



**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

535 Telfair Street • Suite 300 Augusta, Georgia 30901

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (ARTS)  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
535 TELFAIR STREET, FIRST FLOOR,  
LINDA BEAZLEY COMMUNITY ROOM  
AUGUSTA GEORGIA 30901  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 at 11 A.M.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>ARTS POLICY COMMITTEE</b>	
<b><i>VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i></b>	<b><i>VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i></b>
<p><b>Dr. William Molnar</b>, CHAIRMAN of POLICY COMMITTEE <b>Gary Bunker</b>, VICE CHAIR of POLICY COMMITTEE</p>	<p><b>Gary Jones</b>, Mayor City of Grovetown <b>Robert Buchwitz</b>, Chairman City of Hephzibah <b>John B. Morrison</b>, Garrison Commander USASC &amp; Fort Gordon <b>Robert Pettit</b>, Mayor City of North Augusta <b>Jonathan Dicks</b>, Mayor City of Burnetown <b>Phillip Stewart</b>, Mayor City of Blythe <b>Doug Duncan</b>, Columbia County Commission <b>Christy Hall</b>, Secretary of Transportation SC <b>Vernon Dunbar</b>, Mayor City of New Ellenton <b>Tommy Paradise</b> representing <b>Dean Campbell</b>, Chairman Edgefield County, SC <b>Rick Osbon</b>, Mayor City of Aiken <b>Sharon Dottery</b>, Interim Transit Director represented by <b>Burshunda Harden</b> <b>Marcus Campbell</b>, representing <b>Hardie Davis, Jr.</b>, Mayor of Augusta <b>Edward Hicks</b> representing <b>Radney Simpson</b>, representing Commissioner Georgia Department of Transportation <b>Russell McMurry</b> <b>Scott Cooper</b>, Edgefield County Chairman</p>
<b><i>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i></b>	<b><i>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i></b>
	<p><b>Vacant</b>, Chairman ARTS Citizens Advisory Committee <b>Ben Davis, Jr.</b>, 3rd Congressional District Commissioner, SC <b>John Burriss</b>, 2nd Congressional District Commissioner, SC <b>Emily O. Lawton</b>, SC FHWA Division Administrator <b>Jamie Buswell</b>, Congressional Representative District 10 <b>Don Grantham</b>, GA State Transportation Board <b>Tamara Christion</b>, FHWA, Transportation Planner <b>Rob Sherman</b>, ARTS Project Director</p>

<b>OTHERS ATTENDING:</b>	
<b>Andrea Sherman, WSP</b> <b>Jennifer Zhan, Modern Mobility</b> <b>Christy Jeon, WSP</b> <b>Haley Flahity</b> <b>Glen Coyne, WSP</b>	<b>Augusta – Richmond County</b> <b>June Hammal, Augusta Engineering</b> <b>Hameed Malik</b> <b>Michelle Pearman, Augusta GIS</b>

<b>ARTS POLICY COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>OTHERS ATTENDING:</b>	
<b>Matt Schlachter, Columbia County</b> <b>Oliver Weston</b> <b>Rhonda Mitchell, LSCOG</b> <b>Will Carter, Cranston Engineering</b> <b>Libby Hodges, North Augusta</b>	<b>GDOT/SCDOT</b> <b>Tom Caiafa, GDOT</b> <b>Trang Mai, GDOT</b> <b>Kenny Larimore, SCDOT – Planning</b> <b>Adam Humphries, SCDOT Preconstruction</b> <b>Alex Bennett, SCDOT</b>
<b>Augusta Planning and Development Dept.</b> <b>Carla Delaney</b> <b>Dr. Oliver Page</b> <b>Udomekong Udoko</b> <b>Marcus Holland</b>	<b>Go-To-Meeting:</b> <b>Rick Wyatt, SCDOT</b> <b>Aviance Webb (FTA)</b>
<b>Aiken County Planning &amp; Development</b> <b>LJ Peterson, Transportation Planner</b> <b>Joel Duke, Director</b>	

**1. Approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on June 6, 2019.**

Minutes from June 6, 2019 meeting will be tabled until next Policy meeting on December 5, 2019.

**2. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Kick Off**

**Introduction/Overview by WSP USA Inc.**

**Glen Coyne, Jennifer Zhan and Christy M. Jeon presented this item:**

WSP is highly experienced in regional planning and travel demand modeling. The firm has on-call contracts with MPOs throughout the Southeast as shown by the figure below. WSP has one of, if not the largest, metropolitan planning groups within the Southeast region to assist ARTS MPO on the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).



The project schedule can be seen below.

