

**MINUTES
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 2, 2023**

Ms. Jessica Bird called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Handouts were distributed to include: (1) Agenda; (2) Minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting; (3) 2023 Meeting Schedule; (4) Byron Safety Improvement Master Plan; (5) 2022 Accident Report; and (6) WRATS Project Status Report.

ATTENDEES

Jessica Bird Nancy Newell Harold Deal Tim Thomas

A motion was made by Ms. Nancy Newell and seconded by Mr. Harold Deal to approve the November 3, 2022 minutes as circulated. The motion was passed unanimously.

2023 WRATS Meeting Schedule

Ms. Jessica Bird announced that this committee will continue to meet at the Warner Robins City Hall Annex and the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) will meet across the street at City Hall. Ms. Bird stated that the Chairman of the Houston County Commissioners, Dan Perdue, is the new Policy Committee (PC) Chairman. All of the PC meetings will be held in the Health Sciences Building at Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC).

Recommendation to amend MOU for WRATS

According to Ms. Jessica Bird, the retirement of Mr. Bill Mulkey left the MPO without a director. She explained that paragraph IV of the MOU needs to be amended to update the city department name. Ms. Bird also explained that language needs to be added that the Mayor of Warner Robins may appoint an Interim MPO Director if the Building and Inspections Department Director position becomes vacant.

Ms. Jessica Bird said the TCC could not make a formal recommendation to the PC because a quorum was not present at last week's meeting. She stated that the MOU may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the full voting membership of the PC.

Approval of PM1/Safety Performance Targets for 2023

Ms. Jessica Bird reminded those in attendance that the Policy Committee decided to have PM1/Safety performance targets updated annually through an administrative modification by MPO staff. She said she emailed the administrative modification in December 2022; however, FHWA would like the targets to be presented at the TCC and PC meetings before an administrative modification is completed. According to Ms. Bird, the 2023 targets for

PM1/Safety are due by February 27. She explained that FHWA is going to allow the MPO to keep its original meeting schedule and the administrative modification will be completed after the PC meeting on March 14, provided everyone is comfortable with supporting GDOT's targets.

Ms. Bird explained that the serious injury definition had not been uniform before 2021 and that is why the related performance measure targets are so much higher than in recent years.

Carbon Reduction Strategies

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) enacted on November 15, 2021 established the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) that provides funds for projects designed to decrease CO2 emissions from on-highway sources, explained Ms. Jessica Bird. By November 15, 2023, states in consultation with MPOs must develop Carbon Reduction Strategies (CRS) to identify programs and projects in their states. Ms. Bird further explained that the CRS must be updated at least once every four years. GDOT has the consulting team of ICF and Modern Mobility Partners (MMP) helping with the development of strategies. MPOs will be heavily involved in the process because the majority of the funds are going to MPOs. She announced the WRATS committees will be hearing more about this subject at future meetings.

Byron Safety Improvement Master Plan

Ms. Jessica Bird said Mr. Ben Pierce with GWES presented the City of Byron's Safety Improvement Master Plan project using a map with eight highlighted areas of interest at last week's TCC meeting. Ms. Bird explained that the City of Byron is looking for committee feedback with regard to how the project could be completed and with what funding source. She said one idea is to have the MPO apply on behalf of the City of Byron for Special PL funds through GAMPO in September.

She explained that the MPO will be applying for Special PL funds at the same September meeting to hire a consultant to complete the 2050 MTP Update. The 2050 MTP Update is a federally required transportation planning document with a deadline of October 21, 2025. Ms. Bird said that she is checking to see if the Safety Improvement Master Plan could be Byron's component of the 2050 MTP Update. She stated that there were also questions about the project's competitiveness when compared to the 2050 MTP Update, the residential nature of some areas of concern, and if GDOT has been made aware of the issues on state routes.

Draft FY 2024 UPWP Discussion

According to Ms. Jessica Bird, the federal PL and Y410 allocations for the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) are \$233,792.61 and \$5,465.61, respectively. Ms. Bird said the proposed budget with PL and Y410 funds together is \$99,125. She stated that the document has already been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). She is still addressing FHWA's comments and has not received comments from GDOT, yet. Ms. Bird announced that once all comments have been addressed she will email the draft document to committees for review and post it on the MPO website. She said many tasks and sub-elements remain the same including Complete Streets work using Y410 funds and priorities include development of the FY 2024-2027 TIP and

discussions and planning regarding the completion of the 2050 MTP Update. An unfunded section will also be added to include Byron's Safety Improvement Master Plan and the 2050 MTP Update. All meeting dates, discussions, and activities performed will be documented in this section until the Special PL funds are applied for and approved or denied. Ms. Bird is asking committee members to please submit comments and concerns to her before action is taken on the document at the April and May round of meetings.

2022 Accident Report

Ms. Jessica Bird explained that this report was created by compiling accident data for Byron, Centerville, Perry, Warner Robins and Houston County. She mentioned that certain intersections are usually near the top of the list although the exact ranking changes from year to year. Ms. Bird said the total number decreased by 64 accidents from 2021.

WRATS Project Status Report

Ms. Jessica Bird explained that GDOT District 3 Planning and Programming Liaison, Mr. Harland Smith, provided this project report to TCC members last week. The report includes project manager comments and Ms. Bird briefly reported on some of the projects.

There being no further business, Ms. Jessica Bird adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.