

**Meeting:** Policy Committee Meeting

**Date:** 2/8/2018

**Time:** 11:00AM – 12:00PM

**Attendance:**

Melanie Wilson, Director of Augusta Planning and Development  
Carletta Singleton, Long Range Planning Manager  
Bill Spivey, Land Use and Transportation Planner II  
Dhruvi Panchal, Planner I –GIS/ Urban Design  
John Ussery, Engineering AED  
LJ Peterson, Aiken County  
Rodney Simpson  
Ted Hicks  
Tom Cailata  
Rhonda Mithcell, LSCOG  
Ellen Wright GDOT  
Todd Price GDOT  
Steve Exley, Columbia County  
Bill Molnar , LSCOG  
Daine Lackey, SCODOT  
Kenny Lanmore SCDOT  
John Ussery, Augusta Engineering Department  
June Hamad, Augusta Engineering Department  
Marques Jacobs, Augusta Engineering Department  
LJ Peterson, Aiken County  
Portia Smith, Augusta Public Transit  
Sean Cassell,  
Steve Cassell, Columbia County  
Hameed Malk, Augusta Engineering  
Marcus Campbell, Mayors Office

**Background:**

The Policy Committee meeting was hosted by the Augusta Regional Transit Study (ARTS) at the Training Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, in the Augusta Richmond County Municipal Building located on 535 Telfair Street.

**Discussion Highlights/ Summary:**

**1. Welcome and Introduction (Acknowledge Go-To-Meeting)**

The policy committee opened up with welcomes and introductions.

**2.Recommend approval of the minutes of the Policy Committee (PC) for 2018 Calendar Year.**

After welcome and introduction the Policy Committee approved the minutes from the last Policy Committee meeting in December of 2017.

### **3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the ARTS Policy Committee (PC) for 2018 Calendar Year.**

The Policy Committee gave motion to elect a Vice-Chair.

### **4. Review Final Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program- Work Elements, work activities and budget.**

Mr. Spivey shared with the policy committee an overview of the Final draft of the ARTS FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), highlighting the UPWP work elements, work activities and budget.

#### ***Augusta Planning and Development Dept. - Total:***

- GDOT PL - \$373,763.85 Federal 80%, \$93,440.96 APDP 20% for a Total of \$467,204.81;  
*Total Increase is \$9,959.78.*
- SCDOT PL - \$18,000.00 Federal 80%, \$4,500.00 APDP 20% for a Total of \$22,500.00;
- GDOT FTA 5303 FY 2019 & FY 2020 - \$167,246.00 Federal 80%, \$20,905.75 GDOT 10%,  
\$20,905.75 – ADPD 10% for a Total of \$209,057.50; *Total Increase is \$6,735.10.*

*Local/State Match provided by GDOT, Richmond County, GA & Aiken County, SC*

#### ***Aiken County Planning and Development Dept.***

- SCDOT PL - \$210,800.00 Federal 80%, \$52,700.00 ACPDP 20% for a Total of \$263,500.00;

#### ***Lower Savannah Council of Govt.***

- SCDOT FTA 5303 - \$48,000.00 Federal 80%, \$12,000.00 LSCOG 20% for a Total of \$60,000.00

After Mr. Spivey presented to the policy committee the ARTS FY 2019 UPWP updates, Ms. Singleton mentioned that a draft copy of the ARTS FY2019 UPWP would still be available on the ARTS MPO website. Ms. Singleton then noted that the ARTS MPO FY 2019 UPWP final draft document is currently waiting on final review comments from the FHWA.

### **5. Review and endorse recommendation from the Technical Coordinating Committee to the Policy Committee to adopt revisions to the Functional Highway Classification for ARTS MPO area in Richmond and Columbia as requested GDOT.**

Ms. Singleton reviewed the recommendations to the Functional Highway Classification for ARTS MPO area in Richmond and Columbia as requested GDOT.

The following are list of the recommended proposed Functional Highway Classification changes requested by GDOT:

#### ***Proposed changes in Richmond Co., GA***

- Wrightsboro Road from Highland to 15<sup>th</sup> Street
- Wrightsboro Rd from Columbia/Richmond County Boundary to Highland Ave
- Doug Barnard Pkwy/Tobacco Rd (SR 56 Spur) from Gordon Hwy (US 78) to Mike Padgett Hwy.

- Windsor Spring Road from Peach Orchard Rd to Tobacco Rd.
- Tobacco Road from Mike Padgett Hwy (SR 56) to Deans Bridge Rd.

*Proposed changes in Columbia, Co., GA*

- Wrightsboro Road from Wrightsboro Rd/SR 388 to Grovetown City Boundary
- Wrightsboro Rd from Grovetown City Boundary to Columbia/Richmond County Boundary
- Old Petersburg Rd. from Grovetown City Boundary to Columbia/Richmond County Boundary.
- River Watch Pkwy from Old Evens Rd to Pleasant Home Dr

In the meeting, Ms. Singleton had made reference to the comments which were made from the TCC meeting on how the recommended proposed Functional Highway Classification changes requested by GDOT would impact funding sources. Ms. Singleton mentioned that the main impact for the proposed roads being removed from the NHS would mean that the roads would lose one category of eligibility for federal funds. However, Ms. Singleton noted that the roads would still be eligible for other statewide funds, such as the surface transportation funds program. Ms. Singleton stated that the funds that come from the surface transportation funds program could be spent anywhere for any state route or U.S route or any interstate route. She noted that the removal of the roads from the NHS would also reduce the overall NHS miles for both counties; Richmond and Columbia County.

Comments or Questions:

Carletta remarked that during the process of the recommending the changes from with the TCC, there were some oppositions against the functional classification changes of River Watch Road being removed from the NHS by Columbia County. However, Columbia County did eventually decided to along with the changes recommended from GDOT.

After reviewing the recommended functional classification changes proposed by GDOT, the policy committee all voted in favor to endorse the recommended functional classification road changes requested from GDOT. Second all in favor.

**6. Review public meeting comments on the Amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

Mr. Spivey shared with the policy committee the review of the ARTS public meetings which were held on January 22, 23 & 24. Mr. Spivey noted that through the public meetings there were no oppositions from the public in regards to the Amendments to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**7. Review and adopt amendments to 2040 LRTP and FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program:**

Mr. Spivey shared with the policy committee a review of Program of Projects in the ARTS 2040 LRTP and FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program.

**a. Augusta Public Transit (APT) FTA 5307 Transit Capital Projects- Program of Projects**

**APT – FTA 5307 Transportation Improvement Program FY 2017-2022:**

- Project total for FY 2015 is \$15,034, 780
- Project total for FY 2015 is \$3, 154, 697
- Project total for FY 2015 is \$ 2, 371, 755
- Project total for FY 2018 is \$ 5, 956, 122

**LSCOG Total Activity Cost for FTA Section 530 for FY 2017-FY 2019:**

- Project Total for FY 2017 (Year of Operations-2017-18) is \$ 564, 257
- Project Total for FY 2018 Plus (Year of Operations-Spring 2018 thru Sept 2019) is \$863, 664
- Project Total for FY 2019 (Year to Operations-2019-2020) is \$675, 972

**b. Transportation Alternatives –Set Aside Projects:**

- Walton Way Accessible Sidewalk Renovation includes the renovation, replacement and widening of sidewalks and curb-cuts in the Public right-of-way along Walton Way between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets for compliance with ADA and 2010 Standards of Accessible Design. The project cost include FY 2019 PE-\$135,000 GDOT PE-\$50,000, ROW-\$12,500, and FY CNST-\$252,704.18. The TA funding for this project is \$440,000 federal share plus \$110,000 local match by Richmond County for a Total Cost of \$550,000.
- Sidewalk Installation along Kissingbower Rd includes the installation of sidewalk with ADA standard handicap access ramps along the north side of Kissingbower Rd between Marschalk and White Rds. The engineering is complete; project cost includes GDOT PE-\$47, 250 and CNST- \$252, 704.18= \$ 299. 954.18 in FY 2019. The TA funding for this project is \$300,000, \$240,000 federal share plus \$60,000 local match by Richmond County.
- Evans to Locks Rd Multi-Use Trail and Road Widening includes a railroad crossing and the installation of approximately 1 mile of 8ft wide, asphalt multi-use trail that is grade separated from Evans to Locks Rd. The engineering is complete for the multi-use trail and the road widening. The project cost include GDOT PE is \$50,000 in FY 2018; and CNST-\$450,000 in FY 2019. The TA funding for this project is \$450,000 federal share plus \$112,500 local match by Columbia County for a Total Cost of 562, 500.

