

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

PRESENT:

Fayette County

Greg Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells
Herb Frady
Peter Pfeifer
A.G. VanLandingham

City of Fayetteville

Larry Dell
Wilson Price
Joe Morton

City of Peachtree City

Steve Brown, Mayor
Judi-ann Rutherford
Bernie McMullen

Town of Tyrone

Sheryl Lee, Mayor
Lyn Redwood
Michael Smola
Barry Amos
Valerie Fowler

Town of Brooks

Robert Butler, Mayor

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris W. Cofty, County Administrator
Dennis Davenport, Assistant County Attorney
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant
Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Chairman Dunn remarked that the purpose of this meeting was to receive input from the municipalities concerning possible projects for inclusion in a referendum to establish a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in Fayette County. He commented that the only jurisdiction not represented was the Town of Woolsey.

Chairman Dunn remarked that at the Board of Commissioners' meeting held on February 4, 2004 the Board voted to perform the necessary preliminary work to place on the

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November general election ballot a local option sales tax for transportation. He said that was a motion that was passed 5-0 by the Board. He said in order to proceed one of the requirements of the State was that the Board get elected officials and representatives from the other governments together and seek input to determine what each municipality was expecting the Board of Commissioners to do. He said he was hoping for a very candid and open discussion. He said there was no reason to hold back anything because this was a total count commitment of all of the jurisdictions. He said everyone had met once before and everyone basically agreed on the priorities for the transportation plan. He said funding had also been discussed. He said everyone basically agreed that without a S.P.L.O.S.T.

not very much of the road work would get done. He said the transportation plan had over \$400 million worth of projects in it over the next twenty-seven years. He said everyone wanted to find funding outside of citizens' property tax in order to achieve this. He asked Finance Director Mark Pullium to discuss the charts that he had prepared.

Finance Director Mark Pullium said he had prepared a forecast of the sales tax over the next five or six years. A copy of his presentation, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. He said the forecast was very conservative. He said in 1999 the county received on a one cent sales tax \$13,852,354. He said the numbers had grown steadily each year. He said from 1998 to 1999 there was a \$2 million increase on a county wide basis. He said there were a lot of retail establishments that had come into the county such as the Pavilion and some other retail businesses throughout the county that had drawn in some more sales tax. He pointed out that there now was a trend downward. He said in his projections he does have the county in a downward trend. He said as a result of the down trend in the economy not only for the State of Georgia but on the national level, there was a reduction in sales tax. He said for the last calendar year Fayette County received \$17,136,330 on a county wide basis and the five year total was \$78,557,971.

Mr. Pullium further remarked that in 1999 the county saw a 16.91% increase in the one cent sales tax over the year 1998. He said there was a continuing decline in the percentage increase down to 2.78% from 2002 to 2003. He said indications were that the economy was going to start picking up and there was evidence of this already. He said in his projection he had factored in the last three years. He said he had used a conservative estimate although he believed the economy would begin to get better and the numbers might be higher than projected. He said he had forecasted on a conservative basis and he had used approximately 4.3% as the annual year over year increase over the next several years. He said if the voters chose to pass a one cent sales tax for a special purpose local option sales tax, it would begin on the first of April, 2005 and his figures were projections for 2005 through 2009. He said based on the statistics he had projected that this would be the likely pattern of the county's sales tax and would generate

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\$101,114,739 over five years. He said it was his belief that this was a conservative estimate and probably only a 2% decrease.

Chairman Dunn remarked that this was not a bad news chart. He said there was a huge peak in 1998 and 1999 because of the Pavilion. He said the county could not replicate those kinds of numbers every year but the county was getting more money than that every year but the county would never see figures like that again. He said he would like to hear from the cities and get input on this S.P.L.O.S.T. He said he would like to have everyone express their likes and dislikes today. He said the Commission would have to go back after receiving this input and sit down with staff and review all of the suggestions that would be received here today. He said the Board would then have to construct a S.P.L.O.S.T. plan for the State to approve. He said there was a lot of talk now about S.P.L.O.S.T.'s in the Legislature. He said the rules were that a county wide S.P.L.O.S.T. would have to be submitted through the county and then the county would be both the sponsor and the one who operated the S.P.L.O.S.T. system. He commented on the top ten list that the entities had discussed at the transportation meeting. He said this list was slightly different than the last time. He asked for anyone wanting to comment at this time.

Tyrone Town Manager Barry Amos said he would like to comment on the Atlanta Regional Commission. He said he had seen an article in the newspaper this week about the trimming of transportation because of funding limitations. He asked what the estimated local share would be out of the \$140,000,000 total.

Chairman Dunn responded that it was going to be a minimum of 20% but it appeared that the Federal government was going to be changing some of the laws now. He said there were two different acts in Congress where they were talking about making the local match 30% or 40%. He said if these passed, then the local jurisdictions would have to put up more of the money to get things built. He said the President at this point would probably not do anything with this until after the election. He said the plan that was passed by the A.R.C. with all of the information from all of the counties and the bill for that over the years was \$74 million. He said the best estimate of how much the county would have would be \$43.5 million. He said Fayette County would be fighting for every project with everybody else in the region. He said that was another reason that a S.P.L.O.S.T. was so important because if match money was ready to go then the county would be much better off than the other jurisdictions who were not. He said it was going to be very difficult and they were not sure how they would trim this down. He stated that he would be going to a retreat after this meeting and spend three days at Callaway Gardens fighting with the other ten counties and how to proceed. He said this was going to be difficult particularly for the smaller counties to get their fair share. He stated Fayette County had managed to get every single project in the transportation plan and they were now in the R.T.P. because the county had modeled everything in the plan. He noted that the R.T.P. was the thirty

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year plan. He said A.R.C. had asked each county for their top three projects. He said the top three had previously been discussed and also the county had given its top ten projects. He said seven of those top ten projects were in the proposed T.I.P. and the county was trying to get three others pushed in at this point. He said all of them would not survive. He said then the county would find out how much money it would have in the next six years. He said the county would then have to trim this down based on what was available in the next six years.

