

Albany

GAMPO Meeting

Athens

Monday, September 28, 2020; 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Atlanta

9:30 Call to Order/Introductions
Approval of Minutes

Rick Jones, Chair

Rick Jones, Chair

Augusta

9:40 FHWA Update
9:50 Introduction of GDOT Deputy Director
10:00 Introduction of GDOT Planning Director

Andy Edwards, FHWA

Matt Markham, GDOT

Jannine Miller, GDOT

10:10 Transit Planning Update

Ryan Walker, State Transit Planner

10:20 FTA Update

10:30 RITIS

Habte Kassa, GDOT Tech Services,

Brunswick

11:00 TPM Updates

PM1

David Adams, GDOT Safety Program Manager

PM2

Ernay Robinson, GDOT Asst State Maint Eng

Cartersville

PM3

Jen Zhan, MMP

Chattanooga, TN

PL Funds Review Committee

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Columbus

11:45 Call to Order/Introductions

Rick Jones, Chair

Update on Previously Funded Projects

Various

Dalton

P.I. No. 0016813 – Rome – Regional Transportation Plan

P.I. No. 0016427 – Gainesville – Regional Transportation Plan

P.I. No. 0016814 – Gainesville – SR 365 Jesse Jewell Traffic Impact Study

P.I. No. 0017427 – Savannah – SR 21 Access Management Study

Hinesville

P.I. No. 0016087 – Hinesville – Master Transportation Plan Update

P.I. No. 0016420 – Brunswick – Lanier Gloucester Improvements

P.I. No. 0016421 – Brunswick – 2045 MTP with SSI component

P.I. No. 0017427 – Brunswick – Bay Street Corridor Study

Gainesville

P.I. No. 0016424 – Columbus – 2nd Ave Streetscape Study

P.I. No. 0016425 – Columbus – Allen Parkway/US 80 Study

P.I. No. 0016426 – Dalton – 2045 LRTP

Macon

P.I. No. 0016428 – Warner Robins – 2045 LRTP

P.I. No. 0016812 – Augusta – Regional Transportation Plan

Rome

12:00 PL Funds Status Report

Ted Hicks, GDOT

12:10 Discussion of New Proposal

SR 307 Corridor Study, Savannah

12:50 Confirm next GAMPO meeting date 3/29/21

All

Savannah

1:00 Adjourn

Valdosta

Warner Robins

**GAMPO Meeting
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2020; 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

Call to Order/Introductions

Chairman Rick Jones opened the meeting. Members were asked to update their email addresses in the chat box as a means of registering their attendance while improving the group distribution list.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Jones called for action to be taken on the minutes of the March 20, 2020 meeting of GAMPO and the PL Funds Committee. Corey Hull made the motion which was seconded by John Orr. Minutes were approved unanimously.

FHWA Update

Andy Edwards opened his comments by complimenting GAMPO members on their abilities to manage their transportation operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Congress has approved an extension for the budget which keeps federal funding at existing levels. The extension has yet to be signed by the President.

Mr. Edwards sought input from the group about how COVID-19 and the use of virtual meetings has been received thus far.

Columbus reported the receipt of more public input on recent projects than was typical. Rick Jones credits that to having online access and the efficiency that comes with working remotely. Tom Sills reported that since March all CBMPO meetings have been held remotely. One online outreach effort on a local sidewalk project resulted in no comments being received. In person meetings of the Policy Committee are slated to begin in November. Artagus Newell reports that the Floyd-Rome MPO committees have been meeting in a hybrid fashion with some members in person while others are online during the same meeting. There have been some communication issues when, for example, the internet connection was not optimal. In general, Mr. Newell stated he misses the personal interaction. Corey Hull reported that the Valdosta-Lowndes MPO has seen little impact from going to a virtual meeting arrangement.

Mr. Edwards then requested feedback on FHWA/MPO operations. Rick Jones mentioned the recent Columbus experience with trying to implement the placement of bike racks throughout the city using TE/TAP funding. The environmental permitting and review requirements imposed would have costed more than the actual bike racks themselves. For that reason the project was scrapped until another funding approach could be worked out.

Introduction of GDOT Deputy Director Matt Markham

The floor was given to Matt Markham, newly-appointed Deputy Director of the GDOT Office of Planning, to introduce himself to GAMPO. Mr. Markham reviewed his past experience in state and local agencies with the most recent being with the Georgia Department of Economic Development. His experience involves freight and the movement of goods as an economic generator. He is tasked with bringing that emphasis on freight to the Department's Office of Planning as well as handling general office management oversight.

Introduction of GDOT Planning Director Jannine Miller

Next the floor was given to Jannine Miller, the newly-appointed Director of the Office of Planning. Her appointment to the position by Governor Kemp was approved on the last day of the recent General Assembly session. Her previous employment includes service with the Office of Planning and Budget, the Atlanta Regional Commission, the State Roads and Tollway Authority, the Department of Economic Development, the federal government, and various consulting firms. She indicated that her experience with these entities has helped guide her efforts with GDOT.

Ms. Mille provided updates on the efforts of the Office of Planning. HB 1098 required the development of a Statewide Strategic Investment Plan which is to operate in lockstep with the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The joint document is on schedule to be finalized in January. The National Freight Strategic Plan was being developed while she worked at the federal level prior to taking the Director position with GDOT. That plan was formally completed on September 3rd. Recent regulatory changes in environmental permitting have been formally adopted at the federal level. This “One Agency Initiative” includes having the Council on Environmental Quality serve as the sole clearinghouse on NEPA documents from every agency. The placement of time and page limits on environmental reporting is hoped to provide a quicker assessment of the viability of potential projects as well. Locally, Charles Robinson with her staff is participating in a Planning and Environment linkage effort within the Department and other state agencies to streamline the permitting processes as well. Ms. Miller acknowledged the role that virtual public engagement efforts have played during the pandemic and is eager to seek ways to improve the practice in future projects and programs offered by the Department. In wrapping up her part on the program she was asked by John Orr about what changes were being made to the federal requirements concerning Environmental Assessments. Additional research is needed to answer that question.

Transit Planning Update

Ryan Walker summarized his update with a powerpoint presentation attached to these minutes. Briefly, the Group Transit Asset Management Plan update is underway. He notes this update to the local TIP must be done whenever a new TIP is adopted. The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans are due December 31. GDOT Intermodal assisted those agencies with less than 100 vehicles and most of these plans were actually completed by July. The targets established in these documents should be incorporated as updates are made to TIP and RTP documents. This requirement applies to recipients of urban system funds. The FY 2022 Call for Projects is open for submittal from October 1 through December 7. The process is totally online using the new BlackCat operating system. Training on the use of this system has been provided through two workshops which have been recorded and are available for viewing on the Intermodal website. A change being made to the process for requesting additional funding is that a deliverable must be specified in the submittal. These requests will also be handled as a separate funding contract.

FTA Update

No one from the Federal Transit Agency was present so there was no FTA update given at the meeting.

RITIS

Habte Kassa informed those present that GDOT has purchased statewide travel information on the RITIS network which now extends beyond coverage of the National Highway System routes but does not cover all local roads. This information is available for those using RITIS within the State of Georgia.

TPM Updates

Mr. Kassa and Jennifer Zhan proceeded in the same PowerPoint presentation to present the PM3 System Performance data and standards update. The PowerPoint is attached to these minutes. As a result of the mid-performance reporting, no changes to the PM3 standards are being suggested.

The PM1 Road Safety Performance update was provided by David Adams via a PowerPoint presentation (attached). A re-evaluation of the data for serious injury accidents resulted in significant drops from the previous estimates. Changes in the performance measures were necessitated as a result of this research. The revised performance standards have been corroborated with Emergency Management System data.

At this point in the meeting Rick Jones called for a short break prior to hearing presentations about PM 2 Pavement and Maintenance Performance standards and the opening of the PL Funds Committee portion of this day’s agenda.

After concluding the break, GAMPO heard from Ms. Ernay Robinson about recent efforts regarding the PM2 Pavement and Bridge Maintenance performance standards. As of the mid-term reporting period, all PM2 standards are being met or exceeded. No changes are being proposed with the statewide PM2 performance measures. Ms. Robinson then updated GAMPO on the new approaches being taken by GDOT to assess pavement conditions. GDOT has initiated the use of an Overall Condition Index (OCI) with different methodologies to replace the PACES system of reporting. It is expected this new approach will be more cost effective and enable the data to be more readily available to its clientele.

The GAMPO meeting was then adjourned.

**PL Funds Review Committee
Microsoft Teams virtual meeting
Monday, September 28, 2020
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM**

Rick Jones called this meeting of the PL Funds Committee to order. Those present are noted in the recorded proceedings of the meeting.

Updates on Previously Funded Projects

Rome	Regional Transportation Plan is in the public input phase. Am using virtual meetings and an interactive mapping tool to gather input. On track to have the plan adopted in Spring 2021.
Gainesville	The RTP was adopted this past May. This contract is completed. The SR 365 Jesse Jewell Parkway study was delayed in part due to the travel pattern changes brought about by the pandemic. The study is expected to be completed and adopted in November of this year.
Savannah	The MOUs and TIP amendments are in place to allow implementation of the SR 21 Access Management Study. Work is on-going with the RFP expected to be advertised in October 2020.
Hinesville	The community adopted the RTP in September 2020. The project is completed.
Brunswick	Planning is completed and implementation started on the Lanier Gloucester roadway improvements project. The community RTP has been adopted. The comment period on the St Simons Island element concluded this past week. These comments will need to be reviewed and addressed prior to completing this element. The Bay Street Corridor Study is in the data gathering stage at this time.
Columbus	The Second Avenue Streetscape Study is nearing completion after getting lots of good online public comments. The Allen Parkway/US 80 Study also received a fair amount of public comment through an online process and is nearing completion.
Dalton	Via email, the Greater Dalton MPO reports that it finalized the 2045 MTP update on June 8 th and the project is completed.
Warner Robins	The MPO is on track to complete the RTP later in October 2020. The public comment period will conclude this week and efforts to gain input were both online and in person.
Augusta	No report.

PL Funds Status

Ted Hicks, GDOT, reported that the existing balance within the PL Funds account amounts to \$5,282,630.34. This amount includes the agreed upon \$3 million balance to be kept in reserve for those fiscal years when many RTPs are to be developed. A copy of the reporting is attached with these minutes.

Discussion of New Proposal

Mark Wilkes presented Chatham County's proposal to use PL funds to study the SR 307 corridor which is receiving much of the freight traffic as it leaves the Interstate system to get to the Georgia ports. The corridor also serves a significant commercial district on the end opposite the freight route. The proposal was unanimously approved for funding upon a motion by Jeff Ricketson and second by Ben Peace.

Next meeting and other issues

Chairman Jones requested information from the meeting participants regarding efforts in their areas to develop a TSPLOST. At this point only Gwinnett County within the Atlanta ARC service area has a TSPLOST vote scheduled and that is to consider adding support



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for public transit within that community. Valdosta/Lowndes County and Atlanta/Fulton County have begun discussions. Cartersville/Bartow County may begin discussing a vote in the next two years.

Chairman Jones referred to recent news reports about the state's low participation rates in the U.S. Census. He urged those in the meeting to encourage others to participate due to the significant impact the Census has on allocation of federal funding and Congressional representation.

The Macon Convention and Visitors Bureau approached Chairman Jones about sponsoring the Spring 2021 GAMPO meeting within that city. There were no details offered and due to the uncertainty revolving around the COVID-19 pandemic status at that time, little comment was offered from those present in the meeting. Chairman Jones asked that GAMPO members think and reflect on the matter and get back to him with their thoughts and concerns.

With no further business, the meeting was then adjourned!