ARTS	2019						2020								
	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>TASK 1: Project Administration</b>	[Green bar]														
NTP	[Green bar]														
Kickoff Meeting															
Operations Plan & Schedule															
<b>TASK 2: Public Involvement, Education &amp; Outreach 1</b>	[Green bar]														
Branding, Outreach Materials & Website															
First Set of Public Meetings (4)															
TchRpt 1															
<b>TASK 3: Data Collection &amp; Development</b>	[Green bar]														
TchRpt 2															
<b>TASK 4: Public Involvement, Education &amp; Outreach 2</b>	[Green bar]														
TchRpt 1 (Update)															
<b>TASK 5: Goals, Objectives &amp; Measures of Effectiveness</b>	[Green bar]														
TchRpt 3: Methodology for Effectiveness/Performance Indicators															
TchRpt 4: Robust Project Prioritization Process & Tools															
<b>TASK 6: Year 2045 Needs Assessment Plan</b>	[Green bar]														
TchRpt5: Transportation Needs Assessment/Plan															
<b>TASK 7: Financial Resources &amp; Feasibility Plan</b>	[Green bar]														
TchRpt 6: Financial Plan, Fiscally Constrained															
<b>TASK 8: Draft and Final 2045 MTP Documents</b>	[Green bar]														
Draft MTP for Public															
Draft MTP for TAC & CAC															
Draft MTP for PC															
Adoption by TAC & CAC															
Adoption by PC															

TchRpt = Technical Report    P=Public Meetings    S=Stakeholder Meetings    D=Deliverable

The target number of surveys to be collected during the first round of public outreach has not been finalized at this stage. As a part of the MTP, a public outreach plan will be prepared. At the upcoming public meetings, there will be a station set up where people can take the survey. All ARTS committees will be updated at future meetings until the MTP is complete.

This item is for information purposes only. Please see the attached presentation at the end of the meeting minutes.

**3. FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program Amendments**

**Remove the Central Martinez Corridor Special Study**

**Carla Delaney presented this item:**

The Central Martinez Corridor Special Study is being removed due to the outdated scope of services and lack of activity that has taken place since 2018.

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Matt Schlachter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. TAP FY 2020 Call For Projects**

**a. Wrightsboro Rd/McCauley St at-grade Highway/Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study**

**Carla Delaney presented this item:**

Augusta Planning and Development Department proposed the Wrightsboro Rd/McCauley St at-grade Highway/Railroad Crossing Feasibility Study. The funding request is \$50,000 and APDD will provide the match. It will take the department approximately 12-16 months to complete the study.

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Matt Schlachter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **b. James Brown Boulevard Streetscape - Phase IV**

### **Carla Delaney presented this item:**

Originally, the project cost approximated \$1.3 million. The MPO was only awarded \$730,000. It was asked if the project had the ability to be phased so the part of the project could be completed with the available funding of \$650,000. The TCC & CAC voted that the plan should be revised by August 30, 2019 and the PC would evaluate and decide if it should be awarded. The application was resubmitted and the project cost totaled \$650,000. The match will be provided by the City of Augusta. The Administrator's office submitted a letter stating they will support the project for the \$650,000 match. The support will come in the form of SPLOST 8 funds that will appear on the upcoming ballot. It does still need to be approved or passed by the general public. Being that SPLOST funds are not guaranteed and it still needs to be voted on, if it doesn't pass there needs to be another assured funding source available.

If the project is approved the SPLOST funds will only be available during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. The concern is if the project can be completed in tiers and whether it will take three to five years. Phase one has been completed and the design for phase two has been done but it hasn't been bid or let resulting in no construction of phase two or three.

### **Will Cranson presented this item:**

It is not specifically known when the project will start but it is assumed to start once funding is available. It is not specifically known if there is a sense of urgency in regards to getting the funds this cycle or waiting and applying for the next cycle because of the timeline.

Matt Schlachter motioned to table the award until the December 5<sup>th</sup> PC meeting and Gary Bunker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **5. TIP Administrative Modification Form Update**

### **Carla Delaney presented this item:**

The TIP modification form was updated for efficiency.

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Matt Schlachter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **6. TIP Administrative Modification SC 118 and S-1303 (Croft Mill / Hudson Road) – Information Only**

### **Kenny Larimore presented this item:**

Highway Safety Program identified these highway improvements that are already existing in the TIP, this is just an administrative modification. The funds are strictly SCDOT related. Major changes include ROW from 2019 to 2020 and an increase in construction from \$990,000 to \$1.8 million moved from 2020 to 2021.

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Matt Schlachter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **7. Transit Asset Management Performance Measures Resolution Agreement**

### **Udomekong Udoko presented this item:**

Transit Asset Management (TAM) is a regulation established the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Implementation of TAM assists transit providers in assessing the current condition of capital assets and make decisions on how to best to prioritize funding for those assets in order to achieve and maintain a state of good repair. The TAM regulation applies to public transit providers who receive FTA funds as a recipient or sub-recipient and either own, operate, or manage capital assets used in the provision of public transportation. As mandated by the FTA, transit providers are required to work with their regions' MPO when developing their TAM plan.

