

**MINUTES
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 8, 2016**

Ms. Jessica Bird called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Handouts were distributed to include: (1) Agenda; (2) Minutes of the August 11, 2016 meeting; (3) Transportation Performance Management/Safety Performance Measures Sheet; (4) Russell Parkway Extension Alternatives Map; and (5) WRATS Project Status Report.

ATTENDEES

Jessica Bird Tiffany Bibb Roy Lewis James Erdmanczyk
Vivian Canizares

Ms. Bird announced that the August 11, 2016 minutes could not be adopted because a quorum was not present to take action.

Transportation Performance Management Update

Ms. Jessica Bird briefed the committee on the completion status of proposed and final Transportation Performance Management (TPM) rules. She announced that the deadline for phase-in of new requirements under the Metropolitan and Statewide Planning rule is May 27, 2018. Ms. Bird explained that at the last meeting back in August she covered those new requirements such as a performance-based planning approach, additional planning factors, and an expanded list of providers/agencies to involve/consult. She stated that the WRATS 2040 LRTP and TIP would need to be amended to include the new requirements in order to meet the May 2018 deadline. The Highway Asset Management Plan final rule was published on October 24 and an extended comment period closed for the MPO Coordination proposed rule on the same day, shared Ms. Bird.

Ms. Bird then turned the discussion to safety performance measures target setting. She discussed information concerning target setting for Georgia DOT and WRATS which included deadlines, methodologies, requirements, assessment and penalty, and miscellaneous notes. Ms. Bird emphasized that WRATS can either agree to support Georgia DOT's targets or establish any number of numerical targets specific to the metropolitan planning area. She explained that after each final rule is published and becomes effective, Georgia DOT has one year to set its targets for the respective performance measures and WRATS will set targets 180 days after that. Every time this process takes place, the LRTP and TIP will need to be amended for the new performance measures and targets, stated Ms. Bird. She also added that the Georgia DOT was thinking about establishing a performance measures subcommittee for target coordination using participants from the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO).

MPO Coordination NPRM Update

Staff from the Macon MPO and Warner Robins MPO submitted comments regarding the MPO Coordination proposed rule by the deadline of August 26, stated Ms. Jessica Bird. She explained that the comment period was extended to October 24 and the USDOT was looking for specific comments concerning the costs associated with the proposed rule as far as MPO consolidation and/or production of joint documents and studies. Ms. Bird announced that 584 comments were received and that WRATS would now wait and see if a final rule is published. She also gave information about a USDOT initiative called MPOwerment which is a series of one-day meetings/roundtable discussions happening across the country in an effort to help with the challenge of working together to make better decisions regionally and locally.

Russell Parkway Extension-Peach County

The committee members were asked by Ms. Jessica Bird to review an alternatives map created for the Russell Parkway Extension Study in 2010. Ms. Bird explained that Mr. Paul Schwindler, Peach County Public Works Director, announced at the TCC meeting in July that Peach County had been awarded a grant from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) for this project. She further explained that Peach County was not awarded the full amount it asked for and was asking if the Georgia DOT might be able to make up the difference.

Ms. Bird stated that at the TCC meeting last month, Mr. Adam Smith, GDOT District 3 Preconstruction Engineer, recommended that Mr. Schwindler write a letter to Mr. Jay Roberts, GDOT Director of Planning. According to Ms. Bird, Mr. Smith also suggested contacting the State Aid office in an attempt to acquire supplemental Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds. She explained that Mr. Schwindler said the GTIB funds have a September 2018 deadline; therefore, at least the first phase of the project from Housers Mill Road to Lake View Road will be built, but the scope of the project will be reduced if Georgia DOT cannot provide any funding. Ms. Bird said that Peach County plans to contribute \$350,000 toward the project, so they would need between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

SR-247C/Watson Boulevard Improvements

Ms. Jessica Bird explained that she wanted to make the committee aware of two upcoming improvement projects on SR-247C/Watson Boulevard. According to Ms. Bird, the first project is a sidewalk addition on the north side from Corder Road to Houston Lake Road. She further explained that the City of Warner Robins will be completing this project using local SPLOST funds. The City had a proposal for engineering and a construction cost estimate on the agenda for the Mayor and Council meeting yesterday, stated Ms. Bird.

The second project described by Ms. Bird is a streetscape from SR-247 to Davis Drive which includes decorative lighting, landscaping, and curb and gutter improvements. She

explained that this project will be partially funded using a repurposed congressional earmark.

Update on WRATS Project Status Report

Ms. Jessica Bird explained that this report was provided at the TCC meeting last month by Mr. Adam Smith. She briefly reported on a few projects and offered to answer questions and/or provide more information pertaining to projects. Ms. Bird announced the anticipated completion date for each phase of the SR-96 widening project.

- Phase I (I-75 to Lake Joy Road): May be open to traffic before Thanksgiving Day
- Phase II (Lake Joy Road to Moody Road): early December of this year
- Phase III (Moody Road to Thompson Mill Road): October 2017

There being no further business, Ms. Jessica Bird adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

DRAFT