

**Minutes
Technical Advisory Committee
June 7, 2017
9:00 AM**

Members Present	Organization
Brent Thomas	GDOT
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County
Pat Collins	City of Valdosta
William Eastin	GDOT
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Andrew Smith	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
John Dillard	SGRC
Dennis Carter	GDOT
Matt Martin	City of Valdosta
Sandra Tooley	Valdosta City Council
Claudia Thompson	GDOT
Tom McQueen	GDOT
Thomas Lynn	Valdosta Daily Times

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mr. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Mr. Fletcher asked those present to introduce themselves and state their affiliation with the committee.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fletcher asked the committee members to review the March 8, 2017 meeting minutes. One slight error was pointed out in the attendance record in which percent attendance was not calculated correctly. A motion was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Fletcher to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. CAC/PC Officer Elections

This does not apply to the TAC as officer elections were conducted at the March meeting.

B. FY2018 Discretionary Planning Funds Application

Mr. Hull went over the three Discretionary Planning Funds Applications that will be voted on at the September MPO meetings. He asked the committee to recall from the March meeting that Lowndes County presented two of the three applications in draft form. At the time, the proposal was tabled for further discussion and will be voted on at the September meetings by time which a full scope of work will be outlined. Mr. Hull directed the committee to review these applications.

i. Interstate 75 Land Use Study

Mr. Hull discussed the Interstate 75 Land Use Master Plan proposed by Lowndes County. This would cost approximately \$200,000 with federal funds amounting to \$160,000. A local match of \$40,000 will be split evenly between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. This will serve as a master plan for interchanges to determine what is needed and desired by the community and its leaders. It will examine development policies, transportation improvements on adjoining roadways, gateway and aesthetic improvements, signage improvements, lighting improvements, maintenance, code enforcement, and safety. The MPO will work with Lowndes County to develop a scope of work that will be needed to hire a consultant to conduct this study. Mr. Hull then sought feedback from the committee. Mr. Fletcher advised that an exit-by-exit approach should be taken depending on surroundings. The impact area could easily extend approximately one-half a mile beyond the exit interchange in either direction. Mr. Collins talked about gateway improvements and how Georgia could improve in this aspect of Interstate highway maintenance in comparison to Florida. Mr. Martin talked about the need for a parcel-defined map that would help this study.

ii. Regional Connectivity Study

Mr. Hull went over the application form for the Regional Connectivity Study. This will cost approximately \$150,000 with \$120,000 in federal funds with a local match of \$30,000 to be split evenly between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. This study will look at overall connectivity of the roadways in the area. The long range transportation plan notes deficiencies, especially in northern Lowndes County, pertaining to east-west connectivity. There are currently few to no east-west connectors between GA 122 and US 84 that do not involve road jogs or frequent

turns. This study would be used to realize high level information about what types of projects should be developed for the 2045 LRTP that will be under development by FY2019.

iii. 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study

Mr. Hull went over this study that would build upon the 2040 socioeconomic data study. It would cost approximately \$20,000 with \$16,000 in federal funds and \$4,000 in local match to be split evenly between the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. This is a continuation of a report that started in 2005 with the 2030 LRTP. Every time the MPO undergoes a long range transportation plan update, socioeconomic data is collected and consulted. For the 2040 LRTP, local planning partners were involved to get as much information about the community as possible. If this process occurred again, it would benefit multiple organizations, such as the chamber and local development authorities. Mr. Hull proposes ahead of the 2045 LRTP that this study be completed to identify data needs and the accuracy of past predictions. Mr. Hull was asked about the Truck Traffic Study and proposed bypasses stemming from it, such as the “Gil Harbin Alternative.” GDOT is currently looking into this proposal. Mr. Hull also commented that the Traffic Signal Optimization Study will be concluding on June 30th. Mr. Martin asked if this would be generated before the 2020 census and if so, could an amendment to the 2045 LRTP be included in the future to reflect updated data. Mr. Hull answered yes to both of these questions and also said that the 2045 LRTP would have to be adopted by September 2020. Mr. Fletcher asked when discretionary PL funds would become available, and Mr. Hull replied that this would occur twice a year in February and March. Mr. Fletcher brought up the idea of staggering the projects by fiscal year to offset the costs. He then said that priority in FY2018 should be given to the Interstate 75 land use and socioeconomic studies while the regional connectivity study should be postponed to FY2019.

