

**Minutes  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
March 5, 2019  
3:00 PM**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Bill Branham	City of Valdosta
Vanessa Flucas	City of Valdosta
Mike Copper	CVDA
Jim Parker	City of Valdosta
Clayton Milligan	LEA
Stan Crance	Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority
Carroll Griffin	City of Remerton
Myrna Ballard	VLCOC
Debbie Hobdy	MIDS
<b>Others Present</b>	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
JD Dillard	SGRC
Gary Wisenbaker	VLCOC TPC
Sandra Tooley	VCC

### **Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Ms. Flucas called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

### **Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call**

#### **A. Review Committee Attendance (all committees)**

Ms. Flucas asked those present to introduce themselves and state their affiliation with the committee.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Flucas asked the committee members to review the December 5, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Branham made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Griffin made a motion in the second. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

### **Agenda Item #4– New Business**

#### **A. FY2020 UPWP Adoption Resolution FY2019-3**

##### **Action: Recommendation/Vote for Approval**

Mr. Hull directed the committee to the FY2020 UPWP Budget sheet in the agenda packet. Mr. Hull explained that the Budget UPWP sheet line items are showing the various areas that the MPO staff will work on. Mr. Hull notified the committee that in the fall, MPO staff will have a certification review. Mr. Hull went through the comments and feedback from FHWA and GDOT with the committee and notified them of the changes that had been made concerning the comments. Mr. Hull stated that there will also be a future business plan for possible projects in the future. Ms. Flucas asked if this would be different from the long-range planning line item. Mr. Hull responded yes, this will be planning scopes of work for planning products that we will work on at the staff level or bring in consultants, it is different from our long range plan, which looks at infrastructure projects. Mr. Hull stated that he will need a motion and a vote for recommendation to the TAC. Mr. Branham made a motion to recommend the FY2020 UPWP to the TAC. Mr. Crance made a motion in the second. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

#### **B. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Survey Draft**

##### **Action: Discussion**

Ms. Martin directed the committee to the survey handout. Ms. Martin explained to the committee members that the survey will be sent out to the public to gather information for the 2045 LRTP update. She explained to the committee that the survey was in draft form and would like for the committee to review the survey and provide any comments back to her by Friday, March 7, 2019. Ms. Ballard asked would public transit be mentioned more in the survey. Ms. Martin responded that the survey is geared towards understanding the view point of the public concerning transportation infrastructure to help staff get a better understanding of possible areas to focus on. Although public transit will be in the updated plan, it will not be the focus. Mr. Branham asked will we be considering discussing Air Quality in the 2045 LRTP. Mr. Hull responded that as of right now in our area we are below the national standard. Ms. Martin stated that members could check the EJScreen website and pull Air Quality data for this area.

### **C. TAC: Endorse 2045 Socioeconomic Data**

#### **Action: Vote for Approval**

Mr. Hull went over the 2045 Socioeconomic Data sheet in the agenda. He explained to the committee that the TAC will have to endorse the data and that the data will be available for our local public entities to use.

### **D. TAC: Complete Streets Policy**

#### **Action: Discussion**

Does not apply to the CAC.

### **E. PC: Policy Committee Officer Nominating Committee**

#### **Action: Discussion**

Does not apply to CAC.

### **Agenda Item #5– Staff Update**

#### **A. TIA Update**

Ms. Martin read the most recent revenue collection amounts and the amount of funds that have been distributed to the local governments. Ms. Ballard asked have the collections been above the projected estimates. Ms. Martin responded that they have been 9% above the projected estimates.

#### **B. Legislative Update**

Mr. Dillard explained to the committee the most recent information in the Regional Transit process. Mr. Dillard gave the committee background information about the Regional Transit discussion. He stated that the House Representatives passed HB 930 a few years back and are now looking at doing a similar bill for rural areas. This is HB 511, and it aims to consolidate six agencies for transportation into one, titles GMobile. This will eliminate GRTA and pull in SRTA. One option to help fund a regional transit is a flat excise tax which is projected to generate 30 to 60 million dollars per year.

#### **C. Regional Transit Plan**

Mr. Dillard also notified the committee about the Regional Transit Plan that staff is working on. Mr. Branham asked why is it that Albany can have a transit system and Valdosta has more money per capita, but does not have a system. Ms. Flucas responded that public transit systems do not make money. Mr. Branham asked if there is a way for our area to use renewable energy for a cost effective system. Mr. Hull stated that he will find more information on the subject and send it to Mr. Branham. Mr. Dillard continued that the Regional Transit Plan ties in with HB 511 and transit mobility zones. This plan will include a financial study and ridership numbers. This will help us with applying for funding, we hope to have this completed in June.

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

Mr. Parker asked if the million dollar shortfall for transit, Mr. Hull responded that one million was the highest estimate that we had. Mr. Parker stated that he asked the county commissioners, when they allow for a subdivision do they consider that the feeder road will need to be upgraded and that will cost a

million dollars a mile and it is done often. It is something that the City and County should deal with these potential costs of upgrading the roads upfront. There always seem to be money to upgrade the roads at a million dollars a mile but not to support transit. There are other means of taxation to pay for transit without raising property taxes.

Mr. Griffin stated that while traveling down Val Del Road, he noticed so many subdivisions popping up and many people coming here, but wanted to know where are they coming from. We are gaining more people but not more industries. Mr. Griffin continued that in Georgia Trend the industries are north of us from Columbus to Delonaga but we can't seem to get any of them here.

Ms. Flucas asked since many of the improvement projects such as Exit 22, 29 have been 10 years in the making, are we really projecting into the future for our population boom, are the changes that are being made now enough to handle our future projections. Mr. Hull responded that when these projects are planned the data that is used is based on the projected population numbers. We sat down with our local planners and asked where do you see growth happening. We are able to plot out these areas based on current development trends. Also, in the 2040 LRTP we have an unfunded lists of projects, one was improvements for N. Valdosta Road from Country Club to Val Del, but when it came down to funding and prioritization and it did not make it to the funding list.

Ms. Tooley asked if the projections from previous population estimates are close to the newer estimates that have come out. Mr. Hull stated that there is a socioeconomic study done every 5 years and we are pretty close to previous years' projections.

Mr. Branham asked if the County would have the power to stop the City from implementing a transit system. Mr. Hull stated no. Ms. Hobdy stated that laws changed a few years back and MIDS cannot pick up riders from the City to go into the County and Vice Versa. Mr. Hull stated that Lowndes County now pays a cash match to continue the service.

**Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 3:00 PM at the SGRC office.

**Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment**

Mr. Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Braham made a motion in the second. The meeting was adjourned.