

DRAFT MATS POLICY MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2010

A meeting of the MATS Policy Committee was held on June 22, 2010 at the Bibb County Engineering Annex. There were 9 voting members in attendance, thereby establishing a quorum. The minutes of the previous meeting were introduced and approved. Jim Thomas gave a report on the Technical meeting that was held the previous month. Under public input, Susan Hanberry thanked the Mayor for the presentation on the Second St. project. In addition, Lee Martin stated that Zebulon Rd. is dangerous for pedestrians to walk across. The first item on the agenda was the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2011-14. Ken North reviewed the draft TIP document and stated the Forest Hill and Jeffersonville Rd. projects had been put back into the document. He also reviewed the airport and transit projects in the document. Finally, he stated that there had been no public comments for the TIP received during the public review period. James Webb stated that the CAC had some problems with the TIP. They thought the Forest Hill and Jeffersonville Rd. projects should not be included in the document. In addition, the roads were not being planned for pedestrians and there should be more transit projects. Joe Allen commented that the runway extension project at the airport should be moved up because it is an important project. The Mayor agreed that this is an important project but the availability of funding is an issue in regards to this matter. Chairman Hart stated that the MATS Policy Committee should send a letter in support of this project. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Reichert and seconded by Radney Simpson to approve the final TIP. The motion was passed by the committee members in attendance except for James Webb.

The next item discussed was the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) by Don Tussing. He stated there were three projects that had been requested by the Policy Committee to be placed in the LRTP as illustrative projects because there is currently no funding available. These projects were the Second St./Richard Penniman Connector, the Seventh St. project and the Sardis Church/Sgoda Rd. extension. These three projects had been discussed before at a previous MATS Policy meeting. The Mayor inquired if these projects could be included as part of the regional transportation roundtable and Radney Simpson stated this would be possible. Subsequently, the Mayor asked if these projects could also be part of the TIP but Jim Thomas stated that funding would have to be available before this could happen. Furthermore, Don Tussing stated that in the Transportation Plan update in 2012, the three projects would also have to be included before they could be put in the TIP. In addition, there would have to be a prioritization process established in regards to the inclusion of the projects in the future LRTP. Subsequently, a motion was made by Mayor Reichert and seconded by Joe Allen to approve the project amendments to the LRTP and the motion was approved. Rick Hutto stated that the Second St. project would increase traffic on Gray Hwy. especially at the intersection with Shurling Dr. Therefore, this issue needs to be addressed in the future. Jim Thomas stated that an analysis of the entire network could be done and maybe some type of safety project could be considered in the future.

Under the Functional Classification system, Don Tussing presented a resolution requesting a change in the classification of certain roads from urban to collector status. There were a total of 13 roads presented and the reclassification would result in an increase in terms

of potential funding. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Mayor Reichert and seconded by Joe Allen. Subsequently, the motion was passed by Policy Committee members.

Tom Queen presented the project status report. He mentioned that the Water Works trail concept had been approved and the environmental document had been submitted. He also stated that there will be a preconstruction meeting on the I-75 widening project next week. Mr. Queen also talked about House Bill 277 which involves funding for transportation. This bill proposes a one percent sales tax to fund transportation projects for a 10 year period. Regional transportation roundtables will be established in each area of the state. The executive committee will present a list of projects to each regional transportation roundtable. The first step is to establish state strategic transportation elements and the roundtables will discuss the criteria for this. Jim Thomas stated that someone should come to the Middle Georgia Region to discuss the process in further detail.

Under new business, the Mayor stated that there is meeting with Georgia D.O.T. that is scheduled to discuss the future freight and logistics plan. In addition, he commented that the Policy Committee may need to get involved in the future with an interagency meeting regarding the Sardis Church Rd. and airport runway extension. After further discussion, it was decided that the Policy Committee should send a letter to the FAA and GDOT requesting a meeting to discuss those projects. Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.