

**Minutes  
Policy Committee  
1-10-12  
1:30 p.m.**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jason Davenport	Lowndes County
Joe Pritchard	Lowndes County
John Leonard	SGRC
Ben Futch	Lake Park
Larry Hanson	Valdosta
John Gayle	Valdosta
Tom McQueen	GDOT
<b>Others Present</b>	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Brent Thomas	GDOT
Andrew Heath	GDOT
Janice McKinnon	SGRC
Lesa Walker	GDOT

### **Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Mr. Davenport called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Davenport asked members of the committee to introduce themselves since there were several new committee members and others in attendance.

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

Mr. Davenport asked for the approval of the minutes from the September 13, 2011 meeting if there were no corrections to be made. A motion was made by Larry Hanson and seconded by Joe Pritchard, the motion carried.

### **Agenda Item #4– Old Business**

None.

### **Agenda Item #5 – New Business**

#### A. FY 2012 UPWP Amendment Resolution 2012-3

Mr. Hull reviewed this amendment to the budget of the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Hull explained that these funds are leftover funds from FY2011 and are being assigned by percentage to each work element. Mr. Hull also described the changes to the FTA funds for FY2012, including more funds from GDOT for FTA match, resulting in less local funds being spent. Mr. Hanson, asked to clarify the \$65,000 amount from FHWA listed for carryover. Mr. Hull noted that this number is 80% of the total. Mr. Pritchard made a motion to approve the amendment; it was seconded by Mr. Hanson, the motion carried.

#### B. FY2013 FTA 5303 Grant Application Resolution 2012-4

Mr. Hull described this as a recommendation for a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration to fund the MPO. He described that these funds are used for general MPO support, but it comes from a different agency and these funds must be applied for each year. He described that the resolution is needed to apply for these funds. Mr. Hull described the FY2013 budget for the \$31,250 from FTA funds. He described that most of the funds would be allocated to MPO administration, other funds would also be allocated to public participation, transportation improvement program development and other categories. Mr. Leonard clarified that this is a permission to apply for funds resolution. A motion was made by John Leonard and seconded by Mr. Pritchard.

#### C. FY2013 UPWP Draft

Mr. Hull began by giving a brief overview of the entire UPWP, the budget and staff work items for the next fiscal year. He noted that the document is largely the same as it has been in the past. Mr. Hull noted that under the public involvement program, a mechanism has been recommended by the CAC to allow citizens to recommend minor infrastructure repairs and discussed in depth by the TCC. Both committees felt that some guidelines and rules needed to be created before this project went forward. Mr. Hull described the MPO will also consider developing mobile web applications.

Mr. Hull noted that last year the MPO included a study of the truck traffic in downtown. He noted that this study will not be individually listed this year, and it is included in a general statement to look at various special transportation studies as requested by local governments. Mr. Hanson

asked if the surplus funds the MPO has could be used for studies like this. Mr. Hull noted that they could, but the study in question would cost more than the available funds.

Mr. Hull noted that in FY2013 the MPO will also have to begin looking at its next long range transportation plan update. Mr. Hull is recommending that the local comprehensive plan and MPO transportation plan be consolidated in some manner since both documents are very similar and some efficiency can be had in having the local governments and the MPO work together on this. Mr. Davenport noted that in the past there has been a lot of duplication and that this is something the MPO and local governments should consider.

Mr. Hanson noted that on page 16 the draft UPWP has an incorrect statement that GDOT will pay 10% of the FHWA funds. Mr. Hull noted that this is an error that was overlooked and will be corrected. Mr. Hull said that comments needed to be submitted by the end of February 2012.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Staff Update**

##### **A. Transportation Sales Tax**

Mr. Hull described the memo that was sent to local governments in the region, asking for local governments to submit a project listing for their 25% discretionary funds. Mr. Hull reminded the local governments that these lists are due by March 31.

Mr. Futch asked how the 25% distribution was calculated. Mr. Hull said that the funds are based on a formula of population and centerline miles.

Mr. Davenport asked what was on the timeline for this project. Mr. Hull noted that the date is July 31, 2012 when the voters will go to the ballot to vote on the proposed tax.

##### **B. Bemiss/Huntley Road Report**

Mr. Hull described that several citizens had come to the CAC to ask for improvements to be made at this intersection. Mr. Hull noted that the Tifton District office looked at this intersection and did not recommend a signal, but did recommend more minor improvements to be made by GDOT and the City of Valdosta.

##### **C. CAC Attendance Report**

Mr. Hull noted that the CAC took action at their last meeting in November to contact the few individuals with the poorest attendance to see if they wanted to continue to be a part of the committee or to seek new appointments.

##### **D. Project Updates**

Mr. Hull briefly reviewed the project status report that the staff collects from GDOT. Mr. Hull noted that the 'LR' dates have been changed to 2016 and 2017. Mr. Hull noted that FHWA is conducting more traffic studies on the projects on Forrest Street and Oak Street extension to determine logical termini.

Mr. McQueen noted that the dates listed on the project status report need to be consistent with the TIP.

Mr. Futch asked if the I-75 exit 2 interchange was included on this list. Mr. Thomas responded that it was. Mr. Hull noted that nothing is currently programmed for exit 5. Mr. Futch asked that the GDOT look at the realignment of SR 376 and Lake Park Bellville Road. Mr. Hull noted that he had been in contact with Lowndes County and GDOT and that this project will be completed by Lowndes County if the T-SPLOST is approved by the voters. If it is not, it is in the MPO long range plan as well.

E. Federal and State Legislative Issues


Mr. Hull described a handout provided by the national MPO association, regarding the proposed federal transportation law. Mr. Hull described how this proposed law will impact small MPOs, especially the VLMPO, possibly resulting in the elimination of the VLMPO.

**Agenda Item #6 - Next Meeting Date and Time**

Mr. Davenport asked the committee to consider moving the meeting day and time to better accommodate schedules of the local governments. The issue was discussed and it was decided that a vote would be taken at the March 13, 2012 meeting.

**Agenda Item #7 – Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Davenport, Planner, Lowndes County  
Chair, Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee