

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mr. Davenport called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Mr. Davenport asked those present to introduce themselves and state their affiliation with the committees. Aries Little, Ann- Marie Day, and Krystal Harris attended the meeting via telephone.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Upon reviewing the minutes Mr. Thomas was in disagreement with a statement within the minutes. Mr. Thomas requested that the statement be amended to “there was a roundabout study done for Oak St. Ext. and North Valdosta Rd. intersection.” After recognizing this request, Mr. Davenport asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 3 June 2015. Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the minutes from 2 June 2015 as amended. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the minutes were approved as amended.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. Review Comments for the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan

Action: Recommendation/ Direction to Staff

Mr. Hull addressed the committee about public comments made concerning the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan. He stated that there were many comments during the public comment period, in which, he has already provided responses to; however, there were a few comments and responses from the document that he would like to review with the committee. Mr. Hull started with comment #10 from the list, he stated that a formal recommendation should be issued to the local governments on how Complete Streets, Intersection Improvement and Active, Healthy Lifestyles policies should be implemented. Mr. Hull continued to comment #12 from the list, he stated that this comment has been satisfied by adding paragraphs to better illustrate the relationship between the Aspirational Goals and the Eight Planning Factors, as well as an updated table to reflect these changes. Mr. Hull continued to comment #13, which was satisfied by changing “shall complete” to “shall consider” making the implementation strategies less obligatory to PC members. Concerning items 4a and 4b, Mr. Hull explained that they are both subject to the Ga. Dept. of Transportation Design Policy Manual so roundabouts have to be considered for all intersection improvements on a state highway and all of the intersections listed in the plan happen to be on state roadways. GDOT complete streets policy is also applicable to this because any project that is federally funded will have to follow the complete streets policy, which states that the project has to be designed for all roadway users. Mr. Hull stated the project has to be sensitive to the context of the project, such as installing a wider shoulder on a rural street in lieu of sidewalks, and bike lanes. After Mr. Hull explained these, Mrs. Day stated concerns about the use of the word policy in the Long Range Plan. Mrs. Day explained that policies should lead implementation because when they do not it can cause problems with implementation because conversations should have happened prior to adoption, and the proper involvement did not occur. Mr. Davenport clarifies Mrs. Day’s recommendation that if the committee moves forward with the plan, it can be amended later. Mrs. Day states that they can be moved over to the UPWP and then added back in the plan during the next update period. Mr. Davenport asked Ann-Marie for a recommendation on how the committee should move forward. Mr. Hull asks if removing the policies in the TP constitutes a significant change that would trigger going back out to public comment under federal regulations.

Mr. Hull asks again to clarify, these are not a requirement of federal regulations but a recommendation that you are making. Ann-Marie responded that no, they are not federal regulations but we feel strongly that there should have been resolutions adopting these “policies” into the Long Range Plan. Mrs. Day recommended massaging the language by replacing the word “policies” with “strategies.” Mr. Collins suggested changing policy to strategy to move forward, then if needed as policies we can adopt them later. Mr. Hull explained that changing them to strategies would include changing the words or significantly deleting items in the plan. Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Hull, what his timeline would be like having to make those changes. Mr. Hull responded that specific changes can be recommended to the Policy committee and be specific and they can take action, or if we hold off, we are under a deadline that because the current Transportation Plan expires 14 September 2015, and if we do not have an adopted plan nothing can move forward. Mr. Davenport stated that making the changes could take some time for Mr. Hull to complete and asked if this would be conditional approval. Mr. Hull responded yes, it can be conditional. Mr. Hull continued with the comments, resuming with item 4d. Mr. Hull explained that stated that GDOT notified him half-way through the public comment period that the Forrest Street Project needed to be re-scoped, but it has to go through the proper procedures to be re-scoped because we can risk losing federal funding. Staff recommendation is to adopt it in the plan with its old scope, then amend the transportation plan appropriately. He stated for Lake Park Bellville Road and Old 41 North that funding was not available based on anticipated Splost revenues. He explained for Exit 18, GDOT feels that this project is needed later down the road. Mr. Davenport made mention of a comment that was not in the handout concerning railroad related noise and stated that it was worthy of looking into. Mr. Hull explained that there are ways to curtail this through implementing quiet zones; however, it is funded by the local govt. and can be costly. Mr. Hull explained that railroad noise can be discussed with this committee at a future date. Mr. Davenport stated that Mr. Fletcher’s questions were around the project list and how to handle current disagreements. Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Collins if there was a special meeting based on Ann-Marie’s comments would he be willing to discuss the projects. Mr. Collins responded that it was not worthwhile. Mr. Collins made a motion to adopt the plan as proposed with the change of the word “policies” to “strategies.” Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion carried. Mr. Davenport moved to item B and was notified by Mr. Hull that items A&B were combined within the previous conversation and vote. Mr. Davenport did not realize this and was not in agreement with voting for the project list. Mr. Davenport made a motion to undo and re-clarify the previous motion so that the committee could address the items separately. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion carried. Mr. Davenport made a motion to direct staff to change the word policy to strategies within the plan. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion carried. Mr. Collins made a motion to adopt the plan as presented with amendment. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was 3-1, (Yes: Mrs. Little, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Collins; No: Mr. Davenport) Mr. Davenport stated that his concerns in the plan were with the project list. The motion carried.

B. 2040 Transportation Vision Plan Adoption – Resolution FY2016-1
Action: Recommendation/ Vote for Approval

The discussion of the 2040 TVP Adoption is in the above section. Mr. Davenport made a motion to direct staff to change the word policy to strategies within the plan. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion carried. Mr. Collins made a motion to adopt the plan as presented with amendment. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was 3-1, (Yes: Mrs. Little, Mr. Thomas, Mr.

Collins; No: Mr. Davenport) Mr. Davenport stated that his concerns in the plan were with the project list. The motion carried.

FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program – Resolution FY2016-2

Action: Recommendation/ Vote for Approval

Mr. Hull explained the TIP project list. Mr. Hull explained that this is amending the TIP to make it compliant with the 2040 TP. This amendment includes an increase in funds and change of funding source for exit 2 and 29 interchanges. Change in dollar amount for exit 2 and exit 11 projects. Mr. Hull stated that Jerry Jones has been removed from the tier 1 list and is now on the tier 2 list. It will be an added travel lanes project on Jerry Jones from Gornto to Country Club. Mr. Hull notified the committee that two bridge projects in Lowndes Co. will be added which are 100% locally funded. Mr. Hull explained to the committee that the committee needed a motion and a second to recommend approval of these changes to the Policy Committee for the projects to move forward. Mr. Davenport asked if the only project that would appear on the TIP is Forrest St. Mr. Thomas noted that the project list has funds listed under the state match column. Mr. Thomas and Mr. McQueen stated that this needs to change because the state has not committed to providing funds for this project and there is a 1.4 million dollar cap for federal funds so those numbers need to be corrected as well. Krystal notified the committee that no state funds were ever listed for the Jerry Jones project. Mr. Hull recommended that the state funds be removed and federal fund amount changed; however, the 1.4 cap does not need to be mentioned because it is not the same project. Mr. Thomas made a motion that the funding for the project for Jerry Jones be local so the understanding of the cost of the project will still be listed. Mrs. Little seconded the motion. The vote was 3-1 as follows: Yes - Mrs. Little, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Thomas; No-Mr. Collins. Mr. Collins stated that he could not support all local funding being displayed for a project. The motion carried. Mr. Collins stated that he thought the motion was saying all funding for the project would be local and that he could vote for a TBD or something along those lines. Mr. Collins said that the committee should have made a motion for the process. Mr. Thomas made a motion to go back and readdress the funding for item C. Mr. Davenport seconded. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried. Mrs. Little notified the committee that zeroes could not be put in for the funding. Mr. Hull recommended that the project be removed entirely from the TIP. Mr. Thomas made a motion to remove the project from showing as part of the TIP Amendment and place it in the LRTP with a zero balance and recommend approval of the TIP as amended. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

C. Certification Review Report

Action: Discussion Only

Mr. Hull explained that in March, FHWA and GDOT came in for a meeting to review the MPO's performance. Mr. Hull explained that the written report from that meeting is the Certification Review Report. He explained that the full report is available if the committee would like it but he has summarized it to the one page handout that they have. He explains what the FHWA and GDOT see as strengths of the MPO. Most recommendations that FHWA and GDOT made are related to implementing best practices in the participation plan and public outreach particularly around environmental justice and minority populations. The staff will work on this over the next year.

D. Georgia Association of MPO's (GAMPO)

Action: Discussion Only

Mr. Hull explained that we are hosting the annual GAMPO meeting in Valdosta this year and that the MPO has budgeted for committee members to attend at no cost to them if they would like to attend.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

A. Semi-Annual Project Update

Mr. Hull notified the committee of project status updates: He stated three projects are going to a letting. Mr. McQueen asked Mr. Hull to update the comments. Mr. Hull also notified the committee that SGRC has received a free Technical Assistance Grant from the Community Transportation Association of America, they will be here in October to review and recommend how we can better interact with our environmental justice populations and general participation apathy. Mr. Hull notified the committee of GDOT's Arrive Alive campaign. Mr. Hull gave his recommendation for the Transit Study and Truck Traffic Study bid review committees. Mr. Hull told the committee that he is working on a pilot transit program in Valdosta. Mr. Hull stated that the pilot would provide hard numbers on what a public transit system in the urbanized area may look like, and it will end June 30th.

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

Mr. Davenport showed appreciation and thanks to Mr. Hull for his leadership and efforts in his success of having the GAMPO conference hosted by Valdosta this year.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

Wednesday; December 2, 2015; 9:00am @ SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Collins made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; the meeting was adjourned.