

**HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA
TIA CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL MEETING
MINUTES
February 27, 2014**

Members Present

Billy Trapnell, Mayor, City of Metter
Roy Herrington, Baxley, Georgia
Phil Best, Mayor, City of Dublin
H.G. Yeomans, Emanuel County
Homer Garnto, Adrian, Georgia

Staff Present

Brett Manning
Rafael Nail
Michelle Brown

Guests

Mike Dover, TIA Administrator, GDOT
Tony Sanger, TIA Program Manager, GDOT
Tony Collins, Local Liaison, GDOT
Jill Goldberg, Communications/Media Manager,
GDOT
Shrujal Amin, Project Manager, GDOT
Kelvin Mullins, TIA Regional Coordinator, GDOT
Bill Lindsey, County Administrator, Candler
County
Joe Mosley, City Manager, City of Metter
Keith McNeal, Chairman, Wheeler County
Wayne Hall, Commissioner, Jeff Davis County
Bob Brockman, Sole Commissioner, Bleckley
County
Bryan Rogers, County Administrator, Laurens
County
Buddy Adams, Vice Chairman, Laurens County
Dywane Johnson, Councilman, City of Hazlehurst
James Canady, Commissioner, Emanuel County
Ezra Price, County Administrator, Emanuel
County
Desse Davis, Commissioner, Emanuel County
Joey Fountain, Mayor, City of Mount Vernon

CALL TO ORDER

The TIA Citizens Review Panel meeting for February 27, 2014 was held at the Mount Vernon/Montgomery County Community Service and Senior Citizens Center in Mount Vernon, Georgia. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Chairman Billy Trapnell, Mayor of Metter. Chairman Trapnell welcomed everyone to the meeting and called on Roy Herrington, to give the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Trapnell introduced and welcomed Homer Garnto a new TIA Citizens Review Panel member and then asked Mike Dover, TIA Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to introduce his staff. Mike introduced Tony Sanger, TIA Program Manager; Tony Collins, Local Liaison for HOGARC area; Jill Goldberg, Communications/Media Manager; Shrujal Amin, Project Manager; and Kelvin Mullins, TIA Regional Coordinator.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Trapnell stated that the Minutes for the December 10, 2013 TIA Citizens Review Panel Meeting had been mailed out to all Members and he would entertain a motion for approval. A motion was made by Roy Herrington and seconded by Phil Best to approve the Minutes, as mailed. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR PROJECT BAND CHANGES

Chairman Trapnell stated that there had been another group of request for band changes for Band 1. Chairman Trapnell stated that the Regional Advisory Council had approved the band changes and that GDOT had also reviewed and accepted the changes. A motion was made by Roy Herrington and seconded by H.G. Yeomans to approve the Group 3 Band 1 changes. The vote passed unanimously.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TIA STATUS UPDATE

Chairman Trapnell then called on Mike Dover to update the Panel. Mike stated that we have come a long way with the TIA program. Mike stated he would like to review band changes and how much progress has been made in a years' time. Mike explained that this was the third round of band changes and that GDOT wanted to be as flexible as possible with changes. He did let them know that there are procedures for band changes and that it was critical that they follow the procedure. He stated that when a local government requests a band change they should make sure that they justify the change. He also let them know that there is some unbalancing between the bands. He asked that they try to keep the projects budget neutral. He stated that as of right now Band 2 was unbalanced therefore the local government has to pay the difference until Band 3 when the local government would be reimbursed.

Mike then informed the Panel about some success stories. He let them know that a groundbreaking had been held for the Eastman Bypass. He stated this was a blended project including federal money along with TIA funds. He stated this project would not

have accelerated as quickly if it had not had the TIA money associated with it. He also let them know that an outreach event had been held in August for disadvantaged and small businesses to help firms interested in learning more about upcoming opportunities related to the TIA program projects.

Mike also informed the Panel that a local government survey would be sent out to help GDOT with customer service and to let them know how they are doing in the TIA office. The survey will also have questions pertaining to how the local governments are using their discretionary money.

Mike stated that they currently have a year of collections on hand. He asked them to submit invoices if the local government is doing the work on projects. He stated they would be sending out a letter with an email address on where to send the invoices.

Mike then talked about collections. He stated that for all three regions that passed T-SPLOST \$130 million had been collected. Mike then showed a chart explaining that \$98 million had been collected for projects on the improved investment list for all three regions. He stated that for these three regions the local governments were splitting around \$32 million for these projects. He stated that was good for a year's worth of collections.

Mike then asked Tony Sanger, Program Manager, GDOT to explain to the Panel about inflation and how the program is being managed. Tony stated that the HOGARC is down 20% in collections and they have looked extensively at what to do about it. Tony showed several graphs and explained that with the plan they have in place all projects should be able to be delivered as planned. Mike added that even though we are 20% behind he feels comfortable with the program and currently have had no contracts come in over what was estimated using the 2011 dollars. A question was asked about how the bids are coming in. Tony stated that are coming in 8-12% lower.

Mike let everyone know that they have a Facebook and Twitter account and also send out e-blast for communication. He also let them know that if a local government is delivering their projects they have signs available to order. Mike showed a 2x3 sign that is available to order at \$46 each. He stated that he had order forms available or they could also go on the website to obtain and order form.

Mike then gave the status on some of the major projects for the HOGARC area. He stated Wayne County had two projects on the approved investment list. One of the projects for Wayne is SR 169. He informed them that Wayne County is managing the project and they are moving forward with preliminary engineering. He stated the project would be let in late 2015. The Oconee River Bridge project in Laurens County which is a blended project will be let in June, 2014. Appling County's blended project is the US 1 Bridge over the Altamaha River with a proposed letting in June, 2014. He stated that they are getting some of the preliminary engineering for Band 2 projects underway.

Mike then asked Tony Collins to inform the Panel on what the Department was doing with the active resurfacing projects. Tony explained that the TIA budget was \$1.358 million and the award amount was \$1.4 million. He stated that was a good sign. Tony stated that GDOT has let 22 resurfacing projects since June, 2013. These projects were for Emanuel, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, and Treutlen counties along with some

municipalities within the counties. The July letting for 2013 was under two contracts and covered Appling County and the City of Baxley with 15 resurfacing projects. The budgeted amount for those projects was \$564,000 and the actual cost was \$338,000. Wayne County and the City of Jesup had 4 resurfacing projects with a budgeted amount of \$547,900 and the actual cost was \$397,000. Another blended project was let in October which was the Eastman Bypass located in Dodge County. They are currently in the early stages of construction which started in December, 2013. The project is a \$7 million project. Tony stated they have projects to be let every month for the next nine months.

Kelvin Mullins, TIA Regional Coordinator, addressed the Panel on local projects. He informed them that this region has been very active on local delivery. He stated he had approved 96 local delivery applications for Band 1 projects and 51 TIA agreements had been executed for those projects. He stated because of local delivery they had already had some success with the program with Toombs County SR 130 being the first TIA project completed. City of Reidsville completed two resurfacing projects and Tattnall County had almost completed a grade, drain, and base project. He informed them that a lot of resurfacing projects all over the region were ready for spring lettings. He also let them know they are working with Appling, Laurens, and Wayne on bridge projects. He asked them to not begin work on any projects before they get the notice to proceed.

Mike Dover asked if he could follow-up on what Tony had talked about earlier. He stated that the priorities for the project delivery are: first priority are blended projects, second are local governments who are delivering the work, and third are GDOT delivering the work.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Trapnell asked if there was any other business to come before the Panel. Brett Manning, Executive Director, Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission, stated that there would be another set of band change request from local governments. He informed them that they would try to have a TIA Regional Advisory Committee meeting sometime around April to discuss the requested changes.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the TIA Citizens Review Panel Meeting at 6:50 P.M. was made by Phil Best and seconded by H.G. Yeomans. The vote was accepted unanimously.