

**Minutes
Policy Committee
July 21, 2016
10:30 AM**

Members Present	Organization
Bill Slaughter	Lowndes Co., Commission Chair
John Gayle	City of Valdosta, Mayor
Lisa Cribb	SGRC, Executive Director
Larry Hanson	Valdosta
Tom McQueen	GDOT
Jason Davenport	Lowndes County (proxy for Pritchard)
Justin Devane	Brooks County
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
John Dillard	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
Brent Thomas	GDOT
Brent Buice	GA Bikes
Gabe Burns	VDT
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County
Clay Griner	Lowndes County

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

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

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

A. Review of Committee Attendance

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

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Agenda Item #4-New Business

A. PC Elections: Chair, Vice-Chair

Action: Elect Officers

Mr. Hanson made a motion that Mayor Gayle continue to serve as chair and nominated Bill Slaughter to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion carried. Mr. Hanson recommended, if possible, it would be a good idea to create two seats that members from smaller cities could serve on giving them more meaningful participation within the committee because of their short (yearly) rotation schedule.

B. 2040 LRTP Amendment – Resolution FY2017-1

Action: Vote for Approval

Mr. Hull reminded the committee of the changes in the 2040 TVP Project list, which was discussed in the previous meeting. Mr. Hull reviewed the removal of the Forrest St. project and the alternative no-build conclusion from GDOT. Mr. Hull stated that GDOT recognizes that there are deficiencies along the Forrest St. corridor and they are looking at making improvements; however, currently we do not have any details on what improvements will be made.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion to approve the resolution as amended. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion.

Mr. Hanson: I would like to have some discussion about it, because at the last DOT State Board meeting, Corey is correct they did remove the Forrest Street project, but in the motion it specifically says that it should be replaced with a 3-laning project and I would like that at a minimum for the minutes of this meeting to reflect the specific minutes of the GDOT Board meeting where it makes that reference. There has been a lot of concern and interest in keeping the community in this project and by merely removing it, it send a message that there is no long range project, and I think it is at least important to put the specific language that was in the GDOT State minutes in our minutes, so the community will know there is a project planned even though we do not have all of the details.

Mr. Slaughter stated that he had no objection to amend the motion to include the State Transportation Board meeting minutes to our minutes as reference. Mr. Hanson said it would be about three sentences referencing this discussion only.

The GDOT State Transportation Board minutes statement concerning the Forrest St. project is as follows:

Jay Roberts said: "The second one is in Lowndes County, it is deletion from the program. And I understand that Mr. Golden had some questions about it and to be honest with you the reason why it is being deleted from the program is we would have never been able to get there under the federal program, so it was deleted. But now we are going back in a doing a state project, it is going to be a little different than what the federal project was but still accomplish the same thing and actually be a little cheaper. I know that is an important project for them down there as well so we will still be moving forward with that." Chair Dunn asked for a motion to approve. Johnny Floyd made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Ann Purcell and unanimously approved.

The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

C. FY15-18 TIP Amendment – Resolution FY2017-2

Action: Vote for Approval

Mr. Hull explained that a few projects were removed from the TIP because the document covers project phases up until 2018 and some of the phases in construction will happen after 2018, therefore, they cannot remain in the current TIP document. Mr. Hull further explained that there will be a new TIP document written that will extend until 2021 and the projects that were removed will be added to the list again in their respective years. Questions were asked about the specific years that the projects would be started. Mr. McQueen explained that he is only sure of the dates covering the current four years of the TIP. Mr. Hanson made a motion to approve the resolution; Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

D. Application for Additional PL Funds in FY17 – Resolution FY2017-3

Action: Vote for Approval

Mr. Hull explained the request for additional PL funds for FY2017. He explained that the current request will cover the study coordination of traffic signal timings for up to 90 intersections within the city and the county. Mr. Hull further explained that the estimated cost for this study is \$425,000; 80% Federal; 20% Local (85,000)-as per VLMPO MOU). Mr. Slaughter stated that he appreciates the effort that has been put forth to include the county signals; however, he is concerned about the estimated total cost. Mr. Slaughter asked Mr. Hull to explain why the cost of the project has increased so much. Mr. Hull explained that the original proposal was for 35 intersections and this proposal is for studying 90 intersections. Mr. Hull further explained that the signals belonged to Lowndes Co., Valdosta, and GDOT with GDOT having the majority of the signals to be studied. Mr. Hull explained that these numbers were based from a previous study that Valdosta completed years ago and the average cost per signal was \$4200. Mr. Hull said that he and the city and county engineers spoke about the study and choose the corridors to be studied. They looked at the corridors coming into and out of the city of Valdosta, improving the coordination between those signals between jurisdictional boundaries will improve the flow of traffic in those corridors. By adding more of those corridors the total cost estimate increased. There is an approximate cost of \$50,000 for the city of Valdosta fiber optic network, and that fiber optic network is the backbone of the signal coordination for the city of Valdosta. Mr. Hull stated that an option for the committee to discuss, in order to reduce the total cost estimate, is to lower the number of intersections and

work out which corridors are the highest priority to look at, then later have another phase for the remainder of the corridors. Mr. Slaughter stated that the flow of traffic through several of the proposed corridors flows well. Mr. Slaughter asked if there are other intersection/routes that have problems. Mr. Hull stated that some of the corridors discussed were the Bemiss, Old 41, and the 5 points intersection corridors, these are key intersections. Mr. Slaughter stated that it is difficult to justify the \$42,500 that the county has in this study, and that the committee should be sure to identify areas that are having problems. Mr. Hanson stated that traffic is one of the things that does not respect jurisdictional boundaries, Patterson and Ashley St are very good examples of coordination, but those are the only two timed signals that we have, he continued, in the future, the only way that we will be able to manage traffic in this community is through coordination and flow. It is not a jurisdictional issue, it's a way to try and spend money wisely in order to save time and money on winding roads in the future and I think it's a good project. Mr. Slaughter stated that he doesn't think that this proposal is the best decision right now. Mayor Gayle asked for a motion to approve the PL funds request. Mr. Hanson made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Cribb seconded the motion for discussion. Ms. Cribb asked if there is a deadline. Mr. Hull responded the deadline is September 12th. Mr. Hanson stated that the proposal was postponed two meetings ago in order to vote on it today. Mr. Davenport asked for the signal breakdown. Mr. Hull responded that 65 signals belong to GDOT, 13 belong to Valdosta, and 5 belong to Lowndes Co. Mayor Gayle asked for a vote on the motion. The vote was as follows: **In favor of** – Mr. Hanson, Mayor Gayle; **Opposed**- Ms. Cribb, Mr. Slaughter, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Devane; **Abstained**- Mr. McQueen. The motion was denied. Mr. Hanson made a motion to proceed with the study of the signals inside the city of Valdosta and the city paying 100% of the required MPO match. Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: **In favor of**- Ms. Cribb, Mr. Devane, Mr. Slaughter, Mr. Hanson; **Against**- Mr. Davenport; **Abstained**- Mr. McQueen, Mayor Gayle. The motion carried.

E. Presentation on Complete Streets

Mr. Buice presented information on Complete Streets and ways that Complete Streets can be implemented at little or no cost as well as the health benefits that come along with getting more people to ride bicycles and walk.

Agenda Item #5 – Staff Update

A. Valdosta Pilot Shuttle Program

Mr. Dillard notified the committee that due to the reduction in funding the routes for the Valdosta Pilot Shuttle Program had to be merged into one 90 minute loop. He also mentioned that the way ridership is tracked will be a little different in FY 2017.

B. Truck and Transit Study Wrap-up

Mr. Hull notified the committee that he presented hard copies of the Transit Implementation Study to the city and the county earlier in the meeting. Mr. Hull notified the committee that there will be a presentation by GDOT during the September meeting about funding public transportation. The consultants handling the Truck study asked for a 30 day contract extension without additional funding to address concerns that the local stakeholders expressed.

C. Participation Plan Public Comment Period

Mr. Hull notified the committee that the Participation Plan Public Comment Period runs from July 1st – August 15.

D. DBE Goal Update

Mr. Hull notified the committee that the SGRC is required for transportation programs to have a goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), such as minority and women owned businesses. We do this through evaluation processes and our goal is 36.5% for the next three years.

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

Mr. Buice thanked Mr. Hull and the Policy Committee for inviting him to present Complete Streets. Mr. Hull notified the committee that he had contacted two members concerning attendance. Mr. Hull notified the committee that there is an annual report data request on what we have been doing for our Active, Healthy, Lifestyles Plan. Mr. Hull notified the committee that we will be working more on improving public participation.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

Wednesday, September 7, 2016; 10:30 am at SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.