

**River Valley Regional Roundtable for the Transportation Investment Act (TIA)
Marion County Commission Offices
100 Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
September 4, 2019
10:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Muscogee Mayor Skip Henderson
Councilor Judy Thomas

Harris Chair Becky Langston
Mayor Jim Trott

Talbot Chair Sher'Londa Walker
Mayor James Carter

Chattahoochee Chair Gerald Douglas
Commissioner Damon Hoyte

Marion Chair George Neal

Taylor Chair Cicero Latimore

Macon Chair Mickey George
Mayor Larry Smith

Webster Chair Tony Kennedy

Stewart Chair Joseph Williams

Quitman Chair Carvel Lewis
Commissioner David Kinsey

Randolph Chair Steven Jackson
Mayor Steve Whatley

Clay Chair Ernest Jenkins
Mayor Barry Waters

Sumter Chair Clay Jones
Mayor Barry Blount

Dooly Chair Terrell Hudson
Mayor Hobby Stripling

Crisp Chair Sam Farrow
Chairman John Wiggins

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Marion Mayor Ralph Brown

Taylor Mayor Barry Whitley

Schley Mayor Leah Clark
County Manager Bill Sawyer

Stewart Mayor Adolph McLendon

Webster Commissioner Melvin Crimes

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Caiata, GDOT, Branch Chief
William Eastin, GDOT, TIA Regional Coordinator
Kenneth Franks, GDOT, TIA Administrator
Paul Tanner, GDOT, Trans. Planning Administrator
Radney Simpson, GDOT, Asst. Trans. Planning Adm.
Jackie Robinson, Marion County (Citizen)
Representative Patty Bentley, District 139

Tameka Harris Carson, Taylor, County Commissioner
Tom Patton, Crisp, County Administrator
Rayetta Volley, Sumter, Operations Administrator
James Morton, Chattahoochee, Co. Commissioner
Tom Queen, Moreland-Altobelli Assoc.
Rick Jones, Columbus Planning Director
Laura Lee Bernstein, Chattahoochee County
Allie Dean, Ledger-Enquirer Newspaper

RVRC STAFF

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

Welcome

Jim Livingston, River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) Executive Director, welcomed members and visitors.

History of Previous Roundtable Structure and Action

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, reported that the River Valley region was one of only three regional commissions to pass the Transportation Investment Act in 2012. He explained there are 5 tasks the roundtable members are to

complete: 1. Adopt proposed Roundtable Guidelines, 2. Elect Chairman, 3. Elect Executive Committee, 4. Adopt proposed Final Criteria for selection of projects, 5. Approve the investment list.

Jim stated membership of the Regional Roundtable consists of 32 members:

- 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
- Consolidated governments shall each be represented by two elected officials

- Roundtable Executive Committee Consists of eight members
 - Five members from the Roundtable, elected by the Roundtable,
 - Two Members of the House of Representatives
 - One Senator from among regional commission delegation

Guest were asked to introduce themselves.

Handouts available were:

- Regional Transportation Roundtable Membership
- River Valley Regional Transportation Roundtable Guidelines
- Regional Transportation Roundtable Maps
- Results of the Regional TSPLOST Referendum – July 31, 2012
- Final Criteria for the River Valley 16-County Special Tax District 2012
- ACCG Regional TSPLOST Briefing Paper
- Total Transportation Investment Act Local Distributions (by county) through June 2019

Kenneth Franks, GDOT, TIA Administrator, explained that there is a push to get the TSPLOST on the ballot in 2020. There is a 2-year waiting period before it can be placed back on the ballot if it fails. If the TSPLOST fails to pass in 2020 it can be placed on the ballot again in 2022. The current TSPLOST will end in December 2022. If the TSPLOST is not carried through to being placed on the ballot the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) penalty would change from 30% to 50%.

He explained that seventy-five percent of the TIA funds in the region will be used by GDOT for projects included on the approved investment list for the region (thirty percent of these funds raised in the region must be used on projects included in the state-wide strategic transportation plan). Twenty-five percent of the funds will be distributed to each city and county in the region for local projects, including operations, maintenance, planning and construction.

Jim gave a presentation explaining the makeup of the Roundtable and showed and explained projects that have been finished or are currently underway in the region. He said Bands 1 & 2 are either in progress or completed and Band 3 projects are now underway.

A map was shown dividing the region into 5 quadrants that was used for the 2010 TSPLOST and a new proposed map was introduced.

Jim noted that the Roundtable should approve their guidelines to work as an entity and select a chairman today. He also explained the process of selecting the executive committee and the investment criteria which will also need to be approved by the Roundtable. Contact information was given for Jim Livingston and Gerald Mixon for more information, if needed.

City of Columbus SPLOST Overview

Mayor Skip Henderson, Columbus Consolidated Government, spoke to the Roundtable and said the City of Columbus did not pass a resolution in favor of convening the Roundtable. He explained the city will be requesting a separate SPLOST to help fund a new government center in Columbus. Also, the Muscogee County School District is contemplating requesting

an Education SPLOST. For these reasons, he said the City of Columbus will not be supporting the TSPLOST in 2020 but would not oppose it for a later ballot.

Roundtable Guidelines Approval*

Jim presented the Roundtable Guidelines that were used for the current TIA. He asked if the Roundtable would like to use the same guidelines or would like to make any changes. After discussion, no one requested any changes.

Jim asked for a motion to approve the Roundtable guidelines as presented. Earnest Jenkins, Clay County, made a motion to approve the guidelines as presented; Steve Whatley, Randolph County, seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition.

Election of Chairperson*

Jim requested nominations for the Chair of the Roundtable. Mickey George, Macon County, nominated Terrell Hudson, Dooly County. No other persons were nominated.

Jim asked for a motion to appoint Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, as the Chair of the Roundtable. Skip Henderson, Columbus, made the motion to appoint Terrell Hudson as the Chair; seconded by Hobby Stripling, Dooly County. Motion carried with no opposition.

Discussion of Regional Criteria

The Regional Criteria and the division of the region to create an executive committee was discussed and it was decided to go forward retaining the same 5 quadrants that were used for the 2010 TSPLOST. This was: 1- Muscogee; 2- Harris, Talbot, Marion, and Chattahoochee; 3- Webster, Stewart, Georgetown-Quitman, Randolph, Clay; 4- Macon, Taylor, Schley; 5- Dooly, Crisp, Sumter.

Chair Hudson requested a motion to retain the same 5 quadrants as discussed. Jim Trott, Harris County, made a motion to retain the 5 quadrants used for the 2010 TSPLOST; Carvel Lewis, Quitman County, seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition.

Projections

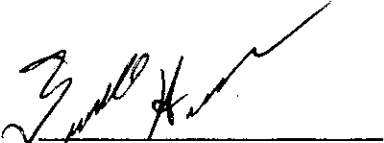
Terrell Hudson noted that the Roundtable has to approve the final criteria but it should be done later in the process. He also noted a commitment to transparency and cooperation; asking the Roundtable to consider what was best for the region.

Next Steps

Chair Hudson requested that everyone look over the information that was provided at the meeting and said a vote would be held at the next meeting. Terrell Hudson gave regional partners time to get together at the end of the meeting for further discussion.

Chair Hudson requested a motion to adjourn. Carvel Lewis, Quitman County, made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jim Trott, Harris County.

October 23, 2019



Terrell Hudson, Chair