



**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

535 Telfair Street • Suite 300 Augusta, Georgia 30901

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

**VIA ZOOM OR 535 TELFAIR STREET, THIRD FLOOR, TRAINING ROOM**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022 AT 11:00 A.M.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ARTS POLICY COMMITTEE**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>
<b>Radney Simpson</b> , representing GDOT Commissioner <b>Jannine Miller</b> <b>Doug Duncan</b> , Columbia County Commission represented by <b>Matt Schlachter/Steve Exley</b> <b>Gary Bunker</b> , VICE CHAIR of POLICY COMMITTEE <b>Gary Jones</b> , Mayor City of Grovetown represented by <b>Ronnie Kurtz</b> <b>Sharon Dottery</b> , Transit Director represented by <b>Dr. Oliver Page</b>	<b>Jonathan Dicks</b> , Mayor City of Burnetown <b>Phillip Stewart</b> , Mayor City of Blythe <b>Christy Hall</b> , Secretary of Transportation SC <b>Vernon Dunbar</b> , Mayor City of New Ellenton <b>Robert Buchwitz</b> , Chairman City of Hephzibah <b>Briton Williams</b> , Mayor City of North Augusta <b>Hardie Davis, Jr.</b> , Mayor of Augusta <b>Col. Shaw Pick</b> , Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon <b>Scott Cooper</b> , Edgefield County Chairman represented by <b>Roger Leduc, Interim County Administrator</b> <b>Rick Osbon</b> , Mayor City of Aiken represented by <b>Mike Pryzbylowicz</b> <b>Dr. William Molnar</b> , CHAIRMAN of POLICY COMMITTEE
<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING:</b>	<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>
<b>Carla Delaney</b> , ARTS MPO Interim Project Director	<b>Vacant</b> , Chairman ARTS Citizens Advisory Committee <b>Ben Davis, Jr.</b> , 3rd Congressional District Commissioner, SC <b>William “Bill” Duke</b> , 2nd Congressional District Commissioner, SC <b>Emily O. Lawton</b> , SC FHWA Division Administrator <b>Jamie Buswell</b> , Congressional Representative District 10 <b>Don Grantham</b> , GA State Transportation Board
<b>LJ Peterson</b> , Aiken County <b>Tom Caiafa</b> , GDOT <b>Ellen Wright</b> , GDOT <b>Alex Bennett</b> , SCDOT <b>Todd Price</b> , GDOT <b>Steve Exley</b> , Columbia County	<b>CITY OF AUGUSTA</b> <b>Mariah Harris</b> , Strategic Planning Manager <b>Marcus Holland</b> , Transportation Planner <b>Roy Publico</b> , Transportation Planner <b>Udomekong Udoko</b> , Transportation Planner <b>Hameed Malik</b> , Augusta Engineering <b>Tevia Brown</b> , Augusta Engineering
<b>Geneva Jackson</b> , Citizen Advisory Committee <b>Gaylon Tootle</b> <b>Glenn Coyne</b> <b>Dave Mills</b> <b>Sam Booher</b>	170683X54XX 180364X15XX

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



**II. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on January 20, 2022. (PC Vote)  
Presented by Vice-Chairman Gary Bunker.**

Matt Schlachter motioned to approve, and Dr. Oliver Page seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**III. Old Business**

**A. Future Mobility 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Aiken County Update presented  
by LP Peterson / Joel Duke (Informational Purposes Only)**

Presented by LJ Peterson:

No update currently.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Adoption of the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program presented by Mariah Harris (PC  
Vote)**

**Presented by Mariah Harris:**

The ARTS MPO Strategic Planning Manager, Ms. Mariah Harris, presented to the Policy Committee a general summary of the ARTS MPO's proposed FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which included an overview of the source of funds that would be available and budgeted for each of the work element activities in the updated UPWP.

Ms. Harris informed the Policy Committee that the FY 23 UPWP had been revised to incorporate a few minor changes that were suggested by GDOT. Ms. Harris reported that the changes that were included in the ARTS 2023 UPWP were sent out to the MPO partners for review.

Ms. Harris had also informed the Policy Committee that the ARTS MPO had received from GDOT its official total funding budget for its Georgia portion in the FY 23 UPWP, which totaled \$577,000.

Other updates to the FY 23 UPWP reported by Ms. Harris included the following;

- Modification of the FY 23 UPWP total funding budget to reflect the portion of funds that the ARTS MPO anticipates being awarded from the GAMPO committee to support its proposed freight plan update
- Inclusion of numerous transportation special study work projects into the ARTS MPO FY 23 UPWP

**Comment received from the Voting Members of the Policy Committee;**

Mr. Gary Bunker, Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee, had complimented the ARTS MPO for its informative presentation on the FY 23 UPWP funding budget and commented on the MPO's stakeholder involvement process during the development of the UPWP.



In response to Mr. Bunker's question, Ms. Harris reported that the ARTS MPO had received a lot of cooperation from many of its stakeholders during the process of developing its FY 23 UPWP.

**Comment received from Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT);**

Mr. Tom Caiafa, a representative of GDOT, had commented on the FY 23 UPWP planning activities, suggesting that the ARTS MPO consider incorporating work activities that support complete street initiatives, which would enable the MPO to use funds from the Y410 program. Mr. Caiafa informed the Policy Committee that the Y410 program represented an alternative funding source that would support complete street planning work activities in the ARTS FY 23 UPWP. Mr. Caiafa stated that funding through the Y410 program would require the ARTS MPO to incorporate complete street work element activities in the FY 23 UPWP as a separate line item. Mr. Caiafa mentioned that the funding through the Y410 program would be available for the Georgia side of the ARTS MPO boundary only.

Matt Schlachter motioned to approve, and Radney Simpson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**B. Adoption of the 2021 Congestion Management Process Update presented by Marcus Holland (PC Vote)**

**Presented by Marcus Holland:**

The ARTS MPO's Transportation Planner, Mr. Marcus Holland, gave a presentation to the ARTS Policy Committee which provided an overview of its updated Congestion Management Process (CMP) during the fiscal year 2022. Mr. Holland's presentation of the ARTS 2021 CMP update gave an overview of the following;

- What is the Congestion Management Process
- History of the CMP with the ARTS MPO
- Overview of the ARTS MPO's CMP data collection methodology and data analysis report of the traffic conditions (number of traffic crashes within the most recent years, average commute times, traffic congestion report along road corridors, annual congestion cost per commuter) within the ARTS metropolitan planning area.
- Rundown on the ARTS MPO's CMP Performance Measure Metrics
- Next Steps on how the ARTS MPO would be moving forward with the 2021 CMP update

After the presentation, Mr. Holland concluded that the ARTS MPO would continue to explore other traffic congestion-related data options for additional information that would contribute to future CMP updates while using its existing traffic-related data collection in its current CMP updated report to monitor the corridors of the MPO Boundary.

Mr. Holland also informed the Policy Committee that during the upcoming months the U.S Census Bureau would be revising all the urban areas across the states which could affect the footprint of the ARTS MPO's current urban boundary area, which would require adjustments



on future CMP updates. Mr. Holland concluded that the U.S Census Bureau's update of its redrawn urban boundaries is anticipated to be released this summer.

Matt Schlachter motioned to approve, and Dr. Oliver Page seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**C. Adoption of the 2022 ARTS Regional Freight Plan Update GAMPO Application (PC Vote)  
Presented by Mariah Harris:**

The ARTS MPO Strategic Planning Manager, Ms. Mariah Harris, provided the Policy Committee with an overview of the list of tasks and scope of work for the MPO's proposed 2022 Freight Plan Update GAMPO application. The ARTS MPO noted that the scope of work for its proposed freight plan is anticipated to be from June 2022 to July 2023.

**Comments:**

Mr. Tom Caiafa, a representative of GDOT, had a question in regards to whether the ARTS MPO had received comments from its partners before the MPO developed its freight plan update scope of work.

In response, Ms. Harris had mentioned that the ARTS MPO had received numerous comments from its partners, which included GDOT, during the development of its freight plans scope of work and was very thankful for all the feedback it had received towards revising its freight plan update for the upcoming GAMPO committee meeting.

Matt Schlachter motioned to approve, and Dr. Oliver Page seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**D. Request for an additional \$75,000 of PL funds for the Whiskey Road Feasibility Study  
presented by LJ Peterson (PC Vote)  
Presented by LJ Peterson:**

Aiken County, represented by the Director of Planning of Development, Mr. Joel Dukes, provided the Policy Committee with a brief overview of Aiken County's proposed Whiskey Road Feasibility Study.

The Director of Aiken County Planning and Development, Mr. Joel Dukes, informed the Policy Committee that Aiken County is requesting additional funding of \$75,000 to be included in its study proposal (Whiskey Road Feasibility Study), which would bring its total funding amount for the study to \$125,000 (\$100,000 Federal/ \$25,000 Local). Mr. Dukes also reported that Aiken County would be prepared to fully fund the \$25,000 local match required.

Matt Schlachter motioned to approve, and Dr. Oliver Page seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**E. Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update presented by Mariah Harris (Informational Purposes Only)  
Presented by Mariah Harris:**

The ARTS MPO Strategic Planning Manager, Ms. Mariah Harris, informed the Policy



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Committee that the ARTS evaluation committee had reviewed a total of five procurement proposals submitted by a pool of consultants that qualified as candidates to take on updating the ARTS MPO bike and pedestrian plan. Ms. Harris then reported that the ARTS MPO is currently in the process of working out a negotiation with one consultant candidate through the City of Augusta Procurement Department.

## F. Status of Regional Transportation Projects:

### I. Georgia Highways



**Georgia Roads Update**  
Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) Committee  
Policy Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 3, 2022



**Richmond County P.I. 0013927**  
SR 41/US 25 BU at Savannah River at South Carolina Line - TIA  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

**Update:**

- On schedule for March 2022 Let
- Tier III staged onsite detour on construction
- MS4 Report Approved 02/07/2022
- HH & Bridge Layout Approved 01/26/2022
- UST Phase II Complete
- New cost estimate submitted to OPO 08/17/2021
  - CST = \$2,453,063.00
  - UTL = \$1,044,138.00 (previously \$730,110.00)
  - Utility meeting held July 2021

**Milestone:**

- Working on ROW plans
- ROW acquisition activities proposed for 2022
- ROW Cost Estimate \$694,000.00
- PPFR Request submitted 01/25/2022





**Richmond County P.I. 0014907**  
SR 41/US 1 at North Folk Creek - 4.7 Miles NW of Hepzibah  
Bridge Replacement with Onsite Detour

**UPDATE:**

- Let to Construction
  - 06/18/2021
  - Clearwater Construction
- Clearing and grubbing complete
- Erosion control items being installed

**MILESTONES:**

- Traffic shift plan possibly early March 2022





**Richmond County P.I. 210327**  
I-20 at Savannah River and Augusta Canal  
Bridge Replacements at Augusta Canal and Savannah River

**Under Construction**

- Contractor: Superior Construction Company Southeast, LLC.
- Contract Amount: \$7,854,836.27
- Projected completion in September 2022

**Construction Progress:**

- Phase 3- Area 3 Westbound (SC Roadway)
  - Existing concrete slab removal at various locations
  - Grading roadway and placing GABC
- Phase 3- Bridge 1 (Augusta Canal)
  - Demo of existing WB bridge is ongoing
- Phase 3- Bridge 2 Westbound (Savannah River)
  - Installing metal decking for spans

Follow progress on our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GDOTEast)





**OxBlue Construction Cameras** feed live for you  
[Link to Superior Construction Cameras below](#)





**Richmond PI 0009916**  
SR 88@ CR 58/ Bath Edie Road  
Single Lane Roundabout

**UPDATE:**

- On schedule for June 2022 Let

**FINANCIALS:**

- Cost Estimates 07/22/2021
  - CST: \$2,117,373.25
  - UTL: \$177,019.20

**TRAFFIC MILESTONES:**

- ROW & ENV Cert Due 04/01/22
- CST Auth Due 04/29/22



### II. South Carolina Highways




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**ARTS Joint CAC TCC Meeting**  
**SCDOT Project Update**  
 Wednesday, February 16, 2022

**Project List**

- SC 118 (Hitcock Parkway) Corridor Improvement
- SC 126 (Belvedere/Clearwater Road) Widening
- SC 19 (Whiskey Road/Eagle Road and S-447 (Old Whiskey Road) Intersection Improvement
- Aiken/North Augusta Bike Route Signage



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

**Project # 004946**  
**Project Description**  
 The project encompasses widening the corridor to four lanes, upgrading drainage, and the addition of 4' bike lanes and 2' shoulders on both sides.

