



AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

535 Telfair Street • Suite 300 Augusta, Georgia 30901

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (ARTS)
SPECIALLY CALLED JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL COORDINATING
COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM –
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020 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>
<p>Geneva Jackson, Aiken County Dr. Chris Noah, Columbia County</p>	<p>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</p>
<i>TCC VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</i>	<i>TCC VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</i>
<p>Robert Sherman, ARTS MPO Project Director Joel Duke, Director of Aiken County Corbett Reynolds, P.E. District Engineer represented by Ellen Wright/Todd Price Trang Mai, GDOT Hart Clark, Edgefield County Building and Planning Director represented by Kevin Singletary 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 John Ussery, Augusta Traffic Engineer</p>	<p>Teresa Crain, Aiken County Engineer Curtis Murphy, City of New Ellenton Michelle Jones, City of Aiken Public Works Andrew Strickland, Director, Columbia County Planning Ryan Bland, City of Aiken Planning Director Rhonda Mitchell, LSCOG Tom Caiafa, GDOT Sharon Dottery, Director, Augusta Transit LaToya Grate, SCDOT Planning Engineer</p>

Adam Humphries , SCDOT Program Manager represented by Alex Bennett , SCDOT	
TCC NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:	TCC NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:
Frank Childs , GDOT LJ Peterson , Aiken County Tamara Christion , FHWA (GA)	Eric Duff Carole Burrowbridge , ADA Augusta Yolanda Morris , FHWA (SC) Andy Crosson , CSRA-RC
OTHERS ATTENDING:	
Carla Delaney Erik Engle Dr. Oliver Page Mariah Harris Warren Richard Udomekong Udoko Marques Jacobs , Augusta Engineering Department June Hammal , Augusta Engineering Department Glenn Coyne , WSP USA Inc. Christy Joen , WSP USA Inc. Regina Pyles , CSRA-RC	Rhonda Davis Rick Toole Will Carter , Cranston Engineering Dave Mills , Cranston Engineering
Unidentified Usernames / Attendees Joe Robertson (Joe R) PorterEP Galaxy S10 JBramblett	Unidentified Numbers / Attendees 180344257XX 170642156XX 184384577XX 180373730XX 170666440XX

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 August 5, 2020. (CAC & TCC Vote)
– Pages 2-9**

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

TCC – Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Ellen Wright seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Presentation

A. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Process Overview presented by Carla Delaney

Carla Delaney presented this item:

The presentation consists of 15 slides:

- Long Range Transportation Plan...aka Metropolitan Transportation Plan**: Overview of the Purpose and Process for Metropolitan Transportation Plan. August 12, 2020.
- Quick Recap**: ARTS is a bi-state MPO that is comprised of 4 committees: 1. SC Policy Subcommittee (Recommendatory Body), 2. CAC (Recommendatory Body), 3. TCC (Recommendatory Body), 4. Policy (Decision Making Body).
- Who sits on these committees?**: A circular diagram showing the four committees: SC Policy Subcommittee, CAC, TCC, and Policy.
- MPO Functions**: Establish a setting - fair and impartial; Evaluate transportation alternatives; Cooperatively develop, update, and approve: -Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), -Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), -Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); Involve the public (residents and key affected groups) - Develop PPP.
- Technical Coordinating Committee**: Role of the Technical Coordinating Committee: Advisory body to the MPO Policy Committee for transportation issues, primarily technical in nature. Oversees MPO technical work and develops recommendations on projects and programs for Policy Committee consideration.
- Citizens Advisory Committee**: Role of the Citizens Advisory Committee: Advisory body to the MPO Policy Committee on public concerns and opinions regarding the ARTS study findings and recommendations. Provide a forum to obtain public views on transportation issues and problems and directing issues of public concern to the attention of the Policy Committee or the Technical Coordinating Committee.
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (MTP)**: Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) Series, South Carolina's Aiken and Maffield County, and Georgia's Richmond and Columbia County.
- What does the MTP Represent?**: A 20-year planning horizon vision document; Reflects the application of programmatic transportation goals to project prioritization; Includes financial components that demonstrate how the recommended transportation plan can be implemented; Identifies the public and private resources expected to be available to carry out the plan; Recommends any additional financing strategies for needed projects and programs; All of this occurs in a fiscally constrained environment.
- The MTP is a Living Document**: 20 Year Horizon Limitations: New Funding, New State Developments, Major Regional Projects, Natural Disasters; Amending the MTP: Revisory, Frequency, Process.
- From MTP to TIP**: The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the next step in the process. Projects in the upcoming TIP must be included in the MTP. Therefore amending the MTP may be necessary to aid in securing funding for transportation projects that may need to be in the TIP.

IV. New Business

A. Adoption of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Financially Constrained Plan (CAC & TCC Vote)

Glenn Coyne presented this item:

ARTS 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Future Mobility futuromobility2050.com

Augusta Regional Transport Study (ARTS) Joint CAC and TCC Meeting August 12, 2020

Organization of 2050 MTP



The Story of the 2050 MTP

- Continued growth anticipated in the four-county ARTS region
- Demand for transportation improvements with capacity, safety and maintenance as priorities
- Also need to focus on alternative forms of transportation and new technologies
- Robust public and stakeholder involvement throughout process of developing the MTP
- Over \$3 billion of resources predicted to be available over the next 30 years
- Identified fiscally-constrained list of projects to implement to performance measures and goals of the MTP

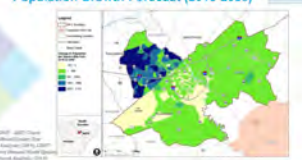
MTP 2050 Development Process



ARTS MPO Boundary



Population Growth Forecast (2015-2050)



Public and Stakeholder Outreach

- First Round of Public Outreach (Sep – Nov 2019)
 - 2019 Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival
 - 4 public meetings, special interest meetings, local events
 - MetroQuest online survey #1, paper survey, and social media
- Stakeholder Roundtable (Feb 2020)
- Second Round of Public Outreach (Mar 2020)
 - 7 public meetings
 - MetroQuest online survey #2, media, and social media outreach
- Public Review Period - July 15, 2020 to August 4, 2020

Public and Stakeholder Outreach

- Public Review Period - July 15, 2020 to August 4, 2020
 - Heard from 30 people
 - Through project website and email
 - Also available at 28 locations



Public and Stakeholder Outreach

Public Review Comments Summary

Comment Category	Count	Percentage
Speed	18	13%
Public, Environmental Justice (EJ) Consideration	17	13%
Corporation and TDM Program	17	13%
Adding an Executive Summary	17	13%
Accessibility	8	6%
Side Issues	3	2%
Consideration of the identity, history, or historical	3	2%
Outreach to veterans, rural areas	3	2%
Specific vehicles, electric bikes, light rail	2	2%
Traffic planning	2	2%
Operable parking promissory plan	1	1%
New road/connection	1	1%
Multi-modal	1	1%
Cost and safety	1	1%

82% (78 out of 95)

ARTS Performance Based Planning Framework



2050 MTP Goals



Development of Projects



Project Prioritization Framework



Georgia and South Carolina Funding Available through 2050



Draft 2050 MTP Draft Funding Allocation

Funding Category	Georgia		South Carolina	
	Funding	Percentage	Funding	Percentage
Transportation / State	\$134,707,432	7%	\$15,944,892	6%
Transportation / Federal	\$276,794,940	15%	\$65,948,620	26%
Transportation / Locality	\$1,914,212,439	10%	\$103,414,240	42%
Quality / Environment	\$486,125,747	3%	\$48,476,243	20%
Transportation / Other	\$48,007,898	3%	\$2,875,743	1%
Non-transportation	\$782,381,008	42%	\$282,000,000	11%
Total Funding	\$2,438,242,873	100%	\$399,414,848	100%

2050 MTP Recommended Project Tiers

Tier	Project Type	Timeline
Tier 1	TIA and TIP Projects	2021 through 2024 (Short-range)
Tier 2		2025 through 2034 (Mid-range)
Tier 3		2035 through 2050 (Long-range)

Underscored Priority Projects Not advanced in 2050 MTP

Tier 1 – Top 10 Georgia Projects

EA Project Ranking	MTP Project #	Project Description	County	Funding (Millions)	Project Type	Priority	Project Cost (in Tier 1)
1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...

Tier 1 – Top 10 South Carolina Projects

EA Project Ranking	MTP Project #	Project Description	County	Funding (Millions)	Project Type	Priority	Project Cost (in Tier 1)
1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...

Tier 1 Projects (2021-2024)



Tier 2 – Top 10 Georgia Projects

EA Project Ranking	MTP Project #	Project Description	County	Funding (Millions)	Project Type	Priority	Project Cost (in Tier 2)
1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...

Tier 2 – Top 10 South Carolina Projects

EA Project Ranking	MTP Project #	Project Description	County	Funding (Millions)	Project Type	Priority	Project Cost (in Tier 2)
1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...

Tier 2 Projects (2025-2034)



Adoption Activities and Next Steps

- Draft MTP reviewed by ARTS and GDOT
- Virtual Workshops held in July, 2020
- July 15, 2020 to August 5, 2020 – Public Comment Period
- SC Subcommittee considered 2050 MTP – August 7, 2020
- ARTS TCC/CAC to consider endorsing 2050 MTP - Today
- September 3, 2020 – ARTS Policy Committee considers adoption of 2050 MTP
- September 10, 2020 – Submit 2050 MTP to FHWA & GDOT

Thank You!



Project types were sorted by color on slides 20 & 21. Every person who commented on the 2050 MTP will receive a response by letter or email with an answer to their question or comment. A summary of the comments will be included inside of the document in Chapter 2 as the last public involvement activity and in the appendix.

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

TCC –Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Joel Duke seconded. The motion to approve contingent upon editorial comments to the 2050 MTP Draft was unanimously approved.

B. Recommend approval of the request for an additional \$10,000 of PL funds for the West Martintown Road at I-20 Corridor Study. (CAC & TCC Vote)

– **Pages 10-12**

LJ Peterson presented this item:

This project will be funded by South Carolina PL Funds (Planning Funds). This project has begun, the additional funds requested are for an additional work item of the project.

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

TCC –Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Ellen Wright seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Recommend approval of the 2020 TAP application submitted by the City of North Augusta for the North Augusta Greenway Extension. (CAC & TCC Vote)

– **Pages 13-34**

LJ Peterson presented this item:

This project will be funded by South Carolina PL Funds (Planning Funds).

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

TCC –Robert Sherman motioned to approve and Ellen Wright seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:

I. Georgia Highways

Columbia County

• 0008345 – I-20 From McDuffie County Line to SR 383

- Widening
- Concept requesting the project be split into phases due to funding approved June 1, 2020.
 - Phase 1 – SR 388 to SR 383
 - Phase 2 – SR 47/US 221 to SR 388
 - Phase 3 – A point East of SR 47 (omit)

Columbia/ Richmond Counties

• 0016924 - I-20 FM SR 383 TO S CAROLINA LINE & I-520 FM I-20 TO CR 3888

- o Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Expansion and Upgrade Project (17.41 Miles)

- o Next milestones: PM to request FFPR
 - Request to authorize PE in FY 2021 with Cost Estimate to be submitted August 2020

Richmond County

• 0013927 - SR 4/US 25 BU at Savannah River at South Carolina Line

- Bridge Replacement (0.20 miles)
- Let date to be moved to March 2024. PCRF currently in review with OPD.
 - Bridge Office and Office of Environmental Services have concurred with new let date.
- V2 Concept Report submitted July 20, 2020
- Ongoing coordination for funding of non-bridge replacement items including aesthetic elements, special lighting, and trail connections.
 - \$5 Million in TIA funding
- Scoping preliminary design task order
- Virtual PIOH video production in process

• 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 as of July 30, 2020
 - EB Exit 1 paving first week of August
 - Widening shoulder and restriping for Ramp E (WB loop on ramp) should be complete
 - Median roadwork ongoing in SC
 - Cross drain pipe first week of August, aquadam installation ongoing on the West side of Savannah River, Caisson construction is ongoing for Augusta Canal
 - Key safety enhancement was made to extend length of WB loop on ramp acceleration lane from Exit 1 to I-20 W last week (July 27-31)

• 220680 – SR 4 From Milledgeville Road to Government Street - TIA

- Let to Construction June 2019
- Widening (1.59 miles)
- Utility relocation is underway and moving forward. Have been delays.

II. South Carolina Highways

III. Augusta Transit

No Presentation

IV. Best Friend Express

Rhonda Mitchell presented this item:

The Best Friend Express transit system continues to operate at 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.

Drivers have PPE and buses are disinfected several times a day. We have begun to retrofit the driver's area of all the buses used for services with a permanent protective Lexan barrier. This barrier can be opened from both sides for easy exiting if needed.

LSCOG received insurance proceeds for the total loss of BFE Bus #442 in June. We are awaiting a letter from FTA stating the amount of federal interest remaining in this vehicle. We will proceed with a plan for a replacement vehicle upon receipt.

A CARES Act application for \$1,517,197 (100% Federal Share) has been submitted for the Best Friend Express Transit services. This application utilizes CARES Act funding to help respond to and recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. This grant will be for a three-year period **(July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023)**.

V. Augusta Regional Airport

No Presentation

V. Other Business

A. Air Quality

Carla Delaney presented this item:

The MPO will be pursuing different Air Quality initiatives in the near future. Dr. Noah would like to be added to the Air Quality Stakeholders List.

VI. Adjourn