



Valdosta-Lowndes MPO

**Minutes
Policy Committee
March 8, 2017
10:30 AM**

| Members Present | Organization |
|---|-----------------------|
| John Gayle | City of Valdosta |
| Bill Slaughter | Lowndes County |
| Jason Davenport (proxy for Joe Pritchard) | Lowndes County |
| Tom McQueen | GDOT |
| Justin Devane | Brooks County |
| Lisa Cribb | SGRC |
| Mark Barber (proxy for Larry Hanson) | City of Valdosta |
| John Nugent | Berrien County |
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| Others Present | |
| Corey Hull | SGRC |
| Andrew Smith | SGRC |
| Amy Martin | SGRC |
| Brent Thomas | GDOT |
| Sandra Tooley | Valdosta City Council |
| William Eastin | GDOT |
| Dennis Carter | GDOT |
| Cleopatra James | GDOT |
| John Dillard | SGRC |
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Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mayor Gayle called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Mayor Gayle asked those present to introduce themselves and state their affiliation with the committee.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Gayle asked the committee members to review the December 7, 2016 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. TAC Officer Elections

This does not apply to the PC. Mayor Gayle asked Mr. Hanson and Mr. Davenport to come up with a new slate of officers by the next meeting in June.

B. FY2018 UPWP and Budget – Resolution FY2017-7

Mr. Hull went over the FY2018 UPWP budget and summary sheet. \$122,000 in federal funds are anticipated with a match from local funds including SGRC, the City of Valdosta, and Lowndes County. A slight difference from years past is more funds are allocated to long range planning due to new FHWA and FTA rulemakings regarding performance measures even though this is not a LRTP update year. The Trump Administration delayed their effective date, but the MPO will have at least 3 to 4 amendments to the 2040 TVP to achieve compliance with these new rules during the next fiscal year. Otherwise, the budget is largely the same. Ms. Cribb made a motion to approve the FY2018 UPWP Budget and was seconded by Mr. Devane. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

C. Discretionary PL Funds (If Needed)

In Georgia, fifteen MPOs have available to them approximately \$7 million in federal funds. Mr. Hull emphasized that these funds need to be used. Mr. Hull directed the committee to look over two recommendations for studies put forward by Lowndes County: Interstate 75 Master Plan Study and a Circulation Study. The circulation study is proposed to help better understand traffic flow along primary traffic corridors. Mr. Hull stated the TAC approved it because there was merit even though there was concern about available funds. Mr. Davenport commented more about these proposals and stated that this was an effort where planners and engineers came together to find a joint project that would benefit not only the county, but the city, MPO, and greater region. No dollar amounts were associated with these application forms; however, 80% would be federal and 20% would come from local sources. The cost was estimated to be between \$150,000 and \$200,000 for each study by the TAC. Mr. Hull recapped the TAC's concerns about local fund availability, and the PC asked for more information for the next meeting; therefore, no action was taken by the policy committee and the item was tabled to June to make plans to apply for PL funds in the September 2017 application cycle.

D. Amend FY15-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and TVP – Resolution FY2017-8

Mr. Hull directed the committee to an agenda addendum detailing changes in annual cost estimates for three GDOT projects in Lowndes County. These projects are Exits 22 and 29 scheduled to be let in June 2017, right-of-way acquisition for Exit 2 scheduled to be let in February 2019, and right-of-way acquisition for Exit 11 scheduled to be let in May 2019. Cost estimate changes for each of these projects

are significant. The MPO sought conditional approval to recommend these cost estimate changes so GDOT can move forward with the letting of Exits 22 and 29 before the end of FY 2017 along with ROW acquisition for Exits 2 and 11 before the end of FY 2017. This would involve staff conducting a 30 day comment period and a public open house; however, if there are major comments, the approval would not go forward and those comments would have to be addressed by a called meeting of the Policy Committee. FHWA has agreed to allow VLMPO to do this backwards similar to Macon in the past year. Mr. Hull discussed the specific changes for each projects' phases. Exits 22 and 29 are together and the utility phase was reduced by \$1 million while construction increased by \$11 million. This change is due to an increase in the cost of construction materials and miscalculations in the amount of site work required for those two sites. Exit 2 ROW acquisition is more than doubling from \$6.1 million to \$13.25 million. Exit 11 ROW acquisition is going from \$2.5 million to \$13.24 million. Both are due to miscalculations. The GDOT Project Manager, Ms. Cleopatra James, further explained the changes in these figures, primarily because of an increase in pavement quantities and parcel increases for ROW acquisition. Mr. Hull asked the PC for a recommendation for conditional approval pending a 30 day public comment period for these projects. A motion was made by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Barber. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

E. Transit in Valdosta Urbanized Presentation

Mr. Dillard gave a presentation on the Valdosta Pilot Shuttle program which previewed the final report that will be released towards the end of March. Drafts of Chapters 1 and 2 were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Chapter 1 of the report will outline survey results and ridership data. Chapter 2 contains information and data pertaining to a cost-benefit analysis. Chapter 3 is currently being drafted and will address eight different scenarios for capital cost of contracting and how to fund a public transportation system in Valdosta and Lowndes County. Mr. Hull reminded the committee that the cheapest scenario overall may not be the best for the local community. This requires an understanding of the specific funding sources needed for sponsoring a fixed public transportation system.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

A. MPO Performance Measures Fact Sheets

Mr. Hull gave broad details on the development of MPO Performance Measure Fact Sheets regarding congestion, pavement condition, and bridge quality. More information on this will be available at upcoming meetings.

B. Regional Transportation Sales Tax

On February 28th, Mr. Hull and other SGRC staff presented to regional elected officials and staff in Waycross about the possibility of having another regional TSPLOST. Using the state's enabling legislation in early February 2017, Charlton County passed a resolution asking the other seventeen counties in the region to form a regional transportation roundtable. As of the CAC meeting, five (5) counties have signed onto this resolution including Charlton, Ben Hill, Irwin, Brooks, and Clinch counties. This would aim for the November 2017 ballot. The regional commission shares the facts with other communities and will be a neutral body in this process. GDOT has asked the counties to pass a resolution either in support or against forming a regional roundtable by late March or early April. This only applies to counties and not cities. The MPO is subject to strict federal lobbying regulations and Mr. Hull did not want the MPO taking any action in this matter. 10 counties are needed (50% plus one) to add this to the November 2017 election ballot. August 4th is the state deadline for including this measure on the ballot. Mr. Hull answered further questions about this agenda item.

C. MPO Freight Movement Study Series Report #4

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the fourth report in the VLMPO Freight Movement Study Series that dates back to 2009. This report titled “Innovative Traffic Management At or Near Congested Railroad Crossings” identifies crossings with AADT counts of over 10,000 vehicles and possible strategies to mitigate on-road congestion during train events. This includes preemption of traffic signals, signage, and road marking and is consistent with MUTCD rules and policies.

D. PPP Funding Report

Mr. Smith summarized a report entitled “Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure in Lowndes County” that was completed in early January 2017. This report explains the concept of a PPP and ties it back to local planning goals found in the Greater Lowndes Comprehensive Plan, the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan, and the Common Community Vision. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is a central focus of this report along with state enabling legislation in Georgia through the Public-Private Facilities Infrastructure Act of 2015 (PPFIA).

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

Mayor Gayle opened the floor for public comment, and Mr. Davenport asked for an update on implementing Uber in the Valdosta area. Mayor Gayle replied that there are still a few drivers needed, but that was the only available information at the time of the meeting.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 7, 2017, 10:30 AM at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Slaughter made a motion to adjourn and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.