

Draft

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Georgia Regional Transportation Authority

245 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE, Suite 900

Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1223

Minutes

January 14, 2004

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steven Bruning, Chairman

Andrella Baylis

Sonny Deriso

Sharon Gay

Eric Hovdesven

Lee Morris

Narender Reddy

Shi Shailendra

John Sibley

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeff Anderson

Sam Gude

Jim Stephenson

*A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Bruning called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. Shailendra and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2003 meeting. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Deriso indicated that the action required for agenda item ten (10), "Northwest Connectivity Study LPA Discussion", would be deferred until the next scheduled committee meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Shailendra and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the amended agenda for the January 14, 2004 committee meeting. The amended meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING DISCUSSION

Monthly Project Report

Mr. Woodward indicated the Monthly Project Report had been distributed and that he would answer any questions. The request for proposal (RFP) responses for bus operators, maintenance and service provider has been submitted. The last Northern Sub-Area Study Steering Committee meeting has been conducted, and a draft of the executive summary has been prepared. Staff will be working with Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to implement the study results in the planning process.

Mr. Shailendra requested that the status of the Traffic Operations Taskforce be reported on the Monthly Status report.

Planning Monthly Report

Dania Aponte presented the Monthly Planning Report which had been previously distributed. Ms. Aponte discussed the schedule for approval of the Mobility 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is scheduled to adopt the 2005–2010 TIP in December, 2004. The TIP most likely will come before the Board for approval at the December Board meeting, and periodic updates will take place throughout the year.

Northwest Connectivity Study LPA Discussion

Crew Heimer presented an overview of the Northwest Connectivity Study (NWCS). After an extended study period and participation in various public meetings, the staff and consultants recommended Alternative A with some additional features added to Marietta Blvd. Mr. Heimer briefly compared the different alternatives and discussed the next steps.

Mr. Ritchey provided additional comments on the Northwest Connectivity Study. Mr. Ritchey stated that Alternative A would be the most cost effective project utilizing available funds. The Board was provided with copies of correspondence from various organizations that expressed concerns related to the NWCS.

Mr. Bruning stated that after having personally driven the routes in the corridor, he believed that a Board tour of the three alternatives would be beneficial to the discussion.

Ms. Gay questioned whether Alternative A is consistent with GRTA's policy goals. Ms. Gay was reluctant to make a decision without additional information in order to ensure that the alternative chosen would be the best solution in regards to the land use component.

Mr. Tucker questioned the priority of the project. He stated that if the Northwest Corridor project is affordable, the committee's decision should be based on cost and the ability to provide a solution in the region.

Mr. Shailendra stated his support of Alternative A as a cost-effective project to pursue.

Additional discussion took place regarding concerns related to the NWCS alternatives.

Mr. Bruning suggested that the marketing study which was completed by the Metro Chamber of Commerce be provided to the members of the committee. A decision was made to conduct a work session and a tour of the Northwest Corridor on February 3rd starting at 10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Bruning adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.