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Matt Schlachter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## 8. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:

### a. Georgia Highways

#### *Columbia County*

- M005753 – SR 383 From North of I-20 to SR 104 Let April 19, 2019
  - Beams Construction awarded contract on May 3, 2019
  - Completion date is March 31, 2020
  - Work to begin September 8, 2019
  
- 0008350 – SR 388 From I-20 to SR 232 – TIA
  - Widening (1.59 miles)
  - Still on schedule for November 2019 let
  - ROW acquisition on schedule
  - Current Budget – TIA - \$1,936,726 Preliminary Engineering (PE), \$7,091,790 (ROW), \$39,796 UTIL, \$16,437,596 CONST
    - \$3,000,000.00 HB170
    - \$8,163,702 CONST (HB 170) Program year - 2020

#### *Richmond County*

- 210327 – I-20 at Savannah River and Augusta Canal
  - Bridge replacements over the Augusta Canal and Savannah River to include widening (0.65 miles) in Georgia and South Carolina
  - Survey, geotechnical and pavement evaluations are complete.
  - Field plan review held last week. Construction still anticipated this fall.
  - Current Budget – (2017) \$3,599,601.25 PE, \$82,512,606.02 CONST
  
- 220680 – SR 4 From Milledgeville Road to Government Street – TIA
  - Widening (1.59 miles)
  - All ROW purchased
  - Project let to construction. Low bidder was Beams Construction (\$10,507,277.39). Contract is being routed for signature. Construction to begin in next few months.
  - Current Budget - \$126,754.68 PE (TIA)(2017), \$8,516,722 ROW, \$804,435.99 UTIL, TIA: \$6,967,096 (CST): HB170(\$5,000,000)
  
- 0013927 - SR 4/US 25 BU at Savannah River at South Carolina Line
  - Bridge Replacement (0.20 miles)
  - Scheduled for let April 2022
  - Review package submitted to GDOT Chief Engineer regarding the proposed preferred alternative
  - Additional coordination meeting for GDOT and Cities of Augusta and N Augusta to be scheduled in the near future.
  - Cost Estimate - \$34M CONST (2025), \$250,000 ROW (2021), \$1.5 PE (2019)

### b. South Carolina Highways

**Adam Humphries presented this item:**

Please see the attached presentation

### c. Augusta Public Transit

**Udomekong Udoko presented this item:**

Augusta Transit (AT) is moving into their new facility sometime next month in October 2019. The new facility is located by the old Regency Mall. Augusta Transit is trying to implement a new software program called the "My Ride App." The App will provide real time information on bus trips and is in the current stages of testing.

**d. Best Friend Express**

**Rhonda Mitchell presented this item:**

LSCOG Mobility Management Staff received 8,020 calls from Aiken County residents for FY18/FY19. The calls ranged from information and referral on transit options in the county, booking of requested trips on the Dial-A-Ride program, travel training for the fixed route, and the very familiar "What time is the bus coming?", by a specific stop or "Where's my Ride?"

The Best Friend Express fixed route operated 253 days and had 29,351 passenger boardings for the FY18/FY19 year. The Dial-A-Ride service performed 5,631 trips for the fiscal year. The fixed route system had 2,494 passenger alightings at the Augusta Transit terminal on Broad Street and 2,593 passenger boardings to the Aiken/North Augusta area. The transit system experienced a 9% increase in passenger boardings during this fiscal year.

FTA Region IV has accepted and approved the new Section 5307 grant for the Best Friend Express and Dial-A-Ride transit services that were recently submitted.

**e. Augusta Regional Airport**

No business to report as Augusta Regional Airport representative not present.

**9. Other Business**

**a. MPO Rebranding**

**Carla Delaney presented this item:**

Committee members will be asked to vote via email soon. The email will contain a Survey Monkey survey link that will ask them to rank their top three logos.

**b. Action Item- Recommend approval of the submitted FY 2019 SC Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TAP) Applications;**

**1. Aiken/North Augusta Bike Route**

**LJ Peterson presented this item:**

Establish a designated bicycle route connecting the City of Aiken with the North Augusta Greenway. The route will be designated with Share-the-Road, route marking and community guide signs. The estimated cost is \$55,885 (\$44,708 Federal and \$11,177 local match- Aiken County).

Tom Caiafa motioned to approve and Matt Schlachter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Knobcone Sidewalk Project**

**LJ Peterson presented this item:**

Installation of a sidewalk between Paul Knox Middle School and North Augusta High School. The estimated cost is \$229,500 (\$180,000 Federal and \$49,500 local match- City of North Augusta).

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Matt Schlachter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **10. Adjourn**