

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2021

2:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

Randy Ognio, Committee Chair – Representative, Fayette County BOC
Kevin Madden, Committee Vice Chair – Council Member, Peachtree City
Lee Hearn – Chairman, Fayette County BOC
~~Edward Johnson~~ – Mayor, City of Fayetteville
Proxy: Chris Hindman – Staff, Fayetteville
Gary Laggis – Mayor, Town of Woolsey
Maurice Ungaro – Staff, Town of Brooks
Phil Mallon – Staff, Fayette County
Tobi Ayodeji – Staff, Fayette County
Takiyah Christian – Staff, Fayette County
Martin Sas – Citizen Representative, Fayette County
~~Jaimi Tapp~~ – Citizen Representative, Town of Tyrone
Proxy: Phillip Trocquet- Staff, Town of Tyrone

Committee Members Absent: Chris Robinson – Sgt., Fayette County Sheriff's Office

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Ognio called the October 5, 2021 meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

2. Ascertainment of Quorum

Committee Chair Ognio acknowledged that a quorum of the Transportation Committee was present.

3. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

Mr. Mallon made a motion to move agenda item 8a before the Report of the Committee and accept the meeting agenda. Mr. Madden seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. Review and Approval of the August and September Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Mallon made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes. Second by Mayor Laggis. Vice Committee Chair Madden and Mr. Sas abstained. The motion passed 6-0-2.

Vice Committee Chair Madden made a motion to accept the September meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Mallon. Mr. Sas abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Committee Chair Ognio informed the Committee about an open records request submitted for all correspondence by members regarding the September 14th meeting minutes. Several members asked for clarity on the specifics of the request including the reference to Council Member Kevin Madden. Committee Chair Ognio reread the request. Vice Committee Chair Madden asked members of the Committee if he has ever discussed meeting minutes with anyone at any time. He asked Committee Chair Ognio for the name of the request. The request was made by Mr. Joseph Caola, who Vice Committee Chair Madden identified as the husband of his opponent in the upcoming election. Mr. Ungaro stated that "An open records request is an open records request no matter who it is from". Mr. Caola asked to make a point of order for the record. He stated that the request was not politically motivated. He stated that he is a Peachtree City resident and he wanted to make the request. Vice Committee Chair Madden repeated Mr. Ungaro's statement adding that it was not inappropriate for him to ask who made the request.

5. Report of Committee Members

a. Brooks - Report given by Mr. Ungaro

Morgan Mill Rd & Hwy 85 Connector Intersection

The intersection does not meet the warrants for a four-way stop; to increase awareness the County has installed additional stop signs and added "CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP" plaque to the stop signs.

Mr. Ungaro stated that Brooks is looking at alternative solutions. They are looking into installing LED lights around the stop signs on Morgan Mill and illuminated yellow caution signs on Highway 85 Connector. Both lights will be solar powered.

Mr. Mallon stated that he had spoken to a deputy with the Sheriff's Office that has responded to crashes at the intersection. Several of the people involved in a crash stated that they were aware of the stop sign and stopped but were unaware that the cross traffic did not stop. The assumption was that the intersection was a four-way stop. These are the same comments that they heard about the Antioch and Goza intersection.

Chairman Hearn asked Mr. Ungaro if there have been any accidents since the signage was added. Mr. Ungaro stated that there has been one accident. Chairman Hearn suggested that accident reports should be reviewed on a quarterly basis going forward to evaluate the effectiveness of the signs. Mr. Ungaro stated that ultimately Brooks would like for a roundabout to be constructed.

b. Fayette County

Project Updates and Citizen Concerns – Report by Mr. Mallon

- Realignment of SR 279 and Corinth Road – This is a federal aid project; the Request for Qualifications is posted on Purchasing's webpage and is being advertised.
- Federal-Aid Resurfacing – Finalizing the lists of roads with cities and towns
- Brogdon and New Hope Roundabout – Roundabout is under construction. The project has been stalled all summer due to gas line relocation, but a resolution has

been made regarding the issue. The gas company is issuing a contract for the relocation work.

- Redwine Multi-Use Path – Fayette County received the Notice to Proceed from GDOT.
- Proposed Kenwood Road Path – Staff received a letter from Keith Larson about the path/sidewalk project. Mr. Larson to discuss public comment.
- Whitewater Middle School Traffic – Mr. Mallon was asked by the Sheriff's Office and two citizens to look into traffic patterns for the afternoon school traffic on Christopher Drive. The number of car riders has increased and it is making it difficult for residents living at the end of Christopher Drive to get to their home. The citizens that called stated that it took them 20-30 minutes to get their subdivision. The Sheriff's Office stated that drivers will get frustrated and drive on the wrong side of the road. Typically, they are able to get through but occasionally they are faced with oncoming traffic. Mr. Mallon stated that he will be looking into the matter and reaching out to the Board of Education. There is an entrance on the north side of the school that may be an option. Mr. Ungaro suggested a one-way in and one-way out. Mr. Hindman shared that Fayetteville is also facing the same issue at Spring Hill Elementary on Bradford Square. Committee Chair Ognio suggested following the traffic relief project done for North Fayette Elementary on Kenwood Road if the school has enough property to do so.

