



# Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization

## *Meeting Minutes*

June 12, 2014

### **I. Call to order**

Ty Ross – PC Chairman called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization at 10:02 A.M. on June 12, 2014 at Administrative Building #1.

### **II. Introductions**

All attending Committee members introduced themselves. The following members were present during the meeting:

#### **Policy Committee:**

- 1) **PC Chairman – Ty Ross**  
Administrator, City of Dalton
- 2) **Radney Simpson**  
Assistant State Planning Administrator, GDOT
- 3) **Brittany Pittman**  
Sole Commissioner, Murray County
- 4) **Mark Gibson**  
Administrator, Whitfield County
- 5) **Mike Brown**  
Administrator, City of Varnell
- 6) **Ron Shinnick**  
Mayor of Cohutta



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### **Technical Coordinating Committee:**

- 1) TCC Chairman – Kent Benson P.E.**  
County Engineer, Whitfield County
- 2) Benny Dunn**  
Director Public Works, City of Dalton
- 3) Ben Kinsey**  
Assistant VP of Watershed Engineering, Dalton Utilities
- 4) Mike Haithcock**  
Planning/Scheduling Engineer, GDOT – District 6
- 5) Frank Hubbs**  
Manager, Dalton Municipal Airport

### **Advisory Committee:**

- 1) Barnett Chitwood**  
Assistant Director of Planning, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
- 2) Jean Garland**  
Zoning Administrator

### **Guest:**

- 1) Cliff Cason**  
Dalton Police Department
- 2) Andrew Parker**  
City of Dalton, Assistant Public Works Director
- 3) Bill Allen**  
Moreland Altobelli Associates Representative



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### III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Chairman Ross asked for a vote to approve the previous meeting minutes. Radney Simpson provided the motion, and Mark Gibson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as recorded.

### IV. Open issues

- a) **GDOT Status Report on Open Projects** – Mike Haithcock provided the status report for open projects.
  - 1) ***Atlanta Campaign/March to the Sea*** – Seventy-four out of eighty-one parcels have been purchased for the project. Mike requested the Let date and Kent Benson informed the committee the project has been Let and the bids are prepared to be sent to GDOT. Kent Benson provided an approximate start date of mid-July.
  - 2) ***SR 2/SR 3/SR 71 Fifteen Locations of Traffic Upgrades*** – The Right of Way has been certified and the project has been Let. Andrew Parker informed the committee the project had also been awarded, but construction has not commenced. Andrew Parker confirmed North Cherokee Electrical was awarded the contract. Benny Dunn requested to be involved in the pre-construction consult.
  - 3) ***SR 3 at Little Swamp Creek Culvert Replacement*** – GDOT is currently working on environmental studies and have submitted plans for right-of-way acquisition. There are four parcels effected. The funding has been approved for fiscal year 2015.
  - 4) ***Dalton Public School System/Six Safe Route Locations*** – Mike Haithcock asked if the project had been Let. Andrew Parker confirmed the project had been Let and awarded. The project was in the May 16<sup>th</sup> Letting and was awarded to RJ Haynie & Associates. The project is to include three signal upgrades, signal beacons, and ADA compliant upgrades. Andrew Parker estimated the project could be completed in eighteen months.
  - 5) ***Carbondale Business Park/Local Access Road*** – Mike Haithcock requested information regarding the project. Kent Benson informed the committee the Draft EA had been submitted and comments have been received and the changes are being made to the Draft EA.



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- 6) *I-75 Interchange at Carbondale Road* – GDOT is progressing towards the final field review on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. A management Let date was approximated for the end of 2014 to the beginning of 2015. Radney Simpson explained the project was currently programmed for fiscal year 2016.
- b) **Administrative Report** – Kent Benson provided the Administrative Report for the MPO. The items discussed were as follows:
  - 1) The new organizational structure was explained to the committee. Jacob Bearden is the new GDMPO Coordinator. Yohaira Aguilar is the new Administrative Assistant.
  - 2) A progress report for Louise Lane (the rail safety project for the Carbondale area) was given. A rail plan meeting is scheduled at Dalton City Hall on August 12, 2014 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
  - 3) The new Participation Plan has been submitted and is currently under internal review. The document is to be brought before the committee during the next meeting for approval.
  - 4) The Draft TIP is to be approved or disapproved. The committee may submit any locally or regionally significant projects to be added to the document.
  - 5) Nicole Spivey is no longer the 5303 Grant Coordinator at GDOT. GDOT will provide the name of the new coordinator when the position is filled. Radney Simpson confirmed the position had not been filled to date.
  - 6) Lap Certification is up for renewal with GDOT. Kent Benson will be completing training to renew the certification.
  - 7) Ty Ross provided an update on Thrive 2055. Thrive 2055 is currently progressing towards coordination between the local MPOs to discuss the Long Range Transportation Plan to improve the movement of people and goods in the area. Brittney Pittman added Alabama Department of Transportation was also involved in the process. Barnett Chitwood informed the committee Thrive 2055 involved two counties in Alabama, nine counties in Tennessee, and five counties in Georgia.



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### V. New business

#### a) Moreland Altobelli Long Range Transportation Plan Update/Presentation – Bill

Allen gave an update on the Long range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The purpose of the LRTP is to promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. All modes of transportation are included. Bill Allen explained the 2010 Census extended the Urbanized Planning Area into Murray County and all studies would involve both Whitfield and Murray County moving forward. Bill Allen went on to explain the phasing of the LRTP and are as follows:

- 1) **Phase I** – Public Outreach and Travel Demand Modeling – Forecasts will be developed, based on population and the amount of traffic traveling the road network, to prioritize transportation improvement.
- 2) **Phase II** – Access the Results from Phase I – The forecasts will be compared to current conditions and recommendations will be made as to how and where improvements should be made.
- 3) **Phase III** – Prioritizing Recommendations – Recommendations that are most feasible to implement based on limitations. Funding is one example of the limitations considered.

Bill Allen reported on the current progress made within Phase I. Moreland Altobelli has been working in conjunction with GDOT to divide both Whitfield and Murray County into different traffic zones. Projects included in the 2035 LRTP were evaluated, which includes road improvements, bike paths, and sidewalks. The first public meeting was held on November 14, 2013 to invite the public to voice their opinion regarding transportation. All comments received were explained to the committee. The traffic zones in both counties were determined using the socio-economic data from base year 2010. The socio-economic data collected was submitted to GDOT in April, comments were sent back from GDOT, the comments were addressed and the data was resubmitted and approved in May. Currently, Moreland Altobelli is reviewing the Horizon data for the year 2040 and working towards developing control models. Once completed, the information will be submitted to GDOT. The next milestones were delivered to the committee regarding the phases of the LRTP. Kent Benson requested Moreland Altobelli to reconsider the dates of the milestones to allow more time to address any comments received by the public. To conclude, Bill Allen provided a questionnaire to the committee regarding transportation improvement.

\*Mayor Ron Schinnick of Cohutta, requested Cohutta be included in any future transportation improvement discussion.



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- b) **Approval or Disapproval of the Draft TIP** – The Draft TIP was approved by the committee. Radney Simpson moved to approve the document, and Mark Gibson seconded the motion. The committee discussed project authorization with Mike Haithcock and Radney Simpson and the requirements that must be met for a project to be part of the TIP. Additionally, the committee was encouraged to prioritize the scheduling of projects based on the LRTP. Radney Simpson explained the TIP could be amended and confirmed a project must be included in the LRTP in order for it to be added to the TIP. The committee discussed the possibility of adding the Walnut Avenue Interchange to the TIP and the process that must be followed.

\*Cohutta is to be added to the Resolution before the final approval of the TIP.

- c) **Approval or Disapproval of the UPWP** – The UPWP was approved by the committee without any further discussion. Radney Simpson moved to approve the UPWP, and Brittney Pittman seconded the motion. The UPWP for fiscal year 2015 was approved.

**No further business was required and no public comment was given.**

### VI. Adjournment

Ty Ross – PC Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:09 A.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jacob Bearden – GDMPO Coordinator

Minutes approved by:

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J. Tyson Ross, Policy Committee Chairman

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Mike Babb, Policy Committee Vice-Chair

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Kent Benson, Technical Coordinating Committee Chair