

**Minutes  
Policy Committee  
6/4/2014  
10:30 am**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Justin DeVane	Brooks County
Sherry Davidson	SGRC (proxy for John Leonard)
John Gayle	Valdosta
G. R. Holton	Dasher
Mike Fletcher	Lowndes County
Jason Davenport	Lowndes County
Larry Hanson	Valdosta
Tom McQueen	GDOT
<b>Others Present</b>	
Anne Marie Day (via phone)	FHWA
Corey Hull	SGRC
Todd Miller	SGRC
Brent Thomas	GDOT
Shane Pridgen	GDOT
Jonathan Sumner	Hahira
Bruce Cain	Hahira
Krystal Harris (via phone)	GDOT
Aries Little (via phone)	GDOT
Joe Sheffield	GDOT

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

Mr. Davenport called the meeting to order at 10:31

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

Mr. Davenport asked those in attendance to introduce themselves and to state their affiliation with the committee.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Davenport asked for the approval of the minutes from the March 5, 2014 and May 2, 2014 meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Hanson, and a second was made, motion carried.

### **Agenda Item #4– Old Business**

None.

### **Agenda Item #5– New Business**

#### *A. Election of Policy Committee Officers; Chair, Vice Chair*

Mayor Gayle informed the Committee that he and Mr. Leonard met via electronic mail and decided the best option was keep the current Policy Committee Officers for another term, with the County representative (Jason Davenport, proxy for Bill Slaughter) serving as the Chair and the City representative (Mayor Gayle) serving as the Vice-Chair. Mr. Davenport asked for alternatives or a motion to approve Mayor Gayle's recommendation for retaining the current Officers. A motion was made by Mr. DeVane to retain the current Officers, and a second was made by Mr. Fletcher, motion carried unanimously.

#### *B. Proposed Functional Classification Map*

Mr. Hull described FHWA and GDOT's request for the local community to review and revise their functional classifications, and the proposed changes the County and the City developed. Mr. Hull indicated that GDOT and staff recently agreed that more staff level discussion was needed, and further changes may be forthcoming. Mr. Hull recommended no action be taken on this item at this time. Mr. Thomas asked about the map, and Mr. Hull clarified that proposed changes were indicated with a black line drawn around the road. A short discussion ensued regarding some of the proposed changes. Mr. Hull noted this item will appear on the next agenda.

#### *C. FY15-18 Transportation Improvement Program, DRAFT*

Mr. Hull described the upcoming public comment period for the FY15-18 and the tables from the TIP that were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Hull also described the Technical Committee's recommendation and the City's desire to modify the Tier 1 Jerry Jones project by moving it from FY17 to FY16 as it reads right now. The City would also like to make the following modifications to the project in the upcoming long range transportation plan update.

1. Change the termini from Gornto to Oak, to Gornto to Country Club Road; and
2. Make it a 4 lane road; and
3. Use it as our Federal Aid project that will be appear in the federal Transportation Improvement Program; and

4. Make the portions from Country Club to Oak and Gornto to Baytree to be locally funded projects to be developed by the City as 3 separate projects; and
- 5.

Mr. Hull indicated the Long Range Transportation Plan would have to be amended next year in order to accommodate the proposed changes to the project, but that the project could be moved into FY16 now to keep things moving forward. Mr. Hull recommended the Committee keep the project as described in the current list, and include the proposed modifications in the upcoming Long Range Transportation Plan that will be completed next year. At that time we would also change our Transportation Improvement Program to reflect the modifications to the project.

Mr. Hull indicated that an alternative to that course of action would be to run a simultaneous Long Range Transportation Plan amendment to the current plan this month to make all the modifications. Mr. Hull recommended holding off making the changes in the LRTP until next years scheduled update as the project will not go to construction this year.

