

**Minutes
Citizens Advisory Committee
June 6, 2017
3:00 PM**

Members Present	Organization
Steve Barnes	Leadership Lowndes
Keith Sandlin	City of Lake Park
Carroll Griffin	City of Remerton
Ray Sable	Valdosta State University
Jim Galloway	Valdosta-Lowndes Airport Authority
Phil Hubbard	Lowndes County
Dick Saeger	City of Valdosta
Bill Branham	City of Valdosta
Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes Transit
Clayton Milligan	LEA
Stan Crance	Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority
Robert Wilbers	City of Lake Park
Ronald Skrine	Lowndes County
Myrna Ballard	Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce
Mike Cooper	Central Valdosta Development Authority
Jim Parker	City of Valdosta
Jermel Davis (representing Tim Riddle)	Convention & Visitor Bureau
Angela Crance	Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Andrew Smith	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
John Dillard	SGRC
Sandra Tooley	Valdosta City Council
Thomas Lynn	Valdosta Daily Times

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

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

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

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

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Griffin asked the committee members to review the March 7, 2017 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Sandlin and seconded by Mr. Branham. The minutes were unanimously approved and the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. CAC/PC Officer Elections

CAC officer elections were conducted at this meeting. Mr. Hull gave some background on the available elected positions while citing the bylaws. Mr. Hull said that Ms. Flucas volunteered via email for either the position of Vice-Chair or Secretary. Mr. Griffin then opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair. Mr. Branham nominated Mr. Sable, who declined citing that he felt he represented VSU instead of the overall community and thought it would be appropriate for another individual to attain the position. Mr. Sandlin then nominated Mr. Branham and was seconded by Mr. Crance. Mr. Branham accepted the nomination. The floor was closed for nominations for Chair and Mr. Branham was unanimously approved as the next Chair of the CAC. Mr. Griffin then opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Crance nominated Ms. Flucas and was seconded by Mr. Branham. Ms. Flucas was unanimously approved as the next Vice-Chair of the CAC. Mr. Griffin then opened the floor for the position of Secretary. Mr. Branham nominated Mr. Crance and was seconded by Mr. Saeger. Mr. Crance accepted the nomination, and he was unanimously approved as the next Secretary of the CAC. The new officers' positions are effective July 1st, 2017.

B. FY2018 Discretionary Planning Funds Application

Mr. Hull went over the three Discretionary Planning Funds Applications that will be voted on at the September MPO meetings. He asked the committee to recall from the March meeting that the CAC consider a discretionary application for planning funds for the MPO. He talked about how the TAC presented two applications in March and that today is the first time the CAC is seeing them. This is the result of a delay by the TAC and PC for further discussion. Mr. Hull then directed the committee to review the application forms included in the packet.

i. Interstate 75 Land Use Study

Mr. Hull discussed the Interstate 75 Land Use Master Plan proposed by Lowndes County. This would cost approximately \$200,000 with federal funds amounting to \$160,000. A local match of \$40,000 will be split evenly between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. This will serve as a master plan for interchanges to determine what is needed and desired by the community and its leaders. It will examine development policies, transportation improvements on adjoining roadways, gateway and aesthetic improvements, signage enhancements, lighting improvements, maintenance, code enforcement, and safety. The MPO will work with Lowndes County to develop a scope of work that will be needed to hire a consultant to conduct this study. Mr. Hull then sought feedback from the committee. Mr. Galloway asked how far beyond the interstate right-of-way this would extend, and

Mr. Hull replied that it would probably go further than 800 feet but not exceeding one mile. Mr. Crance asked if this applied to the entire stretch of interstate through the county, and Mr. Hull said it would focus on the interchanges. Mr. Sable asked when the interchange improvements will be finished. Mr. Hull said that Exits 22 and 29 will be going through the letting process this month with construction starting later this year. Exits 2 and 11 will start construction in fiscal year 2019. Exit 18 planning will occur in fiscal year 2021 while Exit 5 is in the long range plan. There are no plans for Exit 13 at this time. Mr. Hull stated there is still time to comment.

ii. Regional Connectivity Study

Mr. Hull went over the application form for the Regional Connectivity Study. This will cost approximately \$150,000 with \$120,000 in federal funds with a local match of \$30,000 to be split evenly between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. This study will look at overall connectivity of the roadways in the area. The long range transportation plan notes deficiencies, especially in northern Lowndes County, pertaining to east-west connectivity. There are currently few to no east-west connectors between GA 122 and US 84 that do not involve road jogs or frequent turns. This study would be used to realize high level information about what types of projects should be developed for the 2045 LRTP that will be under development by FY2019.

iii. 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study

Mr. Hull went over this study that would cost approximately \$20,000 with \$16,000 in federal funds and \$4,000 in local match to be split evenly between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. This is a continuation of a report that started in 2005 with the 2030 LRTP. Every time the MPO undergoes a long range transportation plan update, socioeconomic data is collected and consulted. For the 2040 LRTP, local planning partners were involved to get as much information about the community as possible. If this process occurred again, it would benefit multiple organizations, such as the chamber and local development authorities. Mr. Hull proposed that ahead of the 2045 LRTP this study be completed to identify data needs and the accuracy of past predictions. Mr. Hull was asked about the Truck Traffic Study and proposed bypasses stemming from it, such as the "Gil Harbin Alternative." GDOT is currently looking into this proposal. Mr. Hull also commented that the Traffic Signal Optimization Study will be concluding on June 30th. Mr. Wilbers commented about the traffic cycle and how the lights undergo through a full cycle at times when it is not entirely necessary. Mr. Hull stated that several intersections are being considered for adjusting or turning off the primary cycle during certain times of the day or traffic volumes.

C. FY18-21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Presentation

Mr. Hull turned the floor over to Mr. Dillard, who presented basic information about some of the Tier 1 projects proposed for the fresh TIP. Mr. Dillard emphasized right-of-way acquisitions that are scheduled to take place in the short term future along with construction phases. Mr. Dillard also went over the transit funding for the MPO area including 5304, 5307, 5310, and 5311 funds. Anticipated capital and maintenance costs were included in this presentation. The peer review process will start on July 1st with a 30 day public comment period starting on August 1st and ending August 30th. A final draft of the FY18-21 TIP will be presented at the September MPO meetings. Mr. Galloway asked if the 5307 money built up year by year, which it does not. Mr. Branham asked if the Trump administration has provided information on funding allocations and if current programs will be affected. Mr. Hull said solid information on any potential changes has not yet been provided. AMPO has provided insight that the Trump administration is targeting projects with a true national interest. Mr. Saeger asked Mr. Hull to

define “true national interest”, and he believed that this meant the project supported defense and economic development across state lines.

D. MPO Role in Regional TSPLOST

Mr. Hull filled in the committee on the events that took place at the May Regional Roundtable meeting, including the creation of an executive committee with five voting members, a non-voting chair, and three non-voting state legislators. Mr. Hull then reiterated the distinct roles of the Regional Commission and the MPO. The Regional Commission serves as a facilitator while the MPO can only provide comments similar to a local government, as outline in state law. Mr. Griffin asked if this will be a new tax if passed, and Mr. Hull replied that this was correct. It would be on top of the existing 7% sales tax. Ms. Ballard asked what types of projects that would be expected on the list. Mr. Hull said that public transit and the truck traffic routes would not be adequate projects to include in this initiative. Mr. Saeger asked about the approximate amount of funds that were forgone in 2012. Mr. Hull replied that the state estimates from 2012 for the Southern Georgia region were approximately \$670 million. Based on other regions that passed T-SPLOST at the time, the estimate was a little high. For this proposed T-SPLOST cycle, the state economist estimated that \$513 million in revenue would be generated in the hypothetical case that voters passed this 10 year, 1 cent sales tax. Mr. Hull encouraged the committee to reach out to him if there were any further questions beyond the meeting.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

A. MPO Performance Measures

Mr. Hull gave broad details on the development of MPO Performance Measures that must be submitted by February 2018. These detail congestion, pavement condition, and bridge quality. More information on this will be available at upcoming meetings. An MPO crash report is currently under development and will be complete by the end of June. This document will provide a sneak peek as to where these rates should be set along with base trends of performance measures.

B. Transit Input Meetings

Mr. Dillard talked about public transit input meetings in which he presents the Valdosta Pilot Shuttle Program report and listens to citizen comments and answers questions. There are several upcoming meetings with one taking place on June 26th at the Mildred Hunter Community Centers. This is in an effort to continue the discussion of potentially bringing public transit to the Valdosta urbanized area.

C. AMPO Conference in Savannah

The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) will be holding their annual national conference in Savannah in October. Mr. Hull will have more information available about how to attend in the near future.

D. CCV Local Governments Meetings

Mr. Hull detailed the committee about the Lowndes Common Community Vision. He is presenting to several local governments in the coming weeks to talk about the CCV and recent accomplishments stemming from it. He also talked about the annual reports that detail how this is progressing on a yearly basis.

E. Complete Streets Suitability Report

Mr. Smith presented the VLMPO Complete Streets Suitability Report that will prioritize road segments that are arterial and collector streets which appear in local and state project lists based on a need for Complete Streets attributes like sidewalks and bike lanes. The report covers approximately 60 road segments and includes profiles of the top ten projects in both the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. The report will be published online by the end of June.

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

Mr. Griffin opened the floor for public comment, and there were no additional comments.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 3:00 PM at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Crance. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 PM.