

# Valdosta – Lowndes



## Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Minutes  
TCC Special Called Meeting  
June 21, 2010  
2:00 p.m.**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County Engineer
Brent Thomas	GDOT District 4 Engineer
Von Shipman	City of Valdosta Engineer
Cindy Vandyke (Phone)	GDOT
<b>Others Present</b>	
Whitney Biggers	SGRC
Corey Hull	SGRC VLMPO

### **Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Mike Fletcher called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

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

Mike Fletcher introduced everyone and gave their affiliation with the TCC.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2010**

Von Shipman made a motion to accept the minutes and Mike Fletcher seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Old Business**

#### **A. 2035 Transportation Plan Draft Document Discussion and Prioritization of Projects:**

Corey explained the data that was collected in order to help the MPO make an informed decision about prioritizing the I-75 Projects.

Von asked if the existing traffic count was for traffic that goes across the bridges only. Corey stated it was, and that traffic that does not go over the bridges should be considered, but the data was unavailable at this time.

Mike asked Brent how Exit 29 going in 2020 and Exit 22 going in 2020 would affect the environmental document. Brent suggested that they be done as one project at the same time

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being that they both have environmental documents that are almost complete. Mike asked Brent if the Environmental Documents would have to be re-done being that the projects are long range. Brent stated the documents would have to be re-evaluated. Mike stated that his recommendation would be to move Exit 22 up to 2020 with Exit 29. Von asked how Exit 22 could be moved up to 2020 without affecting the financial plan. Corey explained that we do not look at the financial plan on a year by year basis, but rather over the entire period. Corey mentioned that moving Exit 22 up to 2020 would save money (\$6.9M) because of the difference in 10 years worth of inflation. Cindy added that even though Exit 22 & 29 may be listed as one project now, as we get closer to the project year they may get individual project numbers as they move into the TIP.

Von asked about the Exit 18 Project. Corey stated that GDOT recommended that Exit 18 get operational improvements only (adding turn lanes). Von asked if Exit 18 would still be left in the Long Range Plan. Cindy stated that Exit 18 should definitely be left in the Long Range Plan because even with operational improvements the project would still be expensive due to right-of-way costs. Von asked who could get a cost estimate for the project. Cindy stated that she would follow up with the PM. Corey stated that he needs to get a cost estimate before the Policy meeting on Wednesday. Von stated that the city would probably be on board with the recommendations if Exit 18 could receive some immediate help to get people safely off of I-75.

Corey told Mike that for the projects he submitted, they could be 100% covered just by local money. Corey stated the county has \$18M in available SPLOST funds, and the city has \$25M in available SPLOST funds. Mike asked if they have to commit the SPLOST money to the 2035 Transportation Plan. Corey stated they can have a balance, but if the feds see the illustrative list, they might ask questions about the money that is left over. Mike said that he did not feel comfortable committing elected officials to projects, when they are going to get two new commissioners in January. Mike said that he did not want to commit money to projects that may never come to fruition. Von agreed with Mike. Von also mentioned that if they put certain projects down on paper, the public will get excited when the project may never materialize. Mike said that he would rather have a left over balance for the year than to tie up all his money in a financial plan for the next 25 years. Corey asked Cindy if she knew what FHWA might say about the left over funds. Cindy stated that if it is local money, it would be a local call. Corey mentioned that the new transportation tax that is coming up will look at the 2035 TP project lists when they go to the voters. Corey stated that it could be a political situation for the elected officials who ask for money when they are still showing a balance. Von stated that the Policy Committee will ultimately make the decision they feel the most comfortable with.

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Mike had a question about the cost estimates of projects. Corey stated that he was using the GDOT inflation software which has some issues and is not correct all the time.

Mike made a motion to send the project list and financial plan to the Policy Committee for approval for Public Review Period. Mike added that he wanted to move Exit 22 up with Exit 29 in 2020. Von added that he wanted to clarify that Exit 18 was going to stay in the plan. Von seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

### Agenda Item #5 – New Business

#### A. Discussion on SR 821 Constitutional Amendment for Multiyear Construction Agreements for GDOT:

Corey stated that Senate Resolution 821 would be voted on in the fall. Cindy Van Dyke explained the resolution would allow GDOT to enter into multiyear construction agreements.

### Agenda Item #6 – Staff Update

#### A. Transit Implementation Update:

Corey stated the MPO has signed letters to return all transit money back to the feds and GDOT, and all of the capital contracts have been closed out. He also stated that the consultants have been asked to finish the report they started a year ago, and they are under contract to do so until July 2010.

### Agenda Item #7 – Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment

There were no comments.

### Agenda Item #8 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled TCC meeting will be held on **September 7, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at SGRC.**

### Agenda Item #9 - Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.