Chairman Dunn further remarked that the S.P.L.O.S.T. currently being discussed would be S.P.L.O.S.T. money for projects that go way beyond the T.I.P. He said the \$140 million was just the price tag in the six year T.I.P.

Tyrone Manager Barry Amos clarified that out of the \$140 million for projects that 20% would have to be local matching and might be as much as 40%.

Chairman Dunn responded that it could be but probably would not go that high.

Mr. Amos asked from the county's standpoint if there was an estimate should the S.P.L.O.S.T. go forward and these projects remain then how much of the S.P.L.O.S.T. funding would need to go toward these projects.

Chairman Dunn said first we would have to see what survived the T.I.P. process. He said also it was not known what the match would be on each one of the projects. He said it was going to be substantial but it would not be \$140 million. He felt the local might be 20% to 30% of that.

Fayette County Public Works Director Lee Hearn commented that the unknown fact right now was if the county wanted to push these projects forward, the county would have to get involved with the right-of-way acquisition and how much that would cost the county. He said it might cost 10% or 20% of the project but this was difficult to determine right now. He said in order to identify the right-of-way needed, the engineering work would have to be done. He said the S.P.L.O.S.T. money would need to go toward the match and the S.P.L.O.S.T. would need to go toward engineering in the right-of-way acquisition. He said Fayette County was way ahead of some of the other counties in terms of being able to pick up projects if projects fall out of the short term work program.

Chairman Dunn said one of the other cities had asked him if the number one priority was the Fayetteville Bypass and all of the money received in the next several years was going to go into that one project. He said this was not the case. He said that would be a multi-year project that would last probably six, seven or eight years to get it done. He said the first thing that would be done with that was engineering and right-of-way acquisition and while this was being done, the county would be working on some of these other projects

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at the same time. He said this was not going to happen in the order that it was on this list even though it was the county's priority. He said it could not happen that way because the State of Georgia might not agree with Fayette County's priorities nor the A.R.C. He said the county would know by this time next year and there would be a very clear view of the next six years. He said there was a S.R. 74 widening project in Peachtree City. He said one of the lists shows this project but this had not been one of the top ten county projects. He said that project was one of the top two projects several years ago. He said this project had fallen out in a lawsuit and somehow failed to get back in. He stated that the county was pursuing that as if it was one of the county's current priorities at the same time it was going for the top ten. He said the county needed to see an order trail on the State money for the S.R. 74 widening. He said the county could not just sit back and expect that everything was going to happen the way the State said that it was going to happen. He said the county must watch this. He said he was not saying anything bad about the State but this particular project fell through even though the county had a letter from former Governor Zell Miller once before. He said now the county had a very defined letter from the Secretary of Transportation stating exactly what he would be doing for Fayette County. He said this project was already started in the last T.I.P. but it needed to be followed through now. He said the county had not been able to find the followup at this point although the State said that it was there and they were committed to doing the project. He said the county needed to continue checking on these funds every month or so. He said no one on the S.R. 74 corridor could afford for that project to not be done in the time frame that they had promised.

Peachtree City Mayor Steve Brown said it was going to be interesting to see what redistricting did to some of the D.O.T. projects with jurisdictions shifting. He said Peachtree City wanted to see some vital traffic improvements in the county. He said it was in everyone's best interest to see improvements county wide. He said Peachtree City was well aware of the S.P.L.O.S.T. process. He said this was an effective tool and it had worked well in other counties. He said they were looking for a way to bring this back to their constituents in Peachtree City and try to come up with a way for them to support the proposal. He said they had been working diligently with county staff and they were very grateful for the collaborative spirit they had shown in trying to put together some ideas and propose some options. He said the City had come up with some suggestions that he would like to put forward in terms of a proposed way that Peachtree City might receive some sort of allocation from the S.P.L.O.S.T. He presented this to the committee for their review. A copy of the document, identified as "Attachment No. 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. He said the City felt this was a very fair proposal. He said Peachtree City was looking at a little over 21% of what the proceeds would actually come out to for some of the vital projects that the Peachtree citizens would definitely appreciate. He said this was not even coming up to a proportional share in terms of population. He said the City was looking at something that was felt to be a fair proposal. He said this was something that he was trying to put forward to tell the registered voters

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that this was something that was not only going to be good for Peachtree City but good for the county as well. He said he would entertain questions that anyone might have on this. He said this would definitely give the council members and himself in Peachtree City the ability to go back to their taxpayers on a very positive note and try to solicit as many votes as possible to pay for the S.P.L.O.S.T.

Chairman Dunn said he had not seen any of this data so he would have to review it. He asked if these projects were in the current county transportation plan.

Peachtree City Manager Bernie McMullen replied that there was a list of the projects.

Chairman Dunn said he did not know how this related to the county's transportation plan county wide.

Mr. McMullen replied that these would be submitted as an amendment to the current transportation plan.

Chairman Dunn clarified that these projects were not in the current transportation plan and Mr. McMullen agreed.

Commissioner Linda Wells interjected that this was a plan strictly for the City of Peachtree City.

Chairman Dunn questioned why these projects were not listed when the county teams had met with Mayor Brown to discuss the county's transportation plan.

Mayor Brown replied that the City wanted some other projects. He said at the transportation meeting the City of Peachtree City had presented its projects and they had similarly been dismissed. He said he wanted to be able to have something to go back to the taxpayers with. He said Peachtree City was asking for a 21% share of the funds and remarked that Peachtree City had 35% of the county's population and Peachtree City was not even getting a proportionate share in terms of population. He said they just wanted something to take back to the citizens of Peachtree City to get them to show up at the polls to vote in favor of the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said Peachtree City would gladly support any other project that the county or the municipalities wanted to put up and help those projects come to fruition.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked Mayor Brown how he had arrived at the estimated total cost.

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Peachtree City Manager Bernie McMullen responded that the City Engineer had helped them and a lot of those were current projects within the City of Peachtree City.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there were three other cities present here. He asked those representatives if they had a similar list.

Fayetteville Councilman Larry Dell replied not yet. He said they were basically listening right now. He said he was aware of the legislation coming down or in the hopper right now. He said if it passed this year and by the time the S.P.L.O.S.T. was approved then there might be some changes.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there could be some changes to the S.P.L.O.S.T.

Mr. Dell felt the first four projects on the list would come to approximately \$116 million. He said he would like to see some of the projects accelerated in the transportation plan. He said these could include sidewalks with the pedestrian movement within the City or at least allow the City to move some of those projects forward through the City's sidewalk plan or even through the City's own transportation plan. He said he did not have a problem with the priorities and transportation county wide. He said if one street was improved that has major traffic on it, then this would improve the entire county. He said he was in agreement with that and also he felt that some type of distribution needed to be looked at since the majority of the sales tax was going to be generated between Fayetteville and Peachtree City.

Chairman Dunn remarked that Fayetteville had the most revenue in this and also had fewer roads than the rest of the county in terms of miles.

Mr. Dell remarked that the roads within the center of the county were the seat of the government of the county. He said there were five State highways right here in the middle of town. He said there was major traffic and thoroughfare coming in from four or five different counties through Fayetteville. He said he agreed county wide that the projects needed to be done because it would definitely improve the traffic throughout the county.

Chairman Dunn commented on percentages. He said if one looked at this in that way then the county would be getting it all because the East Fayetteville Bypass was in the county.

Mr. Dell interjected that this was called the East Fayette Bypass.

Chairman Dunn said this project was listed in the books as the East Fayetteville Bypass. He said all of that road was in the county. He said the road was being built to unsnarl the traffic in the City. He said to say that the county was getting the "lion's share" would be terrible because the county was getting the "lion's share" on behalf of the City.

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Fayetteville City Manager Joe Morton felt that everyone generally was in agreement with the projects on the list. He said all of the projects listed would benefit everyone in the county and there was no question about that. He said they had spoken with Fayette County Public Works Director Lee Hearn in individual meetings about these being long term projects. He said the average citizen was not going to see any benefits of these for maybe ten or fifteen years. He said nothing would be seen of the East Fayette Bypass for ten or fifteen years and he felt everyone realized that. He felt it was important to have projects on the list that could be done immediately within a year or two. He said these could be resurfacing projects, sidewalk projects and so forth. He said a lot of these were in the plan. He felt it was important to have some of these high visibility projects out there. He said maybe there was a total percentage of the pie that was allocated for these type of projects and then figure up with the cities and the county as to how to split up that pie and get some of these projects done that would benefit everybody.

Chairman Dunn said in 2004 the acquisition of right-of-way would start. He said once it started the money would flow.

Mayor Brown said they were in a position right now with the 35,000 people that they represent were going to go through a tremendous ordeal with S.R. 54 West. He said they would endure another tremendous ordeal with S.R. 74 South and then they would have to come back and do the intersection between both of them all at the same time. He said one thing that they would absolutely love to have the ability to do, and not at a very significant cost, would be to work that intersection project in with the S.R. 74 South widening. He said that way Peachtree City would only have to bear a hurricane force response on two occasions. He said this was something he would hope would be feasible. He said an engineering process would have to be done as well as right-of-way acquisition. He felt the default fall back position in the S.P.L.O.S.T. as the A.C.C.G. and the G.M.A. have signed off on would be default population share. He said Peachtree City's would be over 35%. He said he was saying right now that Peachtree City would take 21% and he would go back to the citizens and say great things about the process and try and get this passed. He said he was trying to figure out a way where they could encourage the citizens to have a good feeling about the whole thing.

Tyrone Town Manager Barry Amos said there was not a clear answer as to what the percentage of the \$140 million would be local share. He remarked that roughly the S.P.L.O.S.T. would generate \$100 million dollars. He said that 35% of \$140 million was approximately \$50 million. He said the 35% of the \$140 million would be for the top ten projects that consensus was reached on. He said the top ten would then move forward. He remarked that the ballpark figure of \$50 million would be local share. He said this would leave \$50 million to be divided up among the county and the municipalities for other projects not included in the top ten. He asked if this was a correct analysis.

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Chairman Dunn replied yes if one was looking at this in just a six year package but he noted that this was a twenty-seven year package. He said the transportation plan was for twenty-seven years and not six years. He said if the county received \$110 million or \$120 million in the five years he would hope that this money would be invested and the county keep building the pot so other projects could be done ten years from now.

Mr. Amos said if the county and the cities took the position that these were the top ten projects and they were funded out of the S.P.L.O.S.T. plus that would be approximately \$50 million that would be shared. He said Peachtree City was saying that it wanted \$23 million and then listed a figure as an additional \$22 million. He asked if this was correct.

Peachtree City Manager Bernie McMullen replied no. He said \$938,000 was listed for the S.R. 54 and S.R. 74 intersection improvement as part of the T.I.P.

Mayor Brown referred to the spreadsheet to item number 49 and the series of numbers on the left hand side. He said they had accelerated the engineering on that project and this was what made it the difference between the \$22 million and \$23 million.

Tyrone Town Manager Barry Amos clarified that out of the \$23,000,000 only \$938,000 was on the top ten list and Mayor Brown agreed.

Chairman Dunn said he would have a problem with that.

Mayor Brown said he felt momentum was the key to this thing. He said this was not a five year deal. He said essentially this was a fifteen year deal. He said it was getting harder and harder to gain traction on these things. He said he had done some research on all of the S.P.L.O.S.T. over metro Atlanta. He said some of the counties were having a more difficult time going through the process. He said momentum was crucial to these projects. He said the "meat and potato" projects listed in the top ten projects would not happen in five years. He said he was looking at a fifteen year window of opportunity. He questioned if this proposal within the fifteen year window would really amount to anything. He said he considered it really to be insignificant when looking at the window that the county would have to go through to make all of these projects happen.

