Bylaws of the Policy Committee of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Policy Committee of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Greater Lowndes Urban Transportation Study.

Article II. Responsibilities

1. The Policy Committee is the forum for state and local governments, and transportation agencies that oversee or develop major transportation modes within the Metropolitan Planning Area, and appropriate State officials. The Policy Committee has the following responsibilities:
    a. To review and approve all transportation study plans and programs resulting from the Greater Lowndes Urban Transportation Study.
    b. To ensure that a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation process is maintained through a current Urban Transportation Study that is responsive to applicable laws, rules, and regulations and that its components include a Long Range Transportation Plan, a Unified Planning Work Program, and a Transportation Improvement Program, and other plans and reports that are responsive to the transportation needs of local governments and developed through an appropriate public involvement program.
    c. To set priorities on the implementation of transportation projects based on the results of the Greater Lowndes Urban Transportation Study and the recommendations of the Technical Coordinating Committee.
    d. To serve as a liaison between local municipal governments and other resource agencies in the coordination of the transportation plans, mitigation of impacts to natural resources and other planning activities carried out by the MPO.
    e. To appoint members to the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen's Advisory Committee.
    f. To establish other transportation study committees as needed.
    g. To establish a Public Involvement Program as developed through a Public Participation Plan.
2. The Policy Committee has the responsibilities through the Greater Lowndes Urban Transportation Study MOU to support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area; increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users; increase the ability of the transportation system to provide security for motorized and non-motorized users; increase the integration, accessibility and mobility options for people and freight; protect and enhance the environment, energy resources, and quality of life; promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local land use and growth patterns; promote efficient management and operation of the transportation system emphasizing preservation of the existing system, to

improve transportation system resiliency and reliability, to reduce (or mitigate) the stormwater impacts of surface transportation, and enhance travel and tourism.

Article III. Organization and Membership

1. The membership of the Policy Committee is as follows:
    a. Voting Members
        i. Chairman, Lowndes County Board of Commissioners
        ii. Mayor, City of Valdosta
        iii. Bi-Annually Rotating Small Cities' Mayor (this position rotates on a Fiscal Year, July 1-June 30)
            1. City of Hahira (FY2017-18, FY2021-22, and so on)
            2. City of Lake Park (FY2019-20, FY2023-24, and so on)
        iv. Annually Rotating Small Cities' Mayor
            1. City of Dasher (FY2021, FY2024, and so on)
            2. City of Remerton (FY2019, FY2022, and so on)
            3. City of Ray City (FY2020, FY2023, and so on)
        v. Bi-Annually Rotating Small Counties Chairman (this position rotates on a Fiscal Year, July 1-June 30)
            1. Brooks County (FY2017-18, FY2023-24, and so on)
            2. Lanier County (FY2019-20, FY2025-26, and so on)
            3. Berrien County (FY2021-22, FY2027-28, and so on)
        vi. Annually Rotating Small Counties Chairman (this position rotates on a Fiscal Year, July 1-June 30)
            1. Berrien County (FY17, FY20, FY23, FY26, FY29, and so on)
            2. Lanier County (FY18, FY21, FY24, FY27, FY30, and so on)
            3. Brooks County (FY19, FY22, FY25, FY28, FY31, and so on)
        vii. Lowndes County Manager
        viii. City of Valdosta Manager
        ix. Southern Georgia Regional Commission Executive Director
        x. Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner
    b. Non-Voting members
        i. Georgia Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration (or representative)
        ii. Regional Administrator Federal Transit Administration (or representative)
    c. Proxy Representatives
        i. Each voting member may designate a proxy representative from their agency or local government.
            1. An official letter designating a permanent proxy shall be presented annually and kept on file with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission.
            2. County Chairs and Mayors may designate a staff member or another elected official to serve as proxy from their own Board of County Commissioners or City Councils. Local government staff designated

as proxy are not eligible to serve as the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee.

3. Staff members of local governments may designate another staff member from their own local government or agency.
4. Staff members who are also members of any standing VLMPO Committee may not serve as a proxy to any Policy Committee member.

Article IV. Election of Officers of the Policy Committee

1. The Policy Committee shall elect from among its voting members a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.
2. Elections shall take place on the last meeting of the fiscal year (July 1 -June 30) providing there is a majority of the voting members present. The term of office shall be for two years or until such time as new officers are elected.
3. Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman shall be by a majority of the voting membership at a meeting where a quorum is present.
4. Should the Chairmanship become vacant in mid-term, the Vice Chairman shall become the Chairman; and a new Vice Chairman shall be elected. Should the Vice Chairman be unable to serve as Chairman, elections shall be held for both Chairman and Vice Chairman.
5. A Chairman and Vice Chairman may succeed himself/herself with no limitations to the number of terms.

Article V. Duties of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

1. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Policy Committee.
2. The Chairman shall authenticate, by his/her signature, the minutes and resolutions adopted by the Policy Committee.
3. The Chairman shall represent the Policy Committee at hearings, conferences, and other events as necessary.
4. The Chairman will appoint a nominating committee bi-annually to select a slate of officers to be presented at the last meeting of the fiscal year.
5. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman.

Article VII. Meetings and Voting

1. The Policy Committee shall meet quarterly or as necessary to carry out responsibilities of the transportation planning process and maintain certification of the transportation planning process.
2. The presence in person of a simple majority of the Policy Committee voting membership at Policy Committee meetings shall constitute a quorum for official business transaction.
    a. Participation in a meeting via telephone conference call, or two-way video communication device or other similar method which allows each member of the Policy Committee participating in the meeting to hear and speak to each other member participating in the meeting shall be permitted and considered as being present in person.

Article VIII. Rules of Order

1. The Policy Committee shall conduct business as prescribed in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised unless prescribed otherwise by amendment to these Bylaws.

Article IX. Amendments to Bylaws

1. These by-laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the full voting membership of the Policy Committee except as noted below:
    a. Other appointments may be added or removed as voting or non-voting members as agreed upon by a two-thirds majority vote of the full voting membership of the Policy Committee.
2. A proposed bylaw change shall be presented for consideration at a regular Policy Committee meeting; however, voting shall be deferred until the regular meeting following the meeting at which the bylaw change was proposed.

Date of Amended Bylaw adoption: January 11, 2011; June 5, 2013; December 7, 2016; September 5, 2018

SIGNED:

_____

Bill Slaughter; Chairman, Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization