

River Valley Regional Roundtable for the Transportation Investment Act (TIA)
Marion County Commission Offices
100 Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
October 25, 2019 1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Muscogee	Skip Henderson, Mayor		
Harris	Becky Langston, Chair	GA House	Vance Smith, Jr., District 133
Marion	George Neal, Chair		
Taylor	Cicero Latimore, Chair	GA Senate	Ed Harbison, District 15
Macon	Mickey George, Chair		
Quitman	Carvel Lewis, Chair		
Clay	Ernest Jenkins, Chair		
Dooly	Terrell Hudson, RT Chair		
	Hobby Stripling, Mayor		
Crisp	Sam Farrow, Chair		
	John Wiggins, Chairman		
Schley	Leah Clark, Mayor		

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Caiata, GDOT, Branch Chief	James Morton, Chattahoochee, Co. Commissioner
William Eastin, GDOT, TIA Regional Coordinator	Rick Jones, City of Columbus Planning Director
Kenneth Franks, GDOT, TIA Administrator	Edwina Turner, Stewart County Family Connections
Tom Patton, Crisp Co. Administrator	
Rayetta Volley, Sumter Co. Operations Administrator	

RVRC Staff

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terrell Hudson, Chairman, brought the Transportation Investment Act Roundtable meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. He welcomed members and visitors and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

Roundtable members reviewed the minutes of the September 23, 2019 meeting which was email to members the previous week. The minutes were also available for review in the information packets on each table.

Chairman Hudson requested a motion to approve the September 23, 2019 Roundtable minutes as presented. Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna, made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented; Mickey George, Macon County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

DISCUSSION OF PROCESS AND WORK TO DATE

Jim Livingston, RVRC Executive Director, explained that the citizens had voted to approve the TSPLOST in four regions of the state. They are Central Savannah, River Valley, Heart of Georgia and Southern Georgia regions. All except Southern Georgia region are currently working to renew their regional TSPLOST.

Jim reminded everyone there are 5 tasks the roundtable members are to complete. They are:

- Adopt Roundtable Guidelines,
- Elect Chairman
- Elect Executive Committee
- Adopt proposed Final Criteria for selection of projects
- Approve the investment list.

Of these 5 tasks, the first two, adoption of the roundtable guidelines and electing a chairman, were completed at the first roundtable meeting.

Membership of the Regional Roundtable consists of 32 members. Membership is broken down as follows:

- Two representatives from each county
 - Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or Sole Commissioner
 - One mayor in each county to represent all cities in that county
- Two elected officials from each consolidated government
- Executive Committee consists of:
 - Five members from the Roundtable members, elected by the Roundtable
 - Two members of the State House of Representatives serving as Ex Officio members
 - One State Senator from amongst the regional commission delegation serving as Ex Officio member

The goal for this second meeting is to elect the executive committee and to adopt the final criteria for the selection of projects. The approval of the investment list would happen at the end of the process.

The role of the RVRC is:

- to act as the official staff to the Regional Transportation Roundtable, the Executive Committee, and
- facilitate meetings and provide logistical, planning, analytical and technical support.

A Technical Advisory Committee will be used to provide technical advice and additional information to the Executive Committee and the Regional Transportation Roundtable. The Technical Advisory Committee shall consist of the River Valley Regional Commission, Columbus Metropolitan Planning Organization, and three county and/or city administrators.

Jim explained that if the voters approve the tax, cities and counties will only have to provide a 10% match for all future Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) from Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) but if it is rejected by the voters, every local government in the region will have to provide a 30% match for all future LMIG funding from GDOT. In the event that the Regional Roundtable cannot agree on an investment list and the question fails to go to voters, every local government in the region will have to provide a 50% match for all future LMIG funding from GDOT.

Jim also showed an example of how to submit project recommendations for the 75% share of the Regional TIA on the online RVRC project form. He explained that the portal had been designed to be easy and fast to input project information. A project submission instruction sheet was also available. For more information about submitting projects, contact Mariyana Kostov at 706-256-2910 or email mkostov@rivervalleyrc.org.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

Chairman Hudson reported that each quadrant had submitted their recommendation of members they would like to elect to the executive committee. They were: **Mayor Skip Henderson** representing Muscogee County; **George Neal** representing Harris, Talbot, Chattahoochee, and Marion Counties; **Mickey George** representing Taylor, Schley and Macon Counties; **Carvel Lewis** representing Stewart, Webster, Quitman, Randolph, and Clay Counties; and **Terrell Hudson** representing Sumter, Dooly and Crisp Counties.

Jim Livingston reported that Senator Ed Harbison and Representative Vance Smith (both in attendance) as well as Representative Mike Cheokas have been appointed as ex-officio members of the executive committee.

Chairman Hudson requested a motion to approve the proposed Roundtable Executive Committee members. Ernest Jenkins, Clay County, made a motion to approve of the Roundtable Executive Committee members as presented; George Neal, Marion County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

DISCUSSION ON TIMING

Roundtable members discussed the best time to place the TSPLOST question on the ballot. Suggestions were either 2020 or 2022. It was brought up that in the rural counties it may be best to place it on the 2020 ballot, but that placing it on the 2022 ballot could be beneficial to see projects closer to completion so that voters can realize the results and advantages of the 2012 TSPLOST.

Chairman Hudson stated that when to place the question on the ballot could be decided at a later date.

ADOPTION OF REGIONAL CRITERIA*

The floor was opened to address any Regional Criteria concerns. This includes roadway capital, transit capital, transit operations and maintenance, safety, traffic operations and high tech traffic solutions, non-motorized projects (Bike/Pedestrian Plan), freight and logistics, aviation, and roadway and bridge maintenance. After a discussion of target ranges for these criteria, there were no requests for changes.

Chairman Hudson then called for a motion to adopt the Regional Criteria as presented. Mickey George, Macon County, made a motion to adopt the Regional Criteria; Ernest Jenkins, Clay County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

PROJECTIONS

Kenneth Franks, GDOT, TIA Administrator explained the 10-year projections are provided by the State economist. The 10-year TIA Forecast for tax revenue for the next ten years of TSPLOST in the RVRC region is \$555,803,783.54. Twenty-five percent of that amount is Local Discretionary funds (\$138,950,945.89), 4.8 percent of regional projects is the GDOT administration funding for the program (\$20,008,936.21), 3.6 percent annually is reduced due to inflation (\$76,297,008.78) and the present value for project budgets is \$320,546,892.67. This number will fluctuate until the final project list is complete.

ADJOURN

Chairman Hudson announced the next meeting would be November 20 (3rd Wednesday in November) following the RVRC council meeting. He then asked for a motion to adjourn. George Neal, Marion County, made the motion to adjourn; seconded by John Wiggins, City of Cordele.

Date

Chairman Terrell Hudson