



**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (ARTS)
JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.

<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

- I. Welcome and Introductions (**Acknowledge Zoom**)
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Approve the minutes of the Joint Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting held on January 28, 2021. (**CAC & TCC Vote**)
-Pages 2-10
- III. Old Business
 - A. Future Mobility 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Aiken County Update
(Informational Purposes Only)
- IV. New Business
 - A. Approval of the Augusta Transit (AT) and Best Friend Express (BFE) Safety Performance Targets Resolution (**CAC & TCC Vote**)
-Pages 11-13
 - B. Public Participation Plan Update (**Informational Purposes Only**)
 - C. Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update (**Informational Purposes Only**)
 - D. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:
 - I. Georgia Highways
 - II. South Carolina Highways
 - III. Augusta Transit
 - IV. Best Friend Express
 - V. Augusta Regional Airport
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjourn



II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Approve the minutes of the Joint Citizens Advisory Committee, Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting held on January 28, 2021. **(CAC & TCC Vote)**
– **Pages 2-10**



AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

535 Telfair Street • Suite 300 Augusta, Georgia 30901

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (ARTS)
 JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM –
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.
 MEETING MINUTES**

JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING	
<i>CAC VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>CAC VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
Dr. Chris Noah , Columbia County Geneva Jackson , Aiken County	Martin Cochran , Aiken County Joe Collins , Columbia County Shirley Abney , Aiken County Frank Plumley , Columbia County Bill Busser , Aiken County Hafeez Chaudhry , Columbia County J. Ashley Williams , Edgefield County
<i>TCC VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>TCC VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
Robert Sherman , ARTS MPO Project Director Joel Duke , Director of Aiken County represented by LJ Peterson Corbett Reynolds , P.E. District Engineer represented by Ellen Wright/Todd Price Trang Mai/ Tom Caiafa/Nedric Green , GDOT Libby Hodges , City of North Augusta Planning Director Thomas Zeaser , Engineer, North Augusta Dr. Hameed Malik , Director, City of Augusta Engineering Dept. Matt Schlachter , Columbia County represented by Steve Exley Herbert Judon Jr. , Director, Augusta Regional Airport represented by Greg Larsen Kyle Titus , Director of Columbia County Engineering Ryan Bland , City of Aiken Planning Director Sharon Dottery , Director represented by Dr. Oliver Page	Teresa Crain , Aiken County Engineer Curtis Murphy , City of New Ellenton Michelle Jones , City of Aiken Public Works LaToya Grate , SCDOT Planning Engineer

Scott Sterling , Director, Columbia County Planning Rhonda Mitchell , LSCOG Adam Humphries , SCDOT Program Manager represented by Alex Bennett , SCDOT John Ussery , Augusta Traffic Engineer	
TCC NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:	TCC NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:
Tamara Christian , FHWA (GA) Andy Crosson , CSRA-RC Carole Burrowbridge , ADA Augusta	Eric Duff Yolanda Morris , FHWA (SC) Frank Childs , GDOT
OTHERS ATTENDING:	
Carla Delaney , Planning & Development Mariah Harris , Planning & Development Erik Engle , Planning & Development Warren Richard , Planning & Development Udomekong Udoko , Planning & Development Marcus Holland , Planning & Development Rashad Pinckney , Planning & Development June Hamal , Augusta Engineering Department Marques Jacobs , Augusta Engineering Department Dr. William Molnar , LSCOG	Rhonda Davis Rick Toole Dave Mills , Cranston Engineering Glenn Coyne , WSP USA Inc. Regina Pyles , CSRA-RC
Unidentified Usernames / Attendees Michael.Oswald mprzyby Betsy McCall Erin Porter Dave Mills	Unidentified Numbers 170644776XX 170683660XX 170686834XX 180322126XX 180335103XX 180344257XX 191251534XX

I. **Welcome and Introductions (Acknowledge Zoom)**

II. **Approval of Minutes**

A. **Approve the minutes of the Joint Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting held on November 12, 2020. (CAC & TCC Vote)**

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

TCC – Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Dr. Hameed Malik seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. **Old Business**

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

Presented by LJ Peterson:

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 (CAC & TCC Vote)**
Presented by Carla Delaney:

The public comment period for the FY 2021-2024 TIP is now complete with minor comments submitted. If approved at the CAC/TCC meeting, the FY 2021-2024 TIP will go before the Policy Committee for approval.

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

TCC – Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Dr. Hameed Malik seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. **Adoption of the Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (CAC & TCC Vote)**
Presented by Carla Delaney:

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. If approved at the CAC/TCC meeting, the FY 2022 UPWP will go before the Policy Committee for approval.

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

TCC –Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Dr. Hameed Malik 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.

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

TCC –Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Dr. Hameed Malik 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: January 28, 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
 - Construction Authorization due 03/12/2021
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - Final plans to CBA 02/05/2021

Richmond County

- **0013927 - SR 4/US 25 BU at Savannah River at South Carolina Line**
 - Bridge Replacement (0.20 miles)
 - SCHEDULE:
 - Let date moved to March 15, 2024
 - UPDATE:
 - Concept approved 11/23/2020
 - Final edits made to Virtual PIOH videos and submitted to GDOT Communications
 - ONGOING COORDINATION AND POSSIBLE RISKS:
 - Environmental 4F & 408 coordination
 - Coordination with locals regarding aesthetics and funding
 - SC ROW Acquisition
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - Request PFPR 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
 - SCHEDULE:
 - Will Let June 2021
 - UPDATE:
 - Onsite detour
 - No ROW needed
 - Environmental on schedule
 - BFI accepted 11/02/2020
 - Bridge Waiver Granted 12/03/2020

- 0014907 – SR 4/US 1 at North Folk Creek 4.7 Miles Northwest of Hephzibah - Continued
 - ONGOING COORDINATION AND POSSIBLE RISKS:
 - FFPR Scheduled for 01/21/2021
 - Late FFPR
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - CFFPR February 2021
 - Let June 2024
- 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
 - UPDATES:
 - Bridge #1 Augusta Canal - Phase 2
 - Substructure complete
 - Phase 2 Beam setting scheduled for the week of February 8th
 - BR#2 Savannah River - Phase 2
 - Installing membrane wrapped cofferdam in the West side of the river
 - Substructure construction to start next week
 - Median SC
 - Continue grading for subgrade and dumping GABC for Phase 2 construction Station 410+00--423+00
 - Ramp C – Phase 2A
 - Currently construction has been stopped as GDOT/SCDOT negotiate with contractor on the additional work SCDOT has requested to be added.
- 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:
 - Location and Design Approval submitted to Design Policy and Support on 12/03/2020
 - Right of Way plans pending L&D Approval
 - Right of Way authorization pending approved ROW plans and ROW estimate
 - UTILITIES:
 - Need 2nd Submissions
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - Final Plans are 92% complete and on schedule for submission to GDOT PM on 10/13/2021
 - PM Request FFPR 11/12/21-On Schedule

II. South Carolina Highways Presented by Adam Humphries:

ARTS SC TCC Meeting
SCDOT Project Update
Thursday, January 28, 2021, 10:30 am

Project List

- SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway) Corridor Improvement
- SC 126 (Belvedere-Clearwater Road) Widening
- SC 19 (Whiskey Road) at Eagle Road and S-447/S41 Whiskey Road Intersection Improvement

SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway) Corridor Improvement

Project in Brief
Project Description: The project is to take the corridor from its current condition to a state-of-good-repair condition.

Planned Schedule and Project Status

Milestones

- Right of Way obligated in December 2020 with 10 of 10 bonds secured
- Construction Obligation - 10/2020
- Letting - 12/2020
- Construction (see bid material) was \$13,882,327.18
- Recommended Awarding for Construction

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	On Track	No Action Needed
Budget	Recommended awarding this project.	Funding Commitment Needed

Condition at a glance

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	On Track	No Action Needed
Budget	Recommended awarding this project.	Funding Commitment Needed

Project Funding by Phase

Phase	Estimated Cost
Right of Way	\$1,500,000.00
Construction	\$13,882,327.18
Other	\$1,000,000.00
Total	\$16,382,327.18

SC 126 (Belvedere-Clearwater Road) Widening

Project in Brief
Project Description: The project is to take the corridor from its current condition to a state-of-good-repair condition.

Planned Schedule and Project Status

Milestones

- Plan/development is 100% complete
- Environmental Permitting/Coordination is complete
- Right of Way Phase is complete - Right of Way Commitment (PRMARC) has secured the Right of Way for the project (80% bonds secured)
- Construction Obligation - 02/2021
- Letting - 02/2021

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Schedule changed for Construction Letting to allow time for Right of Way award	No Action Needed
Budget	Right of Way will possibly need additional funding for purchase of Right of Way. Construction Phase has been recommended by S&B/C&D/ET/ET (see Engineer's Estimate).	No Action Needed

Condition at a glance

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Schedule changed for Construction Letting to allow time for Right of Way award	No Action Needed
Budget	Right of Way will possibly need additional funding for purchase of Right of Way. Construction Phase has been recommended by S&B/C&D/ET/ET (see Engineer's Estimate).	No Action Needed

SC 19 (Whiskey Road) at Eagle Road and S-447 (Old Whiskey Road) Intersection Improvement

Project in Brief
Project Description: The project is to take the corridor from its current condition to a state-of-good-repair condition.

Planned Schedule and Project Status

Milestones

- SCDOT has negotiated contract with consultant to provide design services
- Public Information Meeting - Held Tuesday, 10/21/2019
- General Final plan submitted August 19, 2020
- ADOT in the process of awarding construction to take Old Whiskey Road away from Eagle Road with separate intersection along with right of way
- GDOT awarded project contract to take this project on October 21, 2018
- Right of Way Obligation - 08/2019
- Construction Obligation - 08/2019

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Schedule is Unchanged	No Action Needed
Budget	Budget is Unchanged	No Action Needed

Condition at a glance

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Schedule is Unchanged	No Action Needed
Budget	Budget is Unchanged	No Action Needed

Project Funding by Phase

Phase	Estimated Cost
Right of Way	\$1,000,000.00
Construction	\$1,000,000.00
Other	\$1,000,000.00
Total	\$3,000,000.00

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.
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 micro-transit to serve the urbanized areas of South Augusta. Micro-transit 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 micro-transit include the use of smaller vehicles, technology-enabled and flexible. Augusta Transit has approached RideCo and Via micro-transit 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**
Presented by Greg Larsen:
No Update

- V. **Other Business**

- A. **Public Participation Plan**

- Presented by Carla Delaney:**

- The PPP has been reviewed by the MPO local partners and will be sent to federal and state partners today 1/28/2021. After review by the federal and state partners, there will be a 45-day public comment period.

- VI. **Adjourn**



IV. New Business

- A. Approval of the Augusta Transit (AT) and Best Friend Express (BFE) Safety Performance Targets Resolution **(CAC & TCC Vote)**

-Pages 11-13



**RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF TRANSIT SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS
THE AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the Augusta Planning and Development Department, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, is responsible for carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) Metropolitan Planning Area; and the Augusta Regional Transportation Study MPO Policy committee is the decision-making body for the MPO; and

WHEREAS, Federal regulations implementing the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act of 2012 require that “ the metropolitan transportation planning process shall provide for the establishment and use of a performance-based approach to transportation decision-making” to support the achievement of national goals by establishing targets in key performance areas; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA’s) required FTA grantees to develop a transit safety plan with the establishment of public transit safety performance measures to be reported to the MPO; and

WHEREAS, Federal regulations require Metropolitan Planning Organizations to establish four-year transit safety performance targets specific to the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s planning area, and through coordination with both public transit agencies serving the existing MPO area for the selection of such performance targets; and as the Augusta Transit Department and Lower Savannah Council of Government, the transit providers that serve in the metropolitan planning area, notified the ARTS MPO of its established transit safety performance targets in December 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ARTS Metropolitan Planning Organization has hereby agreed to adopt the Augusta Transit safety performance targets as established under the safety performance criteria required by the National Public Transportation Safety Plan; and also adopt the Lower Savannah Council of Governments safety performance targets they developed on behalf of the Best Friend Express of Aiken County; and the ARTS MPO will incorporate both separate sets of targets into all required short and long-range planning documents, including the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP);

The performance targets chosen by Augusta Transit and Lower Savannah Council of Government based on the safety measures established under the National Public Transportation Safety Plan are as follows:

Augusta Transit 2021 Annual Safety Performance Targets							
Mode of Transit Service	Fatalities (total)	Fatalities (per 100,000 VRM)	Injuries (total)	Injuries (per 100,000 VRM)	Safety Events (total)	Safety Events (per 100,000 VRM)	System Reliability (VRM/Failures)
Fixed Route Bus	0	0	3	0.22	1	0.19	2,859
Demand Response ADA Paratransit	0	0	2	0.17	0	0.17	12,770



Lower Savannah Council of Government 2021 Annual Safety Performance Targets							
Mode of Transit Service	Fatalities (total)	Fatalities (per 100k /40k VRM)	Injuries (total)	Injuries per VRM (100k VRM-FR, 40k VRM -DR)	Safety Events (total)	Safety Events (per 100k VRM-FR,40k VRM-DR)	System Reliability (VRM/Failures)
Fixed Route Bus	0	0	0.8	0.61	2.60	1.98	218,723
Demand Response ADA Paratransit	0	0	0	0	0.8	1	94,346

The ARTS MPO will continue to adopt transit safety targets for their planning area in coordination with both transit providers serving their planning area and shall share and report on those targets with the appropriate agencies and stakeholders.

William Molnar, Ph.D., Chairman
 Augusta Regional Transportation Study
 Policy Committee

Date

Robert H. Sherman, Director of Planning and
 Development
 Augusta Regional Transportation Study
 Policy Committee

Date