

**Minutes
Citizens Advisory Committee
March 7, 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
Tim Riddle	Valdosta-Lowndes Tourism 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
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Andrew Smith	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
John Dillard	SGRC

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 December 6, 2016 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. TAC Officer Elections

This does not apply to the CAC. CAC officer elections will be conducted at the June meeting.

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. 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 in the next fiscal year. Otherwise, the budget is largely the same. Mr. Branham made a motion to approve the FY2018 UPWP Budget and was seconded by Mr. Riddle. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. Discretionary PL Funds (If Needed)

Mr. Hull asked the committee to recall from the September 2016 meeting an approval for discretionary funding available in the state to conduct the City of Valdosta traffic signal study. The MPO was awarded with \$160,000 in federal funds with the City of Valdosta matching that with \$40,000 to conduct a signal timing study. In Georgia, fifteen MPOs have available to them approximately \$7 million in federal funds. Mr. Hull emphasized that these funds need to be used. The Policy Committee will act on this proposal since it was not available for this meeting; therefore, no vote was taken by the CAC for this agenda item. Mr. Sable asked about and Mr. Hull confirmed the 20% local match requirement for the MPO funds. Ms. Ballard asked about how this can apply to gateway projects with Mr. Hull reminding the committee about the care required about defining a gateway for funding purposes. Mr. Riddle mentioned discussions about upcoming GDOT projects at Exits 16 and 18 along Interstate 75. Mr. Branham asked about how to form PPPs for transportation infrastructure in which Mr. Hull stated more information would be disseminated during Staff Update, Item D.

D. 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 costs 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. Mr. Branham asked about fuel costs and if electric vehicles would impact cost projections from this presentation and the Tindale Oliver report. Mr. Riddle asked about where exactly the local match would be derived and Mr. Dillard said that this depended on multiple variables. Mr. Dillard concluded his presentation by asking the committee what was not addressed in the presentation that should be in the final report.

E. 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 2019 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 overseeing these projects will be in attendance at the TAC and PC meetings the following day to further explain these cost estimate changes. Mr. Hull asked the CAC for a recommendation for conditional approval pending a 30 day public comment period for these projects. A motion was made by Mr. Crance and seconded by Mr. Riddle. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

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, Charlton County passed a resolution in early February 2017 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). Mr. Branham asked about how PPPs would benefit low-income populations where Mr. Smith replied that this would benefit the entire community and not just one particular demographic. More research may need to be done on this aspect of the topic.

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, June 6, 2017, 3:00 PM at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Crance made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 PM.