



AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

535 Telfair Street • Suite 300 Augusta, Georgia 30901

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (ARTS)
POLICY COMMITTEE**

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.

MEETING MINUTES

ARTS POLICY COMMITTEE

VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:	VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:
Dr. William Molnar , CHAIRMAN of POLICY COMMITTEE Radney Simpson/Tom Caiafa , representing GDOT Commissioner Jannine Miller 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 Hardie Davis, Jr. , Mayor of Augusta represented by Naeem Jenkins-Nixon Rick Osbon , Mayor City of Aiken	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 Robert Pettit , Mayor City of North Augusta Tommy Paradise representing Dean Campbell , Chairman Edgefield County, SC Scott Cooper , Edgefield County Chairman Gary Jones , Mayor City of Grovetown represented by Bradley Smith Robert Buchwitz , Chairman City of Hephzibah
NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:	NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:
Robert H. Sherman III , ARTS MPO 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
LJ Peterson , Aiken County Tom Caiafa , GDOT Todd Price , GDOT Tamara Christion , FHWA Rhonda Mitchell , LSCOG Mike Przybylowicz , City of Aiken Adam Humphries , SCDOT Program Manager Frank Childs , GDOT	CITY OF AUGUSTA Carla Delaney Mariah Harris Udomekong Udoko Marcus Holland Regina Pyles , CSRA RDC Carole Burrowbridge , ADA Augusta Dr. Hameed Malik , AED
Sam Booher Bill Jordan Erin Porter ecarrier	180373730XX 180364321XX 180364583XX

I. Welcome and Introductions (Acknowledge Zoom)

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on February 25, 2021.

Mayor Rick Osbon 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)

LJ Peterson presented this item.

The South Carolina Subcommittee is still working on revisions to the prioritized list of projects for the 2050 MTP Plan Update. Changes will hopefully be completed by the next round of committee meetings.

IV. New Business

A. Approval of the Augusta Transit (AT) and Best Friend Express (BFE) Safety Performance Targets Resolution

Udomekong Udoko Peterson presented this item.

The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) is a safety management operation plan that is developed by operators of public transportation systems to better manage safety risks and reduce the likelihood of safety events within their organization. The regulation of transit agency safety plans became effective on July 19, 2019.

The Safety Performance Targets for Augusta Transit and LSCOG BFE covers statistics of accidents involving the transit department's management operations such as serious injuries to a person, a collision of the transit vehicle, and cause of accidents.

Below are the Safety Performance Targets adopted by AT and LSCOG BFE.

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

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



B. Public Participation Plan Update

The public comment period for the Public Participation Plan started on April 26, 2021, and will end on June 10, 2021. There are four (4) notable proposed changes to the 2021 PPP update listed below:

- Virtual Public Meetings (COVID-19)
- ARTS Committees meetings increase to six (6) per year
- Public Comment Period reduced from 30 days to 14 days for Georgia Amendments
- Test Network Subcommittee Dissolved

There will be five (5) virtual public meetings for the PPP public comment period.

The dates are listed below:

Monday, May 24, 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All comments can be submitted to arts@augustaga.gov or call our office at 706-821-1796.

C. Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update

The Bike and Pedestrian Plan GAMPO Application was approved via email vote by all ARTS committees on March 12, 2021. The application was then submitted to the GAMPO PL Committee on March 18, 2021. The Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update application was presented and approved at the GAMPO PL Funds Committee Meeting on March 29, 2021. The ARTS MPO 2021 Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update financial summary can be found below:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
GAMPO Contribution	\$24,0000
City of Augusta Local Match	\$60,000
Aiken County Contribution	\$200,000
Total	\$500,000

The Bike and Pedestrian Plan is has a proposed start date of September 2021 and a proposed completion date of October 2021.



D. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:
I. Georgia Highways



**Project Status Report for Augusta Regional Transportation Study
(ARTS)
Georgia Roads Report
Date: May 5, 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 to Construction 04/16/2021
 - Under Construction
 - Bid Award to RJ Hanie & Associates \$2,182,599.50

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:
 - Project in preliminary design and hydraulics
 - Developing preliminary design plans and hydraulics through ongoing coordination with GDOT Bridge Office and locals
 - Final edits completed on Virtual PIOH videos
 - Currently in OPD for review and approval
 - Previous update had possibility of PIOH going live in April but will most likely be May if all is approved
 - ONGOING COORDINATION AND POSSIBLE RISKS:
 - Ongoing coordination and discussion with Construction Office regarding concerns on traffic control/staging
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - Virtual Public Information Open House/ Request for Comments in May
- **0014907 – SR 4/US 1 at North Folk Creek 4.7 Miles Northwest of Hephzibah**
 - Bridge Replacement with On Site Detour
 - SCHEDULE:
 - On schedule for June 2021 letting
- **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:
 - Bridge #1 - Augusta Canal Phase 2
 - Beam setting for spans 1-3 Phase 2 is complete
 - Metal Decking installation is complete for spans 1-3
 - Superstructure steel installation is ongoing for spans 1-3
 - Bridge #2 - Savannah River Phase 2
 - Bents 2-5 substructure construction is going
 - Beam setting for spans 1-3 is complete and span 4 scheduled for 5/21/2021
 - SC Roadway – Phase 2
 - SC Median 385-00—440-00
 - GABC and asphalt placement is ongoing
 - Exit 1/ Martintown Road
 - Construction for Phase 2B has started and is ongoing
 - Traffic has been shifted to the right side of the ramp
- **220680 – SR 4 From Milledgeville Road to Government Street - TIA**
 - Under Construction
 - Widening (1.59 miles)
 - Updates:
 - All overhead Utilities are complete
 - Beginning installation of drainage pipe
 - Project is 15% complete
- **0009916 - SR 88 @ CR 58/ Bath Edie Road**
 - Single Lane Roundabout
 - SCHEDULE: On Current Baseline Schedule for June 2022 LET
 - ROW:
 - Right of Way appraisals underway
 - UTILITIES:
 - Need lighting plans
 - 2nd submission utilities submitted
 - TARGET MILESTONES:
 - PM to request FFPR by 11/12/2021



II. South Carolina Highways

ARTS Joint CAC and TCC Meeting
SCDOT Project Update
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:00 am

Project List

- SC 138 (Hickock Parkway) Corridor Improvement
- SC 126 (Belvedere-Clearwater Road) Widening
- SC 129 (Whiskey Road) at Eagle Road and S-447 (Old Whiskey Road) Intersection Improvement
- Aiken/North Augusta Bike Route Signage

SC 126 (Belvedere-Clearwater Road) Widening

Project Location Map

Project Description

Belvedere-Clearwater Road widening project from Belvedere to Clearwater Road, including bridge and the addition of 10' shoulders.

Project Schedule and Project Status

Work Item

Work Item	Current Status	Action Plan
Design	Complete	No Action Needed
Construction	Not Started	No Action Needed
Open to Traffic	Not Started	No Action Needed

Project Funding by Phase

Phase	Funding Source	Amount
Design	State	\$1,000,000
Construction	State	\$10,000,000
Open to Traffic	State	\$1,000,000

Aiken/North Augusta Bike Route Signage

Project Location Map

Project Description

Install signage along the Aiken/North Augusta Bike Route.

Project Schedule and Project Status

Work Item

Work Item	Current Status	Action Plan
Design	Complete	No Action Needed
Construction	Not Started	No Action Needed
Open to Traffic	Not Started	No Action Needed

Project Funding by Phase

Phase	Funding Source	Amount
Design	State	\$100,000
Construction	State	\$100,000
Open to Traffic	State	\$100,000

SC 138 (Hickock Parkway) Corridor Improvement

Project Location Map

Project Description

Highway 138 Corridor Improvement from Hickock Parkway to US 17, including widening and resurfacing.

Project Schedule and Project Status

Work Item

Work Item	Current Status	Action Plan
Design	Complete	No Action Needed
Construction	Not Started	No Action Needed
Open to Traffic	Not Started	No Action Needed

Project Funding by Phase

Phase	Funding Source	Amount
Design	State	\$1,000,000
Construction	State	\$10,000,000
Open to Traffic	State	\$1,000,000

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

Project Location Map

Project Description

Intersection improvement at Whiskey Road and Eagle Road/S-447, including widening and resurfacing.

Project Schedule and Project Status

Work Item

Work Item	Current Status	Action Plan
Design	Complete	No Action Needed
Construction	Not Started	No Action Needed
Open to Traffic	Not Started	No Action Needed

Project Funding by Phase

Phase	Funding Source	Amount
Design	State	\$1,000,000
Construction	State	\$10,000,000
Open to Traffic	State	\$1,000,000

III. Augusta Transit

Oliver Page presented this item.

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 June 2021. July 1, 2020, may see the reintroduction of fares subject to City of Augusta Commission approval and the installation of bus driver protection shields.

Augusta Transit hosted its first COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the Broad Street Transfer Center on Thursday, May 6, from 5:45 am to 9:45 am. This was in partnership with the Richmond County Public Health Department. Monday, May 17, Augusta Transit provided a free shuttle service between the Gordon Highway Transfer Point and a vaccination clinic held at Hanger #2 Augusta Regional Airport. Thursday, May 27 a second vaccination clinic will be held at the Broad Street Transfer Center in partnership with Christ Community Health Services.

Augusta Transit participated in a virtual career fair at Belair PK-8 School in Columbia County on Wednesday, March 31. A 40ft heavy duty Gillig Bus drove around the school allowing students to see a transit bus in action. April 1, Augusta Transit Deputy Director, Dr. Oliver Page was a virtual guest at the school answering questions from students about careers in transit.

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. A Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Directive has extended the mask requirement until September 13, 2021.

Ridership estimate (unlinked trips) in the 1st quarter of 2021 (January thru March) totaled 136,517 compared to 136,271 in 2020.



In April 2021 representatives from Georgia Power visited Augusta Transit HQ campus to assess electric infrastructure needs for electric buses. During the summer four (4) vendors of electric buses (BYD, Gillig, Proterra & New Flyer) will bring a demonstration vehicle to Augusta Transit. The demonstration vehicle will operate on a bus route and be available for viewing by TCC & CAC members.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Microtransit/Dynamic Demand-Responsive Software as a Service (SaaS) Transit Technology has been submitted to the City of Augusta Procurement Department. It is anticipated that this will be published sometime in June/July 2021.

IV. Best Friend Express

Rhonda Mitchell presented this item.

The Best Friend Express transit system has not experienced a disruption in service with the present COVID-19 pandemic. All routes are running their regular schedules. Dial A Ride trips and 5310 Urban trips have not experienced a disruption during the pandemic. However, with the gas shortage last week, the demand response service had to limit requests to essential services (medical, dialysis, groceries, and employment) for last Wednesday through Friday. As of Monday, the service is back to operating normally.

An order was placed with Palmetto Bus Sales for a 14 passenger Cutaway for the BFE fleet. This unit will be a replacement vehicle for BFE #442. BFE #442 was a total loss from an accident in January 2020. When this vehicle is placed into service, we will have a full fleet complement which is five fixed route vehicles.

FY 2021 through the end of the third quarter.... LSCOG Mobility Managers have received 4,581 calls from Aiken County residents for transit services. The Best Friend Express fixed route ridership is 15,259 passenger trips. Of this number, we had 1,434 boardings to Aiken County and 1,340 alighting at the Augusta Transit Center on Broad Street. 65% of our fixed route ridership identified as elderly and/or a person with a disability.

V. Augusta Regional Airport

V. Other Business

The next round of ARTS Committee meetings will have the option to attend via ZOOM or in-person.

VI. Adjourn

Chairman Gary Bunker motioned to approve and Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr. seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.