Mr. Hanson asked Mr. Hull to clarify his recommendation, and expressed how the proposed changes would reduce the size of the project and save the GDOT money. Mr. Hanson accepted Mr. Hull's recommended course of action. A short discussion ensued between Mr. Hanson, Mr. Davenport and Mr. Hull clarifying Mr. Hull's recommendation. Mr. Hanson described his recent discussions with the GDOT Commissioner, Mayor Gayle, Todd Long and Chairman Shaw, and that GDOT is expecting the City to submit a new Project Agreement proposal would be forthcoming from the City requesting the proposed modifications. Mr. Hanson requested the MPO's support for the new Project Agreement.

Mr. Gayle asked why there were no projects in FY15 and FY18. Mr. Hull directed the question to Mr. McQueen. Mr. McQueen described how GDOT's phasing and accounting methods effect the projects list.

Mr. Hanson commented on how Exit 18 was removed from the Tier 1 list without a vote from the Policy Committee, and that he would like that project to be reconsidered and put back into the short term plan. Mr. Hull asked Ms. Harris or Mr. McQueen to provide any additional information on the Exit 18 question. Mr. McQueen indicated that the GDOT cannot move an item off the Tier 1 Project List without action from the MPO's Policy Committee, and that the Committee did take action on the project. Mr. McQueen also indicated that he has requested his staff to conduct a study of the interchange to determine what further modifications are necessary, and asked the Committee members to provide him with any information that would be relevant to his study of the interchange. A discussion ensued between Mr. Hull, Mr. Hanson, and Mr. Davenport regarding the Exit 18 issues, necessary changes and the history of past improvements. Mr. Hanson clarified that he is asking for the same type of improvements that are being made to the other

Lowndes County interchanges. Mr. Fletcher asked Mr. McQueen when the study may be completed, and Mr. McQueen indicated the study was just kicking off, and it would determine what amongst a range of potential improvements should be implemented, and it may take up to 6 months to complete. Mayor Gayle joined the discussion of the history of the project. Mr. Hanson made a formal request of MPO staff to research the minutes of the past Policy Committee meetings to determine if in fact the Committee did vote to remove the Exit 18 project from the Tier 1 list. Mr. Hull indicated he would research the minutes.

Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Hull about action needed on the TIP. Mr. Hull indicated it was only for discussion today, and must be out for public comment prior to adoption, which will need to occur in July, after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Mr. Davenport confirmed with Mr. McQueen that he would not be able to complete the study prior to the next meeting in July. Mr. Hanson indicated the study should include times when school is in. A discussion ensued between Mr. Davenport, Mr. Hanson and Mr. McQueen regarding funding and how project improvements are determined.

Mr. Davenport and Mr. Hull asked Mr. McQueen if he needed any action from the Committee for his interchange study. Mr. McQueen indicated he did not.

*D. FY2014 Federal Transit Administration 5307 Funds Allocation Letter*

Mr. Hull described the options available to the Committee regarding GDOT's funding for an urban transit system, how the Committee has chosen to turn down those funds in previous years, the history of considerations of an urban transit system and recent discussions and recommendation regarding an urban transit system, including the Citizen Advisory's Committee recommendation to ask GDOT to hold those funds for up to three years and to study the issue. Mr. Hull also indicated the Technical Committee did not make any recommendations regarding the item, and indicated that funds held could be used for a study of the potential for an urban transit system in Valdosta.

Mr. Davenport clarified what "consideration for approval" would constitute. Mr. Fletcher asked to clarify that a local match would be required for any use of the funds, and Mr. Hull confirmed that to be the case. A discussion ensued regarding the options available to the Committee, and the issues surrounding the development of an urban transit system, including funding costs and sources. Mr. Davenport, Mr. Hull and Mr. Hanson discussed the scale of the transit system that was previously studied, and how there may be other, less robust options for a start-up transit system, including privatization and/or a shared system. Mr. Davenport and Mr. Hull discussed how the held funds could be used for a study, and a 20% match would be required. Mr. Hanson, Mr. Davenport and Mr. Hull discussed potential scopes of work, existing data and costs of a study. Mr. Hull indicated he felt the \$100,000 to \$200,000 price range would be for an urban transit study.

Mr. Davenport asked what action needs to be taken today, and whether or not the item could be postponed until the next meeting. Mr. Hull indicated a request to hold the funding would not constrain the Committee, and would still allow the Committee to decline the funds without penalty after a meeting with the staff of the GDOT Intermodal Transportation Department could be held.

