

**Minutes
Policy Committee
July 1, 2010
4:00 pm**

Members Present	Organization
John Fretti	City of Valdosta, Mayor
Larry Hanson	City of Valdosta, Manager
Jason Davenport	Lowndes County Planner (Ashley Paulk Rep.)
Joe Pritchard	Lowndes County, Manager
John Leonard	SGRC
Wayne Bullard	City of Hahira, Mayor
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC VLMPO
Whitney Biggers	SGRC
Von Shipman	City of Valdosta, Engineer
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County, Engineer
Tim Kassa (Phone)	GDOT

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

John Fretti called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

John Fretti welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending. John Fretti welcomed the Mayor of the City of Hahira, Wayne Bullard, to the committee. There was some discussion about the Policy Committee Bylaws, and whether Tim Kassa could vote via phone. John Leonard mentioned that the bylaws specifically state that a voting member must be present, so they decided not to let Tim vote via. It was also recommended that the staff look into changing the bylaws to clarify attendance and voting capabilities.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

The June 23, 2010 minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

Agenda Item #4– Old Business

- A. **2035 Transportation Plan Draft Document Discussion and Prioritization of Projects:**
 Corey explained the MPO staff’s recommendation. Corey recommended putting the Exit 18 operational improvements in the #1 spot in 2015. Exit 2 was put in the #2 spot in 2015. The full Exit 18 project was put in the #3 spot in 2020 with a 2016 inflation rate applied in order to balance the budget. Exits 22 & 29 were put in the #4 spot in 2020, and Exit 11 was in the #4 spot in 2025. Exit 5 and Loch Laurel Road would remain as Illustrative projects. Other

projects included in the MPO staff recommendation are listed on the 2035 Transportation Plan spreadsheet (attached to minutes).

Corey then explained the TCC's recommendation. The TCC recommended that the Exit 18 operational improvements and Exit 2 go into 2015. Exit 11 and Exits 22 & 29 go into 2020. They also recommended that the full Exit 18 project, Exit 5, and Loch Laurel Road go into the Illustrative list. John Fretti asked about the money that would be left over by not including the full Exit 18 project. Corey stated we would go back to the original Financial Plan with the county having \$18M and the city having \$25M left over in available local funds. John Fretti stated the staff's recommendation has everything the TCC's recommendation has plus the full Exit 18 project which will use up the available local funds. John Fretti added that he was in favor of staff's recommendation because it results in more of a balanced budget.

John Fretti made a motion to accept the MPO staff recommendation. Larry Hanson seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. Joe Pritchard asked Tim Kassa why he voted for the TCC's recommendation earlier that day. Tim stated that he and GDOT felt that Exit 18 had a definite need, but only for the operational improvements (dual left turn lanes). Larry Hanson stated that he felt like the safety issues of Exit 18 could not be ignored. Tim Kassa added that GDOT's opinion was that the dual left turn lanes would solve the safety issue. John Fretti stated that the operation improvements would help, but they would not solve the entire issue because Exit 18 will continue to grow. Tim Kassa added that the plan could always be re-visited and changed later as well as having the possibility of other funding sources. Tim stated the most important part of the plan was the prioritizations of projects, not necessarily the year it goes in. Tim explained the time bands are basically an administrative function used to project inflation rates for projects. The motion carried (4/2 with Jason Davenport and Joe Pritchard voting against).

Corey briefly mentioned possible projects to be added to the Illustrative List.

Corey asked for a motion to allow the 2035 LRTP to go to public comment from July 19-September 1. Corey added that an Open House would be held on July 20 at the City Hall Annex. John Leonard made a motion, and Wayne Bullard seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 – Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment

There were no comments.

Agenda Item #6 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled Policy meeting will be held on **September 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at SGRC.**

Agenda Item #7 - Adjournment

There being no further business, John Fretti adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.