

**MINUTES
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 9, 2023**

Ms. Jessica Bird called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. Handouts were distributed to include: (1) Agenda; (2) Minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting; (3) 2050 MTP Schedule; and (4) WRATS Project Status Report.

ATTENDEES

Jessica Bird	John Harley	Robbie Dunbar	Terry Wood
Tim Thomas	Harland Smith	Bryan Wood	Brent Lanford
Olivia Lewis	Jackie Williams*	Vivian Canizares*	

*participated via Zoom

A motion was made by Mr. John Harley and seconded by Mr. Bryan Wood to approve the March 14, 2023 minutes as circulated. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adoption of FY 2024 UPWP

Ms. Jessica Bird announced that she received updated federal amounts. She explained that the PL amount decreased by \$100,000 and the Y410 amount increased by \$1,000. The local match has been waived for Y410 in FY 2024. There is still a small local match showing due to some adjustments from FY 2023 she said. Ms. Bird also mentioned that she received three comments with regard to the removal of the Air Quality sub-element. After consulting with GDOT and MPO staff, the Air Quality sub-element was removed; however, the task of attending Middle Georgia Clean Air Advisory/Green Team meetings was added to the Program Coordination sub-element.

According to Ms. Bird, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a planning document that the MPO produces each year. The document covers work to be performed by the MPO from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and includes information such as the various tasks to be completed and the anticipated costs and funding sources for each task. She stated that the total budget for the FY 2024 UPWP is \$96,625.00 with a twenty percent local match of \$19,325.

Mr. Terry Wood made a motion to adopt the FY 2024 UPWP. Mr. Robbie Dunbar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Amendment of 2045 MTP and FY 2021-2024 TIP (PM2 & 3)

Ms. Jessica Bird shared information about PM2 and PM3 performance measures and GDOT's new targets using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Bird reviewed the PM2 and PM3 performance measures and the 2-year and 4-year targets GDOT established in December 2022. The 4-year targets can be revisited in 2024 if necessary. As far as next steps, Ms. Bird explained that this committee needs to recommend that the PC either support GDOT's PM2 and PM3 targets or set its own. Adoption of GDOT's targets requires a Resolution from the PC by June 2023 and amendment of the 2045 MTP and FY 2021-2024 TIP. She said the required public comment period for the amendment was held from April 10 through April 24 and copies of the proposed amendment were

emailed to WRATS committees, posted on the MPO website, and available at city halls and annexes throughout the MPO area.

Mr. Bryan Wood with the City of Perry asked how the increased weight limit of trucks will affect these performance targets. Ms. Vivian Canizares with the GDOT Office of Planning said it is unprecedented and what might happen to the targets is unknown at this time. She surmised that conversations are probably happening, particularly in the GDOT Bridge Office.

Ms. Vivian Canizares announced that she and her staff will be getting needed information to MPO staff soon so the System Performance Report can be updated.

Mr. Robbie Dunbar made a motion to amend the 2045 MTP and the FY 2021-2024 TIP to include GDOT's new targets for PM2 and PM3. Mr. John Harley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Draft FY 2024-2027 TIP Discussion

The financial figures and project information have been received from GDOT announced Ms. Jessica Bird. She explained that the Lump Sum categories have changed some from past TIPs. Specific projects include the bridge replacements on SR 7 at Flat Creek, SR 7/SR 127/US 41 at Big Indian Creek, and SR 247 at Echeconnee Creek as well as the widening of SR 96 from Fire Tower Road to Housers Mill Road. The draft TIP also has transit funding for Section 5311 in Peach County and through the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the Mobility Management program. Ms. Bird stated that the draft document has been submitted to GDOT and FHWA for review and the plan is to hold the public comment period in June and recommend/adopt the final document during the next round of meetings in July/August.

Byron Safety Improvement Master Plan

Ms. Jessica Bird shared information about a Microsoft Teams meeting that took place on April 13 with representatives from the GDOT District 3 Preconstruction and Traffic Operations Offices, the GDOT Planning Office in Atlanta, the City of Byron and its engineering consultant, GWES, and the MPO. Ms. Bird relayed some of the comments made by GDOT District 3 during the meeting with respect to SR 42 and SR 49. The two routes are programmed for resurfacing and there is a statewide lighting program; however, it is competitive and projects are programmed far out into the future. The GDOT Planning Office remarked that the identified areas of concern are safety/operational in nature and ready for construction, which is not the intended use of Special PL funds. She added that other funding sources were suggested during the meeting like Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Quick Response, and Road Safety Audits. Ms. Bird said the City of Byron/GWES needs to let her know before the next round of WRATS meetings if they still plan to have the MPO apply on their behalf for Special PL funds in October.

2050 MTP Update

Ms. Jessica Bird handed out a schedule to discuss the anticipated activities for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Ms. Bird let everyone know that this is an estimated schedule and does not include everything that goes into the creation of the 2050 MTP nor is it concrete with respect to timeframes. Some activities happen at the same time and others cannot start until something else is complete; therefore, the schedule is subject to change. She discussed work like applying for Special PL funds through GAMPO,

procurement for consultant services, travel demand modeling work completed by GDOT, and public involvement opportunities. Ms. Bird reminded everyone that the 2050 MTP is due on October 21, 2025.

Update on WRATS Project Status Report

Mr. Harland Smith, GDOT District 3 Planning and Programming Liaison, provided a project report with project manager comments to the committee members and briefly reported on some of the projects.

Mr. Robbie Dunbar with Houston County announced that Houston County sent a letter to GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry regarding Project Count 6-PI Number 0015552: SR 7 @ Flat Creek in Perry and being in favor of an on-site detour by way of a temporary bridge. Mr. Dunbar further explained that there are many accidents on I-75 south of Perry and drivers use US 41 as an alternate route. Mr. Harland Smith stated he would check with the project engineer and GDOT Atlanta if necessary and report back to the committee.

Other Business

Mr. Terry Wood with the City of Warner Robins passed along Mayor LaRhonda Patrick's apology for missing the meeting due to a previous meeting lasting longer than expected. Mr. Wood also announced on behalf of Mayor Patrick that the City of Warner Robins plans to staff a position part-time for the MPO. He explained that the item will be on the agenda for Monday's Mayor and Council meeting.

Ms. Olivia Lewis with the Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division asked about projects in the FY 2024-2027 TIP matching those in the 2045 MTP to include PI numbers. Ms. Jessica Bird explained that all of the projects in the TIP and MTP have matching PI numbers, but some of them have shifted into another band and/or the project phase costs have changed. She further explained that she is planning to amend the 2045 MTP at the time the FY 2024-2027 TIP is adopted since cost information can still change right now.

Ms. Olivia Lewis also commented that the Draft FY 2024-2027 TIP document needs to be searchable; therefore, the format needs to change. After a brief discussion about notification preferences, changing communication protocol, and delays due to lack of GDOT staff, Ms. Jessica Bird said she would work with the GDOT Planning Office to convert her files into an acceptable format of the draft document.

There being no further business, Mr. Brent Lanford made a motion to adjourn. Mr. John Harley seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.