The discussion of urban transit system configuration options continued with Mr. Fletcher.

Mr. Hanson asked whether there would be any penalty or downsides to requesting that the funds be held. Mr. Hull indicated that there would not be. Mr. Hanson made a motion to request GDOT to hold the urban transit funds.

Mr. Davenport asked whether there was any more direction needed from the Committee for MPO staff to start the process of coordinating a meeting with the GDOT Intermodal staff. Mr. Hull indicated he did not.

Mr. Davenport reiterated the motion, and asked for a second. Mayor Holton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

*E. 2040 Transportation Vision Plan Public Meetings/Outreach*

Mr. Hull described the upcoming public outreach efforts for the Long Range Transportation Plan update, and how staff was trying to reach out to the minority communities. Mr. Hull indicated the item was for informational purposes only.

**Agenda Item #5– Staff Update**

Mr. Hull informed the Committee of the recent release of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Planning Requirements for MAP-21 from the FHWA, which govern all MPOs. Mr. Hull indicated there would be a 90 day comment period, and indicated there were few changes other than the new requirement to utilize performance measures. Mr. Hull indicated the Committee would have to amend its Memorandum of Agreement within 18-24 months. Mr. Hull indicated MAP-21 will expire on September 30, 2014, and that Congress is starting work on a new transportation bill.

Mr. Hull also informed the Committee that GDOT will be holding a Rail Meeting in August at the City Hall Annex, and that Georgia Bikes and GDOT will hold a Complete Streets Workshop here in August, also.

Mr. Hull also indicated the Committee needed to set a date for the TIP adoption in July. Mr. Davenport outlined the options for the called meeting provided by Mr. Hull to the Committee, and asked for details about the agenda for that meeting. Mr. Hull indicated in addition to the TIP adoption, the Functional Classification changes could be placed on the agenda if they are ready. Mr. Davenport suggested including a presentation from the GDOT Intermodal staff on urban transit systems at that meeting may be appropriate if it could be scheduled. Mr. Hanson suggested

Mr. Hull confer with other MPOs that have urban transit system. A discussion between Mr. Hanson, Mr. Hull and Mr. Davenport ensued regarding what other MPOs are doing for urban transit in the state and around the nation. Mr. Davenport indicated the Intermodal Staff meeting be held until the September meeting. Mr. Davenport asked for the Committee to pick a date from the choices provided by Mr. Hull. July 9, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the SGRC offices was selected.

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

Mr. Davenport extended thanks and appreciation to Mayor Holton and Mr. DeVane for their service on the Committee.

Mr. Sheffield discussed the status of the MAP-21 spending bill, and funding problems at the GDOT resulting from the lack of a spending bill. Mr. Hanson and Mr. Sheffield discussed how the funding flows from the federal level to the state level.

Mr. Hanson asked that a discussion of a truck bypass be added to the agenda for the July meeting. Mr. Hanson described how the temporary bypass for the West Hill Overpass project has worked well, and that the City will be making a formal request to GDOT to make that temporary bypass permanent. Mr. Hanson expressed hope that the discussion may result in feedback from the Committee and possible support for the formal request.

Mayor Gayle described the recent news that the NWGRC received funding for new industry through the Department of Commerce, and expressed frustration that similar funding has not been forthcoming for South Georgia. Mayor Gayle asked the SGRC representative whether they were aware of the funding, and how it was procured. Ms. Davidson and Mr. Hull indicated they were unaware of the funding, but would reach out to their counterparts at NWGRC.

Mr. Davenport recognized the representatives from Hahira who will be taking their positions on the Committee at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item #7 - Next Meeting Date and Time**

A. Policy Committee

- a. Wednesday, July 9, 2014; Time: 10:30 am, at SGRC Office (TIP Adoption)
- b. Wednesday, September 3, 2014; 10:30 am; at SGRC Office

**Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment**

Mr. Davenport asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Fletcher, it was seconded by Mr. Davenport, motion carried.