**Comments:**

Ms. Singleton remarked that the grant applications were put out in December which were sent out to members of the policy committee and technical committee for Richmond and Columbia County. Ms. Singleton mentioned that through the review of the policy committee and technical coordinating committee which evaluated the projects, and through conversations with FHWA and GDOT, the Transportation Alternatives-SET Aside Projects were moved forward as they had met the requirements.

- c. Performance Base Planning- Safety Performance Measures and Targets  
Ms. Singleton shared with the policy committee the planning process of the safety performance measures, ARTS goal & performance measure matrix, and coordination cycle for 2018 targets.

Performance Base Planning Process:

Planning:

**Strategic Direction** –Goals and Objectives, Performance Measures

**Analysis** – Identify Trends and Targets, Identify Strategies and Analyze Alternatives, Develop Investment Priorities

**Programming**

Investment Plan

Resources Allocation

Program of Projects

**Implementation and Evaluation**

Monitoring

Evaluation

Reporting

Performance Based Planning Coordination cycle for 2018 Targets:

**2017**

*July 1*

SHSO submits HSP to NHTSA including 3 identical safety targets

*Augusta 31*

State DOT submits HSIP Annual Report to FHWA, including safety targets

**2018**

*February 27*

MPOs establish safety targets

**2019**

*December*

Data available to evaluate targets

**2020**

*March*

States notified whether they met or made significant progress toward CY 2018 targets

ARTS Performance Measure matrix:

- ARTS Goal 1. Develop a Transportation System Integrated with Planned Land Use
- ARTS Goal 2. Develop a Transportation System that is Financially & Politically Feasible & has Broad Support
- ARTS Goal 3. Develop a Transportation System that will allow Effective Mobility throughout the Region and Provide Efficient Movement of Persons and Goods
- ARTS Goal 4. Develop a Transportation System that will Enhance the Economic, Social, and Environmental Fabric of the Area, Using Resources Wisely While Minimizing Adverse Impacts

- ARTS Goal 5. Promote efficient land use and development patterns to improve safety and economic vitality to meet existing and future multimodal transportation needs
- ARTS Goal 6. Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users
- ARTS Goal 7. Continue to develop a multimodal transportation network that utilizes strategies for addressing congestion management and air quality issues in the ARTS region

d. Financial Constraint- 2040 LRTP and TIP

Ms. Singleton shared with the policy committee the Financial Constraint- 2040 LRTP and TIP.

Georgia 2018-2021 Projects:

**Widening Projects** – Current Funding total: \$13,515,427 Proposed Funding Total: \$25, 490, 088

**Sidewalks/ Pedestrian** - Current Funding total: \$924, 463 Proposed Funding Total: \$ 915, 131

**Bridge Projects** - Current Funding total: \$ 123, 559, 035 Proposed Funding Total: \$ 137, 058, 183

**Intersection Projects** – Proposed Funding Total: \$155,000

South Carolina 2017-2022 Projects:

**Widening Projects**- Current Funding Total: \$ 38, 486,000 Proposed Funding Total: 62,478,900

**Sidewalks Projects**- Proposed Funding Total: \$37,000

**Bridge Projects**- Current Funding Total: \$ 13, 568,000 Proposed Funding Total: \$15, 794, 000

**Intersection Projects**- Current Funding Total: \$ 1,040,000 Proposed Funding Total: \$ 1, 688,000

After reviewing the amendments to 2040 LRTP and FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program, the Policy Committee gave motion to endorse the projects.

**8. Review SCDOT and ARTS MPO Coordination Agreement for Performance Base Planning as required by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the following Performance Measures and Targets:**

Ms. Singleton shared with the Policy Committee the process of the SCDOT and ARTS MPO Coordination Agreement for Performance Base Planning as required by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for FY 2019. During her review, Ms. Singleton noted that SCDOT is ahead of GDOT in the development process of their performance measures. Ms. Singleton stated that the SCDOT had presented the ARTS MPO with their coordination agreement for their performance measures. Ms. Singleton mentioned that

the SCDOT coordination agreement outlined what SCDOT would be responsible for during the process of developing their performance measures and what the task and duties are expected for the ARTS MPO.

