

**Minutes
Policy Committee
January 11, 2011
1:30 pm**

| Members Present | Organization |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| John Fretti | City of Valdosta, Mayor |
| Larry Hanson | City of Valdosta, Manager |
| Jason Davenport (for Ashley Paulk) | Lowndes County Planner (Ashley Paulk Rep.) |
| Joe Pritchard | Lowndes County, Manager |
| John Leonard | SGRC |
| Jonathon Sumner (for Wayne Bullard) | City of Hahira, Manager |
| Tim Kassa (Phone) | GDOT |
| Others Present | |
| Joe Sheffield | GDOT Tifton |
| Brent Thomas | GDOT Tifton |
| David Radock | Valdosta Daily Times |
| Shane Pridgen | GDOT Tifton |
| Alison Stokes | Valdosta-LC Chamber |
| Ann-Marie Day | FHWA (via phone) |
| Corey Hull | SGRC VLMPO |
| Whitney Biggers | SGRC |
| Von Shipman | City of Valdosta, Engineer |
| Mike Fletcher | Lowndes County, Engineer |

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Jason Davenport, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Jason asked that all persons present introduce themselves and their affiliation with the Policy Committee.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Davenport asked for any changes or additions to the minutes as presented. None were presented. Mr. Davenport asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was made by Larry Hanson and seconded by Joe Pritchard, motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 – Special Presentation

Whitney Biggers gave a special presentation on the Public Participation Plan Update. She stated that the new plan would also include a Limited English Proficiency Plan, and a Title VI Plan. Whitney stated that a draft of the plan would be brought before the PC in March in order to receive comments about the

plan from the committee, with final adoption coming in June.

After the presentation, Mr. Davenport asked if the PPP covered all media including radio, print, etc. Mr. Hull responded that was the case, it applied to all media types.

Agenda Item #5– Old Business

- A. VLMPO Policy Committee Bylaw Changes – Mr. Hull presented the bylaws changes had been discussed in previous meetings of the Policy Committee. Mr. Hull noted the following critical changes: Organization and Membership, adding a permanent or temporary proxy representative. A permanent proxy would require that a letter be sent from the original member designating a proxy. A temporary proxy would not require a letter. Both would have full voting privileges during the meetings. Mr. Kassa asked to clarify that his position representing the DOT Commissioner is a permanent proxy and that a person attending only for one meeting would be temporary. Mr. Hull confirmed that was correct. Other changes include Article #7 adding a clause to allow phone and video conferencing for persons being able to participate in a meeting and have full voting privileges via phone and voice conferencing. Mr. Hull noted that there were other minor changes. Mr. Davenport asked if the position of the secretary had been eliminated. Mr. Hull noted that it had not been. Mr. Davenport then asked if there were any further questions. Being none, he called for a motion to approve the Policy Committee Bylaws. Mr. Sumner made the motion to adopt the VLMPO Bylaws as presented, Larry Hanson seconded the motion.

Agenda Item #6 – New Business

- A. FY2012 FTA 5303 Grant Application. Mr. Hull combined this discussion with the UPWP budget that was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Hull noted that this resolution will allow the MPO to apply for about \$31,000 for general MPO activities. Mr. Hull noted that the application will not be available until later, however this process of approving the resolution now would move the application process more quickly. At this time Mr. Hull noted that other items in the UPWP remained mostly the same as previous years. He did not that the special studies section was changed, proposing a new corridor study for alternatives to relieve traffic congestion in downtown Valdosta. Mr. Hull noted this project was proposed and a funding source had not yet been identified. He said that the project would be removed or reworded in the final document. Mr. Hull noted that the summary budget sheet included draft numbers, including carryover that will show zero dollars, until the FY2011 books are closed and the carryover can be amended in. Mr. Hull noted the budget had overall decreased slightly, however the expenditures are increasing over time. He noted that recent increases have involved the transit study over the past several years. Mr. Hull noted that the local amount of the budget is increasing because GDOT no longer funds 10% of the MPO budget. Mr. Davenport asked called for a motion to approve the resolution, made by Joe Pritchard, seconded by John Leonard.
- B. Items for discussion:
- a. Letter for support for GAMPO Mr. Hull presented a letter of support for the Georgia Association of MPOs to seek additional funding for the MPOs of Georgia from the

- b. Advanced Construction funding recently freed up by GDOT. In light of GDOT's recent stoppage of funding MPOs, GAMPO is asking GDOT to consider some of this recently available funding to be used for match for the MPOs as GDOT has traditionally done. Mr. Hull asked for permission to send a letter to GDOT in support of GAMPO and the other MPOs in the state. Mr. Davenport asked if in-kind support from GDOT could be used, Mr. Hull noted that it could. Mr. Hanson asked if the letter should come from the MPO chair or the SGRC, it was discussed and determined it should be the MPO chair. It was agreed that the letter should be sent.
- c. FY2012 UPWP and Budget – see above.
- d. HB 277: Mr. Hull noted that there will be updates to the RTR membership, including Cook, Berrien and Charlton Counties. A further discussion ensued about the project submission process. Tim Kassa also provided several comments.
- e. Access Management: Mr. Hull reminded the committee about the current work being done on the access management plan for Inner Perimeter Road. Mr. Hull noted that the staff has prepared a model ordinance for the City and County to review. Mr. Hull also noted that new staff members will have to be brought up to speed so they can learn about the process completed so far.
- f. Gateways Committee: Mr. Hull noted that the staff is currently working on a prioritization of Gateways in the community. He also noted the Chamber is working to get businesses more involved in this process. A discussion ensued about what the Chamber's vision was for this master plan.
- g. Freight Study: Mr. Hull noted that the staff was looking at some follow-up reports from the 2009 Freight Study. He noted that right now due to funding constraints it would be better to pursue some smaller reports that look at one issue at a time relating to freight issues and transportation in Lowndes County. The first report was a shift-share analysis. Mr. Hull presented a listing of other ideas for studies the staff could undertake. He noted that more information will be presented at future meetings before a decision on the next report is made.
- h. Crash Report: Mr. Hull noted that the staff is continuing to work on this project. He did note that there was a technical issue with some of the data and is currently waiting on the new data from GDOT.

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Update

- C. Staff Update: Mr. Hull noted that the CAC is working to identify a new meeting date and time. Mr. Hull noted that the Facebook report shows only a few 'likes' but 150-200 people are looking at the posts from the VLMPO. Mr. Davenport asked if the Facebook technology would be utilized in the PPP. Mr. Hull also noted that the information from the website and what information people are looking at. Mr. Hull noted that GAMPO will be holding their conference in South Georgia, and Valdosta is a possible site. Mr. Hull noted that the JLUS study the SGRC is working on will have a transportation focus and the MPO staff will have a larger stakeholder role in this next phase. Mr. Hull noted that staff will be working to produce TAZ for the US Census Bureau for the surrounding counties to allow better data for the Lowndes County travel demand model. Mr. Hull also noted that the MPO is waiting on the

final \$10,000 to complete the transit study and finalize all of the documentation for the implementation study.

Agenda Item #8: Privilege of the Floor

There was a discussion about the recent ice storm affecting the northern portions of the region and the state of Georgia.

Agenda Item #9 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled Policy meeting will be held on **March 8, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at SGRC.**

Agenda Item #10 - Adjournment

There being no further business, Jason Davenport adjourned the meeting at 2:29 pm.