



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, JUNE 6, 2019 at 11 A.M.
MEETING MINUTES**

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

ARTS POLICY COMMITTEE	
OTHERS ATTENDING:	
SCDOT – Planning Seth Leslie, SCDOT Alex Bennett, SCDOT Andrew Rosinski, SCDOT Libby Hodges, North Augusta Rhonda Mitchell, LSCOG	GDOT Trang Mai, GDOT Tom Caiafa, GDOT
Augusta Planning and Development Dept. Mary Elizabeth Burgess Dr. Oliver Page Udomekong Udoko Mariah Harris Erik Engle	Go-To-Meeting: Ellen Wright, GDOT Aviance Webb (FTA) Frank Childs, GDOT Tennile Kenny Larimore, SCDOT Carla Delaney
Aiken County Planning & Development LJ Peterson, Transportation Planner Joel Duke, Director	

1. Welcome and Introductions (Acknowledge Go-To-Meeting)

2. Approve the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting March 7, 2019.

A motion to approve was made by Gary Bunker, seconded by Scott Cooper and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

3. Present update on the Metropolitan Transportation Study

Dr. Oliver Page presented this item.

The 2045 MTP will now be known as the 2050 MTP. The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in February 2019 and closed on March 15, 2019. Three consultants responded to the RFP. One consultant was disqualified due to an incorrect application package. The RFP evaluation committee sat on April 26, 2019. Contract negotiations have started, it is anticipated the Notice to Proceed will be issued soon. Hopefully the finished document will be presented at the committee meeting in September 2020.

4. Georgia Trail Summit May 2020

Mary Elizabeth Burgess presented this item.

The Georgia Trail Summit (GTS) is operated under the Trust for Public Land Office out of Atlanta, GA. For the last two years the GTS has been held in Columbus, GA. Augusta has committed to hosting the event and will host for two years 2020 and 2021. Typical GTS attendance is 300 or more. A contract between GTS and The Marriott Hotel (Augusta) has been signed. The next step is to set up a hosting committee. The City of Augusta has no financial responsibility for GTS but is looking for sponsors and mobile workshop ideas.

5. Special Transportation Studies for Fall 2019

- a. Request from the City of North Augusta to Amend the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. The City of North Augusta would like to retain a consultant to prepare a study of an approximately 1.6 mile corridor of Martintown Road at I-20 and requests that the FY 2020 UPWP be amended to**

**include funding for the study.
Libby Hodges presented this item.**

The City of North Augusta has recently been notified of plans to signalize the Bergen Road @ W. Martintown Rd intersection. Previous projects to improve the I-20 intersection are included in previous ARTS project lists. Additionally, the City is concerned about the alignment of Knobcone Ave., school traffic, and upcoming development along the corridor.

This corridor has seen exponential growth in the numbers of residents accessing Bergen Road and Austin Graybill Road over the last decade. There are several large tracts remaining along the corridor. With proposed developments on both sides of the I-20 interstate, North Augusta would like to study traffic patterns in light of development pressure that will occur in the near future.

The applicant for the River Falls Apartments (220 units) has provided a Traffic Impact Analysis and signalization analysis that indicates signalization of the Frontage Road is warranted. The 178 acre property across from the River Falls Apartments on Martintown Road will potentially have 284 single-family units, 384 apartment units, and 285,900 square feet of commercial space. This will impact access and improvements in the area and may require additional signalization. The City of North Augusta believes it is in its best interest to anticipate these developments and work to create a corridor that can facilitate this amount of growth.

Funding for the special study will be provided solely by SCDOT.

A motion to approve was made by Scott Cooper, seconded by Mayor Hardie Davis and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

**b. Request Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update
Mary Burgess presented this item.**

While attending a GAMPO meeting, the MPO was encouraged to start a discussion in regards to projects of interest. The Compliance Department is currently in the middle of renovating sidewalks and bus stops. With the current renovation underway, The Compliance Department requested that the Bike and Pedestrian plan, that has not been updated since 2012, be added to the list of special projects.

If approved by the Policy Committee, the MPO will start exploring funding options as well as developing a scope of services.

At the request of Mayor Hardie Davis, the MPO will do an assessment of the 2012 Bike and Pedestrian Plan. This will include a list of the projects in the 2012 plan and a progress report of said projects with a status update.

With the 2050 MTP underway, the 2012 Bike and Pedestrian Plan will be revisited. The public outreach portion of the MTP will allow residents of the ARTS counties to voice new concerns in regards to pedestrian and bike needs in the Richmond, Columbia, Aiken and Edgefield Counties.

Aiken County and Edgefield County are currently focusing on drastically reducing the number of pedestrian fatalities. South Carolina is currently ranked first in the nation for fatal car accidents.

A motion to approve was made by Gary Bunker, seconded by Scott Cooper and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

6. TIP Modifications/Amendments

John Ussery presented this item.

The first PE phase is currently ongoing has been paid for and is currently in the Environmental Process. The additional funding extension is to compensate for a full set of construction plans and everything that would be needed to construct the project The total cost for all three project's extended phases is 1.4 million. The City of Augusta has secured the 20% local match. Please see the attached funding summaries.

a. PI 0012866 – Wheeler Road Intersection Improvements

A motion to approve was made by Gary Bunker, seconded by Mayor Hardie Davis and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

b. PI0012867 – Wheeler Road Multimodal Corridor Improvements

A motion to approve was made by Scott Cooper, seconded by Mayor Hardie Davis and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

c. PI0012868 - Barton Chapel Road

A motion to approve was made by Gary Bunker, seconded by Scott Cooper and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

7. TAP Modifications – PI0013705 River Levee Trail

Mary Elizabeth Burgess presented this item.

The application deadline is June 14, 2019. There has only been one applicant this far. Please see the attached funding summaries.

A motion to approve was made by Mayor Hardie Davis, seconded by Gary Bunker and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

8. Consider adopting the Transportation Alternatives Set-aside (TAP) FY 2019-2020 Application Process.

Mary Elizabeth Burgess presented this item.

The Transportation Alternatives Set-aside program application process is similar to the application process of South Carolina. This application will only be for Georgia Projects only.

A motion to approve was made by Gary Bunker, seconded by Scott Cooper and unanimously approved by all committee members present.

9. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:

**a. Georgia Highways – Ellen Wright presented this item.
Columbia County**

1. M005753 – SR 383 From North of I-20 to SR 104

o Let April 19, 2019

o Beams Construction awarded contract on May 3, 2019

o Completion date is March 31, 2020

o Cost Estimate - \$3,037,287.57

2. 0008350 – SR 388 From I-20 to SR 232 - TIA

- o Widening (1.59 miles)
- o Scheduled for November 2019 let
- o ROW acquisition is underway and on schedule with 59 of the 86 parcels acquired and 14 options pending.
- o Current Budget – TIA - \$1,936,726 Preliminary Engineering (PE), \$7,091,790 (ROW), \$39,796 UTIL, \$16,437,596 CONST
- o \$8,163,702 CONST (HB 170) Program year - 2020

Richmond County

1. **210327 – I-20 at Savannah River and Augusta Canal**
 - o Bridge replacements over the Augusta Canal and Savannah River to include widening (0.65 miles) in Georgia and South Carolina
 - o Contractor completed geotechnical investigations. Survey efforts and pavement evaluations along the interstate ongoing. Final design ongoing.
 - o Environmental Document updated and draft Permits initiated. ITS inventory complete.
 - o Current Budget – (2017) \$3,599,601.25 PE, \$82,512,606.02 CONST

2. **220680 – SR 4 From Milledgeville Road to Government Street - TIA**
 - o Widening (1.59 miles)
 - o Scheduled for June 2019 let
 - o ROW acquisition still underway with 81 of the 83 parcels acquired
 - o Current Budget - \$126,754.68 PE (2017), \$8,516,722 ROW, \$804,435.99 UTIL

3. **0013927 - SR 4/US 25 BU at Savannah River at South Carolina Line**
 - o Bridge Replacement (0.20 miles)
 - o Scheduled for let April 2022
 - o Coordination ongoing between GDOT, City of Augusta and MPO
 - o Cost Estimate - \$25,575,074.61 CONST (2025), \$250,000 ROW (2021), \$1,000,000 PE (2019)

b. South Carolina Highways –Alex Bennet presented this item.

1. **0034292 - SC 302 (Silver Bluff Road) Corridor Improvement – Aiken County - ARTS**
 - Current Budget - \$920,000 PE, \$1,700,000 R/W, \$73,781 UTIL, \$6,198,935.63 CONST
 - Improvements include widening corridor to 3 lanes, addition of turn lanes, curb and gutter and signalization of three intersections
 - Construction Phase is currently underway (work began on March 29, 2016)
 - SCDOT and Eagle Construction have negotiated a new construction completion date of July 31, 2019.

2. **0041446 - SC 126 (Belvedere-Clearwater Road) Widening - ARTS**
 - Current Budget - \$1,300,000 PE, \$2,139,600 ROW, \$12,000,000 CONST
 - Preliminary Engineering Phase has been completed, including Environmental Studies and Final Right-of-Way Plans
 - Environmental Permitting Coordination is currently underway

- Right-of-Way Phase is underway (86 tracts) -- Right-of-Way Consultant (PRIMACQ) is in the process of securing right of way for the project (85 tracts secured).
- Current Schedule
 - o Construction Obligation – 12/2019
 - o Letting – 02/2020

3. 0040695 - SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway) Corridor Improvement - ARTS

- Current Budget – \$3,300,000 PE (per obligation from widening carried over), \$1,496,800 ROW, \$12,200,000 CONST (Federal Resurfacing fund to pay for resurfacing of Hitchcock Parkway)
- Right-of-Way obligated in December 2018 and initial property owner contact began Quarter 1 of 2019.
- Current Schedule
 - o Construction Obligation – 4/2020
 - o Letting – 6/2020

4. P037361 – SC 19 (Whiskey Road) Intersection with Eagle Road and S-447 (Old Whiskey Road) - ARTS

- Current Budget - \$450,000 PE, \$400,000 ROW, \$1,250,000
- SCDOT has negotiated a contract with Parrish and Partners to provide design services.
- Current Schedule
 - o Anticipate Public Information Meeting July
 - o Right of Way Obligation – Q3 2019

c. Augusta Public Transit – Udomekong Udoko presented this item.

There will be a new branding for Augusta Public Transit, which includes a new logo. The facility is 90% complete. The facility should be open in a few weeks.

d. Best Friend Express – Rhonda Mitchell presented this item.

The Best Friend Express fixed route operated 253 days and had 29,351 passenger boarding 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 Transfer Center on Broad Street and 2,593 passenger boarding to the Aiken/North Augusta area. The transit system experienced a 9% increase in passenger boardings during this fiscal year.

The urban 5310 transit program resumed on March 1st and is utilized greatly by our seniors or persons with a disability within the urbanized portion of Aiken County. We are approaching the end of the current grant for this service. Another funding application was submitted and we are anticipating funding to be able to offer this service in the next Federal fiscal year.

LSCOG submitted a new Section 5307 grant with FTA Region IV. Section 5307 is the Federal program that helps funds the public transportation system in the urbanized portion of Aiken County. This grant has been accepted and approved for funding.

e. Augusta Regional Airport – No presentation. There will be a direct flight to Washington, D.C

starting January 7, 2020. The City of Augusta is very excited about the direct air route city partnerships opening up throughout the region.

10. Other Business –

Dr. Molnar presented this item.

The six counties of the LSCOG currently have a consultant completing their MTP. The public meetings have gone well and surveys are posted in many locations and online for community feedback.

11. Adjourn