

# **MATS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The meeting dates for the next series of MATS meetings are as follows:

1. Technical Coordinating Committee – The meeting will be held on March 18, 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Macon Bibb Co. Planning & Zoning Office, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, 682 Cherry St., Macon, GA 31201
2. Policy Committee – The meeting will be held on April 1, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Bibb Co. Engineering Annex, 760 Third St., Macon, GA 31201

The meeting agenda and the minutes from the previous meetings are located below.

## **MATS AGENDA**

--Roll Call

--Approval of Minutes

1. Unified Planning Work Program – Adoption of final document
2. MATS Model Network and Emissions Analysis – Presentation by Georgia D.O.T.
3. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan – Update of plan
4. Transportation Improvement Program – Review of draft document and amendments
5. CAC & Comments - Committee Presentation
6. Road Project Status Report – Presented by Georgia D.O.T.
7. Old Business  
Sgoda Rd. Extension
8. New Business

ADJOURN

## MATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 21, 2009

A meeting of the MATS Technical Committee was held on January 21<sup>st</sup> in the Planning & Zoning Office. There were 13 voting members present, thereby establishing a quorum. The minutes of the previous meeting were introduced and approved by the committee members. A motion was made by Ken Sheets and seconded by Bill Causey to nominate Tony Rojas as Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

The first item on the agenda that was discussed was the Sgoda Road extension. Don Tussing stated that a presentation concerning this project was made at the previous MATS meeting. The project is being reviewed as part of the prioritization list of projects for the Macon area. Kelly Gwin suggested that a letter from the MATS Policy Committee be sent to Georgia D.O.T. in order to request funding for a possible study for this project. In addition, Phil Clark stated that a letter from the Twiggs County Commission also be sent to Georgia D.O.T. in order to show additional support for the project. This information would be presented at the next MATS Policy Committee.

The next item discussed was the TIP Amendments. Ken North stated that several projects had been moved into FY 2009 in terms of funding but there were also other projects that had been moved to Long Range. In addition, he mentioned there were some new projects that involved funding for studies of proposed interstates. Kelly Gwin mentioned that the studies are listed as separate projects because they involve different funding categories which have been earmarked. Ken Sheets had some concerns that the construction date had been moved back for the SR 87 & Joe Tamplin Blvd. project. It was commented that this project was part of the federal economic stimulus package that had not been approved yet so the project had to be moved to Long Range. Also there was some discussion regarding the Forest Hill Rd. project which had also been moved to Long Range status. Phil Clark stated there were problems with delays at the intersection of Forest Hill Rd. and Ridge Avenue due to the left turn movements at this location. He asked if anything could be done at this intersection before the proposed widening of the road took place. Nigel Floyd stated that there were signs at this location that prohibited left turns that should be observed by the public. In regards to the TIP amendments, James Webb stated that the CAC had recommended that there should be a moratorium on all related right of way acquisitions until a construction schedule has been established. It was stated that the right of way purchase for the Forest Hill Rd. project had been suspended. In addition, the right of way phase of the I-16/I-75 interchange project had been moved back to 2011 and the environmental document was still being reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made by Kelly Gwin and seconded by Bill Causey to adopt the TIP amendments which was approved by the members except for Ken Sheets because of his concerns for the Joe Tamplin project. Kelly Gwin stated that she would find out more about this particular project for the next Policy Committee meeting.

Latoya Jones gave a further explanation regarding the TIP amendments. She stated that there was no STIP update done last year and because of the fiscal constraints some projects had to be moved back. Unfortunately, the funding for the projects was not available at this time. Tom Queen mentioned that project prioritization is underway at Georgia D.O.T. and the bridge section is close to completion. James Webb inquired if the prioritization process would take into consideration the projects that are currently listed as being in long range. Kelly Gwin stated the process is examining the possibility of eliminating some of the long range projects if funding is not available. The prioritization process is attempting to come up with a more realistic list of

projects in terms of what is needed the most. Don Tussing also commented that some of the long range projects may not be included in the 2035 LRTP as a result of the priority list. After further discussion, the committee discussed the recommendation of the CAC to impose a moratorium on the right of way acquisition for certain projects. The request was not considered due to the lack of a motion by the committee members.

Tom Queen of Georgia D.O.T. presented the project status report. He stated that the prioritization process for the bridge projects was being conducted and this included the bridge projects in the MATS area. In addition, he stated that some of the funding for the airport projects in Macon had been eliminated in the most recent budget. Also some of the high priority projects for Macon included several DNR trail projects.

Under the CAC comments, James Webb reviewed a memo from the CAC. This memo recommended that the proposed funding to study new interstates would be better spent examining other alternatives such as freight and passenger rail service. In addition, the funding earmarked for the Second St. Bridge project should be reallocated to more worthy projects because the project would adversely impact the existing neighborhood. Bill Causey stated that the Second St. bridge project had originally started as a request to just resurface the bridge. However, the Georgia D.O.T. determined that this was not feasible and the project was included in the bridge program. The earmark for the project had been granted at the request of Mayor Ellis. Finally, Phil Clark mentioned that there should be coordination between FTA and FHWA as part of the study for the new Interstates.

Under New Business, Michael Ryan discussed the Second St. bridge project. He stated that the allowance for double stacking of rail cars would be very expensive. In addition, the existing cut is not wide enough for dual tracks in this area. Michael Ryan inquired if an environmental document could be prepared for this project. Latoya Jones responded that if federal money is involved, the NEPA requirements are applicable for this project. Michael Ryan stated that resurfacing is the only thing that should be done for the Second St. bridge. In addition, he inquired if this project is tied to the relocation of the Bibb Co. Courthouse. The committee members were not sure in regards to this matter. Finally, there was some discussion in regards to the addition of an airport runway project as part of the TIP update. Being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

## MATS POLICY MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2009

A meeting of the MATS Policy Committee was held on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> in the Bibb Co. Engineering Annex. There were 10 voting members present, thereby establishing a quorum. The Policy Committee members approved the meeting agenda as well as the minutes from the previous meeting. The reports from both the meetings of the CAC and TCC were presented to the members. Under public input, Michael Ryan discussed the Second St. bridge project. He stated that this area is an historic district and the proposed bridge project will do substantial damage to the neighborhood. A reasonable alternative for this project would involve only the resurfacing of the bridge. In addition, Mr. Ryan also stated that the relocation of the county courthouse would result in traffic congestion. Lindsay Holliday discussed the Forest Hill Rd. project. He commented that the roadway only requires the construction of left turn lanes at intersections and does not need widening.

The first agenda item that was discussed was the Resolution of Appreciation for Vernon Ryle. A motion was made by Elmo Richardson and seconded by Joe Allen to approve the resolution for presentation at the next MATS Policy meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item was the Sgoda Road extension presented by Don Tussing. He stated this project would involve the extension of this roadway into Twiggs Co. all the way to I-16. The proposed project would be a two lane facility with an estimated cost of 95 million. The project should be presented to the surrounding counties in order to receive their input. Jim Thomas stated that a meeting should be held with the County Commissions of the adjacent counties to see if there is support for the project. This project is more of a regional issue and steps should be taken to find out if it is worth pursuing. Elmo Richardson commented that the project should be examined further to see how it might tie into the proposed Fall Line Freeway. Joe Allen inquired if the extension of Hwy 49 was still being considered and Jim Thomas replied the project had not been discussed in a long time. After further discussion, a motion was made by Sam Hart and seconded by Joe Allen to arrange a meeting with various parties on a regional basis to discuss the Sgoda Rd. project. Subsequently, there were some additional comments made concerning the motion. Mayor Reichert stated that the Middle Georgia RDC could arrange the meeting and Don Tussing added the project could be included in the Transportation Plan. Furthermore, Jim Thomas commented that a request could be made to Georgia D.O.T. for funding for the project after the meeting occurred. The motion for the meeting was subsequently approved by the committee members.

The TIP amendments on the agenda were not discussed because the economic stimulus package had not been finalized. The project status report was the next item on the agenda. Radney Simpson stated the project prioritization process is currently underway. Lindsay Holliday asked if the temporary state route status of Forest Hill Rd. would prohibit local funding for the resurfacing of the roadway. Mr. Simpson stated that he would find out this information in regards to Forest Hill Rd. Mayor Reichert stated that Bill Causey should be contacted in regards to the possible resurfacing of Forest Hill Rd.

Under the election of officers, a motion was made by Joe Allen and seconded by Sam Hart for Mayor Reichert to remain as the Chairman of the Policy Committee. The motion was approved unanimously. Subsequently, a motion was made by Joe Allen and seconded by Mayor Reichert for Sam Hart to be the Vice-Chairman of the committee that was also approved by the Policy

Committee. Under Old Business, Jim Thomas stated that the MATS by-laws still needed to be reviewed in the future. Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.