

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES:

The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO)
held a Joint Policy Committee (PC) & Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)
on: February 6, 2014-10:00A.M.
Whitfield County Administrative Building #1
, Dalton, Georgia 30720

PC Members Present:

Tyson Ross, Administrator, City of Dalton
Mike Babb, Chairman, BOC Chair
Mark Gibson, Administrator, Whitfield Co
Tate O Gwin, City of Dalton
Radney Simpson, GDOT
Tamara Christian – FHWA (via dial in)

TCC Members Present:

Kent Benson, Engineer, Whitfield County
Mike Haithcock, GDOT District 6
Benny Dunn, Director, Dalton Public Works
Andrew Parker, Dalton Public Works
Ben Kinsey, W&WW Manager, Dalton Utilities
Cherie Marsh, District 6 GDOT Engr
Frank Hubbs, Dalton Airport Authority
Dewayne Hunt, Director, Whitfield County Public Works
Rick Holsumback, Whitfield County Schools

Advisors Present:

Jean Garland, Whitfield Planning and Zoning
Barnett Chitwood, NWGRC

GDMPO Staff Present:

Susan Paredes, GDMPO Coordinator
Kent Benson, Director

Meeting called to order:

Ty Ross called to order at 10:04 by PC Chair Ross with introductions by all attending committee members.

Introduction remarks: *For the benefit of those new to the meetings, PC Chairman Ross summarized differences between the Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee and Advisory Committees within the MPO.*

The three (3) essential documents to the MPO were summarized including The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

GDOT Status Report:

Mike Haithcock and Cherie Marsh provided the GDOT Project Status Report. Only those with a management let date were included.

Reminder - Next Wed Quarterly meetings downtown –

- **Signal upgrades:**

This project is Lump Sum funded.. Most upgrades are scheduled to be done on the North Bypass side and on 71North thru Beaverdale area. Most upgrades are for pedestrians and cabinets. Dalton City

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES:

The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO)

held a Joint Policy Committee (PC) & Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

on: February 6, 2014-10:00A.M.

Whitfield County Administrative Building #1

, Dalton, Georgia 30720

Spoke to PM Carl Robinson upgrades will all have flashing yellow arrow signal. It has been so successful – you will see a lot more around Whitfield County. Upgrades in the original signals (protected permissive left turn) noted for upgrade have been modified to include these.

- *SR 3 Little Swamp Creek Bridge: Bridge culvert repair with four (4) parcels to acquire. The Let date January 2015.*
- *State Route 2 and 201: This project is another Lump Sum Safety project with a management let date of February 2015. Currently that date is scheduled subject to funding.*
- *Crown Village Mt Rachel Bike Ped facilities: Peter Emmanuel scheduled for Dec 2013 let but waiting on Bat Environmental approval. Potentially April Let date -*
- *Carbondale Business Park – Access Road- December 2014 Management Let date_ - but funding is not necessarily available. Funding is approved for 2016. M. Babb stated this is our most important project.. Benny Dunn noted GDOT Board Member Roger Williams have given Carbondale Road and Interchange are the priorities in Whitfield County.*

MPO Administrative Report:

Ms. Paredes updated the MPO on administrative progress since the last meeting in September 2013. Quarterly reports for grants were drafted to file.

Staffing Changes have occurred in GDOT in all departments the MPO is funded by – all is going well. Held public Kick off of LRTP at the Courthouse – a 20 year outlook for projects updating from 2035 to 2040 horizon. Moreland Altobelli Consultants were awarded this LRTP update contract and are currently in process of modeling and desegregating the 2010 census data.

The GDMPO Hosted the GA Association of MPO's in Dalton in November 2013. It was a successful meeting and we passed along a budget surplus greater than the previous year. Total surplus in the approximate amount of \$2,700 will be combined with the estimated \$2,700 to leave substantial funds to continue conducting this important annual meeting for MPO's in Georgia.

Louise Lane Project – PIOH meeting planned – originally scheduled in January, however the snow and sleet conditions that closed the County caused us to postpone the meeting which will now be held at the end of the month of February 2014. Thanks to Dewayne Hunt in WCPW – who posted official meeting signage at each crossing to maximize public involvement – it was very effective. Whitfield Chairman Babb asked if signs had been updated with the rescheduled meeting dates, which they had by Dewayne's staff.

Which concluded the GDMPO Staff Report

Action Items:

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda 2.6..2014 – Motioned, carried unanimously*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes 9.5.2013–Motioned and carried unanimously*
- *Approval of New and Replacement GDMPO Committee Members as follows:*

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES:

The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO)

held a Joint Policy Committee (PC) & Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

on: February 6, 2014-10:00A.M.

Whitfield County Administrative Building #1

, Dalton, Georgia 30720

- *Brittany Pittman, Murray County*
 - *Tate O Gwin– replacing Dick Lowrey, Dalton City Councilman*
 - *Rick Holsumback replacing Mike Ewton from WC Schools*
 - *Ben Kinsey replacing Heath Harrison from Dalton Utilities*
 - *Dewayne Hunt – New addition to TCC committee representing Whitfield County*
 - *Tamara Christion – FHWA replacing Carlos Gonzales*
 - *Nicole Spivey – replacing Karen Quarles GDOT Intermodal*
 - *Steve Walker – TBD, Dave Cox will stand in until further notice*
- *Grant Application Process 5303 and 5307 – 2015 Transit grants were discussed - the MPO will move forward with the application process, and until such time as the transit planning is active again. The MPO uses the 5307 for planning and studies the 5303 offsets administration of Transit training and staff salaries as applied to Transit development. If we decline the funds, it may be difficult to get them in the future. We only match funding if we spend the grant money and both applications are filed on an annual basis.*
 - *Approved by the Policy Committee to re-apply for 5303 and 5307 Grant funds for FY2015.*
 - *Atlanta Heritage Sign Project: This project has been ongoing for approximately 12 years. Jean Garland will begin making contact for acquiring 82 parcels - ROW acquisition began October 2013 and should be completed by end of 2014 . As of February 6, 2014, 60 out of 82 ROW parcels had been acquired. . This grant award was \$843K.*

Discussion Items –

- *2040 LRTP Update Completion date still within the original deadline commitment, though a month was added to the original schedule. PIOH – not a big turnout for that public meeting – one citizen. This project will produce an updated LRTP – required by Federal Funding agencies to identify a list of projects over the next 20 years. It verifies or disproves projects from the 2035 Plan or add new ones. In order for federal funding to take place, projects must be identified in the LRTP. From there, these projects may be accelerated to the short-term fiscally constrained plan (Transportation Improvement Program) in order to get it in the GDOT funding radar. This opportunity comes once every three- four years for the MPOs.*
- *Inclement Weather: Barnett Chitwood noted Dalton did a good job on roads for the recent snow and inclement weather issues.*
- *Murray County MPO Participation: Census boundary update Murray County has an opportunity allowed to them based on the census population numbers update to be part of the MPO body. If they elect not to participate, that is okay, but they are deferring their planning decision that falls in this boundary to this body. The Planning Boundary includes the Murray*

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES:

The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO)

held a Joint Policy Committee (PC) & Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

on: February 6, 2014-10:00A.M.

Whitfield County Administrative Building #1

, Dalton, Georgia 30720

County Urbanized Area that is included in our planning area. There is no choice in whether it falls in our planning area or not, the population density (by census count) establishes that. But participation is a choice. We have offered them a seat on the Policy committee and possibly 2 seats on the TCC one for Murray County and one for City of Chatsworth if they choose to allow Chatsworth to be represented. This boundary situation will be for another decade. The LRTP will include Murray County in the plan regardless. We will need a letter with a date and an action if the date passes. Invitation was extended a year ago and the Commissioner doesn't have to attend in person, she can designate representative attendees. Deadline for a MOU to be in place is May 1st 2014.

- *RR Crossing Meeting will update citizens of plans to close RR Crossings on the south end of the county and build an access road to improve safety. This is Norfolk Southern and GDOT's most important project in the state of Georgia now and looking forward as the Savannah Port is prepared for additional freight due to deepening and widening plans.*

PC Chairman, Ty Ross noted with no other business was required, and no public visitors present for comment or remarks. The meeting was adjourned.

Adjourn: *Meeting adjourned 11:14 AM*

J. Tyson Ross, Chairman, GDMPO - Policy Committee

Mike Babb, Vice-Chair, GDMPO - Policy Committee

Kent Benson, Chair, GDMPO - Technical Coordinating Committee