Chairman Dunn said one of the concerns that he had was the county-wide transportation plan with a definitive number of projects in it. He said this was what the county had put together with all of the jurisdictions' involvement and that was what this Board had said it wanted to try and fund using the S.P.L.O.S.T. or at least supporting the funding with S.P.L.O.S.T. He said the S.P.L.O.S.T. was not going to be enough for some of this. He stated the problem was that if the county went forward with a S.P.L.O.S.T. it must be definitive as to what the county wanted. He said the county could not just go in and ask for money and the county add projects whenever it felt like it. He said the county must

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have definitive projects. He said the plan would change over time but there would be definitive times to do that. He said there would probably be another T.I.P. run in two or three years and the county might be able change things then. He said in order to justify the S.P.L.O.S.T. now the county would have to state what the money would definitely be used for after it was raised. He said a lot of jurisdictions in the State of Georgia have previously gotten in trouble with their S.P.L.O.S.T. because they did not spend the money the right way or spend it on what they said they were going to spend it on. He said the county and the municipalities all need help with L.A.R.P. He said if this money was put in the S.P.L.O.S.T., everyone could have a cut of the L.A.R.P. coming out of this too. He said the county would have to state this first going in as to what the county wanted and what the county intended to build. He said there would be other requirements that came along over time. He said no one would know what the county would look like in fifteen to twenty years.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the other problem with a definitive number saying that one jurisdiction could have a certain percentage and one could have another was the fact that the county would have to work through two large agencies. He pointed out that most of Peachtree City's big projects were on State roads. He said the State roads were not going to be built when the county wanted them to be built. He said they would be built when the State and the county could agree on a time line. He said the county would be asking for these things right now but it might be pushed back a few years. He said if that were to happen and there was a S.P.L.O.S.T. in place some of the other projects could be moved up. He said there would have to be a commitment to the State as well as the taxpayers on what they were going to see for their money.

Mayor Brown said that essentially everyone was working within the parameters of the plan. He said that resurfacing would come under a L.A.R.P.

Chairman Dunn remarked that resurfacing was a different issue. He said it was not changing grades.

Peachtree City Mayor Steve Brown said it was his understanding that the purpose of this meeting was to get input from the municipalities regarding projects for inclusion for a referendum.

Chairman Dunn said there was a base plan and everybody bought into that base plan. He said when this goes forward, the base plan would be used and no one could just pick any project they wanted.

Fayetteville Councilman Larry Dell commented that out of the \$110 million the \$55 million would basically be for engineering, right-of-way acquisition or the matching funds. He said

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if the other \$50 million was used for projects that were high visibility, inexpensive and spread out throughout the entire county that citizens could actually see something being done. He felt everyone here knew the history of S.P.L.O.S.T. especially in this county. He said the citizens must see a return on their money fairly quickly. He said within the plan that the county had adopted there were a lot of projects that were not high dollar projects but were highly visible whether it was pedestrian plans, street scapes, or intersection improvements. He felt those projects needed to be up front in being done while other money was being put aside for the matching funds.

Chairman Dunn said he agreed with Mr. Dell 100%. He said this plan was what the county was asking the State to do but it was not necessarily what the State would do. He said the county would have to fight for every one of the projects that was already in the T.I.P. He said if the State slowed the county down on this project, he agreed 100% that everyone at this table would have to come back and sit down and elevate some of the projects. He said there had been some discussion about there being a transportation coordinating committee among all of the jurisdictions where municipalities' experts gather and then they tell everyone what projects they felt should be moved up. He felt most of this group agreed on these projects but he felt uneasy about guaranteeing a certain amount of money to one jurisdiction and not the others. He said this was not the way the needs in the county would come. He remarked that the projects already in the plan could be moved up and finessed anyway the committee wanted if there was money. He said he had a problem with adding thirty or forty more projects to what was already an existing county-wide plan. He said he could not imagine the State or people going forward with a fuzzy idea of what the county wanted. He said the county had a plan with projects, estimated costs and people have seen it and everybody in this room had been supportive of it.

Peachtree City Mayor Brown said he would like to take exception to that remark.

Chairman Dunn commented that Mayor Brown was supportive of the projects but maybe not the order in which they were being recommended.

Mayor Brown remarked that Peachtree City was not in agreement with the way the projects went down. He said he had tried to provide detailed information which was not fuzzy or sketchy.

Chairman Dunn said he had not referred to anything being fuzzy but implied that when people voted on this they would want to know exactly what it was. He said there had been one successful S.P.L.O.S.T. in this county and that was the library. He said all of the cities benefitted in a small way, the county library benefitted in a bigger way and that was still being done. He said that was one project and everybody knew what it was, what it was going to be and they saw it. He said he agreed that the citizens would have to see the projects. He said citizens would have to see something within five years time. He said

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some of these projects would take ten years and the county would not be sitting around waiting on the first project. He said once the money was available, roads would have to begin being built and improved. He said this was what the money was for. He felt some people would worry that because this was a county S.P.L.O.S.T. and the money had to be here that somehow each municipality would not get its fair share whatever that would be in a county-wide plan. He said the county would not be dictating to anybody. He said everybody would sit down for discussion during every step of the process.

Commissioner Wells remarked that some of the projects would move forward and others would not. She said the county would not just be working on one or two projects but all of them as possible. She said one of the top projects might get stuck and then number eight or nine on the list would move up.

Larry Dell said it was not only the asphalt but it was the pedestrian movement.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt this process might have started prematurely when figures started being thrown out as to what was going to be used for this. He said there were three projects that were long term and work would need to start first on these. He said the longer these projects were put off the more they were going to cost. He said a certain amount of money could be set aside and the committee could sit down and determine what could be done in five years on these projects. He said then the money for these particular projects could be set aside to accomplish that and then start work on them. He said that would free up a certain amount of money which he nor anyone else did not know that exact amount. He said this money could be used to fill in projects. He felt this would be a very simple process to sit down and do this. He said the county had a transportation plan that had been reviewed and participated in and he felt the committee needed to stay within the boundaries of that transportation plan. He said this did not seem like a really complicated procedure to him.

