



SOUTHERN GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION

**Minutes
Citizens Advisory Committee
September 1, 2020
3:00 PM**

Members Present	Organization
Ronald Skrine	Lowndes County
Clayton Milligan	Lowndes County
Mary Jane York	City of Lake Park
William Branham	City of Valdosta
Michael Cooper	DDA
Myrna Ballard	VLCOC
Jim Galloway	VL Airport Authority
Ray Sable	VSU
Shannon McConico	Wiregrass
Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes County
Kathleen Hodges	City of Valdosta
Others Present	
Sandra Tooley	City Of Valdosta
Corey Hull	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
Rachel Strom	SGRC



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Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mr. Skrine called the virtual meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

A. Review Committee Attendance (all committees)

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

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Skrine asked the committee members to review the June 2, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. McConico made a motion in the second. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. PC Elections (Vice-Chair Vacancy)

Action: Elect Vice Chair

Does Not Apply to the CAC.

B. Vision2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Resolution FY2021-1

Action: Recommendation/Adopt

Ms. Martin notified the committee that the final public comment period for the Vision2045 MTP had been completed and that staff had received a few comments from the public and a few comments from GDOT. She stated that all comments have been addressed through email correspondence as well as updates to the plan. Mr. Martin explained to the committee that in order for the plan to be adopted that there needs to be a motion and a vote for the document to be recommended to the TAC. Mr. Branham made a motion to recommend the document be approved and moved forward to the TAC. Mr. Galloway made a motion in the second. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

C. Discussion of Community Groups for Staff Participation

Mr. Hull presented the committee with a list of potential organizations that the MPO could partner with. He stated that this was a starter list and would like the committee to recommend any other organizations that we MPO staff could develop long term relationships with to perform outreach initiatives. Mr. Skrine stated that Emergency Services should be included on the list, such as Fire Department, Police, EMS, EMA. Ms. Tooley stated that AARP may need to be on the list to help with engaging senior citizens. Ms. Hodges stated that retired teacher/educators and government organizations should be added as well as the Valdosta Area Ministerial Association as well as WAALS. Ms. Yorke suggested that the YMCA, the Boy and Girl Scouts Organizations, United Way, and the Sierra Club. Mr. Hull notified the committee that if they had anymore organizations that they think of later please notify MPO staff so that they can be added.



D. TAC – Discussion- Planning Studies Scopes of Work

Mr. Hull notified the committee that as a part of the transportation planning process, many other ideas and concerns came up; however, these ideas did not fit particularly as a project. The ideas were taken and put into a list of potential studies that can be completed at a later date. Mr. Hull read the potential study topics to the committee. Mr. Skrine asked what are railroad quiet zones. Mr. Hull responded that railroad quiet zones are areas where infrastructure are in place to keep any car from crossing and if the infrastructure is there the train will not have to blow its horn. Ms. Hodges asked what is wayfinding. Mr. Hull responded that it is a common branded signage system. Ms. Hodges stated that the VLPRA has a survey out.

E. COVID-19 Traffic Impacts in Valdosta and Lowndes County

Mr. Godwin first explained that the data was pulled from RITIS and NPMRDS. Mr. Godwin showed the committee the roads in Lowndes County. He explained that a person can go back in time to look at the data for a specific day and time. Mr. Godwin explained that there was a very huge difference in travel during March, with much lower traffic due to the COVID lockdown. Mr. Godwin also showed the committee the travel date for hurricanes Hermine, Irma, and Michael noting that hurricane Irma caused the most congestion on the highways in the VLMPO area.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

A. New Staff Introductions

Mr. Hull explained that Megan Fowler is the new Transit/Mobility Coordinator and that she could not be on the call today due to Transit Webinars that she needed to attend.

B. 21-24 TIP Update

Ms. Martin explained the Transportation Improvement Program plan update has started. She continued that the TIP is a short-range plan that helps to manage and ensure implementation of the MTP. Ms. Martin notified the committee that an informal kickoff meeting was held with GDOT to go over the project costs, schedules, and any changes.

C. Transportation Vulnerability and Resiliency Report

Mr. Godwin notified the committee of the Vulnerability and Resiliency Report is being developed simultaneously with the Lowndes County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The report will give more specific information about the potential of natural hazards on the transportation infrastructure using a tool developed by FHWA. Mr. Godwin stated that there will be some good coordination between the report and the hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Godwin also notified the committee that the next hazard mitigation meeting will be held on September 16, 2020 at 10 am at the Lowndes County EMA center.

D. Public Transit Updates

Mr. Hull gave brief update on public transit. He stated that the City of Valdosta has received proposals for the Urban Public Transit System. There is a committee that will review those proposals and give recommendation on the various transit providers. They are still in the review process.



E. Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Assessment

Mr. Hull explained that staff will be working on a Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Assessment that follows the National Association of MPO's framework. This will assess the communities preparedness for smart infrastructure and CAV communications. Mr. Hull stated that the assessment will be ready later this fiscal year for the committees review. Mr. Branham asked if staff has looked into Macon's awarding of a grant to purchase two electric buses.

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

Ms. Hodges stated that the complete streets webinar was really good and that more on the topic could be shared with this committee. Mr. Godwin explained what Complete Streets are to the committee. Ms. Tooley asked if the implementation of the transit system resolution from the UPWP would be similar to the transit ridership study. Mr. Hull asked if Ms. Tooley was referring to the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Tooley responded that that was correct. Mr. Hull explained that the discussion was concerning consultants to implement transit in Valdosta, but currently nothing has been done with bringing someone on board at this time. Ms. Hodges asked about the City of Valdosta's committee to review transit system proposals. Mr. Hull stated that they are just reviewing right now. Ms. Hodges asked if there will be public input at some time during the process. Mr. Hull responded that he would defer to the City of Valdosta. Ms. Tooley responded that citizens will be informed and have a chance to give comments and input.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 3:00 PM at the New SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Milligan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Branham made a motion in the second. The meeting was adjourned.