



**Minutes**  
**Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**March 2, 2021**  
**3:00 PM**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Ronald Skrine	Lowndes County
Clayton Milligan	Lowndes County
Vanessa Flucas	City of Valdosta
William Branham	City of Valdosta
Brit Mclane	VL Chamber of Commerce
Myrna Ballard	VLCOC
Jim Galloway	VL Airport Authority
Ray Sable	VSU
Shannon McConico	Wiregrass
Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes County
Kathleen Hodges	City of Valdosta
Carroll Griffin	City of Remerton
Stan Crance	VL Industrial Authority
Phil Hubbard	Lowndes County
Gary Wisenbaker	Lowndes County
<b>Others Present</b>	
Sandra Tooley	City Of Valdosta
Mark George	
Alan Worley	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
Rachel Strom	SGRC



**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Mr. Milligan called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

**Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call**

**A. Review Committee Attendance (all committees)**

Mr. Milligan stated that the roll would be called for those present. Mr. Hull went through the committee member roster to verify whether or not a member was present.

**Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Skrine asked the committee members to review the December 1, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Milligan made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McLane made a motion in the second. The minutes were approved by all members with the exception of Jim Galloway and Jane Walt, who both stated that they were absent from this meeting; the motion carried.

**Agenda Item #4– New Business**

**A. (PC) Nominating Committee**

Does Not Apply to the CAC.

**B. FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Resolution FY21-4**

**Action: Recommendation/Adopt**

Mr. Hull notified the committee that the FY2021 UPWP was being amended due to additional funding received from GDOT in the amount of two dollars. He stated that those changes will be reflected in the contract. He continued in order to update the funding amounts an amendment must be completed with a motion and vote from the CAC to recommend it to the policy committee. Ms. Flucas made a motion to recommend the UPWP for approval, Mr. Wisenbaker made a motion in the second. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

**C. FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program Adoption Resolution FY21-5**

Ms. Martin notified the committee that the FY2022 UPWP had been completed and that staff did not receive any major comments from our planning partners. Ms. Martin reviewed the UPWP Budget Summary to the committee and explained that in order for the UPWP to be adopted that there needs to be a motion and a vote for the document to be recommended to the TAC. Mr. Branham made a motion to recommend the document be approved and moved forward to the TAC. Mr. Galloway made a motion in the second. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

**D. Participation Plan Update Adoption Resolution FY21-6**

Mr. Hull notified the committee that the Public Participation Plan had been out for public comment for the last 45 days. He continued that the comments that were received were minor and did not change the content of the document. He stated that one comment did not really impact the document but was a request from Mr. Branham, a member on the CAC, to allow for the chair of the CAC to have a voting seat on the Policy Committee (PC). Mr. Hull gave some background on how the CAC chair previously had a seat in the PC but it was years ago. Mr. Galloway asked was there any rationale as to why the CAC



member was removed from the Policy Committee. Mr. Hull stated that one factor was that the chair of the CAC did not attend the PC meetings as they should. Mr. Skrine asked Mr. Hull his thoughts concerning this? Mr. Hull responded that it made no difference to him either way as the decision is up to the committees. He continued that the individual should make meaningful contribution to the discussions on the PC. Mr. Branham stated that there needs to be some representation from the citizens perspective. Mr. Skrine stated that not just the chair but maybe the chair or his/her appointee. Mr. Hull stated that those options could be discussed with the PC. Ms. McConico made a motion; Mr. McLane made a motion in the second. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

#### **E. (PC) Metropolitan Statistical Area Discussion**

Mr. Hull explained to the committee that on Jan 2019, the Office of Management and Budget decided to change the definition of what qualifies as a Metropolitan Statistical Area. Currently an Urban Area that is a population of 50,000 or more is a MSA, now they are proposing to get rid of that definition. There are six MSA's in Ga including Valdosta. Their new definition will include a threshold of 100,000 persons. The Valdosta Urbanized Area will still not reach 100,000 persons after the 2020 census. Mr. Hull stated that at this time it does not impact transportation in any way. On February 9<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Census Bureau changed the definition of an Urban Area from 50,000 to 10,000. So this is changing what is defined as an urban area and further complicates this. Mr. Galloway stated that there were some programs that came as a result of being designated as a Metropolitan area. Ms. Flucas stated that they are checking into whether or not this will have any impacts on their ability to obtain their Community Block Grant Development Funding. She continued that the funding that was being received under urban could potentially be compromised. Ms. Hobdy asked if the transit would be impacted. Mr. Hull stated that under the federal legislation for these programs neither one of them appear to reference urban or metropolitan statistical area. Mr. Hull stated that both congressman and senators have been invited to a meeting.

#### **F. Bicycle / Pedestrian Infrastructure Discussion**

Mr. Hull asked the committee what should we be planning for in the areas of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Galloway stated that with the push towards reducing the dependence on fossil fuels may drive a shift on how people get around. Having this infrastructure in place also seems to keep a lot of the younger people around and we would like to keep them in our community too. Ms. Hodges stated that there are many areas with apartments that do not have sidewalks and many people are walking in the road, such as Connell Road. People in wheelchairs are doing this as well. Mr. Worley stated that every road should be planned to include multimodal trails. Mr. Galloway asked if there was funding available for a new plan. Mr. Hull stated that there is some discretionary funding that we could apply for and some transit funding that may be available. Mr. Hubbard stated that a portion of the federal gas tax is set aside for bike trails but I don't know what you have to do to get the funding. Mr. Milligan stated that he would be

interested to see how much of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan has been accomplished in the last 14 years. Mr. Hull thanked everyone for their comments.

#### **Agenda Item #5– Staff Update**



**A. Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Hull stated that some of the items in the strategic plan have been accomplished and that staff is continuing to incorporate items from the plan.

**B. Staffing Changes / Updates**

Mr. Hull notified the committee that Ariel Godwin is no longer working with the SGRC and has taken a Planner Position for Moody AFB. He continued that the RC will also be hiring a consultant to complete at request various tasks for the Transportation Department.

**Agenda Item #6 – Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment**

Mr. Hull stated that earmarks are back after 14 years and that members should be thinking about what projects they may want to see completed.

Ms. Tooley notified the committee that the South Troup Street improvements with sidewalks and bike lanes has been a big improvement to the community and many people are using them. Mr. Milligan also stated that there are four sidewalk projects that will begin construction soon. Mr. Branham stated that USDA and HUD implemented some new programs and that staff should look into it.

**Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 3:00 PM at the New SGRC office.

**Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment**

Mr. Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.