

**Minutes
Citizen's Advisory Committee
March 5, 2013
3:00 PM**

Members Present	Organization
Edward Rawls	Lowndes County
Dick Saeger	Valdosta
Meghan Duke	VLCIA
Stephanie Joachim	Valdosta Schools
Tim Riddle	Conference Center
Carroll Griffin	Remerton
Charlie Clark	Lowndes County
Bryan Almand	Valdosta
Robert Jefferson	Lowndes County
Amanda Peacock	Downtown Valdosta
Clarence Parker	Airport Authority
Leggett Lovan	Chamber
Debbie Hobdy	Lowndes
Ken Sherrill	Lake Park
Ray Sable	VSU
Others Present	
Bill Branham	21 st Center
Corey Hull	SGRC
Diane Cox	Citizen
Lindsey Mobley	EJ advocate

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mr. Jefferson called the meeting ot order at 3:02 pm. Mr. Jefferson recognized the late Earl Wetherington, a long-time member of the CAC and transportation safety advocate in the community.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions/Roll Call

Mr. Jefferson asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jefferson asked for approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2012 meeting, Mr. Sherrill made a motion to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Mr. Lovan, motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4– Old Business

None.

Agenda Item #5 – New Business

- A. FY2013-16 TIP Amendment PE for Forrest St. and Oak St. Projects – Resolution FY2013-8
Mr. Hull described the amendment to change the Transportation Improvement Program to include more funds for the preliminary engineers for the Forrest Street and Oak Street widening projects. Mr. Hull noted that a public comment period was conducted and no comments had been received to date.

Mr. Almand made a motion to recommend this amendment to the Policy Committee, it was seconded by Carroll Griffin, the motion carried unanimously.

- B. FY2013 UPWP 5303 Supplemental Funding Amendment – Resolution FY2013-12
Mr. Hull described these additional funds as more funds from GDOTs 5303 program. He described that these funds came from GDOT as a surprise and the staff was unaware of it. He did say that the staff had projects these funds could be spent on, including the socioeconomic data study and goals and visioning process for the 2040 Transportation Plan and local Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Hull described that the funding is 80% federal, 10% state and 10% local.

Mr. Parker asked what the source of the local funds would be. Mr. Hull said that Valdosta and Lowndes County typically use their general funds to support the MPO. Mr. Parker then asked if the funding was in any way tied to SPLSOT revenue. Mr. Hull responded, no.

Mr. Lovan, asked if these funds were a ‘redo of a redo’? Mr. Hull clarified that these were new, additional funds, not redoing any previous amendments.

Ms. Hobdy made a motion to recommend the amendment for approval to the Policy Committee, it was seconded by Mr. Almand, the motion carried unanimously.

- C. FY2014 UPWP - Resolution FY2013-9

Mr. Hull described the FY2014 budget in detail describing the funding sources from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Hull noted that the primary work task was to develop the 2040 Transportation Plan and noted that was going to cause the MPO to spend a little bit more money than in years past.

Mr. Parker asked is any of the funds in the UPWP would be affected by sequestration. Mr. Hull responded that the Highway Trust Fund is independent of sequestration.

Mr. Rawls asked how much of the work was being done by consultants. Mr. Hull noted that very little of the work is done by consultants. It was asked by someone what the total amount in the budget that is devoted to consultants. Mr. Hull noted that in the past two years, no funding has gone to consultants, he noted that in the coming year, it would be the funding for the socioeconomic data study.

Mr. Sherrill made a motion to recommend approval of the UPWP to the Policy Committee, it was seconded by Mr. Clark and the motion carried unanimously.

D. VLMPO Procurement Manual and Policy – Resolution FY2013-10

Mr. Hull described the overall Procurement Manual and Policy for the MPO that has been presented to the committee in the past. Mr. Hull described the content of the policy and how it would be used by staff.

Mr. Parker asked if there were any major substantive changes to what the MPO has done in the past. Mr. Hull noted that it is very close to past policy, but it is now in a written form. A discussion continued on the past practices of the MPO and current FTA requirements.

Mr. Mobley asked if this will impact construction projects. Mr. Hull noted that this is for planning and consulting studies only, not for construction projects or contractors.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffin to recommend for approval to the Policy Committee the Procurement Policy and manual, it was seconded by Mr. Almand, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lovan abstained from this vote.

E. Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary – Resolution FY2013-11

Mr. Hull described the proposed changes to the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary as presented on a map. The major changes to the boundary include new areas in the Troupville area of Brooks County.

Mr. Branham asked if the USDA and other agencies use this same information. Mr. Hull said that he was not sure he was able to answer that question fully. He did note that the US Census Bureau uses 50,000 as an urban area population threshold.

Mr. Lovan made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee adopt the MPA as presented, it was seconded by Mr. Rawls, the motion carried unanimously.

F. Authorize Staff to send letter re: 5307 Apportionment

Mr. Hull described this letter that has been sent annually for several years. He noted this funding is available to be used for capital and operating expenses for small urban area transit systems. Because the Valdosta area does not have an urban public transit system the money is redistributed to other areas in the state. Mr. Hull noted the funding available is just over \$900,000.

Mr. Lovan felt this is the right step to take, but it is a tough decision to make at this time, even though the community needs a system like this. A discussion continued amongst the members on this subject for some time regarding the need of public transit services versus available local funding.

Mr. Lovan made a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee to send the letter, the motion was seconded by Mr. Saeger, the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 – Staff Update

A. MPO Committee Restructuring

Mr. Hull described a proposal from staff to restructure the MPO committees as described on a hand out presented to the committee. He noted that this will be presented to the Policy Committee as a bylaws amendment, but the Technical and Citizen's committee membership can be changed at any time.

A brief discussion ensued about the changes as proposed. Mr. Hull noted that he would take any feedback and present it back to the Policy Committee at their June meetings.

B. Project Status Update

Mr. Hull described the status of several of the projects in the region. He noted that several are under construction.

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

Mr. Clark asked if traffic timing on South Patterson Street had changed. He did say that he was travelling in the early morning.

Mr. Joachim, noted that the intersection of Northside Drive and Ashley has become a problem for school buses.

Mr. Lovan asked if the first responders had the ability to change the lights in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Mobley, a citizen, asked several questions about public transit and representation of low-income and minority residents on MPO committees, as well as several other topics.

Agenda Item #8 - Next Meeting Date and Time

Mr. Jefferson noted the next meeting date and time as June 4, 2013 at 3:00 pm at the SGRC office.

Agenda Item #9 - Adjournment

Mr. Jefferson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 pm. A motion was made by Bryan Almand and seconded by Dick Saeger, the motion carried.