

**Minutes
Citizen's Advisory Committee
November 29, 2011
3:00 p.m.**

Members Present	Organization
Earl Wetherington	Valdosta
Allan Rickets	VLCIA
Angela Crance	Wiregrass TC
Clarence Parker	VLD Airport
Ken Sherrill	Lake Park
Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes
Leggett Lovan	Chamber
Charlie Clark	Lowndes
Carroll Griffin	Remerton
Bryan Almand	Valdosta
Ray Sable	VSU
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Janice McKinnon	SGRC

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Col. Parker opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag of the United States. Col Parker also reminded the committee members of upcoming community events.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Col. Parker reviewed the attendance and noted that the attendance was slim.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Col. Parker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 9, 2011. The motion was made by Ken Sherrill and seconded by Earl Wetherington. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #4– Old Business

None

Agenda Item #5 – New Business

A. FY2012 UPWP Amendment Resolution 2012-3

Mr. Hull reviewed this amendment to the budget of the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Hull explained that these funds are leftover funds from FY2011 and are being assigned by percentage to each work element. Mr. Hull asked for the committee approval for a recommendation to the Policy Committee. Mr. Parker asked if the previous budget was higher or lower than previous amounts. Mr. Hull noted that carryover from FY2011 is slightly higher than in past year. Mr. Wetherington asked if the carryover funds were for a task we did not do. Mr. Hull noted that these funds are for excess federal funds, not the amount that we actually spend. The money can be spent in future years, and the MPO is currently using these funds in new budgets gradually. Mr. Hull noted that the upcoming FY2013 budget is about 25% less and these carryover funds will be used to fill this funding gap. Mr. Lovan asked if the tightening of government budgets that the future carryover funds would not be available. Mr. Hull noted that MPOs are allowed to bank funds for future projects, and that the current federal law restricts these funds for planning use. Mr. Lovan asked if this money could be used for road repairs since it was excess money. Mr. Hull and Mr. Parker clarified that this money can only be used for planning and not for capital highway projects. Mr. Parker asked to clarify the federal and local fund amounts that make up entire \$82,000 amendment. Mr. Parker asked for a motion to approve a recommendation to the Policy Committee. Legget Lovan made a motion; it was seconded by Ken Sherrill, the motion carried unanimously.

B. FY2013 FTA 5303 Grant Application Resolution 2012-4

Mr. Hull described this as a recommendation for a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration to fund the MPO. He described that these funds are used for general MPO support, but it comes from a different agency and these funds must be applied for each year. He described that the resolution is needed to apply for these funds. Mr. Hull described the FY2013 budget for the \$31,250 from FTA funds. He described that most of the funds would be allocated to MPO administration, other funds would also be allocated to public participation, transportation improvement program development and other categories. Mr. Hull asked for a motion to make a recommendation to the Policy Committee. Mr. Hull described that the 'blue' columns on the

budget sheet, describe the allocation of the FTA funds. Mr. Sherrill made a motion that was seconded by Earl Wetherington, the motion carried.

C. FY2013 Draft UPWP

Mr. Hull described the draft 2013 budget that the MPO staff is currently proposing. He noted that the FHWA and FTA funds are divided among the various work elements in very similar percentages to what has been done the past several years. He described the two numbers that are key to the FY2013 Budget. The annual allocation has traditionally been about \$114,000. Under the deficit reduction plan by the United States the MPO budget would be cut to \$85,000. The FY12 carryover is estimated to be about \$88,000. Mr. Hull noted that he felt there would be money available at the traditional levels and there would be no reduction, but right now the staff is showing a worst case scenario. Mr. Hull described that the VLMPO staff does not spend all of the money that is budgeted, because we are allowed to carryover funds. Mr. Hull asked if there were any questions regarding the budget, none were raised. Mr. Hull then asked the committee members to review the summary of the work elements and tasks for the staff to complete in FY2013. Mr. Hull described the work elements and asked for input from the committee.

Mr. Parker asked what the fiscal constraint referred to in the Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Hull described that the fiscal constraint is total dollar amount the MPO cannot exceed based on calculations from GDOT.

Mr. Hull continued to describe the other work elements and asked for any comments.

Mr. Parker asked if the federal government is considering a reduction in funds based on current economic conditions. Mr. Hull noted that the FY 2013 budget includes a worst case scenario of a 25% cut. Mr. Hull also noted that staff is internally trying to keep costs down. Mr. Hull also noted that Congress is drafting a new transportation law that includes cutting MPOs under 200K in population, which may get rid of smaller MPOs like Valdosta. Mr. Hull answered several other questions regarding the proposed federal regulations and the budget. Mr. Hull noted that the staff will be accepting comments on the UPWP work elements through March.

Agenda Item #6 – Staff Update

Mr. Hull noted that the MPO staff is available to talk about the proposed transportation sales tax and that the MPO has developed a website for this specific item including a video on YouTube.

Mr. Hull also asked the committee to consider public outreach efforts that the staff can work on.

Mr. Hull also provided the committee packets on the website and other public outreach efforts. He noted that the proposed transportation sales tax is the number one search for our website, the second item are searches related to public transit.

Agenda Item #7 – Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment

Mr. Parker noted that the participation in the committee is down and asked Mr. Hull to comment on committee attendance. Mr. Hull noted that there are currently three vacancies on the committee; he also noted there are several people who have not attended a meeting in several years. The committee agreed to

allow Mr. Parker and Mr. Hull to contact all members and to affirm their commitment to the committee and to possibly identify possible replacement members.

Mr. Wetherington commented that the old traffic safety committee that was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce helped to identify minor traffic hazards. The committee discussed that the proposed website could be used for this effort. This item is included in the FY2013 UPWP.

Mr. Hull followed up on the Huntley Road/SR 125 intersection. Mr. Hull noted that a signal is not warranted at this time, but did recommend minor changes to be made by the City of Valdosta and GDOT. Mr. Hull noted that he would share this letter with the committee via email.

Mr. Wetherington noted that he would like to see the public have access to be able to change the view of the traffic cameras on the website again.

Agenda Item #8 - Next Meeting Date and Time

Col. Parker noted the next meeting date as March 6, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 4:05 p.m.