Fayetteville Councilman Larry Dell remarked that it was not really that complicated. He said with the air quality requirement, the county could not technically add any type of surface such as additional lanes.

Chairman Dunn said there had been some changes regarding that. He said all of the modeling indicated that all of the county's projects were good.

Councilman Dell said that might change back. He stated if that happened then a lot of the projects might not get done for a long time.

Fayetteville City Manager Joe Morton asked Chairman Dunn how he would propose handling the L.A.R.P.

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Chairman Dunn said he was not sure. He said he wanted to ask everyone here today how they felt this could be managed. He said if the S.P.L.O.S.T. went forward then one of the categories in the S.P.L.O.S.T. could be that a percentage be set aside for L.A.R.P. over these years. He said then the county and municipalities would have to decide how to spend that L.A.R.P. money. He said everyone would work together on the L.A.R.P. list now and do some of the paving plus everyone wanted to get as much from the State as possible. He said if L.A.R.P. funds were used then citizens could see an immediate impact of roads being fixed with money that they did not have to spend.

Councilman Dell asked Chairman Dunn if the county would consider to set aside a certain percentage of the S.P.L.O.S.T. to go to L.A.R.P. and look at the division on the L.O.S.T. so far as percentages going back to the cities for the local L.A.R.P. projects. He said the citizens only cared about getting their particular street fixed. He said if those streets were fixed right after the S.P.L.O.S.T. was started then the local jurisdiction could take that L.A.R.P. money and put it to the projects that they felt most important within their limits. Chairman Dunn remarked that county-wide some roads were in better shape than others. He said there were some older roads in and near the Fayetteville area that needed work. He said there could be a group such as this that would decide every year where the L.A.R.P. money would go.

Councilman Dell commented that would be in addition to the regular amount that the cities would receive.

Chairman Dunn replied yes, that was correct. He said he hoped that every municipality would fight for every penny from the State and then use the S.P.L.O.S.T. to supplement. He said there was no other way that anyone could really manage this unless all six jurisdictions were sitting down together and deciding how the money would be spent. He said at times the cities would need more money and at other times the county would need more money.

Fayetteville City Manager Joe Morton felt as far as the L.A.R.P. that it would be important to have a set percentage and each jurisdiction to know the amount of money that they would get out of that each year. He said he did not feel that this should be left up to a committee. He said this would be very difficult for a committee to try and determine that.

Chairman Dunn said the Board was going to take everything said today very seriously. He said the L.O.S.T. was based on population but roads did not match population. He said there were roads and condition of roads to consider.

Mr. Morton said everyone here could justify conditions. He said they all had pavement management systems that rated every road in the county.

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Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Morton how he would propose splitting this up.

Mr. Morton replied that he did not know but this was one thing that he wanted discussed.

Mayor Brown interjected that Peachtree City had a cart path system and a lot of infrastructure that was crumbling on the cart path system.

Chairman Dunn remarked that Peachtree City's cart path system was not in the proposed transportation plan that the county would be asking for the money for. He said the cart path system was something unique to Peachtree City.

Peachtree City Mayor Steve Brown stated the cart path system was included in the D.O.T. program.

Commissioner Frady remarked that firstly a list would have to be devised as to how the money would be spent specifically. He said there were three top projects and the money coming in annually would have to be there for these projects. He said the county would have to have the money available when the States said it was ready to proceed with these projects. He felt money could not be spent for at least the first two years on anything until the money was in the bank and could match the State's funds.

Tyrone Town Manager Barry Amos said he agreed with Commissioner Frady. He said one of the things that everyone here had previously agreed to when the URS consultant made his presentation was that if right-of-way acquisition was not started not only on the top three but the top ten projects, then they would not happen.

Commissioner Frady felt every one of the municipalities had intersections that needed work and he would not mind looking at those. He said a list would have to be drawn up listing the projects. He said then over a five year period these projects would get done.

Commissioner VanLandingham said another issue that needed to be considered was the ability to resurface these roads. He said road crews could only do so much each year. He said it would cost more money if repair had to be done outside the local road crews. He said if Peachtree City, Fayetteville, Brooks, and Woolsey wanted so much work done every year then it would be hard to keep up the schedule.

Commissioner Frady felt the projects could be put on a priority list.

Commissioner VanLandingham said a priority list could be worked a lot quicker because there would be money to put with it that would not be received from the State.

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Commissioner Frady there was no way right now to disburse funds to the cities. He said everyone would have to agree on projects and then agree to pay for them. He said the projects would have to be put on a list and then voted on. He said every one of the municipalities should know right now what kind of priorities they had at intersections, resurfacing, road widening, bicycle paths or whatever it might be.

Mayor Brown said he would not want the money immediately. He pointed out that this was a five year plan. He said he was presenting what he felt was a workable and inexpensive solution that he would like to take back to Peachtree City citizens so that they could support the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said three years ago the municipal colleagues in Henry County felt that they were not being dealt properly in the S.P.L.O.S.T. negotiations and the city ending up washing the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said because of that they lost two years of critical time for doing road projects. He said the county came back with a very equitable and fair plan which was voted in and now everything was working well. He noted that they had lost three exceptionally valuable years. He remarked that Fayette County was not growing leaps and bounds like Henry County but Fayette County could not afford to sacrifice three years of valuable time. He said there must be some good things to show to the citizens. He said if there was continual engineering and acquisition of right-of-way the citizens would go crazy because they would not see the money going anywhere. He said if this process failed and extended for another three years, a lot of the right-of-way would be lost. He said new subdivisions would start to be built on that right-of-way. He said it was critical that the county and the cities all worked together on this.

Chairman Dunn said if it was agreed to build a road in the county then it was incumbent on the Board not to let a subdivision go there. He said now there was a plan that tells us where not to allow things.