**Planned Schedule and Project Status**

**Milestones**

- Plan Development is 100% complete
- Environmental Permitting/Construction is complete
- Right-of-Way Phase is complete – Right-of-Way Consultant (PRIMAAC) has secured the right of way for the project. (86 of 86 tracts secured)
- Construction Obligation – TBD
- Letting – TBD

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	R	No Action Needed
Budget	R	No Action Needed

**Condition at a-glance**

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	R	Schedule changed for Construction Letting to allow time for Hitcock to proceed
Budget	R	Right of Way will possibly need additional funding for settlement of Road Tract. Construction Phase has been increased by \$4,397,135.27 per the Engineer's Estimate.


**Project Funding by Phase**

Phase	Amount (\$)
Planning	\$1,800,000.00
Right-of-Way	\$1,244,000.00
High-of-Way	\$248,135.28
Construction	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

**Project Funding by Source**

Source	Amount (\$)
State	\$1,800,000.00
Federal	\$1,244,000.00
Local	\$248,135.28
Other	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

**Project Location Map**



**SC 118 (Hitcock Parkway) Corridor Improvement**

**Project # 004935**  
**Project Description**  
 The project encompasses various intersection improvements along the corridor and the addition of a shared use path from Eastman Street to SC 802 (Clear Lake Road).

**Planned Schedule and Project Status**

**Milestones**

- Right of Way obligated in December 2018 with 13 of 13 tracts secured.
- Letting - 10/2022
- Construction low bid received was \$ 13,882,375.18
- Project was awarded to Reeves Construction Company

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Schedule	G	No Action Needed
Budget	G	No Action Needed

**Condition at a-glance**

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Scope	G	Scope is Unchanged
Schedule	G	Schedule is Unchanged
Budget	G	Budget is Unchanged

**Project Funding by Phase**

Phase	Amount (\$)
Planning	\$1,800,000.00
Right-of-Way	\$1,244,000.00
High-of-Way	\$248,135.28
Construction	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

**Project Funding by Source**

Source	Amount (\$)
State	\$1,800,000.00
Federal	\$1,244,000.00
Local	\$248,135.28
Other	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

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

**Project # 003764**  
**Project Description**  
 The project encompasses the signalization of the SC 19 (Whiskey Road) at Eagle Road intersection, the addition of left turn lanes along SC 19 and the relocation of RT 77 (Old Whiskey Road).

**Planned Schedule and Project Status**

**Milestones**

- SCDOT has registered a contract with Perrich and Partners to provide design services.
- Public Information Meeting – held Tuesday, July 23, 2020
  - Comments Period ended Wednesday, August 19, 72 comments received
  - SCDOT redesigned intersection to move Old Whiskey Road away from Eagle Road with up-slope intersection opening and right-of-ways.
- SCDOT presented project revisions to City of New-Union Council meeting on October 21, 2020.
- Construction Obligation – 04/2022

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Scope	G	No Action Needed
Schedule	G	No Action Needed
Budget	G	No Action Needed

**Condition at a-glance**

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Scope	G	Scope is Unchanged
Schedule	G	Schedule is Unchanged
Budget	G	Budget is Unchanged


**Project Funding by Phase**

Phase	Amount (\$)
Planning	\$1,800,000.00
Right-of-Way	\$1,244,000.00
High-of-Way	\$248,135.28
Construction	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

**Project Funding by Source**

Source	Amount (\$)
State	\$1,800,000.00
Federal	\$1,244,000.00
Local	\$248,135.28
Other	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

**Project Location Map**



**Aiken/North Augusta Bike Route Signage**

**Project # 004945**  
**Project Description**  
 Establishing a designated bicycle route connecting the City of Aiken with the North Augusta Corridor.

**Planned Schedule and Project Status**

**Milestones**

- SCDOT has completed the design for this project
- Schedule
  - Construction low bid received was \$ 13,882,375.18
  - Project was awarded to Reeves Construction Company

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Scope	G	No Action Needed
Schedule	G	No Action Needed
Budget	G	No Action Needed

**Condition at a-glance**

Attribute	Current Status	Action Plan
Scope	G	Scope is Unchanged
Schedule	G	Schedule is Unchanged
Budget	G	Budget is Unchanged


**Project Funding by Phase**

Phase	Amount (\$)
Planning	\$1,800,000.00
Right-of-Way	\$1,244,000.00
High-of-Way	\$248,135.28
Construction	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

**Project Funding by Source**

Source	Amount (\$)
State	\$1,800,000.00
Federal	\$1,244,000.00
Local	\$248,135.28
Other	\$11,947,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,239,135.28</b>

**Project Location Map**



Ms. Geneva Williams, Citizen Advisory Committee member, had a question regarding the **SC 19 (Whiskey Road) at Eagle Road and S-447 (Old Whiskey Road) Intersection Improvement Project**, in regards to the project start date.

In response, SCDOT, represented by Mr. Bennet, informed Ms. Williams that the construction obligation for **the SC 19 (Whiskey Road) at Eagle Road and S-447 (Old Whiskey Road) Intersection Improvement Project** would start in April of 2022, however, the letting will begin sometime around June of 2022, followed by a preconstruction meeting which would begin the process of roadwork construction in July of 2022.

### III. Augusta Transit

Augusta Transit, represented by the Transit Deputy Director, Dr. Oliver Page, had reported that his department currently has three RFPs in progress. The following items below were the RFI and RFPs noted by Dr. Page to be in progress;

- 1) RFP for Micro-transit/Dynamic-Responsive Software as a Service (Saas) Technology Due November 15, 2021. Two(2) vendors responded. On January 14, 2022, two (2) vendors gave virtual presentations on their responses. Price and contract negotiations are ongoing.



- 2) RFP Fixed Route Planning, Scheduling, and Run-Cutting Software Program Due November 29, 2021. Four (4) entities responded. Three (3) were disqualified. RFP to be reissued.
- 3) RFQ Low Emission No Emission Bus & Infrastructure Feasibility Rapid Review Study and Transition Plan.
- 4) RFI – Battery Electric Zero-Emission Transit Buses Due October 4, 2021. Seven (7) vendors responded. In January 2022, Augusta Transit met virtually with Gainesville Regional Transit (Gainesville FL) and Charleston Area Regional Transportation (Charleston GA) to determine their experience with electric buses. Augusta Transit aims to select one electric bus OEM to partner with (on LoNo Application) by end of January 2022.

Other Transit Updates reported by Dr. Page included the following:

- Dr. Page informed the Policy Committee that Augusta Transit is currently awaiting the announcement by the Federal Transit Administration for the Low No-Vehicle Program Grant Funding Competition. Dr. Page noted that Augusta Transit will be partnering with the Center for Transportation and the Environment, an Atlanta-based clean energy institute non-profit organization, in preparing a robust LoNo Grant Application, as well as draft a transition plan.
- Augusta Transit reported that its ridership in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 (Oct thru Dec) totaled 104,435 compared to 183, 328 in 2020, a 43% decrease from 2020.
- Dr. Page also reported that Augusta Transit provided a bus shuttle bus service for the homeless and transient population on February 11 of 2022 to attend a local event, “Bridge the Gap Resource Fair”, at the center of Hope Salvation Army on Green Street in Augusta, Georgia.
- Dr. Page presented preliminary findings from a bus stop inventory exercise (Secrets Revealed: Augusta Transit’s Bus Stop Inventory) at the Georgia Transit Association Conference, Jekyll Island December 10, 2021.
- Augusta Transit is currently working with the Augusta Engineering Department to upgrade its current bus stops signs via funding from the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). Placement of new transit bus stop signs and poles has begun, as new bus stops have been placed along the Augusta Transit Route 5, Greenline Washington Road, and Fixed Route.

Lastly, Dr. Page informed the Policy Committee that he will provide a draft report of Augusta Transit’s bus stop inventory for their review at the next upcoming Policy Committee meeting.



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**IV. Best Friend Express**

**V. Augusta Regional Airport**

**V. Other Business**

Ms. Harris and Ms. Delaney gave special thanks to the ARTS MPO staff and its regional partners for all their work towards providing feedback to the ARTS MPO for moving its projects forward.

- **FY 2022 Transportation Alternatives Projects (TAP) Call for Projects – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round**
- **Next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022**

**VI. Adjourn**