



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

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Pat Collins	City of Valdosta
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County
Van Mason	GDOT
Tyler-Graham	GDOT
<b>Others Present</b>	
Sandra Tooley	City of Valdosta
Vivian- Delgadillo Canizares	GDOT
Jason Willingham	GDOT
Tamara Christian	FHWA
Matt Martin	City of Valdosta
Ariel Godwin	SGRC
Corey Hull	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
Rachel Strom	SGRC



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**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Mr. Fletcher called the virtual meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

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

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

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 June 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Fletcher made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Collins 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 TAC.

**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. Ms. 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 PC. Ms. Martin notified the committee that the CAC recommended the MTP for approval yesterday with no discussion. Mr. Collins asked what changes had been made within the plan. Ms. Martin responded that there was an addition of a section covering freight traffic and generators, and that the funding resources were completely separate in the final document. Mr. Collins made a motion to move the document forward as presented. Mr. Fletcher 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. Mr. Hull noted that there were maybe a dozen additional groups that were added by the CAC. He stated that this was a starter list and would like the committee to recommend any other organizations that the MPO staff could develop long term relationships with to perform outreach initiatives. Mr. Hull stated that this process would be long-term but will provide the MPO with potential diverse partnerships. Mr. Collins asked if it was appropriate to add any civic groups. Mr. Hull replied yes, they would be appropriate.

**D. TAC – Discussion- Planning Studies Scopes of Work**

Mr. Hull notified the committee that as a part of the transportation planning process for the 2045 MTP, many other projects came up. These topics were put into a list of potential studies that can be completed



at a later date that could result in future projects in our transportation plans or local/state governments to take up. Mr. Hull stated that to begin the process to move some of these projects forward for consideration, is for staff to develop a scope of work for them. Continuing if we want them to proceed, then we can apply for GDOT Metropolitan Planning funding by following the six steps on the handout. Mr. Hull asked the committee if there were two or three of the list of projects that the committee would like to place at the top of the list. Mr. Fletcher stated that he would like to discuss the Gateway Improvement Plan and Implementation Study. Mr. Collins stated that he supports the idea of this. Mr. Collins stated that it would be nice to have a gateway similar to those when crossing over into Florida. Mr. Mason stated that GDOT has planted vegetation at the Florida line and it looks better than it has looked. Mr. Collins asked Corey about studying traffic around Lowndes Highschool and busing issues at Exit 16 and Exit 18. We wanted to look at some type of operational planning improvements being done. We purposely put intersection money into TSPLOST for the intersections at Gornto and St. Augustine and Norman and St. Augustine. Those projects should follow whatever this plan should be. Mr. Collins asked Mr. Hull to explain the Park Avenue Study. Mr. Hull stated that Park Avenue was initially listed as a 3 lane as well as a road widening project closer to Ashley Street. We discussed this and felt that these improvements were not the best solutions and having a study done will consider the schools and other issues of this roadway. Mr. Collins stated that FEMA is in the process of redoing the City of Valdosta's flood areas. The area from Jaycee Shack out to the high school is in the floodway. Mr. Graham asked Mr. Hull if he knew which project they plan on pursuing. Mr. Hull responded that the discussion was to determine this. Ms. Canizares shared with the committee the GDOT Gateway Grant information.

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

Mr. Godwin explained to the committee that the traffic data was pulled from RITIS and NPMRDS. Mr. Godwin showed the committee the roads from the VLMPO area. 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 data 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 GDOT Transit Meetings that she needed to attend.



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#### **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 sent out an RFQ for an Urban Transit System and have received proposals. They are continuing to go through the steps.

#### **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. Hull stated that the assessment will highlight things that local governments can do to prepare for these technological changes.

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

Mr. Fletcher asked Mr. Mason about Howell Road at Inner Perimeter. Mr. Fletcher stated that a wreck happened involving a 17-year-old girl and many people are calling concerning the intersection. Mr. Mason stated that they are looking at short-term and long-term solutions for the intersection. He continued that they are still looking into it and just haven't decided what safety improvement to place there. Mr. Mason stated that the location may not warrant a signal. Mr. Fletcher stated that there is a signal at Howell Road and Hwy 94. Mr. Mason responded that there may have been different requirements than the other intersection since the signal has been there for years. Mr. Mason stated that signals are the most restrictive traffic control device we have and generally signalized intersections are your highest crash locations. This means that we are increasing the chances of accidents if they are placed in areas that do not warrant a signal. We will take all of the information into account and decide what the location is best suited for. Mr. Collins stated that a roundabout may be an option. Mr. Mason stated that we will put it through ICE and see what fits best. Mr. Fletcher stated that the fatality that happened has many people calling and I am advocating any safety measure that can be put into place there. Mr. Collins notified the committee that the City of Valdosta did get a Smart Cities Grant from Ga. Tech. Ms. Canizares notified the committee that they can also apply for TAP funds to help with infrastructure improvements.



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

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM at the New SGRC office.

**Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.