



**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**

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

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

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 ID:** 0004907  
**Project Description:** The project is for SC 118 to include corridor construction improvements along the corridor between the addition of a roundabout at the intersection of SC 118 and US 1 (State Blvd) and US 1 (State Blvd) and US 1 (State Blvd).

**Planned Schedule and Project Status**

**Milestones:**

- Right of Way obligated in December 2020 with 10 of 10 hours 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	Green	No Action Needed
Budget	Red	Finalized Contract Needed

**Condition at a glance**

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Green	No Action Needed
Budget	Red	Finalized Contract Needed

**Project Funding by Phase**

Phase	Estimated Cost
Construction	\$13,882,327.18
Right of Way	\$1,000,000.00
Construction	\$13,882,327.18
Construction	\$13,882,327.18

**Project Funding by Source**

Source	Estimated Cost
State	\$13,882,327.18
Federal	\$1,000,000.00
Local	\$13,882,327.18
Local	\$13,882,327.18

**SC 126 (Belvedere-Clearwater Road) Widening**

**Project ID:** 0004908  
**Project Description:** The project is for SC 126 to include widening of the road from 24 feet to 36 feet and the addition of a bike lane and 10' shoulders on both sides.

**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 Contract (PFRMA) has been secured the Right of Way for the project (see bid material)
- Construction Obligation - 02/2021
- Letting - 02/2021

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Red	Additional Funding for Construction
Budget	Green	No Action Needed

**Condition at a glance**

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Red	Additional Funding for Construction
Budget	Green	No Action Needed

**Project Funding by Phase**

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

**Project Funding by Source**

Source	Estimated Cost
State	\$1,000,000.00
Federal	\$1,000,000.00
Local	\$1,000,000.00
Local	\$1,000,000.00

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

**Project ID:** 0004909  
**Project Description:** The project is for SC 19 to include intersection improvements at the intersection of SC 19 and S-447 (Old Whiskey Road).

**Planned Schedule and Project Status**

**Milestones:**

- SCDOT has negotiated contract with consultant and has provided design services
- Public information meeting - held Tuesday, 10/21/2020
- General final plan submitted August 10, 2020
- ADOT in the process of awarding construction to install the Whiskey Road away from Eagle Road with separate construction award for right of way
- GDOT awarded project contract to the Whiskey Road project on October 21, 2020
- Right of Way Obligation - 09/2020
- Construction Obligation - 09/2020

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Green	No Action Needed
Budget	Green	No Action Needed

**Condition at a glance**

Metric	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	Green	No Action Needed
Budget	Green	No Action Needed

**Project Funding by Phase**

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

**Project Funding by Source**

Source	Estimated Cost
State	\$1,000,000.00
Federal	\$1,000,000.00
Local	\$1,000,000.00
Local	\$1,000,000.00

### **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**