFQ for A/E service to design the section of the Flint River Trails that connects the ASU East Campus to the Radium Springs area. The deadline for RFQ submittals is June 30th. This is part of an EDA grant.

Leesburg – Bob Alexander:

B. Alexander reported that the City of Leesburg is currently wanting to have the FY 24, FY25 LMIQ and LRA Funds should be under construction soon with Oxford Construction.

Currently, working on a joint City-County TAP Project in Downtown Leesburg with the project in Right-of-Way, the project currently has a let date of Summer 2026. Staff is currently adding more LAP Certified staff members, to handle more construction projects.

Leesburg has submitted a TAP proposal to the GDOT Planning Department which consist of sidewalks and trails along Starkville Rd, Leslie Highway and Smithville Rd about 4 miles or so. The City of Leesburg gets more points on these project with having population of less than 5,000 and LAP Certified Staff. This project will also be in our comprehensive plan, with the community wanting to be a Golf Cart Community.

Leesburg has also wrapped up its SS4A Safety Action Plan that was approved last night at City Council meeting. We will be going after Implementation money for Robert E. Lee Highway, which is an alternative truck route. B. Alexander wants to make the road a complete street with high fatalities and accidents in the area.

B. Alexander stated that they are beginning the Comprehensive Plan update and it will be important with the expected population to double in the next 5 to 7 years.

Lee County – Amanda Nava:

A. Nava presented a summary of Lee County projects:

- LMIG:
 - GDOT approval for LMIG SAP received April 28th
 - Lee County's formula amount for 2025 is \$485,000.00, plus the 30% local match of \$145,500.00 comes to a total of \$630,500.00
 - Board voted to allocate the 2025 SAP funds to the restriping and raised pavement markers for several Lee County roadways
- Ledo Rd:
 - Still in the collaboration phase to pave Ledo Road with the City of Albany; Lee County will fund our portion with LMIG/LRA funds; Albany will fund their portion of the road and will be bidding the full project
- Request for Transportation Study
 - Lee County submitted a request and scope of work for a comprehensive

- New County Manager
 - Scott Addison will come on board June 16th

Airport Update

R. Pagan provided an update on the airport. The airport master plan was approved by the City Commission and is with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for approval. Taxiway Charlie, Sierra, and commercial apron improvements went out for bid and Oxford Construction was the lowest bidder. Project will start in November and December depending on how Quail Hunting season is.

R. Pagan briefed the committee on the Tri-Annual Exercise and its success.

The other project we have is the demolition of the hangers south of the commercial terminal.

TOPIC V

Agency Updates

GDOT/FHWA

J. Williams and V. Canizares from GDOT Planning had no updates. J. Willingham provided an update on current projects. 15475 is a roundabout at Lovers Lanes/State Highway 133 is about to begin purchasing right-of-way. Roundabout at State Highway 133/Cedric is set to go before construction in November 2026, with no ROW purchase anticipated.

B. Alexander asked GDOT how the Westover Extension and Roundabout is going with accidents. T. Anderson stated that the City has been monitoring and it seems to be successful with no fatal accidents reported.

J. Willingham is replacing S. Chambers for District 4 Engineer moving forward.

TOPIC VI

Citizen Transportation Committee Report

No comments to report from the CTC at this time.

TOPIC VII

Discussion

J. Willingham introduced D. Abernathy, who is the new District 4 Planning & Programming Liaison.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson