

**Minutes
Policy Committee
September 2, 2015
10:30 AM**

Members Present	Organization
Larry Hanson	Valdosta
Joe Pritchard	Lowndes
Bruce Cain	Hahira
Bill Slaughter	Lowndes
John Gayle	Valdosta
Lisa Cribb	SGRC
Eric Schindler	Lake Park
Tom McQueen	GDOT
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
JD Dillard	SGRC
Aries Little	GDOT
Krystal Harris	GDOT
Amy Martin	SGRC
Jonathan Sumner	Hahira
Jason Davenport	Lowndes
Brent Thomas	GDOT
Ann-Marie Day	FHWA
Matt Martin	Valdosta

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mayor Gayle called the meeting to order at 10:35.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Mayor Gayle asked those present to introduce themselves and state their affiliation with the committees. Mrs. Day joined the meeting via phone.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Gayle asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 3 June 2015. Mr. Slaughter motioned to adopt the minutes as written. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The minutes were approved as written.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. Review Comments for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan

Action: Recommendation/ Direction to Staff

Mr. Hull notified the committee that 75 people attended the TVP public meetings and over 100 comments were listed on the VLMPO Facebook page. Mr. Hull started with a comment from the TAC that Mrs. Day from FHWA had comments on. Mr. Hull explained Mrs. Day's recommendation for the Active, Healthy, Lifestyles, Intersection, and Complete Streets policies be changed from policy to strategies. Mr. Hull explained that Mrs. Day felt it would be better to address the policies separately. He noted that this is not federal regulation, but it is her recommendation to the committee. Mr. Hull told the PC that the TAC accepted her recommendation to change the word "policy" to "strategy." Mr. Hull also recommended that there needs to be follow up guidance on the strategies as how to implement them. Mr. Hull continued to comment #13, which he stated was satisfied by softening "shall complete" to "should" or "will consider" making the implementation strategies less obligatory to PC members. Mr. Hull continued to items #4a and 4b, in which, Lowndes Co. commented that they would not be in support of a project that is subject to a Complete Streets Policy or Roundabout Policy. Mr. Hull explained that any roadway in Ga. that crosses a state hwy. that has an intersection improvement on it automatically is going to have a triggered roundabout analysis added, he further explained that all of the roadways in the TVP in question intersect a state hwy., so they would automatically trigger the state's policy. Complete streets policy will automatically be triggered by GDOT's policy. Mr. Hull reminded the committee that although he is using the word "policy" upon TAC's recommendation, it will be changed to "strategies." Mr. Hull notified the PC that GDOT's recommendation for Forrest St. is to be re-scoped and to leave it in the plan as is and later amend it appropriately. Mayor Gayle asked Mr. Hull to define "re-scope". Mr. Hull explained re-scope as added lanes, etc. He stated for Lake Park Bellville Road and Old 41 North that funding was not available for these projects. Mr. Slaughter clarified and restated that the reason for pushing the Lake Park Bellville Road and Old 41 North down the list was funding. Mr. Hull agreed. Mr. Slaughter asked Mr. Hull if this would allow for saved funds. Mr. Hull replied that it could possibly save funds; however, we have to wait to see what the re-scoping and dollar estimate will be so there is no way to know the savings. Mr. Hull explained that there has been some confusion on Exit 18. GDOT listed the project to be completed later than sooner, however, the community would like to see it done sooner than later but it is in GDOT's list. Mr. Pritchard asked Mr. Hanson if the main problem with this was the time period of school bus traffic. Mr. Hanson responded that some of the issue is due to the ingress and egress and times that traffic flux, traffic is sitting still on I-75. Some of it has been addressed with traffic light reprogramming, many businesses have contacted us because some of the DOT's designs show businesses being eliminated so we have been trying to get concrete answers for them so they can

determine what to do in the future. Mr. Pritchard wanted to know if the Lowndes Co. school buses could reroute their stops. Mr. Hanson stated that GDOT has looked at the exit and we have accepted the findings of their study but as Mr. Hull mentioned that does not mean that it will not need to be replaced over the next 20 years. Mr. Hull continued with McMillan Rd, he explained that McMillan Rd. is an east west corridor for the northern part of the county and that the number of people living adjacent to this road will be about 7,000 by the year 2040, so we recommend that we perform further study/ analysis in this area in years to come. Mr. Hanson asked Mr. Hull if the only recommendation that the TAC is recommending is the use of the word "strategy." Mr. Hull responded yes.

B. 2040 Transportation Vision Plan Adoption-Resolution FY2016-1

Action: Recommendation/ Vote for Approval

Mr. Hull explained to the committee that the TCC recommended adoption of the TVP 3-1. Mr. Hull also notified the committee that the resolution had been revised (removal of the last paragraph) based on GDOT's recommendation. Mayor Gayle asked if the policies were in the resolution. Mr. Hull said that they were not but they are within the document itself. Mayor Gayle asked for a motion to approve the FY2016-1 resolution. Mr. Hanson made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Cribb seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: 4-2; Yes: Mr. Hanson, Mayor Gayle, Mrs. Cribb, Mayor Schindler; No: Mr. Slaughter, Mr. Pritchard. The motion carried.

C. FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program – Resolution FY2016-2

Action: Recommendation/ Vote for Approval

Mr. Hull explained to the committee that the TIP is an amendment primarily for dollar adjustments for our projects based on cost estimates that have been updated for our LRTP. The tip amendment is in the packet that was mailed. The CAC recommended approval, the TAC recommended approval; however, as long as the Tier 2 projects listed at the bottom of the page be removed from the amendment because GDOT does not want to show that they have committed funds. Mr. McQueen stated that there is a problem with some areas having TBD and the funding amount in other areas listed under federal and state, recommends that it would be best just to take it out or run TBD under the state, federal, and local headings. Mr. Hanson asked Corey to refresh his memory that when he contacted GDOT he was told that the project would be in the program. Mr. Hull said that they were open to changing the program as we agreed to, and the program is not in the TIP. Mr. Hanson said that recently the Commissioner was able to tour the city with him and the Mayor concerning things that this city needs and this was one of the major projects in the city. Mr. Hanson stated that he gave them recommendations on how to expedite the project as a safety project because the traffic counts and the level of service are not good between Country Club and Gornto and that the Commissioner wanted to find a way to help with this project, so to want to remove this project seems inconsistent in what we are actually doing. Mr. Thomas stated that the issue is that it is a Tier 2 project in the TIP. Mr. Hull clarified that the project is a Tier 2 long range project that is not in the TIP. Mr. Hanson explained that the Commissioner was sensitive to several of the projects including Forrest St. which is having to be re-scoped due to insufficient progress and now DOT is having to repay the federal government, likewise with Oak St. Ext. and Jerry Jones. Mr. Hanson explained that there needs to be sensitivity with the projects that have been around for a long time with insufficient progress that our community needs. Mr. Hull asked would it be appropriate to place TBD in the federal, state, local columns and leave the total phase estimate of the project. Mr. Hull stated another correction at the top of the Tier 1 project list, LOC should change to NHPP and fund code to M001. Mr. Pritchard made a motion to amend the TIP as presented with the following changes: To put TBD in the JJ fed, state, local construction line items and change Tier one project list (instead of saying LOC) to its

appropriate fund type and fund code. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

D. Certification Review Report

Action: Discussion Only

Mr. Hull explained that in March, FHWA and GDOT came in for a meeting to review the MPO's performance. Mr. Hull explained that the written report from that meeting is the Certification Review Report. He explained that the full report is available if the committee would like it but he has summarized it to the one page handout that they have. He explains what the FHWA and GDOT see as strengths of the MPO. Most recommendations that FHWA and GDOT made are related to implementing best practices in the participation plan and public outreach particularly around environmental justice and minority populations. The staff will work on this over the next year. The reference to memorandum of understanding does not specifically define the roles and responsibilities of our TCC or CAC, they feel that it would be better practice to do that. The MPO should put a process in place to be sure that it is not discriminating.

E. Georgia Association of MPO's Annual Meeting in Valdosta (GAMPO)

Action: Discussion Only

Mr. Hull explained that we are hosting the annual GAMPO meeting in Valdosta this year and that the MPO has budgeted for committee members to attend at no cost to them if they would like to attend.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

Project update. Mr. Hull explained that GDOT did send a traffic study for Exit 18 interchange, this should be marked as completed. Mr. Hull explained four items have gone to a letting or will be in the next few months: signal upgrades along Ashley St. was let in August by GDOT but has not been finalized; the MLK corridor transportation enhancement project will be let in September; the Clay Rd – US 84 East intersection improvement will be let for construction in October. Mr. Hull also notified the committee that SGRC has received a free Technical Assistance Grant from the Community Transportation Association of America, they will be here in October to review and recommend how we can better interact with our environmental justice populations and general participation apathy. Mr. Hull notified the committee that the Truck Traffic Study and Transit Study RFP's had been sent out. Mr. Hull notified the committee of that he would like to have bid review committees for the studies. Mr. Hull told the committee about the new bicycle maps and the Arrive Alive campaign. Mr. Hull told the committee that he is working on a pilot transit program in Valdosta. Mr. Hull stated that the pilot would provide hard numbers on what a public transit system in the urbanized area may look like, and it will end June 30th. Mr. Hanson asked if Mr. Hull had an idea of a route and that it's a good idea, but his concern about it was prequalifying individuals to be approved to ride this bus, and that there may be potential for conflict if some people who want to ride the bus did not know they had to be prequalified and the driver has to tell them that they cannot. Mayor Schindler also stated an area of conflict for those who use the bus up until its termination date. Mr. Hanson suggested that they should be able to prequalify the location not the person, he asked Mr. Hull if this was possible. Mr. Hull responded that he would have to look at the regulations on that. Mayor Gayle stated that his concern with the pilot was the timeline.

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

Mayor Gayle apologized for not recognizing Mrs. Cribb at the beginning of the meeting.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

Wednesday, December 2, 2015; 10:30 am at SGRC Office. Mr. Hull mentioned that he may have to call a special call meeting if they have the awards for the studies.

Agenda Item #8- Adjournment

Mr. Hanson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the meeting was adjourned.



John Gayle, Mayor, City of Valdosta
Chair, Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee