

**Minutes
Policy Committee
December 7, 2016
10:30 AM**

Members Present	Organization
John Gayle	City of Valdosta
Bill Slaughter	Lowndes County
Jason Davenport (proxy for Joe Pritchard)	Lowndes County
Tom McQueen	GDOT
Justin Devane	Brooks County
Others Present	
Corey Hull	SGRC
Andrew Smith	SGRC
Amy Martin	SGRC
Brent Thomas	GDOT
Sandra Tooley	Valdosta City Council
John Stephen	Valdosta Daily Times
William Eastin (via telephone)	GDOT

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mayor Gayle called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Mayor Gayle asked those present to introduce themselves and state their affiliation with the committee.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Gayle asked the committee members to review the September 7, 2016 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Davenport to approve the minutes as stated. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4– New Business

A. Policy Committee Bylaws Amendment

Mr. Hull presented the proposed amendments to the Policy Committee bylaws. Mr. Hull highlighted that Hahira and Lake Park are proposed to have biannual seats while Remerton and Dasher's seats will rotate annually. Mr. Hull also stated that a proxy staff member cannot serve as chair or vice-chair. Staff members also cannot be a proxy on multiple committees. Mr. Slaughter asked for clarification about the additional seat being filled by a city member, and that was confirmed by Mr. Hull. Mr. Slaughter voiced concerns about an imbalance being created between the city and county by adding another city seat. Mr. Davenport expressed concern about another small city seat. Mr. Slaughter made a motion to approve the bylaws with the stipulation that another seat for small counties with a 1 year term be added to keep the balance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Devane. The vote was 4-1 with Mayor Gayle opposing the motion, and the motion carried.

B. FY2017 UPWP Amendment, Traffic Signal Study – Resolution FY2017-5

Mr. Hull explained the traffic signal optimization study for the city of Valdosta along with the amount of funding contributed by various government entities. Mr. Hull noted that the MPO would apply up to \$200,000 in federal funds. Valdosta has agreed to pay 100% of the matching requirements amounting to \$40,000. This UPWP amendment brings total amount in FY2017 to \$350,040.55, and Mr. Hull referenced the budget sheet in the agenda packet on page 33. The pledged amounts are \$280,032.44 federal, \$6,001.62 SGRC, \$12,003.25 Lowndes County, and \$52,003.25 City of Valdosta. The proposal includes 38 traffic signals primarily on the north side of Valdosta to maximize signal coordination, to map the city's fiber optic network and to coordinate with GDOT's NEXUS Works. The proposal will be up for bids after the Policy Committee approves the amendment and as late as December 31, 2016. The study ideally should be under contract by the end of February and concluded by the end of June with the possibility that it could be pushed back to the end of July. Mr. Hull noted that this would be a relatively quick study that would take 4-5 months. Mr. Devane made a motion to approve the amendment at add these additional funds. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. FY2018 5303 Grant Application – Resolution FY2017-6

Mr. Hull presented the resolution and noted that the Policy Committee and the SGRC Council both require a resolution to apply for 5303 federal transit administration funds. They are similar to federal highway funds and amount to approximately \$61,000 that is applied for general, overarching transportation planning conducted by the MPO. Mr. Devane made a motion to approve the grant

application resolution, and Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

D. FY2018 UPWP: Remarks and Feedback

Mr. Hull discussed the UPWP for FY2018 and that a draft budget and work program must be delivered to GDOT by Thanksgiving. Mr. Hull reminded the committee of a draft document sent via email prior to Thanksgiving. Mr. Hull asked the committee to look at the 9 task pages within the document, but cautioned that the draft will change. Mr. Hull encouraged the committee to provide feedback. The document will be sent again fulfilling a request made by the CAC. Mr. Hull then added that the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) put out a call for projects for additional MPO funding for capacity building projects. These range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 plus a required 80% federal match and 20% local match. Mr. Hull asked the committee for input on improvements to the long-range transportation plan to make it more resilient – either a planning version or operations & maintenance. Mr. Hull said this will be put out for adoption at the March meeting. Mr. Hull gave the committee the option to view the application that is due in mid-January. Mr. Davenport asked about when the local match check should be delivered and the amount of binding attached to it.

Agenda Item #5– Staff Update

A. AMPO and NADO Awards

Mr. Hull updated the committee on recent awards that the MPO received. The Pilot Shuttle Program was recognized with a National Innovation Award and an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. The National Award for Outstanding Achievement for a City under 200,000 was given to the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO this year, and it is only presented to one MPO annually.

B. Valdosta Pilot Shuttle Program Update

On behalf of Mr. Dillard, Mr. Hull presented graphs and data charting the gradual increase in ridership since its inception in October 2015. Mr. Hull also pointed out several dips in the ridership graph where the shuttle program was originally supposed to end, but ultimately extended by 3 months, and this occurred in June and September 2016. Mr. Hull explained the calculations and statistics in the handout. This data is typical to National Transit Database reporting formats and will be used in comparison to other transit systems in Albany, Hinesville, and Macon. Mr. Davenport was interested in which stops were the most popular on and off points for unique riders.

C. Downtown Truck Traffic Study Update

Mr. Hull briefed the committee on the status of the downtown truck traffic study and the ongoing series of invitation-only local stakeholder meetings. The study was presented at two national conferences prior to the CAC meeting.

D. 2040 TVP & Performance Measures

Mr. Hull directed the committee to examine the handout titled “MPO Safety Performance Measures.” Rules and regulations stipulate that MPOs must establish safety targets by February 27, 2018 in the categories of number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. This is on all public and private roadways. There are two approaches to setting these targets: either adopt state targets, develop own targets for the Metropolitan Planning Area, or a combination of both. Mr. Hull stressed that planning areas and urbanized areas are distinct from one another and present different geographies for setting these safety

targets. Mr. Hull then described the monitoring process and that the MPO assessment of progress is made every 5 years corresponding to the adoption of the new Transportation Plan and is done through certification reviews and STIP approval findings. Mr. Hull concluded this presentation by expounding on the requirement that TIP projects must document how each project will achieve safety targets, citing I-75 interchange projects at Exits 2, 11, 22, and 29 as examples. Mr. Hull noted these projects were amended by GDOT and moved up by a year from year 2018 to year 2017. This applies to Exit 2 and Exit 11 ROW acquisition phase along with Exits 22 and 29 utility relocation and construction.

E. PPP Funding Report

Mr. Hull turned the floor over to Mr. Smith to give a brief presentation on the MPO's public-private partnership funding report stipulated under the LRTP that is currently being drafted. Mr. Smith stated the report will define PPPs and then relate the topic to community issues and policies in the Comprehensive Plan, and aspirational Common Community Vision goals in Transportation Vision Plan. PPP applications to bike/pedestrian infrastructure will be a key focus in this report along with Georgia's enabling legislation through the Public Private Facilities Infrastructure Act of 2015. The report is expected to be complete by December 31, 2016.

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

Mayor Gayle opened the floor for public comment, and there were no additional comments.

Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 10:30 AM at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Mr. Devane made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.



John Gayle, Mayor, City of Valdosta
Chair, Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee