

MINUTES
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
July 26, 2023

Ms. Jessica Bird called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Handouts were distributed to include: (1) Agenda; (2) Minutes of the April 26, 2023 meeting; and (3) WRATS Project Status Report.

ATTENDEES

Jessica Bird	Shannon Bryant	Greg Boike	Jackie Williams
Chad McMurrian	Ken Robinson	David Hale	Danny Davis
Dan Rhoades	Tim Andrews	Terry Wood	Ted Hicks*
Vivian Canizares*	Harland Smith*	Olivia Lewis*	

* participated via Zoom

A motion was made by Mr. Chad McMurrian and seconded by Mr. Ken Robinson to approve the April 26, 2023 minutes as circulated. The motion was passed unanimously.

Recommendation to adopt FY 2024-2027 TIP

Ms. Jessica Bird said this is the same document that she emailed to WRATS committees on June 30. Ms. Bird discussed the specifics of the document and explained that it indicates the urbanized area's transportation priorities for the next four fiscal years and contains projects that have been authorized and allocated for the State's construction work program. She briefly reviewed lump sum funding categories, financial tables, and project sheets. Ms. Bird also mentioned updates to the system performance report in Appendix F. She announced the thirty-day public comment period ends on August 3.

According to Ms. Bird, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would like the public comment period to end before the TIP is discussed at the TCC meeting, which is not what the MPO has done in previous years nor what is written in the Participation Plan (PP). Ms. Bird explained that FHWA asked MPO staff to consult with the Warner Robins City Attorney on the matter. The City Attorney did not have any objections with proceeding as scheduled this time as long as all public comments are shared with WRATS committees and because committee meetings are open to the public.

Ms. Bird stated if this committee made an adoption recommendation to the Policy Committee (PC), then it would be conditional provided all public comments are addressed and incorporated into the document before adoption by the PC. She also explained that if public comments were significant, then the document would go out for an additional fifteen-day public comment period. Any comments would be presented to the PC for consideration and appropriate action. Ms. Bird also stated MPO staff have been encouraged to change the language in the PP with respect to the public comment period and TIP discussion by committees. She said MPO staff would work with the City Attorney to update this language but in a way that does not negatively affect the MPO's planning process if materials/financial figures/information are delayed from GDOT.

Mr. Greg Boike with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission asked why the 5303 transit funds for Mobility Management seem to be cut in half for FY 25, 26, and 27. Ms. Jessica Bird said she would email his question to GDOT Planning and GDOT Planning said they would ask GDOT Intermodal.

Ms. Olivia Lewis with FHWA stated that although administrative modifications to the TIP do not require a public comment period the MPO staff should still communicate those changes to WRATS committees. Ms. Jessica Bird confirmed that any changes made by MPO staff are emailed and/or presented and discussed at WRATS meetings using updated project sheets or other documentation.

Mr. Greg Boike made a motion to recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the FY 2024-2027 TIP. Mr. Chad McMurrian seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation to apply for Special PL Funds: 2050 MTP Update

Ms. Jessica Bird announced this is the last TCC meeting before the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO)/PL Funds Committee meeting on October 2. Ms. Bird explained that MPO staff would like to apply for \$220,000 in Special PL (federal) funds to hire a consultant to complete the 2050 MTP Update. The 2050 MTP is a federally required transportation planning document with an adoption deadline of October 21, 2025. She said the application, which is due on September 18 needs to include a resolution from the PC giving approval for MPO staff to apply for the federal funds and agreement to cover the local match of \$55,000.

Mr. Greg Boike asked if the local jurisdictions have budgeted for their portion of the match. Ms. Jessica Bird explained that the project is included in the unfunded section of the FY 2024 UPWP and should not be a surprise given committee discussions about the project and the approaching adoption deadline for the document.

Mr. Chad McMurrian with the City of Perry asked how the local match would be divided amongst the participants and Ms. Jessica Bird said it would be divided the same as the regular planning funds match: by the percentage of WRATS population in each jurisdiction.

Mr. Chad McMurrian made a motion to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the application of Special PL funds to complete the 2050 MTP. Mr. Greg Boike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation to apply for Special PL Funds: Byron Safety Improvement Master Plan

Ms. Jessica Bird explained that MPO staff have been asked to apply for Special PL (federal) funds on behalf of the City of Byron to hire a consultant to complete the Byron Safety Improvement Master Plan. Ms. Bird said the application, which is due on September 18 needs to include a resolution from the PC giving approval for MPO staff to apply for the federal funds. A resolution from Byron's Mayor and Council making this request and agreeing to cover the entire local twenty percent match must also be included in the application package. She explained that the project is included in the unfunded section of the FY 2024 UPWP and the City of Byron is

going to give MPO staff the final project cost before the PC meeting on August 8 as well as a detailed scope of work before the September 18 application deadline.

Ms. Vivian Canizares with the GDOT Office of Planning asked if the City of Byron understood that the Special PL funds would produce a study and not implement a solution for the eight identified areas of concern. There was some discussion about the April 13 Zoom meeting, the need for more detailed information, and the project's eligibility. Ms. Olivia Lewis with FHWA mentioned that any additional information from the City of Byron with respect to the project should go through the TCC first before being presented to the PC.

Mr. Ted Hicks with the GDOT Office of Planning explained that the Special PL funds could only be used on federal and state routes. Ms. Jessica Bird said she asked the City of Byron to compare its projects in the 2045 MTP and the identified areas of concern to see if that work could be included in the 2050 MTP.

Mr. Greg Boike made a motion to not recommend the application of Special PL funds to complete the Byron Safety Improvement Master Plan. Ms. Jackie Williams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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 highlighted comments and information on some of the projects.

There being no further business, Mr. Ken Robinson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Greg Boike seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.