



**Minutes**  
**Policy Committee**  
**March 3, 2021**  
**10:30 AM**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Mark Barber	City of Valdosta
Lisa Cribb	SGRC
Tom Caiafa	GDOT
Scott Matheson	City of Valdosta
Bill Slaughter	Lowndes County
Bruce Cain	City of Hahira
Paige Dukes	Lowndes County
<b>Others Present</b>	
Kaniz Sathi	GDOT
JD Dillard	Lowndes County
Sandra Tooley	City of Valdosta
Vivian Cody-Miller	City of Valdosta
Chandra Harris	Senator John Ossoff Representative
Ansley Grantham	GDOT
Jonathan Sumner	City of Hahira
Dr. Lu	Valdosta State University
Corey Hull	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC



**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Mr. Barber called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

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

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

Mr. Barber asked those present to introduce themselves and state their affiliation with the committee.

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

Mr. Barber asked the committee members to review the December 2, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Barber asked if there were any comments, additions, or deletions to the minutes. There were none; the minutes were approved by acclamation.

**Agenda Item #4– New Business**

**A. (PC) Nominating Committee**

Mr. Barber stated that it is the time of year for the P to set up a nominating committee that will choose a member from the Policy Committee to be the chair of the committee. Mr. Barber asked Ms. Cribb, Mr. Matheson, and Mr. Cain to serve on the committee. The members agreed to serve on the committee.

**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, the updated amounts can be seen in red on the summary sheet. He stated that those changes are at the request of the GDOT Transit Division. This amendment was completed to be sure that everything matches from the UPWP to the contract. He continued that both the CAC and TAC approved the amendment without any discussion. Mr. Slaughter made a motion to approve the amendment. Ms. Cribb 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 for the committee and explained that in order for the UPWP to be adopted that there needs to be a motion and a vote. Mr. Matheson made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Dukes 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 request for the chair of the CAC to have a seat as a voting member on the Policy Committee (PC). Mr. Hull gave some background on how the CAC chair previously had a seat in the PC years prior before the PC updated their bylaws. Mr. Hull stated that the CAC did pass the resolution with the request that the TAC consider this recommendation. Mr. Barber asked was the request reflected in the resolution. Mr. Hull stated that it was not reflected in the resolution but that it is reflected in the comment and response section of the document. Mr. Slaughter asked would that need to be addressed on a separate agenda item. Mr. Hull stated that it would be a further discussion because the bylaws would need to be updated. Mr. Barber stated that we will add this as a line item to the next agenda. Mr. Matheson made a motion to adopt the plan. Mr. Cain 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, I anticipate that happening around the 2030 census. Mr. Hull stated that at this time it does not impact transportation in any way. On February 19<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Census Bureau released a definition of an Urban Area from 50,000 to 10,000. Mr. Hull stated that there may be some impacts that he is not so sure of in the areas of CBDG funding for the City of Valdosta, and Medicare/Medicaid funding due to the MSA change. Mr. Hull stated that he has prepared an outline of a letter if needed. Mr. Barber stated that he did receive confirmation that this would not affect the city's CDBG funding.

**F. Bicycle / Pedestrian Infrastructure Discussion**

Mr. Hull reviewed various resources that the SGRC has as it relates to bicycle and pedestrian planning. He cited the Complete Streets Plan and Aging in Place Toolkit. He stated that the Lowndes Valdosta Parks and Recreation department are currently creating their master plan. Mr. Hull asked the committee what are their thoughts concerning bike and ped planning in the community. Mr. Barber asked what discussions did the CAC and TAC have concerning this. Mr. Hull responded that during the CAC, they wanted to know how many projects had been completed from the Valdosta-Lowndes Bike and Ped Master Plan. He continued that the TAC mentioned that the county has come to an agreement that bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure should be considered with new developments. Also, that the Tifton Plan is a good resource for implementation. He continued that Ms. Tooley also stated the increase of people walking and biking on Troup Street after its installment of bicycle lanes and sidewalks. Mr. Matheson stated that the City is currently working on connecting sidewalks within the community. Mr. Barber also stated that one thing they want to consider for subdivisions is a green space. Ms. Cody asked if Lowndes County was still looking at working with the City on extending the sidewalks on Forrest Street from Inner



Perimeter to Bemiss Road. Mr. Slaughter responded yes, that would be the direction that we would be working towards.

**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 on target to continue completing the recommendations in 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**

There were no comments.

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

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 10:30 AM at the New SGRC office.

**Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment**

Mr. Slaughter made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Dukes seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.