C. FY18-21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Presentation

Mr. Hull turned the floor over to Mr. Dillard, who presented basic information about some of the Tier 1 projects proposed for the fresh TIP. Mr. Dillard emphasized right-of-way acquisitions that are scheduled to take place in the short term future along with construction phases. Mr. Dillard also went over the transit funding for the MPO area including 5304, 5307, 5310, and 5311 funds. Anticipated capital and maintenance costs were included in this presentation. The peer review process will start on July 1st with a 30 day public comment period starting on August 1st and ending August 30th. A final draft of the FY18-21 TIP will be presented at the September meetings.

D. MPO Role in Regional TSPLOST

Mr. Hull filled in the committee on the events that took place at the May Regional Roundtable meeting, including the creation of an executive committee with five voting members, a non-voting chair, and three non-voting state legislators. The executive committee is in charge of reviewing and selecting submitted local projects for the investment list. Mr. Hull is sending out an email today that will seek comments on the draft investment criteria, which was originally presented in 2012. The call for projects will occur after August 1st. Mr. Hull then reiterated the distinct roles of the Regional Commission and the MPO. The Regional Commission serves as a facilitator while the MPO can only provide comments similar to a local government, as outlined in state law. For this proposed T-SPLOST cycle, the state economist estimated that \$513 million in revenue would be generated in the hypothetical case that voters passed this 10 year, 1 cent sales tax. Mr. Collins talked about the geography of the tax base and how projects need to be selected that makes citizens realize the best marginal benefits if the tax passed. Mr. Hull encouraged the committee to reach out to him if there were any further questions beyond the meeting.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

A. MPO Performance Measures

Mr. Hull gave broad details on the development of MPO Performance Measures that must be submitted by February 2018. These detail congestion, pavement condition, and bridge quality. More information on this will be available at upcoming meetings. An MPO crash report is currently under development and will be complete by the end of June. This document will provide a sneak peek as to where these rates should be set along with base trends of performance measures for Lowndes County.

B. Transit Input Meetings

Mr. Dillard talked about public transit input meetings in which he presents the Valdosta Pilot Shuttle Program report and listens to citizen comments and answers questions. There are several upcoming meetings with one taking place on June 26th at the Mildred Hunter Community Centers. This is in an effort to continue the discussion of potentially bringing public transit to the Valdosta urbanized area.

C. AMPO Conference in Savannah

The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) will be holding their annual national conference in Savannah in October. Mr. Hull will have more information available about how to attend in the near future.

D. CCV Local Governments Meetings

Mr. Hull detailed the committee about the Lowndes Common Community Vision. He is presenting to several local governments in the coming weeks to talk about the CCV and recent accomplishments stemming from it. He also talked about the annual reports that detail how this is progressing on a yearly basis.

E. Complete Streets Suitability Report

Mr. Smith presented the VLMPO Complete Streets Suitability Report that will prioritize road segments that are arterial and collector streets which appear in local and state project lists based on a need for Complete Streets attributes like sidewalks and bike lanes. The report covers approximately 60 road segments and includes profiles of the top ten projects in both the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County. The report will be published online by the end of June. Mr. Collins stated that the highest ranked city street (North Lee Street) is already slated for a sidewalk and said this document would help the city make decisions about local projects.

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

Mr. Fletcher opened the floor for public comment, and Ms. Tooley thanked Mr. Smith for the information about the Complete Streets report. Mr. Thomas asked if there was a reason it stopped at Ann Street and did not go further, and Mr. Smith replied this was to maintain consistency with available information.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 9:00 AM at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Collins made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 AM.