Peachtree City Mayor Steve Brown said this could be the northern arc scenario.

Chairman Dunn asked Mayor Brown if he did agree generally with the county's transportation plan.

Mayor Brown responded that he felt the projects were vital. He said he did not agree with all of the projects but he felt the major plan was absolutely vital. He said he did not agree with the county's implementation schedule.

Chairman Dunn asked Mayor Brown if he wanted some of Peachtree City's projects done and Mayor Brown replied yes.

Chairman Dunn said he understood that. He said he was speaking about the whole overall plan and what the county needed in order to have a moving traffic plan. He said the Board would review Peachtree City's plan and go through it with a fine tooth comb. He said if the

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Board did this, then it would be incumbent on the Board to go to every city and ask for their list as well.

Mayor Brown remarked that this was what this meeting was for and that was to receive input from the municipalities concerning possible projects for inclusion in a referendum. He said this was the reason he had brought a list.

Chairman Dunn replied yes that was what the meeting was for. He said this was not the first time the county and the municipalities had met and he thought everybody had understood that it was in the context of the overall plan. He said the county was certainly willing to talk about the timing of certain projects. He said the second priority was the widening of S.R. 54 East. He said this project had not shown up in the proposed T.I.P. He said the county had asked for this project but it had a Clayton County project number on it with a sub-project number for Fayette County because Clayton County had a larger piece of the road than Fayette County. He said the Clayton County Chairman had said that this was his number one priority when he learned that this was Fayette County's number two priority. He said somehow Clayton County's paperwork was not present at the A.R.C. today to put it in the plan. He said this was another example that Fayette County might not get what it wanted if all of the other jurisdictions involved in a project did not see it the way Fayette County sees it. He said one of the subject that he would be talking about tonight during the retreat at Callaway Gardens would be transportation. He said he would be meeting with Clayton County representatives to see how projects could be moved up. He said there was no way to know what projects would occur during a certain time. He said no one knew what projects would be in or out because there was only less than half of the money needed to do the thirty year plan. He said no one knew what projects would survive and which ones would not. He said Fayette County would be fighting for the projects. He remarked that a lot of work could be done because of the way the money would flow in a S.P.L.O.S.T. and the way the money would be spent. He commented that the first construction years for the East Fayetteville Bypass was listed as 2010. He said the S.P.L.O.S.T. would be over by then.

Peachtree City Mayor Steve Brown interjected that it would be a fifteen year window.

Chairman Dunn said a subsequent S.P.L.O.S.T. might be needed at that time. He said this was another reason why the citizens must see what was being built. He said the county was not going to sit around on a pile of money waiting for its top projects. He said meetings like this one would have to be regular in the coming years in order to decide what projects might be the most important and need to be moved up. He said sometimes projects would be in the county and sometimes in the cities.

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Commissioner Frady said he wanted to see all of the cities get their fair share. He said he agreed that funds needed to be accumulated for the first year or two. He said he did not feel that the money could be disbursed immediately.

Mayor Brown interjected that this was going to be a five year S.P.L.O.S.T. He pointed out that the engineering process was at the front end and the land acquisition process was also on the front end.

Chairman Dunn said everyone had agreed that the number one priority was the East Fayetteville Bypass.

Mayor Brown interjected that the majority agreed.

Chairman Dunn remarked that sooner or later everyone must be talk collectively whether every individual agreed with every piece of the plan or not. He said the plan had usually been accepted by most people and even Mayor Brown. He said Mayor Brown had problems with different timings and things of that nature. He said Peachtree City's projects were the number one projects four or five years ago and they were now coming to pass. He said a lot of the others here had been patiently waiting for their turn to get some attention. He said the projects would have to come all the way through the county now. He said if the Fayetteville Bypass was the number one priority and the majority agreed that it was, then Commissioner Frady was correct in that money must be assembled to at least start the right-of-way acquisition to prevent problems. He pointed out that right-of-way acquisition would never be cheaper than it was right now. He further commented that there would have to be close scrutiny on every zoning or land use request for an area to make sure that nothing was built where there might be right-of-way.

Mayor Brown remarked that there needed to be a bonding mechanism to get a substantial portion of the funding up front in order to proceed with some of these things.

Chairman Dunn said he would not speak for other fellow Commissioners but the Board was not going to consider getting bonding money.

Commissioner Frady interjected that if a bond was obtained, the taxpayers would pay every penny of it in interest. He said if the county used a S.P.L.O.S.T., a lot of money could be saved.

Mayor Brown said he was not referring to anything in lieu of a S.P.L.O.S.T. He felt the bond would allow substantial revenues up front and allow the county to get far ahead of the process.

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Chairman Dunn said this was the same thing that former Governor Barnes wanted to do with the Garvey Bonds on anticipated tax money. He said this did not work then and it would not work now. He felt there was no support from the County Commission to go for a bond. He said the S.P.L.O.S.T. was the fairest way to ask the citizens to pay for it. He remarked that there were a lot of people using Fayette County roads that were not paying for them right now.

Fayetteville Councilman Larry Dell remarked on Chairman Dunn's earlier comment about more less forming an executive type committee to administer or to work within the S.P.L.O.S.T. agreement. He asked Chairman Dunn if he considered that as a viable option to form an executive committee just to gather input on the projects.

Chairman Dunn felt discussions would involve all six entities and all six would be working on this county-wide plan. He said the Board viewed this as a partnership with all of the municipalities. He felt the only way to get it done for everybody was to do it together.

Councilman Dell commented on the county map in the packets showing the transportation project recommendations. He said the one thing that really stood out as it had in all of the transportation plans was that there were no city boundaries. He said there was a county boundary and that was all. He said this told him that this was a county-wide plan. He felt the idea for a committee was a very good idea because this would bring all entities into the loop. He said a S.P.L.O.S.T. was basically a county function. He said the county would have to administer it as well as call for it. He said everybody could sit down at the same table and discuss this openly. He remarked there could be a committee where discussions were ongoing throughout this five year process. He said these individuals could review the projects and carry them back to the different cities and work in conjunction with the county to move some of the high visibility projects into a short term.

