

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

Ms. Jessica Bird called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Handouts were distributed to include: (1) Agenda; (2) Minutes of the August 3, 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	Nancy Newell	Stephen Rollyson	Terry Wood
Tim Bergl	Tim Thomas	Harold Deal*	Harland Smith*

*participated via Zoom

A motion was made by Ms. Nancy Newell and seconded by Mr. Harold Deal to approve the August 3, 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. She announced that the TCC voted to support GDOT's targets.

Ms. Nancy Newell made a motion to recommend that the PC adopt GDOT's PM1/Safety Performance Targets for 2024. Mr. Harold Deal seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Participation Plan Discussion

Ms. Jessica Bird provided page 9 of the current Participation Plan (PP) that included 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 next Monday and Tuesday, 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.

Carbon Reduction Strategy Information

Ms. Jessica Bird explained that GDOT's consultant, Modern Mobility Partners (MMP), shared a PowerPoint presentation on the GDOT Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) with the TCC at last week's meeting. Ms. Bird provided printed presentation slides to committee members and summarized that the presentation included information on outreach efforts, document overview, and opportunities to review and provide feedback. She 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

Ms. Jessica Bird explained that the GDOT District 3 Planning and Programming Liaison, Mr. Harland Smith, provided this project report with project manager comments for the TCC last week. She also announced that Mr. Smith was participating virtually in the meeting and could answer questions about specific projects.

There being no further business, Ms. Jessica Bird adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

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