In regards to the GDOT's coordination agreement process, Ms. Singleton noted that once GDOT has their performance measures in place, the ARTS will bring the information forward to the policy committee.

The following Performance Measures and Targets were reviewed to the policy committee:

a. Asset Conditions- Pavement and Bridge;

The FAST Act and subsequent federal rulemaking established six performance measures related to Pavement and Bridge Condition. These measures are:

- Percent of Interstate pavements in Good condition;
- Percent of Interstate pavements in Poor condition;
- Percent of non-Interstate NHS pavements in Good condition;
- Percent of non-Interstate NHS pavements in Poor condition;
- Percent of NHS bridges by deck area in Good condition;
- Percent of NHS bridges by deck area in Poor condition.

b. System Performance Truck Travel Time Reliability

**System and Truck Travel Time Reliability**

The FAST Act and subsequent federal rulemaking established three performance measures related to System and Truck Travel Time Reliability. The measures are:

- Percent of reliable person-miles traveled on the Interstate;
- Percent of reliable person-miles traveled on the non-Interstate NHS; and
- Percent of Interstate system mileage providing for reliable truck travel time.

**9. Review and discuss ARTS Surface Transportation Program Funds-Z230 for transportation projects for Richmond and Columbia Counties in the FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program.**

Ms. Singleton shared with the Policy Committee a review of transportation projects funded by ARTS Surface Transportation Program Funds for FY 2017-2022. In addition, Ms. Singleton stated that the ARTS MPO would start to update its long range plan from the start of winter and fall of 2018.

Ms. Wilson remarked that the committee must make the appropriate adjustment to their budgets so that the ARTS MPO can move their projects forward.

Z230 Georgia Projects:

Total Project Cost: 168

**10. Review and discuss Draft Traffic Crash and Intersection Analysis Annual Report**

Ms. Panchal shared with the Policy Committee a report of the ARTS Traffic Crash and Intersection Analysis for all four counties of the ARTS MPO area. The following information was a summary of the ARTS Traffic Crash and Intersection Analysis:

*Summary For-County Crash Trends by Year, 2011-2016*

Until now, the ARTS MPO has been conducting crash analysis for 3 safety measures.

- **Total number of crashes** are 4.2% higher in 2016 compared to 2011.
- **Injury** rate is higher in the year 2016 at 34.9%, compared to an average of 22.6% in the Years 2011 to 2015.
- **Total fatalities** have been trending downward, with 39.3% fewer fatalities in 2016 compared to 2011.

Total Traffic Crashes reported in the ARTS MPO area in 2016:

Ms. Panchal reported that in 2016, there was a total of 49 fatal crashes in the ARTS area.

ARTS Bicycle and Crashes Reported in 2016:

Ms. Panchal reported that in 2016, there was a total of 24 Bicycle crashes and 63 Pedestrian crashes.

Ms. Singleton noted that the ARTS MPO Traffic Crash and Intersection Analysis Report is on the ARTS MPO website. Ms. Singleton added that the data on the Traffic Crash and Intersection Analysis report will be used on the ARTS Congestion Management Process Update. Ms. Singleton then stated to the committee that ARTS will continue to provide updates to its Traffic Crash Report by collecting additional data in regards to the analysis of how the crashes reported are contributing to traffic congestions in the ARTS MPO area. The Ms. Singleton stated that this will be taken up in March and April of 2018.

**11. Status of Other Regional Transportation Projects:**

A. Review of Administrative Modifications to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Columbia County:

- Harlem Grovetown Road **Current Cost:** \$575,311 **New Cost:** \$575,311

Aiken County:

- S-144 Bridge Rehabilitation/ Maintenance **Current Cost:** \$ 630,000 **New Cost:** \$1,972,000
- Aiken County Recreation Center Walkway Trail **Current Cost:** \$ 37,000 **New Cost:** \$ 37,000
- US 1 (Richmond Ave W. ) @ SC 421 (Augusta road) **Current Cost:** \$475,000 **New Cost:** \$475,000
- Corridor improvement, the project has be asked to be removed from the TIP.

B. Georgia Highways

C. South Carolina Highways

D. Augusta Public Transit Dept.

APT did not provide a status update.

E. Best Friend Express

**12. Other Business**

Questions/ Comments:

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:00PM**

11. Other Business – Announcements - Election of Vice-Chair of the ARTS Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for 2018 Calendar Year.