Chairman Dunn remarked that he and Fayette County Public Works Director Lee Hearn had talked to counterparts in other counties about this and if there was a S.P.L.O.S.T. what would be the best way to manage it. He said most of them had come up with something where everybody was put together otherwise it had not worked real well. He said in Henry County they had a disaster. He said in two of the years they were spending money on things that were not on the S.P.L.O.S.T. list. He said the citizens really got frustrated and voted it down and two years later they had to come back and vote it back in again when they got it all straightened out. He said he wanted to hear from all of the municipalities and then the Board would have to sit down and determine how the S.P.L.O.S.T. would be managed. He said the Board would be modeling on what people had done successfully. He said there was a couple of people around the State who had really blown their S.P.L.O.S.T. pretty badly and the result was that they did not have one now and everybody was upset over it. He said the Board was hoping to take the best that it could and see if something could be fashioned here to manage this. He said this was going to be a big

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deal. He remarked that it would not be a five year deal. He stated it was probably going to be a thirty year or fifty year deal. He said once the money started flowing, the county would not spend it during those five years. He felt this would be an ongoing thing that would be existing probably forever.

Commissioner Frady remarked that after the projects were identified for the S.P.L.O.S.T., the most important thing would be for everybody to vote on these projects and get them into the plan.

Chairman Dunn said the Board would get everybody's input and then make a decision.

Commissioner Frady said everybody was going to benefit from this but he questioned the percentages for each area.

Peachtree City Councilwoman Judi-ann Rutherford felt regardless of the project whether it be the East Fayette Bypass, an intersection in Peachtree City, S.R. 85 going through town or somewhere else, as long as one change was made it would change things for everybody else. She said this would not be a five year plan. She said somewhere down the road the citizens must see what they were getting for their money. She said sometime between now and the time that they might go back to the polls, this county would have to be covered with signs stating that the project was compliments of S.P.L.O.S.T. dollars. She said if there were no signs, the county should just bank all of the money up front because there would not be another one. She said the easiest thing to do would be to take little portions of the money. She said everyone would not agree on every item listed in the transportation plan. She said this must be a group project. She said anything that helped transportation in Fayette County would help every citizen in Fayette County. She said 51% of the citizens had to be convinced that they wanted to spend this tax dollar. She said citizens would not see that everybody coming in from out of town would be paying this as well. She remarked that citizens must see something that told them that these road improvements were their tax dollars at work. She said it did not need to be an expensive item but did need to be visible.

Commissioner VanLandingham said at the Board of Commissioners' last meeting he had made a proposal that he did not intend for it to go the way it did. He said somebody had brought this up that if there was not something in there for the senior citizens then they were not going to vote for it because they did not have enough money to spend now. He said he wanted to propose that the senior center be reviewed and be included in the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said he was aware that there were some people who did not feel that it belonged there but there were ways to do this. He felt these ways should be explored. He said if the citizens were going to be asked for a S.P.L.O.S.T. then a unified front would have to be presented with concrete projects and a course of action that was going to show results. He said he did not mean four years from now. He said once citizens started

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paying the money, they would want to see something happening fairly quickly. He said all of this could be done if everybody was agreeable.

Fayetteville City Manager Joe Morton asked if a special project would be done for every constituency such as one for future voters, the teenagers or whatever. He asked where the line would be drawn.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he did not think a line could be drawn and if one could, they would be in trouble.

Mr. Morton said those were the words of pork barrel politics and wanting something for everybody.

Mayor Brown said Commissioner VanLandingham was diluting a solid plan. He said this should be relegated to transportation. He said the plan would appear diluted and would not be taken seriously.

Chairman Dunn said his only concern with adding something else would be people who did not want that included and would not vote. He said then the transportation plan would be lost and not approved. He said the S.P.L.O.S.T. votes in Fayette County have been close. He said things could not be put on the table that might pull votes away from the S.P.L.O.S.T. He pointed out that the first school S.P.L.O.S.T. that failed to pass here included a list of approximately 150 items. He said at one point it was referred to as a "wish list". He said it had failed miserably. He remarked that most people in the county felt that transportation was one of their most important problems right now. He said if people could be centralized and focused on transportation, the county would be better off in the long run. He said Commissioner VanLandingham's suggestion would certainly be considered.

Fayetteville Councilman Larry Dell said the S.P.L.O.S.T. would fund transportation, but he felt there would be some money free somewhere within the budget process.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the S.P.L.O.S.T. would not pay for everything. He said all of the jurisdictions would still have to put up transportation money. He said this would be a supplement to it over basically a twenty-seven year period.

Peachtree City Mayor Steve Brown interjected at this time he would have to leave this meeting to attend a funeral. He questioned if it would be possible to meet again and discuss this further before a final decision was made. He felt today's meeting was listening to input.

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Chairman Dunn said there would be no decision made today. He said he would be reticent about having another meeting.

Commissioner Linda Wells asked Mayor Brown for some clarifications. She said even though Mayor Brown did not support the entire package he had said that a lot of these things were very vital to the life of the county.

Mayor Brown remarked that with the exception of one or two projects he said they were all perfectly in line and would benefit everybody.

Commissioner Wells said that would lead to her next question. She said Mayor Brown had given the analogy in Henry County that some of the cities did not buy off on the project so there was a lot of dissension. She said she just wanted to make it clear that if Mayor Brown did not get exactly what he wanted would he be supporting this county-wide S.P.L.O.S.T. or would the Board and the municipalities have to be fighting with him in order to get the citizens to vote for it.

Mayor Brown replied that would be a discussion that he would have to have with the Peachtree City Council. He said he would not be able to speak on behalf of the council.

Commissioner Wells said she just wanted to make sure of what Mayor Brown was saying earlier to the effect that this issue would be put out on the table, let it flop around and if he did not get what he wanted he would not support this and he would encourage the people in Peachtree City not to support it.

