

DARTS Technical Coordinating Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 12, 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 9:03 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
Jackie Williams	GDOT Office of Planning Representative (Virtual)
Roberto Pagan	Southwest Georgia Regional Airport, Superintendent
Jason Willingham	District 4 Engineer, GDOT
Doris Abernathy	District 4 Programming Liason, GDOT
Amanda Nava	Director, Planning & Development, Lee County
Don Gray	Facilities Management Director, City of Albany (Virtual)
Olivia Lewis	FHWA Planner (Virtual)
Roberto Pagan	Southwest Georgia Regional Airport, Superintendent
Vivian Canizares	GDOT Office of Planning Representative (Virtually)
Russell Ferguson	Leesburg, Public Works

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)
Jeremy Brown	Project Engineer, Dougherty County Public Works
Shawnasi Barron	Superintendent of Transit Operations (Virtual)

Approval of Minutes **(April 17, 2025)**

T. Anderson advised the chairman that a quorum was not present for the minutes to be approved, but we could proceed with the meeting no agenda items needing action. P. Forgey postponed the approval of the minutes to the next quarterly meeting.

P. Forgey stated he would need to step out of the meeting if it ran past 9:30 AM. P. Forgey stated that Albany-Dougherty Co. was beginning the update of its Comprehensive Plan and if anyone wanted to participate from the committee they could.

TOPIC I

Transportation Update

Tanner Anderson

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 (Slappey 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. M. Canziales advised the group that it would be best to combine the projects due to the low amount of money associated with the Lee Co. Comprehensive Study. A. Nava noted a post-meeting could be held to discuss these projects with the new Lee Co. Administrator.

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.

DARTS Public Participation Plan & By-Laws 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. P. Forgey stated it could make it complicated and strain staff with having a report having to be prepared for the Technical and Policy Committees.

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

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, 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 was not present at the meeting. T. Anderson stated a report would be made in the minutes.

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 transportation plan in April; Waiting for updates
- New County Manager
 - Scott Addison will come on board June 16th

TOPIC IV

Airport Update

Roberto Pagan

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 reported no updates from GDOT Planning. M. Canziales stated the project is new and the P.I. Number may not be in the system, but provided it. M. Canziales state that the two PL Fund studies would be a good idea if they were combined and would eliminate two procurements.

J. Willingham provided an update on current projects. Oxford is working on the Ogelthorpe Bridge and bypassing the sanitary systems. The bridge is expected to close in mid to late July. P.I. 0015475 is a roundabout at Lovers Lanes/State Highway 133 is about to begin purchasing right-of-way. P.I. 0017396, Nelms Rd and Liberty Expressway intersection improvements will let in Fall 2026. P.I. 0019707 Roundabout at State Highway 133/Cedric is set to go before construction in November 2026, with no ROW purchase anticipated.

J. Willingham will replace S. Chambers as District 4 Engineer from now on. D. Abernathy will be the new District 4 Programming Liaison.

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. T. Anderson stated the only issues was about the combining of the PL Fund studies.

TOPIC VII

Discussion

P. Forgey stated he had been contacted Brenda Walker at Toole Design in regards to a stakeholder meeting on Ogelthorpe Blvd. P. Forgey broke down the widening project and possible solutions we could do and some outstanding questions he has. J. Willingham stated the project is a safety project that could mean road diets and safety improvements, and if we have any concerns please to let Toole know.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 AM.

Submitted by: Tanner Anderson