

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

2:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Randy Ognio, Committee Chair – Representative, Fayette County BOC
Kevin Madden, Committee Vice Chair – Council Member, Peachtree City
Takiyah Christian, Committee Secretary – Staff, Fayette County (non-voting)
Lee Hearn – Chairman, Fayette County BOC
Edward Johnson – Mayor, City of Fayetteville
Maurice Ungaro – Staff, Town of Brooks
Gary Farr (for Chris Robison) – Fayette County Sheriff's Office
Phil Mallon – Staff, Fayette County
Martin Sas – Citizen Representative, Fayette County
Jaimi Tapp – Citizen Representative, Town of Tyrone

Committee Members Absent: Gary Laggis – Mayor, Town of Woolsey
Stanley Merantus – Staff, Fayette County

1. Call to Order by Committee Chair Ognio

Committee Chair Ognio called the April 6, 2021 Transportation Committee meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Ascertainment of Quorum

Committee Chair Ognio acknowledged that a quorum of the Transportation Committee was present with 9 of the 11 members present.

3. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

Mr. Sas made a motion to accept the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Madden. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Review and Approval of the March 9, 2021 Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sas noted some corrections and suggestions for the March meeting minutes. The Committee asked Ms. Christian to make the changes and bring the revised minutes back to the Committee.

5. Report of Committee Members

a. Brooks

Mr. Ungaro reported on recent car accidents at the intersections of Highway 85 Connector (Hwy 85C) with Morgan Mill Road and Hwy 85 C with SR 85. Both locations have been a safety concern for the Town of Brooks and a topic of discussion at several Committee meetings. Several members of the Committee agreed that these locations should be looked at for safety and/or operational improvements. Several felt the right-hand bypass lane on SR 85 made the intersection worse. Mr. Ungaro would like to see signs indicating a stop ahead at Morgan Mill Road and Hwy 85C. For the SR 85 and Hwy 85C intersection, he suggested a traffic signal be considered. Mr. Ungaro and Committee Chair Ognio asked if County staff could provide crash data for both locations.

b. Fayette County

Mr. Mallon informed that Committee that he will give reports on four items, although only three are listed on the agenda:

- i. SR 54 Widening Project – This GDOT project is under construction and scheduled to be complete in December 2021. The traffic signal at the intersection of Banks Road and SR 54 is expected to be fully operational (i.e., all lanes open) by the end of the summer. Residents of the Deer Glen Forest subdivision have contacted the County to share the impacts of the project to their neighborhood. Due to construction, they continue to experience a high volume of cut-thru traffic that, they claim, is affecting their safety and quality of life. Residents also noted that the traffic controls at the intersection of Deer Forest Road and SR 54 is confusing and may contribute to crashes. This information was shared with the Georgia Department for further review. Mr. Mallon acknowledged the presence of residents that will be speaking during the public comments portion of the meeting.
- ii. Transit Funding from the ARP – The Federal Transit Authority has announced the availability of \$30.5 billion in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Of that \$30.5 billion, \$26.6 billion has already been allocated into a formula based system for urban and rural areas. Mr. Mallon said additional federal funds for non-transit transportation work may also be available and that each jurisdiction should consider potential projects.
- iii. Crabapple Lane & Golf Cart Request Update – In response to a request from a Developer, County staff is in the process of evaluating Crabapple Lane for golf cart use. The item will go before the Board of Commissioners on April 20. During a visit to evaluate the gravel road, Mr. Mallon noted several golf carts over a short time period using the road.
- iv. Revised Development of Regional Impact (DRI) – The development of regional impact for the Fischer Crossings commercial development is being revised. It is located at Fischer Road and Hwy 34 in Coweta County, 1.7 miles west of Peachtree City and approximately 8 miles southwest of Tyrone. Due to its location, the

development may impact traffic in Peachtree City and Tyrone. Updated traffic studies should be sent to each jurisdiction for review and comment.

c. Fayetteville

Mayor Johnson reported that once the work on Redwine Road is completed, the City of Fayetteville will have completed their 2017 Street Repaving SPLOST project(s).

An Invitation to Bid has been prepared for the SR 54 Multi-Use Bridge by Piedmont Hospital (GDOT PI 012878) and a contract for construction should be awarded this summer.

d. Tyrone – no report

e. Peachtree City

Committee Vice Chair Madden reported that Peachtree City (PTC) is still in negotiations with the Fayette County Board of Education to reach a viable solution for the County's Redwine Road Tunnel project. The PTC City Council will be discussing the project with the Board of Education at the upcoming PTC Workshop on April 6th. Committee Vice Chair Madden also announced that the Gateway Bridge over SR 54 was opened at the end of March.

Mr. Ungaro asked Committee Vice Chair Madden if the opening of the Gateway Bridge will be publicly advertised because it is a great project that deserves recognition, to which Vice Chair Madden confirmed. Mr. Ungaro also suggested that the County and all of its jurisdictions do more to highlight the completion of public projects. He noted the need for updates to the County's Transportation Planning webpage. Mr. Mallon stated that he and Ms. Christian were in the process of getting the webpage updated.

f. Woolsey – no report

6. Public Comment

Mr. Gary Fields, a resident from the Deer Glen Forest subdivision, addressed his traffic concerns due to SR 54 Widening Project. Mr. Fields stated that they have been experiencing a higher volume of vehicular traffic because drivers are using his neighborhood as a detour to avoid the McElroy traffic signal. The influx in traffic and the increased speeding poses a safety risk people walking in the neighborhood, many of which are seniors. As a result, they are requesting temporary speed tables be installed for the duration on the project. He also asked that the contractor be more diligent in removing trash and mowing grass in the work zone. Mr. Mallon said he would relay that request to the GDOT Project Manager.

7. New Business

a. Transportation Roles and Responsibilities – Review of the Bylaws

Mr. Mallon reviewed the Committee's purpose as provided in Bylaws of the Transportation Committee, Article II. See the attached document for the specific list of items.

Mr. Mallon noted that GDOT and ARC have been receptive to the feedback and opinions of the Committee and the group has been helpful in vetting projects. There was consensus that we should continue to foster our relationship with both agencies.

Committee Chair Ognio stated he believes the Committee helps Fayette County (inclusive of municipalities) speak with a united voice and that is more effective when dealing with regional issues.

Mr. Mallon added that he would like to extend an invitation to GDOT to attend the May meeting. It would be a good opportunity to discuss projects. Mayor Johnson suggested that the Committee compile a list of specific projects for that meeting.

- Chris Hindman, Fayetteville Public Service Director – Highway 85 Connector intersection with State Route 85 (and widening of SR 85)
- Committee Chair Ognio – SR 74 and Interstate 85 Intersection
- Committee Vice Chair Madden – GDOT's involvement in truck traffic from the Hampton area

b. 2017 SPLOST Project Updates

Mr. Mallon provided a status update on Fayette County's 2017 SPLOST projects. See attached table.

c. LMIG Off-System Safety Project Funding

Mr. Mallon informed the Committee that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has a surplus in federal aid funding for safety projects such as road signage, striping, and rumble strips. GDOT will provide 80% of the funding and locals pay the remaining 20%. They provided a pre-approved list of roads that are eligible for the funds. Many of the roads are already programmed for striping or signs. County staff is looking at options on how to best use the money. Candidate roads include White, Banks, and Westbridge Roads.

d. McDonough Road Bridge Evaluation

Mr. Mallon shared the updates from his conversations with GDOT's Office of Bridge Design and Maintenance. They will re-evaluate the bridge's weight limit based on repairs made by Fayette and Clayton Counties a few years ago. We also asked if there are any low-cost fixes that can be done to protect the bridge.

The project is scheduled for replacement by GDOT. A Concept Report is expected in Spring 2022. Construction is not expected until FY 2024, at the earliest, and will more likely be in 2026. A design firm has been selected and they should receive a NTP in June 2021. Fayette County's cost for the project is a \$50,000 contribution to the ROW phase, which we may split with Clayton County.

BOC Chairman Hearn expressed that 2026 was too long of a time to wait for improvements for a bridge with a six ton weight restriction. The bridge cannot withstand the weight of a

school bus which should be a major concern. He asked that the project be kept on the “hot” list.

Committee Chair Ognio added that Clayton County is not enforcing the weight restriction on their side of the bridge. He would like to know if damage is being caused in the interim.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 PM. Mr. Ungaro made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Madden and it passed unanimously.

*BYLAWS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF FAYETTE
COUNTY. ARTICLE II.*

The purpose of the Committee shall be:

1. To identify traffic and explore problems in the county. (Safety, congestion, alternatives (Multiuse Paths) and other issues);
2. Prioritization – provides recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners and City Councils of short and long-term priorities;
3. Vetting – provides input on project alignments and alternatives;
4. Funding – assists with identification of funding sources, solicitation of federal funds, grants, etc. All funding will have to be approved by the appropriate governmental entity. Some funding may require an intergovernmental agreement;
5. Planning – provides recommendation for long-term traffic goals (capacity, paths, senior services, etc.);
6. Safety – identification and support of safety initiatives; and
7. Put together information in a form that will help communicate Fayette County's views and concerns to the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Atlanta Regional Commission.

No.	Program	Category	Project Name	Finance Code	Concept	Design	ROW	Procure.	Utilities	Constr.
1	GDOT	Bridge	SR 85 @ Whitewater Creek Bridge Replacement	013734						
2	GDOT 2017 SPLOST	Bridge	Ebenezer Church @ Whitewater Creek Bridge Replacement (0008598)	17TAA						
3	GDOT 2004 T-SPLOST	Bridge	Coastline Road Bridge Replacement (0015647)	B-1						
4	2004 T-SPLOST	Bridge	EFB Bridge @ Morning Creek	R-8C						
5	GDOT	Intersection	SR 74 & I-85 Interchange (Fulton Co.)	07841						
6	2017 SPLOST	Intersection	Redwine, Bernhard & Peachtree Pkwy Roundabout	17TAL						
7	2017 SPLOST	Intersection	Brogdon & New Hope Roundabout	17TAM						
8	2017 SPLOST	Intersection	Ebenezer Church, Ebenezer & Spear	17TAN						
9	2004 T-SPLOST Peachtree City	Intersection	Peachtree Parkway @ Crosstown Drive	I-16						
10	2004 T-SPLOST	Intersection	Sandy Creek, Sams Drive & Eastin Rd Roundabout	I-2						
11	2004 T-SPLOST	Intersection	SR 85 (North of Bernhard)	R-19						
12	2004 T-SPLOST	Intersection	SR 85 (South of Bernhard)	R-20						
13	2004 T-SPLOST	Intersection	Hampton Road(s) & SR 92	R-21						
14	2004 T-SPLOST	Intersection	County Line, Inman, S. Jeff Davis & N. Bridge Road Roundabout	R-8A						
15	2017 SPLOST	Maintenance	Resurfacing - FY 2019 federal-aid (0016058)	19TAF			na		na	
16	2017 SPLOST	Maintenance	Resurfacing - FY 2020 federal-aid (0016083)	19TAG			na		na	
17	2004 T-SPLOST	New Capacity	EFB Roadway and Intersections	R-8B						
18	2004 T-SPLOST Fayetteville	Operations / Safety	SR 85 Medians Phase 1 & 2 (SR 54 to SR 314)	R-13						
19	2004 T-SPLOST	Operations / Safety	Goza Road Realignment at Bernhard Rd	R-23						
20	Fayetteville	Path	Pedestrian Bridge over SR 54 at Hospital	12878						
21	2017 SPLOST	Path	Redwine Rd Path Project (0012624)	17TAH						
22	2017 SPLOST	Path	Starrs Mill Tunnel & Path (at Robinson Road)	17TAI						