Mayor Brown said he could not make a promise either way but he said he could look at the window that had been discussed and this was not five years. He said there would have to be a significant cash flow of about fifteen years to make this thing get off the ground. He said momentum was everything.

Commissioner Wells asked Mayor Brown if this was a viable project for the county and if he did not get his way on this, would he stand in the way of the county getting it in a judicious manner or could the county expect that Mayor Brown would oppose it for the next two or three years. She said she was referring to Mayor Brown personally.

Mayor Brown said he had 35,000 constituents in Peachtree City and he would have to get feed back from them.

Commissioner Wells asked Mayor Brown if he would hold the county up if he did not get his way.

Mayor Brown replied that he would have to discuss this with the council.

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Councilwoman Rutherford interjected that Commissioner Wells was asking Mayor Brown personally.

Mayor Brown said he would still have to have that discussion.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the 35,000 constituents of Mayor Brown were also 35,000 constituents of Fayette County. He said the Board had been working very hard to do the very best it could for everybody in the county including Mayor Brown's 35,000 constituents.

Commissioner Frady remarked that it would not do anyone any good to sit here and go through these projects if one individual was going to try and go against it.

Tyrone Councilwoman Lyn Redwood said she was new to the table as well as this process. She said she was hearing some people say that this was somewhat of a done deal and these were the projects that everyone was supporting but she said she heard the comment that input was being solicited. She asked if there was still an opportunity to comment on this plan or not.

Chairman Dunn said the county had adopted the plan because of prior meetings. He said when the county was asking for input it was not necessarily new projects that were being ask for but asking if anyone wanted to move a project up or make suggestions on how to manage the program. He said one of the things that was not in the plan was should some of the money be used for L.A.R.P. money and things of that nature. He said the basic plan was pretty well done now. He said this had been almost a two year process.

Mayor Brown exited the meeting at this time.

Fayetteville City Manager Joe Morton remarked that this plan would have to be the basis for the S.P.L.O.S.T.

Chairman Dunn replied that it would have to be. He said the plan could not continue to be changed. He said the priority listings that the county had submitted to the State were done by this group. He said if everyone wanted to change the priority, then that could still be done. He said every time there was input in the T.I.P. the priority list could be changed based on what this group wanted to do and felt was best. He said this was difficult where there had been projects in the past where the cities and the county could not come to an agreement on things. He said this one had been a little different. He said everyone understood the criticality of transportation here and he felt everyone had acted in good faith. He felt this would get done as long as everybody stayed together on it. He said they could not go in and start changing the very basis of the plan because there must be a specific item that would be asked for in the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said they would not be able to go in and just ask for road projects that might be asked for in the next ten years.

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Fayetteville Councilman Larry Dell remarked if the transportation plan was specifically used for the S.P.L.O.S.T. then anything within that plan could be used. He said it would not have to be the top ten list. He said if there was money available then instead of having the money just sit there, money could be spent on the high priority projects because they were in the plan.

Commissioner Frady remarked that the project list was already at the State and it was unknown what the State would do with them.

Chairman Dunn said the reality was that the county might not get some of the projects because there was not enough money. He said the logical thing would be for the county to go back to the State and say there were some smaller projects that needed to be done now and there was enough money.

Councilman Dell agreed and said there was definitely enough money. He said this was a good plan and the county was selling the plan. He said this plan addressed the needs within the confines of Fayette County and not Fayetteville or Peachtree City but Fayette County. He said he did not have a problem with it. He agreed that fairly soon if the S.P.L.O.S.T. did pass then some of these low cost projects which were high visibility projects need to be done. He said people would have to see results.

Commissioner Frady felt the top priorities should be protected. He said the money would need to be ready to move on these projects.

Chairman Dunn remarked that it would be difficult to put a handle on the way the money would be spent. He said everything the county did with road money was usually to support or to mitigate a problem of traffic in the city or near a city. He said there were no huge population centers to connect in the unincorporated county. He said the projects involving S.R. 74, S.R. 54, S.R. 34 and T.D.K. was where money was being spent because everybody here agreed five years ago that this was where the improvements would be made. He said the Board would consider Peachtree City's list of road improvements but he commented that a lot of people have been waiting in line.

Commissioner Frady felt it would be poor planning if the county had to borrow money for any of these projects and then have to pay interest on the money. He said the county would have to have the funds available so when the projects came up, the money would be there.

Chairman Dunn stated that there were two major traffic problems in the county – one being in Peachtree City and one in Fayetteville. He said the citizens in both cities and everybody in the unincorporated county get caught up in both every day.

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Chairman Dunn asked if there were any new ideas to put into the discussion. He clarified that the Board had a list from Peachtree City to consider. He said the Board also had Commissioner VanLandingham's suggestion to include the senior center to the S.P.L.O.S.T. He said he also understood that the group wanted a mechanism to manage this that would include everybody.

Commissioner Wells interjected that the L.A.R.P. should be included.

Chairman Dunn asked if anyone disagreed about having part of this set aside for L.A.R.P.

There was a consensus to have the L.A.R.P. included.

Chairman Dunn asked if anyone supported the idea of having another meeting on this.

There was a consensus not to have another meeting.

Chairman Dunn felt it was incumbent on the Board to get back to everyone and let them know what the county was going to do about the things that the municipalities had asked.

Tyrone Town Manager Barry Amos remarked that he and others had not understood that they needed to bring a list of additions to be included. He asked if the Board wanted him to provide a list from the Town of Tyrone that might not already be included.

Chairman Dunn felt that would be unnecessary unless the Board agreed to accept the list from Peachtree City. He said if the other municipalities wanted to send in a list that would be fine. He said if road projects were already in the plan, they did not need to be resubmitted. He said this would be duplicate money.

Chairman Dunn thanked everybody for participating in this meeting. He said the Board would take every suggestion seriously and try to do the best thing for Fayette County.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Gregory M. Dunn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 25th day of March, 2004.

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Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk