

MINUTES
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
October 25, 2023

After Internet connection issues were resolved, Ms. Jessica Bird called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Handouts were distributed to include: (1) Agenda; (2) Minutes of the July 26, 2023 meeting; (3) GDOT PM1/Safety Targets; (4) PP page 9; (5) UAB map; (6) CRS slides; and (7) WRATS Project Status Report.

ATTENDEES

Jessica Bird	Chad McMurrian	Danny Davis	David Hale
Ken Robinson	Jackie Williams	Alex Smith	Vanda Radovic Lewis
Julia Billings*	Brandon North*		

* participated via Zoom

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

Recommendation to adopt PM1/Safety Performance Targets for 2024

Ms. Jessica Bird distributed a table showing the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) PM1/Safety Performance Targets for calendar year 2024 and the previous five years. She explained that the targets are based on a five-year rolling average and the 2024 targets are the same as 2023. According to Ms. Bird, GDOT had to submit its targets to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by August 31, 2023. The MPOs have 180 days to either support GDOT's targets or set their own. She said the deadline for the MPOs is the end of February 2024. Ms. Bird did clarify that the MPO is not condoning the high number of fatalities and serious injuries but that we would potentially support GDOT's targets in the hopes of moving toward lower numbers in the future.

Mr. Chad McMurrian made a motion to recommend that the PC adopt GDOT's PM1/Safety Performance Targets for 2024. Mr. Ken Robinson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Participation Plan Discussion

Ms. Jessica Bird provided page 9 of the current Participation Plan (PP) that includes information on the public review of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She reminded the committee members of FHWA's request to change the PP to include a statement about having the public comment period close before the TIP is discussed at the TCC meeting. Ms. Bird said she reviewed participation documents of other MPOs and asked FHWA for sample language but

such language does not exist. She also spoke with Warner Robins City Attorney, Ms. Julia Mize, who supports keeping the PP as written. It already includes a statement that the public comment period will end and comments will be addressed before the PC adopts the TIP. Ms. Bird also explained that the project information and financial figures are provided by GDOT and can change regularly due to the balancing of funds by congressional district. She also does not have the authority to stipulate when GDOT must submit this TIP information to her. Therefore, she will do her best in the future to have the public comment period end before the TIP is discussed at the TCC meeting.

Adjusted Urban Area Boundary Discussion

The U.S. Census Bureau released a list of urban areas after its 2020 Count stated Ms. Jessica Bird. A territory is defined as urban or rural based on population density. An urban area has 50,000 or more people, a small urban area has 5,000 to 49,999 people, and a rural area is all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area. Identification as urban or rural is used for FHWA purposes like functional classification and roadway reporting. She distributed a map showing both the 2020 Urban Area Boundary (UAB) and GDOT's proposed 2020 Adjusted UAB for Warner Robins. The adjusted UAB has smoothed the irregularities of the original UAB by using geographical landmarks like roadways and bridges for the boundary she explained. Smoothing the UAB is an administrative action and Mr. Terry Wood, Interim MPO Director, has already approved the 2020 Adjusted UAB proposed by GDOT. Ms. Bird announced that Perry was designated as a small urban area; however, it is still included in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) of WRATS. The MPA must include the smoothed UAB and any contiguous areas likely to become urbanized in twenty years.

Update on Special PL Funds: 2050 MTP

Ms. Jessica Bird announced that the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (GAMPO)/PL Funds Committee usually meets on the last Monday of March and September each year; however, the September meeting this year was supposed to be postponed to October 2 and 3 due to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Conference happening that week. Something happened because now the meeting is scheduled for November 6 and 7. Ms. Bird explained that the change has pushed her planned Request for Qualifications (RFQ) schedule out a month; therefore, the Selection Committee will be reviewing RFQs and meeting in early December instead of November as was previously planned. She said the bids will be opened on November 30.

Presentation on Carbon Reduction Strategy

Ms. Julia Billings with Modern Mobility Partners (MMP) shared a PowerPoint presentation on the GDOT Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) with committee members. Her presentation included information on outreach efforts, document overview, and opportunities to review and provide feedback. Ms. Billings emphasized that the main objective of the CRS is to identify available funding and provide information on types of strategies included in the high-level categories: Innovative Technologies and Modes, Operational Efficiency Improvements, and Sustainable Infrastructure. The CRS does not include a list of specific projects and the FHWA submission deadline is November 15.

WRATS Project Status Report

According to Ms. Jessica Bird, Mr. Harland Smith, GDOT District 3 Planning and Programming Liaison, could not participate in the meeting but did provide a project report for committee members. Ms. Bird said she would forward any questions she received to Mr. Smith.

There being no further business, Mr. Ken Robinson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Chad McMurrian seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

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