



**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (ARTS)
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM –
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9946694292>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (929) 205-6099 or +1 (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID 994-669-4292

ARTS POLICY COMMITTEE	
<i>VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
<p>Dr. William Molnar, CHAIRMAN of POLICY COMMITTEE Radney Simpson/Tom Caiafa, representing GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry Doug Duncan, Columbia County Commission represented by Steve Exley Gary Bunker, VICE CHAIR of POLICY COMMITTEE Sharon Dottery, Transit Director represented by Dr. Oliver Page Scott Cooper, Edgefield County Chairman Gary Jones, Mayor City of Grovetown represented by Bradley Smith Robert Buchwitz, Chairman City of Hephzibah</p>	<p>Col. Shaw Pick, Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon 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 Rick Osbon, Mayor City of Aiken Robert Pettit, Mayor City of North Augusta Tommy Paradise representing Dean Campbell, Chairman Edgefield County, SC Hardie Davis, Jr., Mayor of Augusta represented by Naeem Jenkins-Nixon</p>
<i>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
<p>Robert H. Sherman III, ARTS MPO 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</p>
<p>Joel Duke, Director Aiken County LJ Peterson, Aiken County Trang Mai, GDOT Ellen Wright, GDOT Ned Green, GDOT Todd Price, GDOT Tamara Christion, FHWA Rhonda Mitchell, LSCOG Libby Hodges, City of North Augusta Planning Director Adam Humphries, SCDOT Program Manager Alex Bennett, SCDOT LaToya Grate, SCDOT Planning Engineer Betsy McCall, SC</p>	<p>CITY OF AUGUSTA Carla Delaney Mariah Harris Erik Engle Udomekong Udoko Warren Richard Udomekong Udoko Rashad Pinckney Marcus Holland Regina Pyles, CSRA RDC Carole Burrowbridge, ADA Augusta Dr. Hameed Mailk, AED June Hamal, AED</p>



Emory Langston Dave Mills Erin Porter William.Jordan Rick Toole ecarrier	180350738XX 180373730XX 191251534XX
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I. **Welcome and Introductions (Acknowledge Zoom)**

II. **Approval of Minutes**

A. **Approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on December 3, 2020. (PC Vote)**

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Steve Exley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. **Old Business**

A. **Future Mobility 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Aiken County Update (Informational Purposes Only)**

Joel Duke presented this item:

The Policy Subcommittee is still prioritizing the list of projects in preparation for a 2050 MTP amendment.

B. **Draft FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Comment Period & Public Meetings – No substantial changes (Informational Purposes Only)**

Presented by Carla Delaney:

There were five public meetings held virtually during business and after hours. The public comment period for the FY 2021-2024 TIP is now complete with minor comments submitted.

IV. **New Business**

A. **Adoption of the FY 2021-2024 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (PC Vote)**

Presented by Carla Delaney:

The public comment period for the FY 2021-2024 TIP is now complete with minor comments submitted. The CAC/TCC approved the draft TIP on January 28, 2021.

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

B. **Adoption of the Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (PC Vote)**

The FY 2022 UPWP is the work program for the entire MPO which is required to be completed annually. Federal, State, and Local MPO partners have reviewed the FY 2022 UPWP. The CAC/TCC approved the Draft FY 2022 UPWP on January 28, 2021.



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

C. Applications for the FY 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-aside (TAP) (Discussion and CAC/TCC Vote)

I. Augusta Transit Bus Stop Rehabilitation and Shelter

Presented by Carla Delaney:

There were two projects submitted for the FY 21 TAP Call for Projects. One was not eligible and the other was submitted by Augusta Transit for the amount of 1.1 million. This application is for the rehabilitation of 50 bus shelters at the unit cost of \$15,925. The awarded TAP funds will also be used to fund the assembly and installation of the bus shelters. The CAC/TCC approved the Augusta Transit Bus Stop Rehabilitation and Shelter TAP application on January 28, 2021.

Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Steve Exley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:

I. Georgia Highways

Presented by Ellen Wright:



**Project Status Report for Augusta Regional Transportation Study
(ARTS)**

Georgia Roads Report

Date: February 25, 2021

Columbia/ Richmond Counties

- 0016924 - I-20 FM SR 383 TO S CAROLINA LINE & I-520 FM I-20 TO CR 3888
 - Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Expansion and Upgrade Project (17.41 Miles)
 - SCHEDULE:
 - Let date shifted in December 2020 to April 2021 Let
 - UPDATE:
 - On schedule for Let
 - ENV, ROW AND UTL Certified
 - Final plans submitted to CBA 02/05/2021
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - Construction Authorization and plans to reproduction scheduled for 03/12/2021



Richmond County

- **0013927 - SR 4/US 25 BU at Savannah River at South Carolina Line**
 - Bridge Replacement (0.20 miles) with Tier III staged onsite detour
 - SCHEDULE:
 - Let date moved to March 15, 2024
 - UPDATE:
 - Final edits ongoing to Virtual PIOH videos
 - Expect PIOH to go live April 2021
 - VE Study needed
 - Request sent to OPD for signature on 02/05/2021
 - ONGOING COORDINATION AND POSSIBLE RISKS:
 - Environmental 4F & 408 coordination
 - Coordination with locals regarding aesthetics and funding
 - SC ROW Acquisition
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - Request PFFR 02/04/2022
 - ROW Authorization March 2023
 - Let March 2024

