

**Minutes
Policy Committee
June 7, 2017
10:30 AM**

Members Present	Organization
John Gayle	City of Valdosta
Bill Slaughter	Lowndes County
Jason Davenport (proxy for Joe Pritchard)	Lowndes County
Tom McQueen	GDOT
Justin Devane	Brooks County
Lisa Cribb	SGRC
Larry Hanson	City of Valdosta
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Andrew Smith	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
Brent Thomas	GDOT
Sandra Tooley	Valdosta City Council
William Eastin	GDOT
Dennis Carter	GDOT
Claudia Thompson	GDOT
Gary Wisenbaker	Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce
John Dillard	SGRC
Thomas Lynn	Valdosta Daily Times

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

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

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

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

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Gayle asked the committee members to review the December 7, 2016 meeting minutes. Mrs. Cribb pointed out a small error in the minutes on page 18. Mr. Slaughter made a motion to approve the revised minutes and was seconded by Mrs. Cribb. The revised minutes were unanimously approved and the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. CAC/PC Officer Elections

PC officer elections were conducted at this meeting. Mayor Gayle turned the floor over to Mr. Davenport who discussed his nominations for the officers for the new fiscal year. Mr. Davenport and Mr. Hanson identified three candidates for office. Mr. Slaughter would ideally move into the Chairman position and Vice-Chair would either be filled by Mayor Gayle, Mrs. Cribb, and Mayor Cain. Mayor Gayle pointed out that Mayor Cain has only served one year of his two year term, therefore eliminating him from consideration based on the bylaws. Mayor Gayle then said that due to him not planning to run for reelection for Valdosta mayor in 2018 that he would not be able to fulfill an entire officer term on the committee. He then nominated Mr. Hanson to replace his name. Mr. Hanson made a motion to approve Mr. Slaughter as PC Chair with a second from Mr. Davenport. Mr. Slaughter was unanimously approved as the next PC chairman. A vote was conducted for vice-chair between Mr. Hanson and Mrs. Cribb with the vote 4-2 in Mr. Hanson's favor. The new officers' positions are effective July 1st, 2017.

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 also talked about the TAC's proposals for gateway improvements and that a map should be produced to show the spatial reach of the study. The scope of work for this project is expected to be between 3 and 5 pages in length. Mr. Hull then sought feedback from the committee. Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Hull to discuss funding

considerations given budget constraints for the upcoming year. Mr. Hull also explained that priority should be given for I-75 Land Use and the 2045 Socioeconomic Data Study in FY2019, based on a recommendation from the TAC. All of these studies would help with drafting the 2045 LRTP.

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 consulted. For the 2040 LRTP, local planning partners were involved to get as much information about the community as possible. This 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. The Policy committee echoed the concerns of the TAC in that there are budget constraints for this upcoming fiscal year and that it is best that the three distinct studies be spread out. Mr. Slaughter expressed that the full scope for this project should take highest precedence.

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. Mr. McQueen pointed out a roundabout project on SR 31, and Mr. Hull said that is a lump sum project. Additional follow-up is needed to address concerns about a SR 31 passing lane project that is not a lump sum project according to Mr. McQueen.

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. These are due on June 21st and then forwarded to GDOT with a final presentation at the next roundtable in mid to late July. 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. Hull encouraged the committee to reach out to him if there were any further questions beyond the meeting. Mayor Gayle asked for clarification about single county pursuance in Ware County. Mr. Hull said local match requirements would stay at 30%. Mayor Gayle asked that if Ware County passed a single county TSPLOST referendum, Lowndes County could follow suit. Mr. Hull replied yes. Mr. Hull also said, based on his knowledge, that Ware County has not made an official announcement regarding a single-county referendum on their November 2017 ballot. If both happened to be on the same ballot and both passed, the regional referendum would prevail. A stipulation in state law prohibits single county TSPLOST referendums from appearing outside a November ballot.

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. Davenport asked that government leaders intently read and consider this report once released.

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

Mayor Gayle opened the floor for public comment, and Mr. Davenport asked for an update on implementing Uber in the Valdosta area. Mayor Gayle replied that there are still a few drivers needed, but that was the only available information at the time of the meeting.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 10:30 AM at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Slaughter made a motion with a second from Mr. Devane to adjourn and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.