

**Minutes  
Technical Advisory Committee  
June 5, 2019  
9:00 AM**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Pat Collins	City of Valdosta
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County
Tim Warren	GDOT
Matthew Risher	GDOT
Rick Thomas	Valdosta City Schools
<b>Others Present</b>	
Paul Tanner	GDOT
Vivian Canizares	GDOT
Dennis Carter	GDOT
Van Mason	GDOT
Mark Wisenbaker	Lowndes County
Ariel Godwin	SGRC
Corey Hull	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
JD Dillard	SGRC
Khafra Mills	SGRC

**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Mr. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Mr. Hull 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 March 5, 2019 called meeting minutes. Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

## **Agenda Item #4– New Business**

### **A. Resolution FY2019-4 Amend the 2040 Vision Plan FY-18-21 TIP**

JD Dillard discussed the plan while using a handout. JD stated that it was primarily a change in the funding sources. Changing project from a state funded to a federal and state funded project. Seeking an approval of recommendation to the policy committee. Mr. Risher made a motion. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

### **B. Discussion of Complete Streets Policy Draft**

#### **Action: Discussion**

Ariel started drafting the policy about 1 year ago. The policy was updated due to suggested changes. Some of the track changes suggested involve changing shall to should which would make the policy ineffective because it does not have teeth that way. At that point it is more of just a recommendation than a policy. Other than that it's been written to be in line with complete street policy. Hopefully it will be effective and get the appropriate recognition from the national complete streets coalition if it's adopted. Then Mr. Hull stated that the technical committee was one of the first groups outside of the staff to review the draft policy and the Technical committee formed a subcommittee to look at it to make a lot of recommendations and changes. He has no problem with any of the changes One of the only things is to make sure what we are proposing is worth having little to teeth in the policy is that the direction we want to take for the communities. Then Mr. Hull opens the floor for discussion. They do not want something that ham string their elected officials that they shall do something the word shall means that you have to. He is suggesting using common since so if it makes since to do the project then do it if it does not make since then they will not do the project. They feel like there should be some slight wiggle room in the wording of the plan. Mr. Hull stated the process they wanted to go through was to have this committee look and this and then get any comments from our Citizens Committee as well and any additional comments from the Technical committee and then taking before the policy committee. Mr. Hull then ask the floor if they have any comments on that process moving forward. Member ask what were the comments from the Citizen Advisory Committee. Mr. Hull stated the Citizen Advisory Committee did not make any comments because they wanted to have TAC review the documents first. Mr. Hull states they will proceed with seeking those comments and bringing it back at a future time.

## **Agenda Item #5 – Staff Update**

### **A. Strategic Plan**

Mr. Hull stated in our FY2020 we proposed to do a strategic plan for the MPO its different then what our Long-Range Transportation Plan is its really project based we hope that the strategic plan as they have seen with other MPO's that have done them is something that is focused on bringing the three committees of the MPO together. Looks at what is the overarching vision and goals that the committees want to put forward in our long range transportation plan and also in our other documents and how were are carrying out those other plans and seek out recommendations. One of the recommendations that the citizen advisory committee made the other day was they really want to have one annual meeting of three committees together. He thinks they feel that they are left out of the process sometimes and out of some of the discussions. So they want to have at least one annual meeting where all three committees meet jointly. That was just one of the things that came out the discussion yesterday. There hoping to do this on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the time is tentative and still trying to secure a final location but it will be all three committees meeting together. Suspect a three hour long period, for a brief business meeting then breaking for a facilitated exercise. They had an agreement with one of the planners from the SGRC to do that facilitation for them.

## **B. FY19 Crash Report**

Mr. Godwin stated that he has been working on graphing the crash report which covers the previous five years 2014-2018. It goes through the goals of the strategic state highway safety plan as well as reviewing the FHWA performance measures. There are not too many overarching new trends to see but there are a few things worthy of note. The VMT in the MPO area are about 1.29% of the state wide VMT and by large the number of various types of crashes begin in the MPO area are give or take 1.29% of the state wide figure +/- a few depths of a percentage. Crashes are a similar proportion to our population. So there is nothing that particular stands out. He did get some comments from the CAC yesterday asking he to go a little deeper in some other factors related to crashes that may be interesting, so he going to do that. He is going to look at crashes during the third week in March due to spring break travel, and going to look at other factors such as time of day, Etc. There were 10 pedestrian fatalities in those five jurors six of them were along 84 in the rural area outside the city of Valdosta and two were on I-75. They was one bicyclist fatality. The pedestrian and bicyclist crashes tend to be concentrated more in the central urban area. The collector roads remains to be the most dangerous per mile travel. The interstate remains with the lowest crash rate. Then Mr. Godwin opens the floor for any specific factors that they to see examined in the crash report compared to the one last year. Mr. Thomas stated he would like to know if more crashes occur when school is in or during breaks. Mr. Hull asked if he meant on the days of the week like summer vs. school year or times of the day. Mr. Thomas state days of the week and also times of the day. Mr. Godwin stated he will pull the city and county school calendars and take a look at when school is in and out and when the breaks are. Mr. Godwin will see how that looks and will also look at times of day as far as when school lets out and when school starts. Mr. Hull states one of the things we are also working on through one of our other contracts over our regional commission we are looking at school related crashes around schools to see if there is any improvements that could be made and they choose to do Lowndes County first. One thing found particular in Lowndes County there is not necessarily any cause or relationship for crashes occurring near a school. Other counties they are still looking at and going to have that document ready later this year to look at specifics school related crashes around each school. Member discussed the school bus stop law and is not sure if all the citizens know this this law.

## **C. 2045 Transportation Plan Update**

Ms. Martin stated on the last meeting they sought the committees input on the 2045 LRTP public opinion survey that was going to be released to the public. The committee's ideas were appreciated and included, and the map was put up. The survey was active from April 10, 2019 to May 10, 2019. Ms. Martin reads off a few questions that were on the survey. She explains a trend that was noticed but that was not normally noticed by respondents. Implementing urban public transportation service was number one. Second was improving pedestrian infrastructure. The survey received about 200 comments. Ms. Martin asked moving forward did any feel like anyone else should be included in the survey or discussion. Not sure if this represents the overall community it is just based on the survey sent out. Mr. Hull said a different way to say it is having this number of people talk about bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is a significant change from our previous surveys done in the past. These issues would normally rank five or six in the past it is now number two in a significant amount of the surveys. He didn't know since this was not a strictly scientific survey it was done through Facebook advertising. So the survey does have its faults and he wants to make sure they are covering the broadest amount of the community and getting other input. Mr. Hull asked the committee if they had any additional people they felt like should be talked too or any stakeholders that should be involved. He does not want to totally rely on the survey and make

a recommendation from staff is to put all our money into bicycle and pedestrian he does not think that is the smartest thing to do, it is a consideration to make but does not want to overweight the survey. Ms. Martin stated that the survey is just one data source they will use it is not an end all be all of the plan. The data can even be used going outside of this plan , and if something like this continues how do we go about getting that full representation of the community and what people are looking for. With the survey it is not expected that everyone who took it are pedestrians or bicyclist. Some respondents could be people who see pedestrians or bicyclist and say that the road may not be safe, seeing it from a bystander perspective. Member asked if the surveys they are comparing similar because they might be comparing apples to oranges. Mr. Hull answered it was a totally different survey they are different questions than the past. So the member stated they have to consider that as well. Mr. Hull stated they just want to make sure they are not just totally relying on this one survey to make all of their decisions. Mr. Tanner stated that what they find in other communities across the state is typically the bike/ped community tends to be more vocal then the general population, so he appreciated Corey clarifying the weighting of the survey and how to receive it. Member stated that responses could be based on jurisdiction.

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

Discussion about intersection at Park Ave. and how many crashes happen there since the road needs to be repaired there. Discussion about if a traffic light is warranted at Howell Road.

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

The next meeting will be September, 4, 2019, Time and location TBD.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment**

Mr. Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned.