



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, DECEMBER 5, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

ARTS POLICY COMMITTEE	
<i>VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
Dr. William Molnar , CHAIRMAN of POLICY COMMITTEE Gary Bunker , VICE CHAIR of POLICY COMMITTEE Doug Duncan , Columbia County Commission represented by Matt Schlachter Scott Cooper , Edgefield County Chairman Tom Caiafa representing Radney Simpson , representing GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry	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 Christy Hall , Secretary of Transportation SC Vernon Dunbar , Mayor City of New Ellenton Tommy Paradise representing Dean Campbell , Chairman Edgefield County, SC Rick Osbon , Mayor City of Aiken Sharon Dottery , Transit Director represented by Burshunda Harden Marcus Campbell , representing Hardie Davis, Jr. , Mayor of Augusta
<i>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
Rob Sherman , ARTS Project Director	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 Christion , FHWA, Transportation Planner
<i>TCC VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>TCC VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
Robert Sherman , ARTS MPO Project Director Joel Duke , Director Aiken County Matt Schlachter , Columbia County represented by Steve Exley	Teresa Crain , Aiken County Engineer Curtis Murphy , City of New Ellenton Michelle Jones , City of Aiken Public Works Andrew Strickland , Director, Columbia County Planning

<p>Corbett Reynolds, P.E. District Engineer represented by Ellen Wright Trang Mai, GDOT Herbert Judon Jr., Director Augusta Regional Airport represented by Adrienne Ayers-Allen represented by Greg Larsen Hart Clark, Edgefield County Building and Planning Director represented by Kevin Singletary Libby Hodges, City of North Augusta Planning Director Ryan Bland, City of Aiken Planning Director John Ussery, Augusta Traffic Engineer Adam Humphries, SCDOT Program Manager Dr. Hameed Malik, Engineering, City of Augusta Engineering Dept.</p>	<p>Kenny Larimore, SCDOT Planning Engineer Thomas Zeaser, Engineer, N. Augusta Sharon Dottery, Director Augusta Public Transit Rhonda Mitchell, LSCOG</p>
TCC NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:	TCC NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:
<p>LJ Peterson, Aiken County Carole Burrowbridge, ADA Augusta</p>	<p>Yolanda Morris, FHWA (SC) Tamara Christian, FHWA (GA) Eric Duff Andy Crosson, CSRA RDC</p>
CAC VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:	CAC VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:
<p>Geneva Jackson, Aiken County Dr. Chris Noah, Columbia County</p>	<p>Martin Cochran, Aiken County Joe Collins, Columbia County Shirley Abney Frank Plumley, Columbia County Bill Busser, Aiken County Hafeez Chaudhry, J. Ashley Williams, Edgefield County</p>
OTHERS ATTENDING:	
<p>CITY OF AUGUSTA Carla Delaney Erik Engle Dr. Oliver Page Mariah Harris Warren Richard Udomekong Udoko June Hamal, Engineering Marques Jacobs, Engineering Maurice McDowell, Deputy Administrator Sammie Sias, District 4 Commissioner</p>	<p>GO-TO-MEETING Tom Zeaser, City of North Augusta Rick Wyatt, SCDOT Dana Luttrull, LSCOG</p>
<p>Glen Coyne, WSP USA Inc. Christy Jeon, WSP USA Inc. Jennifer Zhan, Modern Mobility Partners Rick Toole, Alfred Benesch & Company Dayton Sherrouse, Augusta Canal Authority Brennan Smith, American Heart Association Christine Miller-Betts, Director Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History</p>	<p>Regina Pyles, CSRA RDC Will Carter, Cranston Engineering Group David Mills, Cranston Engineering Group Sarah Lamothe, GDOT Alex Bennett, SCDOT Kevin Skinner, Pond Co. Denise Traina, Transit Citizens' Advisory Committee</p>

I. **Welcome and Introductions** (*Acknowledge Go-To-Meeting*)

II. **New Business**

A. **Approve the minutes of the Joint Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2019. (CAC and TCC Vote Only)**

CAC- Geneva Jackson motioned to approve and Dr. Chris Noah seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TCC – Kevin Singletary motioned to approve and Joel Duke seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. **Approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meetings held on June 6, 2019 and September 5, 2019. (PC Vote Only)**

Dr. William Molnar presented this item:

The record should reflect that Matt Schlachter attended the September 5, 2019 meeting as the representative for Doug Duncan.

Gary Bunker motioned to approve both sets of minutes and Scott Cooper seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Presentation by WSP USA Inc. (Informational Purposes Only)**

Glenn Coyne presented this item:
Please see the attached presentation.

Questions

Dr. Noah: Can participants complete the survey more than once?

Glen Coyne: If a survey is completed online, it can only be taken once by that device. There is no way to track paper surveys.

Scott Cooper: When is the next round of surveys?

Glenn Coyne: The plan is completed every five years. The next round of surveys will be around February 2020 and run for approximately six weeks.

Sammie Sias: Was there a concentrated effort to have surveys in the buses and transit station?

Udomekong Udoko: Staff will be sure to focus on getting surveys into the transit station and in buses during the next round of public meetings.

D. Travel Demand Model Update presented by Habte Kassa – Base Year 2015 and Do-Nothing 2050 Model Results (CAC, TCC & PC Vote)

Habte Kassa presented this item:
Please see the attached presentation.

Questions

Scott Cooper: Do you have any historical data in regards to traffic counts for SR-28 from Evans to Edgefield County?

Habte Kassa: Not at the moment but we will research it and contact you with findings.

Geneva Jackson: What is the reason for the Daily Vehicle Hours of Travel percentages to increase over 100%?

Dr. Chris Noah: The percentages increased over 100% due to people potentially finding different routes for travel as opposed to principal arterial routes.

E. Vote to adopt the Base Year 2015 and 2050 Do Nothing Model Results (CAC, TCC & PC Vote)

Habte Kassa presented this item:

CAC- Geneva Jackson motioned to approve and Dr. Chris Noah seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TCC – Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Joel Duke seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

PC - Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Tom Caiafa seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Consider amendment to the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to substitute the Bettis Academy Road Feasibility Study for the programmed Aiken County Access Management Plan and the US 1 Corridor Study. (CAC, TCC & PC Vote)

Joel Duke presented this item:

Questions

Gary Bunker: The Bettis Academy Road Feasibility Study is a critical study. What is the down side for not doing the US1 Corridor Study?

Joel Duke: The US1 Study will be in the FY 2021 UPWP and we will be securing the local match.

CAC- Geneva Jackson motioned to approve and Dr. Chris Noah seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TCC – Kevin Singletary motioned to approve and Robert Sherman seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

PC - Scott Cooper motioned to approve and Gary Bunker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

G. Consider amendment to the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add the Whiskey Road Feasibility Study. (CAC, TCC & PC Vote)

Joel Duke presented this item:

The Whiskey Road Feasibility Study was approved by the South Carolina Subcommittee in November 2019. The study will focus on land use, access monitoring and protecting important intersections.

CAC - Chris Noah motioned to approve and Geneva Jackson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TCC - Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Joel Duke seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

PC - Scott Cooper motioned to approve and Gary Bunker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

H. Consider adoption of the South Carolina Safety Performance Measures (PM) and Target Setting as required by the Federal Highway Administration. (CAC, TCC & PC Vote)

Adam Humphries presented this item:

Every year the PMs have to be updated. The number of fatalities in South Carolina is still over 1,000 per year. FHWA through the Fast Act wants to have PMs to lower the fatality count. The PM matches the statewide PM targets. Most MPO's and COGs adopt the same targets as the state.

CAC - Chris Noah motioned to approve and Geneva Jackson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TCC - Joel Duke motioned to approve and Kevin Singletary seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

PC - Scott Cooper motioned to approve and Gary Bunker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

I. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:

I. Georgia Highways

Ellen Wright presented this item:

Columbia County

- **M005753 – SR 383 From North of I-20 to SR 104**
 - Let April 19, 2019
 - All resurfacing activities are complete throughout the project limits
 - Next phase of project will be signal work activities
 - Concrete median and pedestrian crossing poles at Wheeler Rd intersection to be installed

- Wheelchair ramps, permanent striping and rumble strips to be installed
 - Raised pavement markers from Columbia Rd to Washington Rd to be installed
- **0008350 – SR 388 From I-20 to SR 232 - TIA**
 - Widening (1.59 miles)
 - Locals let the project but bid came in over budget.
 - At last contact, Columbia Co. LG working on strategies regarding further funding sources and reduce scope of the project.

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
 - Superior has been issued NTP
 - Based on the Preconstruction meeting held Wednesday, December 4, 2019, sometime next week work will begin on installation of signs, barrier wall, vegetation removal, etc. prior to the early 2020 moratorium on water disruption that is scheduled for March.
 - There should be no major traffic interruption for this work. Some of the barrier wall may be installed during night hours.
- **220680 – SR 4 From Milledgeville Road to Government Street - TIA**
 - Widening (1.59 miles)
 - Clearing and grubbing activities have begun through the project limits and should be completed by close of business December 13, 2019.
 - Utility relocation has been postponed. Work was to start this week but will be rescheduled.
 - Placement of BMP (silt fence installation) is in progress along Northside of project beginning at MLK to end of project.
- **0013927 - SR 4/US 25 BU at Savannah River at South Carolina Line**
 - Bridge Replacement (0.20 miles)
 - Scheduled for let April 2022
 - Concept Team Meeting scheduled at Tennille District Office on January 8, 2020.
 - Cost Estimate - \$34M CONST (2025), \$250,000 ROW (2021), \$1.5 PE (2019)

II. South Carolina Highways
Adam Humphries presented this item:
Please see the attached presentation.

III. Augusta Transit
 No Update.

IV. Best Friend Express

Dana Luttrull presented this item:

LSCOG had a recent December 1, 2019 date for the restart of the Urban 5310 transit program that serves seniors ages 60+ or persons with a disability. New grant funding was awarded by Georgia Department of Human Services and has been made available for expenditure through September 2020. This adds to the existing transit programs available to citizens living in the urbanized service area in Aiken County.

At the last committee meeting Udomekong Udoko presented information on the Transit Asset Management, or TAM, performance requirements to attain/or keep transit vehicle fleets in the country in a “State of Good Repair.” LSCOG is happy to announce that the second of two small bus purchases has been completed since the last discussion. This second new bus has been placed in service and LSCOG is meeting their performance targets in this area.

LSCOG had a successful submission of our annual National Transit Database (NTD) report for transit data of the Best Friend Express, Dial-a-Ride, and Urban 5310 programs. State of Good Repair/TAM performance targets are now reported in this database, as well.

The Best Friend Express is currently in the middle of its annual, and well received, promotion called “Free Fare Fridays.” It is designed to provide a free ride once a week during the holiday season, as well as on Veteran’s Day.

V. Augusta Regional Airport

Greg Larsen presented this item:

Augusta Regional Airport is seeing an increase in the service to Dallas TX. Direct flights to Washington, DC will commence in 2020. The inaugural flight will be on January 7, 2020.

III. Old Business

A. TAP FY 2020 Call For Projects - James Brown Boulevard Streetscape - Phase IV (CAC, TCC & PC Vote)

Carla Delaney presented this item:

The MPO’s concern is the requested amount being more than the amount of available funds (\$650,000 over budget).

David Mills: SPLOST 8 funds have been directed from the Administrator’s office. If the vote fails, the City of Augusta has agreed to find other funding. The funding source is not clear at this moment but the Administrator’s office will find the \$650,000 match.

Carla Delaney: The staff recommendation is due to the timing and funding security, the project should be applied for during the FY 2021 TAP Call for Projects. This way the project’s start date can line up with the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) vote.

Robert Sherman motioned to table this agenda item until the February 12, 2020 TCC & CAC Committee meeting and Gary Bunker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

A. Policy Chair and Vice Chair Election

Dr. William Molnar was nominated as the Chairman of the Policy Committee

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Scott Cooper seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Gary Bunker was nominated as the Vice Chairman of the Policy Committee

Scott Cooper motioned to approve and Dr. William Molnar seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Adjourn