c. Fayetteville – No Report

d. Peachtree City – No Report

Vice Committee Chair Madden made a correction for the record. He stated that he had previously told the Committee that Robinson Road was a truck route. He has since been corrected by the city manager. Robinson Road is a local truck delivery route only and the only acceptable truck routes through Peachtree City are the Georgia State Routes.

e. Tyrone – report given by Phillip Trocquet

Mr. Trocquet stated that there has not been much change since the last update was given. Town Council approved the route for the Tyrone Road cart path, greenway, and sidepath. Design for the project should be soon. The Town received bids for traffic engineering and transportation planning services.

f. Woolsey – No Report

Mr. Mallon explained that the design for the Hampton Road intersection project detention pond is causing the delay and they are waiting for the final plans to be sent to the County for review. Mayor Laggis asked if there has been any discussions with the owners about the acquisition of right-of-way. Mr. Mallon stated that we can answer questions about the process but nothing formal will be done until the Board of Commissioners has approved the plans. He hopes to present the plans to the Board before the end of the calendar year.

6. Public Comment

Keith Larson, a local bicycle-pedestrian advocate

Mr. Larson thanked the Committee for their continued efforts in addressing the bicycle and pedestrian needs throughout the county. These paths help provide alternative methods to get to schools, shopping, and community events. Mr. Larson stated that he would like to address two topics: Kenwood Sidewalk Project and the County Truck Routes.

The Kenwood Sidewalk project is a good initiative to address a community that has not had access to a pedestrian path but he would like for the County to expand the scope. He would like the County to consider creating a sidepath network like that proposed in the 2019 Comprehensive Transportation Plan / Master Path Plan. He understands that there may only be resources for the proposed path but would like for consideration into future connections.

Mr. Larson would like for the County to reconsider some of the suggested roads on the proposed county truck routes because they are identified bicycle routes in the rural portion of the county. He also stated that the roads were also not designed to withstand continuous heavy truck traffic and such traffic is not consistent with the goal of preserving the rural character of the area.

Joseph Caola, Peachtree City Resident

Mr. Caola stated that he submitted the open records request to hear the Committee's discussion about county truck routes. He does not believe that Council Member Madden has been accurately expressing the thoughts of the city council to the Transportation Committee. Mr. Caola stated that September 14th meeting minutes did not fully reflect the comments made about the use of Robinson Road as a truck route. The minutes did not mention the use of the portion of S. Peachtree Parkway as a feed-in to connect to a proposed east-west route using Bernhard and Goza. Mr. Caola played a short audio recording from the Peachtree City council meeting where the mayor expressed that she hoped Council Member Madden informed the Committee about the only acceptable truck routes and Council Member Madden confirmed that he had. Mr. Caola stated that Council Member Madden has not been fair with his choice of words between the Committee and the city council.

Sheila Demons

Mrs. Demons lives in the Yates Crossing subdivision at the corner of the intersection of Eastin Road and Veterans Parkway. There are three sets of 30 rumble strips at the intersection. Mrs. Demons stated that 30 rumble strips seems excessive and asked for consideration from the County to have them removed. She also noted that there are three sets of 10 by Pinewood Studios. Mrs. Demons asked if a traffic study has been done that warrants this or any other traffic control measures such as a four way stop or traffic signal. She understands that there are safety concerns for the intersection but does not think the rumble strips have reduced accidents. The noise generated by rumble strips is very loud and is a nuisance. Mrs. Demons also voiced her concern with sight distance and pedestrian safety.

7. Unfinished Business

a. County Truck Routes

Mr. Trocquet stated that Tyrone has two no truck routes mentioned in the ordinance: Senoia Road (from Palmetto Road to Dogwood Trail) and Castlewood Road.

Mr. Ungaro stated that the Committee should just stick to the state routes as truck routes as previously discussed. The Committee has been “chasing their tails” trying to create a list of truck routes and no truck routes. He stated that he believes the county attorney might say that no truck signs would have to be added at every road that trucks are not allowed to travel and Road Department would not want to put up all of those signs.

Committee Chair Ognio stated that the City of Atlanta has been putting up signs on every road they don’t want trucks on.

Mr. Ungaro stated each jurisdiction would have to adopt some sort of legislation stating that the state routes are only acceptable trucks routes and the consequences for exceeding weight limits on certain roads.

Committee Chair Ognio asked if this would place more burden on the City of Fayetteville and Peachtree City. Mr. Hindman stated that Jimmie Mayfield Blvd was specifically designed to divert traffic around the Downtown Fayetteville. Only allowing trucks on state routes would funnel them back through down and that would not work for them because they specifically want them go around. Mr. Mallon stated that there are several roads that serve the same purpose as Jimmie Mayfield Blvd: Corinth Road, Sandy Creek Rd, Tyrone Rd. He stated that he could not support a motion to limit truck to the State Routes.

Mr. Ungaro then suggested adding those additional roads to the route. Ms. Christian stated that this discussion has been on the agenda for a while. It started as creating truck route list and then moved to creating a no truck route list because the cities and towns could not agree on routes that would not negatively affect the jurisdiction they were directing traffic towards. Mr. Ungaro stated that this would be more of a hybrid solution.

Chairman Hearn stated that it is important to understand how trucks are traveling through the county and what would be the warrant to designating a road a no truck route.

Mr. Mallon stated that the idea to start small was his. He is not confident that this will gain the support of the Board of Commissioner. He wanted to start small and take it before the Board to receive their feedback. There are three BOC meetings left in the year and if the Committee agreed to a list, he would take it before the Board to ask for their consideration.

Mr. Ungaro made a motion to take the draft of the no truck routes before the Board of Commissioners to get their feedback. The motion was seconded by Vice Committee Chair Madden. The motion passed unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Update on Fayetteville Projects – Brian Wismer

Brian Wismer, Fayetteville’s Director of Downtown and Economic Development, gave updates on several projects.

- Multi-Use Path and Bridge

- Contract review is near completion with GDOT; When the review is complete, a Notice to Proceed will be issued
- They have been working on this project since 2012/2013 and they are excited to be close to getting the project to the construction phase
- Note: The path picks up at the end of the existing trail on Lester Road by Bennett's Mill Middle School and goes to Togwotee Village where it winds across SR 54 by bridge to end in the Piedmont Hospital parking lot
- The project schedule has 18 months for construction but the City is hopeful it will be finished in less than a year
- High Priority Trail Study
 - Fayetteville was able to work with Jacobs Engineering when the County was using them for the Master Path Plan
 - Identified high priority areas that were categorized into 3 tiers
 - Tier 1 projects – potential path connections close to existing trail networks, around the downtown area, and just south of downtown
 - The focus is to select locations that will offer the most benefits
 - This study will go out for bid on October 6th and look at the following connections:
 - convert the old road bed located by the new subdivision on Redwine near Ramah Road into a path to the Ridge Nature Area
 - connections between Spring Hill Elementary and Fayette County High to the City Center Park

b. GDOT'S Local Road Activity (LRA) Program – Takiyah Christian

Ms. Christian informed the Committee about GDOT's Local Road Activity (LRA) Program. GDOT is required to keep an updated and accurate list of all Georgia roads and road mileage. This is important for receiving the correct amount of funding for Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG). The grant is allocated based on a local government's centerline mileage and population density.

Local governments should submit a Local Road Activity Form with three months of a local road activity that change a road's physical characteristics or attributes such as:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Adding new roads | • Obliterating roads |
| • Changing ownership | • Changing surface types |
| • Extending existing roads | • Changing names |
| • Abandoning roads | • Adding lanes |

c. ARC TIP Solicitation

ARC is accepting 2022 TIP Solicitation applications until December 2nd.

Some things to note:

- only accepting applications from LAP certified sponsors
- only want the top priority projects and they need to be ranked

- any project that is submitted will need a resolution from the appropriate body of elected officials and that needs to be received by December 31st

Mr. Mallon stated that he would like present the list of projects to the Board on December 9th and would like to send them prior notice so that they can have more information. Mr. Mallon's deadline in November 10th. For the last TIP Solicitation, two of the three submitted project received funding but they only received funds for the design phase. He will resubmit those projects for funding for the right-of-way and construction phases. He will submit a list of roads for a county-wide resurfacing project. He stated that if any of the cities or town had anything they would like to add, they should reach out as soon as possible because the application process is lengthy.

Committee Chair Ognio asked for an update on the low hanging utility lines that have been reported. Ms. Christian informed him that most of the lines are in compliance with GDOT's standards and the utility owners for the ones out of compliance have been notified. There has not been any further response. Mr. Hindman stated that he has also contacted GDOT and utility owners about the same issue but has not received much response.

Chairman Hearn stated that he was informed that Peachtree City has the intention of closing Crabapple Lane where it ties into Loring Lane. Chairman Hearn that he has spoken with Peachtree City's City Council and informed them that they cannot close a road without constructing a cul-de-sac and who would be responsible for it since Crabapple Lane is within Tyrone, Peachtree City, and Fayette County. He would like Vice Committee Chair Madden to relay that message to the city council. Chairman Hearn stated that from the Commission standpoint, though he is one of five, they are not supportive of Peachtree City closing their portion of Crabapple Lane but respects their right to do so. He stated that if it is going to be done, it should be done correctly. Vice Committee Chair Madden stated that this topic is front and center on the council's agenda. Chairman Hearn added that the road has been open for more than 50 years. Vice Committee Chair Madden stated the residents of Kedron Hills would like the road closed to people from using their residential street as a connector. They do not want the traffic passing their community pool and playground.

Mr. Ungaro stated that Brooks is considering renaming the Highway 85 Connector. He stated that changing the name may reduce the number of drivers that use Highway 85 Connector to get to Highway 85. He did not have any ideas for a new name but is open to suggestions.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 PM. Vice Committee Chair Madden made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mallon and it passed unanimously.