- **0014907 – SR 4/US 1 at North Folk Creek 4.7 Miles Northwest of Hephzibah**
 - Bridge Replacement with On Site Detour
 - SCHEDULE:
 - Will Let June 2021
 - UPDATE:
 - No ROW needed
 - RISK:
 - Late CFFPR to be submitted by 02/24/2021
 - Will need to recover to meet current letting schedule

- **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
 - CONSTRUCTION UPDATES:
 - GA Roadway Phase 2
 - ITS installation is ongoing
 - Bridge #1 - Augusta Canal Phase 2
 - Placing rip-rap on abutments at bents 1 & 4
 - Beam setting for spans 1-3 scheduled for March 1, 3 , & 15(Nightwork)
 - Bridge #2 - Savannah River Phase 2
 - Finishing up constructing membrane wrapped cofferdam on west side of river
 - Dewatering of cofferdam has started and is ongoing
 - Bent 2 substructure construction has started and is going
 - SC Roadway Phase 2
 - Grading subgrade and dumping GABC in SC median 417+00--440+00
 - Ramp C/Martintown Rd Phase 2
 - Currently construction has been stopped as GDOT/SCDOT negotiate with contractor on the additional work SCDOT has requested to be added. Once this is worked out construction will resume



- **220680 – SR 4 From Milledgeville Road to Government Street - TIA**
 - Let to Construction June 2019
 - Widening (1.59 miles)
 - No new updates

- **0009916 - SR 88 @ CR 58/ Bath Edie Road**
 - Single Lane Roundabout
 - SCHEDULE: On Current Baseline Schedule for June 2022 LET
 - L&D & ROW:
 - Right of Way plans pending approval
 - Right of Way authorization pending approved ROW plans and ROW estimate
 - UTILITIES:
 - On schedule with 2nd Submissions needed
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - On schedule for PM to request FFPR 11/12/2021

**II. South Carolina Highways
Presented by Adam Humphries:**

**III. Augusta Transit
Presented by Dr. Oliver Page:**

1. Augusta Transit continues to provide FREE rides for any purpose made possible by CARES Act funding. Free rides will be in place at least until the end of March 2021. Commission approval is required to reinstate fares.
2. All Augusta Transit riders have been encouraged to follow public health guidelines while riding buses. This includes the wearing of masks (covering nose and mouth) and social distancing. Passenger capacity on all fixed-route buses has been reduced to accommodate social distancing. Unfortunately, some essential riders have been inconvenienced by this new regimen.
3. COVID-19 has impacted all of our communities and Augusta Transit. To accommodate a reduction in bus operator staff due to various reasons, Monday thru Friday services have been reduced (from two buses to one) on routes #5 Washington Rd and #7 Augusta Mall; and, withdrawn completely on Route #2 West Parkway. Route #2 West Parkway is our least traveled route with approximately 12 passengers per day. Full Monday thru Friday services on Route #2 West Parkway were restored on Monday, February 15, 2021.
4. Ridership in the 4th quarter of 2020 (October thru December) totaled 183,328



compared to 152,528 in 2019 a 16% increase. Free rides have attracted new riders but also joy riders who pass the day riding the bus. Augusta Transit has not seen dramatic declines in ridership as peer transit agencies have experienced.

5. Augusta Transit continues to reach out to supermarkets/grocery stores to increase awareness of abandoned shopping buggies at bus stops in particular the Gordon Highway Transfer Point. Buggies can become a safety and environmental hazard. Owners need to have staff canvass up to ½ mile from the store to collect their property.
6. Augusta Transit is exploring the introduction of microtransit to serve the urbanized areas of South Augusta. Microtransit is defined as tech-enabled shared transportation that can offer fixed routes and schedules, as well as flexible routes and on-demand scheduling. Key elements of microtransit include the use of smaller vehicles, technology-enabled and flexible. Augusta Transit has approached RideCo and Via microtransit providers.

IV. Best Friend Express

Presented by Rhonda Mitchell:

The Best Friend Express transit system continues to operate a full non-disrupted schedule during the present COVID-19 pandemic. Dial A Ride trips and 5310 Urban trips continue to be performed as well.

All of the vehicles used in the Best Friend Express fleet are now retrofitted with a permanent protective Lexan barrier around the driver's area. This barrier can be opened from both sides for easy exiting if needed. Mask are available for passengers to use and all are encouraged to wear one.

The FTA's National Transit Database (NTD) report was submitted for the Best Friend Express Transit System. We experienced an 11.4% increase in ridership on our Dial A Ride system.

The Best Friend Express system completed the 2020 Federal Fiscal Program year for the 5310 Urban transit service on September 30, 2020. Two hundred and five clients were served and 2,008 passenger trips were performed. On October 1, 2020, we began the 2021 Federal Fiscal Program year. We anticipate a continued increase in ridership during this program year.

V. Augusta Regional Airport No Presentation

V. Other Business

A. Public Participation Plan

The PPP has been reviewed by the MPO local partners and has been sent to federal and state partners for review. After review by the federal and state partners, there will be a 45-day public comment period.



B. Bike and Pedestrian Plan – Email vote for GAMPO Application

Due to the lack of agenda items for the March round of committee meetings, the MPO will have an email vote for the Bike and Pedestrian Plan GAMPO Applications. All March meetings will be canceled.

VI. Adjourn