



Valdosta-Lowndes MPO

**Minutes
Citizens Advisory Committee
December 6, 2016
3:00 PM**

Members Present	Organization
Vanassa Flucas	City of Valdosta
Ray Sable	Valdosta State University
James Parker	City of Valdosta
Steve Barnes	Leadership Lowndes
Tim Riddle	Valdosta-Lowndes Tourism Authority
Keith Sandlin	City of Lake Park
Robert Wilbers	City of Lake Park
Bill Branham	City of Valdosta
Carroll Griffin	City of Remerton
Bill Tillman (proxy for Angela Crance)	Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
Clarence Parker	Valdosta-Lowndes Airport Authority
Stan Crance	Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority
William Cason	Valdosta Board of Education
Mike Cooper	Central Valdosta Development Authority
Myrna Ballard	Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce
Ronald Skrine	Lowndes County
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. Mr. Griffin introduced Ms. Flucas as the newest member of the committee.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Griffin asked the committee members to review the September 6, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Barnes made a motion to adopt the minutes as they appeared in the agenda packet. Mr. Sable seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. Policy Committee Bylaws Amendment

This does not apply to the CAC.

B. FY2017 UPWP Amendment, Traffic Signal Study – Resolution FY2017-5

Mr. Hull explained the traffic signal optimization study for the city of Valdosta along with the amount of funding contributed by various government entities. Mr. Hull noted that the MPO would apply up to \$200,000 in federal funds. Valdosta has agreed to pay 100% of the matching requirements amounting to \$40,000. This UPWP amendment brings total amount in FY2017 to \$350,040.55, and Mr. Hull referenced the budget sheet in the agenda packet on page 33. The pledged amounts are \$280,032.44 federal, \$6,001.62 SGRC, \$12,003.25 Lowndes County, and \$52,003.25 City of Valdosta. The proposal includes 38 traffic signals primarily on the north side of Valdosta to maximize signal coordination, to map the city's fiber optic network and to coordinate with GDOT's NEXUS Works. The proposal will be up for bids after the Policy Committee approves the amendment and as late as December 31, 2016. The study ideally should be under contract by the end of February and concluded by the end of June with the possibility that it could be pushed back to the end of July. Mr. Hull noted that this would be a relatively quick study that would take 4-5 months. Mr. Sable asked which traffic signals will be looked at, and Mr. Hull stated that the information came from the city. Mr. Hull also acknowledged the changes that the Gornto Road extension brought about with respect to traffic patterns and signal coordination. Mr. Branham made a motion to recommend passing on the amendment to the Policy Committee. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. FY2018 5303 Grant Application – Resolution FY2017-6

Mr. Hull presented the resolution and noted that the Policy Committee and the SGRC Council both require a resolution to apply for 5303 federal transit administration funds. They are similar to federal highway funds and amount to approximately \$61,000 that is applied for general, overarching transportation planning conducted by the MPO. Mr. Sable made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Committee, and Mr. Branham, seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

D. FY2018 UPWP: Remarks and Feedback

Mr. Hull discussed the UPWP for FY2018 and that a draft budget and work program must be delivered to GDOT by Thanksgiving. Mr. Hull reminded the committee of a draft document sent via email prior to Thanksgiving. Mr. Hull asked the committee to look at the 9 task pages within the document, but

cautioned that the draft will change. Mr. Hull encouraged the committee to provide feedback. The committee asked for the document to be sent again. Mr. Hull then added that the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) put out a call for projects for additional MPO funding for capacity building projects. These range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 plus a required 80% federal match and 20% local match. Mr. Hull asked the committee for input on improvements to the long-range transportation plan to make it more resilient – either a planning version or operations & maintenance. Ms. Flucas asked what types of transportation systems does the community currently have in place, and Mr. Hull answered sidewalks, trains, and roads. Ms. Ballard asked where the local share would come from, and Mr. Hull replied the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County equally. Mr. Branham sought clarification for “sustainable” forms of transportation, and Mr. Hull explained it in terms of economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency to disaster and equity concerns. Mr. Skrine noted that there are not enough bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure in the community, especially in newer developments where it is harder to maneuver emergency vehicles. Mr. Skrine stated more promotion of physical activity and safety with this infrastructure is needed. Ms. Flucas elaborated that the sustainability component is better given the challenges facing the community. Mr. Wilbers described a product called slurry seal that extends the life of asphalt pavement and makes roads last longer. Mr. Hull said this will be put out for adoption at the March meeting.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

A. AMPO and NADO Awards

Mr. Hull updated the committee on recent awards that the MPO received. The Pilot Shuttle Program was recognized with a National Innovation Award and an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. The National Award for Outstanding Achievement for a City under 200,000 was given to the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO this year, and it is only presented to one MPO annually.

B. Valdosta Pilot Shuttle Program Update

Mr. Dillard presented graphs and data charting the gradual increase in ridership since its inception in October 2015. Mr. Dillard also pointed out several dips in the ridership graph where the shuttle program was originally supposed to end, but ultimately extended by 3 months, and this occurred in June and September 2016. Mr. Dillard explained the calculations and statistics in the handout. This data is typical to National Transit Database reporting formats and will be used in comparison to other transit systems in Albany, Hinesville, and Macon. Mr. Branham asked about the possibility of using electric vehicles in the shuttle program moving forward, and Mr. Dillard said it was a future consideration but not at the forefront of the program. Ms. Flucas asked how long it would take to compile the shuttle data, and Mr. Dillard replied that it would take 60 days to complete the final cost-benefit analysis report. Ms. Flucas asked about funding. Mr. Crance asked whether or not economic impact could be tracked, and Mr. Dillard could try to base it on other reports.

C. Downtown Truck Traffic Study Update

Mr. Hull briefed the committee on the status of the downtown truck traffic study and the ongoing series of invitation-only local stakeholder meetings. The study was presented at two national conferences prior to the CAC meeting.

D. 2040 TVP & Performance Measures

Mr. Hull directed the committee to examine the handout titled “MPO Safety Performance Measures.” Rules and regulations stipulate that MPOs must establish safety targets by February 27, 2018 in the

categories of number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. This is on all public and private roadways. There are two approaches to setting these targets: either adopt state targets, develop own targets for the Metropolitan Planning Area, or a combination of both. Mr. Hull then described the monitoring process and that the MPO assessment of progress is made every 5 years corresponding to the adoption of the new Transportation Plan and is done through certification reviews and STIP approval findings. Mr. Hull concluded this presentation by expounding on the requirement that TIP projects must document how each project will achieve safety targets, citing I-75 interchange projects at Exits 2, 11, 22, and 29 as examples. Mr. Hull noted these projects were amended by GDOT and moved up by a year from year 2018 to year 2017. This applies to Exit 2 and Exit 11 ROW acquisition phase along with Exits 22 and 29 utility relocation and construction

E. PPP Funding Report

Mr. Hull turned the floor over to Mr. Smith to give a brief presentation on the MPO's public-private partnership funding report stipulated under the LRTP that is currently being drafted. Mr. Smith stated the report will define PPPs and then relate the topic to community issues and policies in the Comprehensive Plan, and aspirational Common Community Vision goals in Transportation Vision Plan. PPP applications to bike/pedestrian infrastructure will be a key focus in this report along with Georgia's enabling legislation through the Public Private Facilities Infrastructure Act of 2015. The report is expected to be complete by December 31, 2016.

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, March 7, 2017, 3:00 PM at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

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