

The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO) held a Joint Policy Committee (PC) & Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) on:

June 15, 2011 – 10:00A.M.

Whitfield County Administrative Building #1 - 301 West Crawford Street, Dalton,
Georgia 30720

PC Members Present:

J. Tyson Ross, Administrator, City of Dalton
Mike Babb, Chairman, Whitfield Co BOC
Mark Gibson, Administrator, Whitfield
Radney Simpson, Asst. Planning Admin., GDOT
Jason Hall, Proxy - Mayor, City of Varnell
Ken Gowin, Mayor, City of Tunnel Hill
Dick Lowrey, Councilman, City of Dalton
Radney Simpson, Asst. Planning Admin., GDOT for GDOT Commissioner Smith

PC Members Absent:

TCC Members Present:

Kent Benson, Engineer, Whitfield County
Andrew Parker, PROXY Director, Dalton Public Works
Steven Walker, Urban Planner, GDOT
Heath Harrison, Dalton Utilities
Carlos Gonzales, FHA
Scott Allen, Proxy, Whitfield County BOE
Andy Edwards,

TCC Members Absent:

Chad Thompson, Trans. Manager, Shaw Industries
Palmer Griffin, Director of Operations, Dalton BOE
Greg Hood, District 6 Plan/Program Eng., GDOT
Roger Rollins, Dalton Airport Authority

GDMPO Advisors Present:

Ron Hale, Finance Director, Whitfield County
Karen Quarles, Transit Planner, GDOT (partial)
Barnett Chitwood, NWGRC, Community Planner

GDMPO Advisors Absent:

Kevin Herrit, Planner, Whitfield County

GDMPO Staff Present:

Susan Paredes, GDMPO Coordinator

GUESTS:

Bill Allen, Former GDMPO, MAAI

General: The GDMPO Meeting was called to order by Kent Benson and began at 10:00 and was turned over to Ty Ross – Chairman, PC Committee.

Ty Ross began by stating the requirements of the By- Laws of the Committees that govern the election process. It was determined there must be a quorum present, consisting of Three Voting Members of each committee in order to elect officers. Having determined the Policy Committee met that requirement and currently consists of 7 members, PC Chairman Ross entertained nominations for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the Policy Committee. Vice Chairman Babb motioned to

Ty suggested it would be positive to have Babb as the Chair of the MPO. M Babb declined citing conflict of interest and motioned to re-elect incumbent based on his performance and asked Ty Ross to continue in the present position of PC Chair. At which time a second motion by Ken Gowin was made voted unanimous. Vote was conducted for Vice Chairman, which BOC Chair Mike Babb presently holds; Ross

opened the floor for nominations. Babb nominated Ken Gowin for Vice Chair, which was seconded and held. Ross appointed Mark Gibson to the position of Secretary of the Policy Committee.

Ross asked about the GDOT update which was included in the MPO Packet. No new changes were noted from the report of 5/2011.

Ross moved to approve the minutes, asking for changes or revisions. With none noted, Motion was made to approve minutes, a second received and Motion to approve meeting minutes from held.

Staff report was read by Kent Benson and included the following:

#1 – The 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) “Final Draft”_was advertised in the Dalton Citizen, the El Informador and La Voz newspapers and placed around the county at 8 locations for the required 30-day public review and comment period. This has been reviewed and approved by the GDOT and FHWA and it requires your final approval today.

#2 – The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) “Final Draft”_was advertised in the Dalton Citizen, the El Informador and La Voz newspapers and placed around the county at 8 locations for the required 30-day public review and comment period. This has been reviewed and tentatively approved by the GDOT for content, there is an outstanding break-down of the In-kind cost offset which will be added within 7 days and does not change any funding or cost; however is a supporting document with salary information. The final copies will not be made until this page is approved and included in the comprehensive UPWP Document. This document and the activities included require your final approval today.

Kent gave an expanded explanation of Funding / Match breakdown. Mike Babb asked if there was any public comment or response from the eight (8) publically posted copies. Susan Paredes responded there was no public comment. There were spelling corrections noted by Barnett Chitwood, Kevin Herrit suggested two additional projects to include and GDOT made recommendations to correct matching allocations and add an in-kind summary chart with detailed amounts applied to in-kind work performed on behalf of the MPO.

Benson moved to Item #3 regarding the TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT CONSTRAINED LIST – UPDATE and asked Babb to provide an update. Babb said the constrained list would be voted for in July and gave a brief history outlining the division of funding and three counties (Gordon, Murray and Whitfield) he represents via the Roundtable Committee. The priority list of projects for these counties has been developed and submitted. Priority list from unconstrained list – 3.2 million tax million in tax collections for 10 years. The new sales tax figures will be reported next week in order to gain a more accurate reference.

GDOT agreed to review all cost estimates to insure accuracy. Whitfield County submitted 11 projects but may cut another 60% of cost from this list as the negotiations continue per Todd Long’s teleconference. Rocky Face Interchange has been on books for a long time and it was asked if it should be included on the TIA as well since it was supposed to have funding already set aside. Radney Simpson in the past Highway Trust Funds were available but he recommended leaving Rocky Face on because of the uncertainty of future federal dollars and secondly, if this motivates the public to come out and vote on the TIA projects that is a benefit.

Benson asked for clarification if funding is allocated to this region it will stay in the region regardless of whether this 36M Rocky Face Project is funded by non-TIA funds. Simpson stated if Rocky Face is completed with non-TIA funds, TIA funding for "replacement" project will be determined by the Roundtable Committee for each region.

Ken Gowin expressed concern GDOT would live up to their funding promises Simpson stated there really is no 'plan B' regarding transpiration funding and the potential there is a potential we could go back to even less federal funding.

Ross mentioned TIA can be an Airport and other discretionary type projects and discussed Dalton Municipal Airport Glide Strip; trees are blocking larger jets from landing at DMA and they are flying to Chattanooga instead. Local companies are selling off personal jets. Trees in glide slope are causing air traffic to bypass Dalton. The hills with the trees are outside the jurisdiction of the airport. It may take acquisition of property and address the cost locally.

With no other questions on TIA, Benson continued Status Report- Noting Public Meeting dates in July and August to kick off the Transit Feasibility Study, at which time the Staff Report was concluded.

Kent Benson was asked to provide all positions for each committee to review need for member update. It was noted that Randy Cook has retired and should be replaced in the committee. Also noted was Frank Hubbs would be replaced by Roger Rollins to represent the Dalton Municipal Airport. TCC Election will be deferred until the next TCC meeting when a Quorum is present.

Next Item of New business was vote approval to adopt the FY2012 UPWP and 2012 – 2015 TIP. Request was made for comments on UPWP and/ or TIP. Chairman noted adequate time was provided to review documents. Carlos Gonzalez reiterated it was critical to approve these documents before July 31 to secure funding; Motion to Approve was made for each document, seconded and held.

Adjourn: At which time no other business was noted for discussion and the Joint TCC and PC meeting adjourned.

J. Tyson Ross, Chairman, GDMPO - Policy Committee

Kent Benson, Chair, GDMPO - Technical Coordinating Committee

- (Minutes approved in GDMPO PC Meeting of 10/26/2011)