

DRAFT MATS POLICY MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2010

A meeting of the MATS Policy Committee was held on April 7, 2010 in the Bibb County Engineering Annex. There were eleven voting members present, thereby establishing a quorum. The meeting agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting were introduced and approved. Under Committee Reports, Jim Thomas gave an overview of the TCC meeting that was held the previous month. For public input, Lindsay Holliday discussed the Forest Hill Rd. project. He stated that he had contacted the Georgia D.O.T. concerning the repaving of Forest Hill Rd. Subsequently, he was informed that Forest Hill Rd. could be repaved without the project being redesigned. In addition, he also commented there was an error in the environmental document for this project due to the misclassification of a stream in the area. Finally, he presented a petition from local residents that were opposed to the project.

Under the Agenda Items, Jim Thomas discussed the 2011 UPWP. He stated this document describes the work program for the MPO staff for the entire year. The draft UPWP had been approved by the Policy Committee in December but the final document also needed to be approved. He stated the final copy contained some minor revisions in the task descriptions. Subsequently, the twelve tasks in the final UPWP were reviewed and discussed. Subsequently, a motion was made by Elmo Richardson and seconded by Mayor Reichert to adopt the final UPWP. The motion was passed unanimously by the members in attendance.

The next items discussed on the agenda were the Second St., Seventh St., and Sardis Church Rd. projects. Jim Thomas commented that these projects were discussed at the previous Policy meeting and were referred for further review. After a review of these projects, it was recommended they be considered for inclusion in the LRTP and TIP which will require a special called meeting in the future.

Ken North discussed the 2011-14 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He presented a list of projects from Georgia D.O.T. that contained the road projects for the TIP update. The list of updated projects included the Forest Hill Rd. and Jeffersonville Rd. projects which were not contained in last years TIP document. Van Etheridge commented that the right of way acquisition date for the Jeffersonville Rd. project (Emery Hwy to Walnut Creek) should be moved up to 2012. Cindy Van Dyke stated that she would check to see if the ROW date could be altered for this project. In addition, Mayor Reichert stated that the Wimbish Rd. and Rivoli Rd. bike lane projects do not have the local funding match available to be completed. Therefore, the funding for these items should be redirected for use as sidewalk projects as part of the College Hill Corridor project. Jim Thomas replied that both Wimbish Rd. and Rivoli Rd. are earmarked projects and Congress will have to change this before the funding can be redirected. In addition, there should be an earmark for the Second St., Seventh St. and Sardis Church projects but they must be included in the STIP. Cindy Van Dyke replied that these projects could be designated as illustrative projects so they could be included in the LRTP. Subsequently, Don Tussing commented that he had spoken to officials at GDOT and the MATS Policy Committee should send a letter in support of these projects so they could be considered for funding. The Mayor stated that he supports these three projects and they should be pursued. The Seventh Street project will alleviate truck traffic in the museum district and there are plans to construct a roundabout as part of the project.

James Webb stated that it was the opinion of the CAC that the Second St. project would encourage connectivity and the Interface Studios firm should be hired to work on all road projects. In addition, the Sardis Church extension was a good concept and the seeking of National Park designation for the Ocmulgee National Monument should be studied. In addition, the project would reduce truck traffic and improve access to Robins AFB. Furthermore, the project would reduce traffic through the I-16/I-75 interchange so the proposed improvements could be scaled down. After further discussion, a motion was made by Sam Hart and seconded by James Webb to prepare letters of support for the three projects and to include them as illustrative projects. The motion was passed unanimously by the voting members present.

The next agenda item discussed was the Jobs for Main Street program which was presented by Gregory Floyd. The name of the program has been changed to the HIRE Act as a result of a bill that was signed on March 18th. He stated that this program involved the reallocation of TARP funds that were still available in order to create jobs and funding is available for transportation projects. Therefore, the Macon Transit Authority (MTA) is seeking funding in order to construct a new maintenance facility. Currently, the MTA has to share a maintenance facility with the city but would like to construct a facility of their own. The criteria for the HIRE projects are similar to the ARRA program in that the projects need to be shovel ready. Therefore, plans are being made to make sure that this project is ready in case funding is

available under the HIRE program. Recently, an RFQ was completed for the MTA to hire a consultant to do a NEPA study for the proposed site for the new maintenance facility. Furthermore, the NEPA study should begin on the new site shortly. The site of the proposed maintenance facility is adjacent to the existing city vehicle maintenance building on Seventh St.

Tom Queen presented the project status report. He stated that construction will begin soon on the Riverside Dr. streetscape project. In addition, design work is also being done on the Thomaston/Lamar Rd. roundabout project. Joe Allen commented that there will be a public meeting on this project also. There were also some additional projects reviewed followed by further discussion.

Under Old Business, Jim Thomas discussed the Origin & Destination study for the I-16/I-75 interchange project. He stated the TCC had discussed the proposed study and there had been a motion made against pursuing the study but it failed due to lack of a second. James Webb commented that the CAC had been in favor of pursuing the study. Therefore, he made a motion to defer any decision on the study until further research can be done to find out the cost of an actual study. The motion to defer was seconded by Tony Rojas and approved by the voting members present.

Under New Business, Jim Thomas discussed the minutes for the Policy meetings. Members of the CAC had requested that the draft minutes of the Policy meeting be available for review on the Planning & Zoning website. In the past, the minutes were not available to the public until they had been approved. However, the MATS Policy members were sent copies of the draft minutes before the meeting so they could be reviewed. Tony Rojas stated that since the draft minutes were sent to the Policy members beforehand they could be considered as part of the public record. Therefore, they could be posted on the website after they are sent out to the Policy members. After further discussion, a decision was made that the draft Policy minutes could be posted on the website before the Policy meetings. Being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

POLICY MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Those Attending	Representing
1. Jim Thomas*	Damon King, Macon-Bibb P & Z Chairman
2. Lindsay Holliday	CAC
3. Steve Layson	Bibb County
4. Robert Reichert*	Mayor, City of Macon
5. Tom Queen	Georgia D.O.T.
6. Ken North	Macon-Bibb Co. Planning & Zoning Comm.
7. David Fortson	Ken Sheets, Bibb Co. Engineering
8. Don Tussing	Macon-Bibb Planning & Zoning Comm.
9. Cindy Van Dyke*	Vance Smith Jr., GDOT Commissioner
10. Elmo Richarson*	Bibb Co. Commission
11. Bill Causey	City Engineer
12. Van Etheridge	Road Improvement Program
13. Mike Underwood*	Larry Childs, Jones Co. Commission
14. Paula Gregory	Citizen
15. Greg Brown	Macon-Bibb Co. Planning & Zoning Comm.
16. Gigi Cabell	
17. Nigel Floyd	Macon-Bibb Traffic Engineer
18. Sam Hart*	Chairman, Bibb Co. Commission
19. Joe Allen*	Bibb Co. Commission
20. Bert Liston*	Jones Co. Commission
21. Ray Shell	Macon Water Authority
22. Tony Rojas*	Frank Amerson, Macon Water Authority
23. Michael Ryan	Citizen
24. Mike Stucka	Macon Telegraph
25. Michael Wanna	Macon Water Authority
26. Rick Jones*	Tom Hudson, Macon Transit Authority
27. James Webb*	CAC Chairman
28. Greg Floyd	Macon –Bibb Planning & Zoning

*Voting Member