



Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization

Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2014

I. Call to order

Ty Ross – PC Chairman called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization at 10:00 A.M. on August 7, 2014 at Administrative Building #1.

II. Introductions

Tate O’Gwin (Policy Committee) and guests representing GDOT were formally introduced to the committee. 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) **Ken Gowin**
Mayor of Tunnel Hill
- 7) **Tate O’Gwin**
Dalton City Councilman



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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) **Dave Cox**
GDOT, West Georgia Planning
- 4) **Mike Haithcock**
Planning/Scheduling Engineer, GDOT – District 6
- 5) **Megan Weiss**
GDOT Transportation Planner
- 6) **Rick Holsomback**
Whitfield County Schools, Operations Director

Advisory Committee:

- 1) **Barnett Chitwood**
Assistant Director of Planning, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Guest:

- 1) **Glen Warlick**
GDOT Area Engineer
- 2) **Andrew Parker**
City of Dalton, Assistant Public Works Director
- 3) **Cynthia Burney**
GDOT Project Manager
- 4) **Nicole Law**
GDOT Project Manager
- 5) **Yohaira Aguilar**
Administrative Assistant



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III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Chairman Ross asked for a vote to approve the previous meeting minutes. Ken Gowin provided the motion, and Radney Simpson 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) ***State Route 3 at Little Swamp Creek*** – A bridge culvert project being designed by the Georgia Department of Transportation District 6. The culvert is a pre-fabricated culvert sized at 10' x 10'. The environmental and right of way plans are approved and GDOT is pursuing a May of 2015 Let date. There are six parcels to be acquired within the projects limits. The project manager is to be Ryan Fernandez.
 - 2) ***I-75 Southbound Ramp Project*** – GDOT is responsible for the project. Currently, an estimate is being conducted for additional preliminary engineering. The project is currently being scoped to determine required capital.
 - 3) ***PI 10685*** – The project is to be Let in August of 2014. Ty Ross provided the City Council had approved the agreement and it had been returned to GDOT. The City of Dalton is currently waiting on a Notice to Proceed. Once received, the project will be bid out for a contract of work. Ty Ross anticipates a start date of this fall.
 - 4) ***Carbondale Business Park*** – Kimberly Nesbitt is the Project Manager and Clark Patterson Lee is conducting the preliminary engineering. The project is funded by the locally by an ARC grant administered by FHWA and GDOT. The draft EA had been submitted. Kent Benson confirmed the draft EA had been resubmitted on August 6, 2014 to reflect comments and revisions.
 - 5) ***I-75 at Carbondale Road*** – Kimberly Nesbitt is the current Project Manager. There are nine properties outstanding with the project's limits. Currently, a Let date of December 2014 has been established. Radney Simpson asked when funding was programmed and Mike Haithcock confirmed the fiscal year 2016.
 - 6) ***State Route 3 from State Route 136*** – Mike Haithcock explained this to be a nine mile widening project. Currently, the project is being scoped, but it appears to be a long range project.



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- ❖ Kent Benson requested the start date for the Walnut Avenue Resurfacing Project. Glen Warlick confirmed an August start date and an August completion date. Benny Dunn confirmed work would take place at night to minimize traffic congestion.

- b) **Administrative Report** – Jacob Bearden provided the Administrative Report for the MPO. The items discussed were as follows:
 - 1) ***The FY2015 – FY2018 Transportation Improvement Program***: The Final TIP is before the committee for approval today. The TIP was advertised in the Dalton Daily Citizen and the La Voz Newspaper on June 28, 2014. It was delivered throughout the Greater Dalton Urbanized Area at eight locations for public view and posted to the MPO website. The viewing period was thirty days and no comments were submitted. The TIP has been reviewed and approved by GDOT and the FHWA and is ready for final approval.

 - 2) ***The Draft Participation Plan for FY2015***: The Draft Participation Plan is before the committee for approval. The Participation Plan has been updated to denote the latest census data and still meets the guidelines set forth by the committee standard operating procedures. With approval, the document will be placed throughout the Greater Dalton Urbanized Area, posted on the MPO website, and a public service announcement will be ran in the local papers to inform the public it is available for comment.

 - 3) ***Update on the Long Range Transportation Plan***: Currently, the Long Range Transportation Plan is in line with the projected schedule submitted to GDOT. The socio-economic data and the projected socio-economic data has been submitted to GDOT and returned for comments. More updates to follow when additional milestones are met.

 - 4) ***Recent Completed Work for the GDMPO***:
 - A. All quarterly reports have been submitted and approved by GDOT to close out FY2014 PL Contract.
 - B. The Annual Report for the PL Contract has been submitted and is currently under review by GDOT.
 - C. The GDMPO received the self-certification approval from GDOT on July 7, 2014.
 - D. The Georgia State Rail Plan Meeting is to be held on August 12, 2014 at City Hall. See Flyer.
 - E. The FY2014 5303 Contract has been closed.



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V. New business

Approval or Disapproval of the Final TIP – The Final TIP was approved by the committee. Radney Simpson moved to approve the document, and Ken Gowin seconded the motion. Ty Ross affirmed the TIP is amendable if the committee wishes to make changes. Benny Dunn requested information regarding the 5307 Transit Grant and how the money is to be allocated. Kent Benson provided there were no plans to conduct a further study on a fixed route. Ty Ross asked if the money could be allocated towards other intermodal facilities. Additionally, Mr. Ross requested a discussion regarding land acquisitions around the rail yards in downtown Dalton. Radney Simpson will look into the questions with the Grant Coordinator at GDOT.

Approval or Disapproval of the Draft Participation Plan – The Draft Participation Plan was approved by the committee without any further discussion. Mark Gibson moved to approve the Draft Participation Plan, and Radney Simpson seconded the motion. The Draft Participation Plan for fiscal year 2015 was approved.

Thrive 2055 Update: Ty Ross provided the update regarding Thrive 2055. A meeting was held with the Vice President of McGee Bakery. Kent Benson raised the issue of the consultant of the bakery being allowed to attend the MPO meetings as an advisor to the committees. There were no objections to the idea.

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

VI. Adjournment

Ty Ross – PC Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:25 A.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jacob Bearden – GDMPO Coordinator

Minutes approved by:

J. Tyson Ross, Policy Committee Chairman

Mike Babb, Policy Committee Vice-Chair

Kent Benson, Technical Coordinating Committee Chair



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