



Jim Thornton, Chairman
Kirk R. Fjelstul, Executive Director

Counties Served: Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Lamar,
Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup and Upson

TO: PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

FROM: MR. BRIAR JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN, PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE,
THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Projects Committee held a meeting at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2018 at the Turin Town Hall in Turin, Georgia.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chair Briar Johnson welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. Mr. Bennie Horton gave the invocation and afterwards Committee Chair Johnson led the committee members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Planning and Projects Committee Members in Attendance

Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Alfred "Buster" McCoy, Chairman, Meriwether County
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Norman Allen, Chairman, Upson County

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Deputy Administrative Services Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Ms. Cymone Haiju, Planner
Ms. Kim Dutton, Planner
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner
Ms. Hope Blakely, HR Generalist
Ms. Pavielle Ludlow, Transit Program Manager
Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Youth Services Manager, Workforce
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

APPROVAL OF JULY 26, 2018 MINTUES (action item)

Mr. Douglas Hollberg made the motion to approve the July 26, 2018 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried unanimously by the other committee members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the agenda as presented; it was seconded by Mr. Curtis Brown and carried unanimously by the other committee members.

REGIONAL PLAN DISCUSSION

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the members that the following counties needed to submit names of additional stakeholders to serve on the “executive team”: Heard, Meriwether, Pike and Troup. Ms. Brantley requested that the four (4) counties submit the names and contact information to the Planning Staff as soon as possible. The committee received an updated Regional Plan 2018-2022 schedule of meetings, listening sessions, executive team meetings, etc. Ms. Cymone Haiju addressed the updated meeting schedule. Ms. Haiju advised the committee that the “kick off” meeting/public hearing is scheduled for September 27 and that it will be held in conjunction with the next Planning and Projects Committee Meeting at the Turin Town Hall. The last public hearing will be held in April 2019; this public hearing will also coincide with the Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) council meeting and the final draft of the Regional Plan will be presented to all members. There are six (6) “listening sessions/SWOT Analysis” scheduled over the next several months; these sessions will be held in various locations throughout the ten (10) county area; the public will be encouraged to attend and give their input as to what needs to be added to the Regional Plan. It was noted that the “listening sessions/SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis” are required components of the Regional Plan. The Planning Staff has also coordinated the “executive team” meetings so that they will be held the same days as the Planning and Projects Committee meetings. Ms. Haiju encouraged the committee to review the schedule and advise the Planning Staff what times/dates may not work in the members’ respective areas. Mr. Brown indicated that the 10:00 a.m. – noon timeframe might not work for the October 23rd meeting that will be held in the LaGrange/Troup County area; an evening meeting (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) may be better suited for his area. Mr. Horton asked if the executive team members needed to attend all “listening sessions” with Ms. Brantley responding that the members do not need to attend all, but to attend the one that is in closest proximity to them. The staff touched briefly on the agendas, noting that action guides and regional goals would be developed from these meetings. Mr. Alfred “Buster” McCoy asked which individuals should be appointed (to the “executive team”) from the various counties; Ms. Brantley and Mr. Paul Jarrell suggested former elected officials, county planning staff members, county transportation staff, chamber staff members, etc. Ms. Brantley encouraged the committee members to invite several individuals to the “listening sessions”; a well-attended meeting could produce good input for the Regional Plan.

Mr. Jarrell mentioned that the Planning Staff would like to hold a contest to name the Regional Plan; the staff is looking for a name that is innovative and catchy. The staff would also like to have a photo contest and include some nice photos in the document. The prizes for these contests have not been determined, but the staff asked the members for ideas and will check into their suggestions.

The staff also asked the committee for ideas on how to generate interest in the Regional Plan. Mr. Norman Allen suggested a press release that can be sent to the media or placed on local governments' websites. Mr. Brown mentioned social media video with "interesting content." Mr. Horton recommended emphasizing transportation ("those blue and white buses") while Mr. Hollberg suggested contacting Mr. Brian Miller about an aerial video; Mr. Miller recently produced a nice video for the City of Griffin. While on the subject of video, Mr. Brown agreed to assist with some of the video. The TRRC Facebook page will be managed by Ms. Haiju and Ms. Kim Dutton and traditional newspaper articles will also be utilized to reach the senior members of the communities. Mr. Hollberg also suggested surveys via Survey Monkey while Mr. Allen added to ask the public "what do you love about your community?" The Heart and Soul Program (based in Upson County) is having success with soliciting comments at community events. Mr. Allen cautioned to be prepared for "the good, the bad and the ugly" comments.

GDOT TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ms. Pavielle Ludlow presented this portion of the agenda. She shared that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has issued a Transit Asset Management Plan for the upkeep of the buses. The committee was given a one-page policy regarding the life of the vehicles (transit buses). GDOT is maintaining that the vehicles' lifespan should be a minimum of five (5) years and at a maximum of seven (7) years. Currently in our area, the transit buses last for five (5) years with other areas of Georgia reporting that their vehicles are lasting an average of 3.1 years. Mr. Hollberg asked if a vehicle replacement plan is in place. Ms. Ludlow indicated that TRRC begins to apply for replacement vehicles during the contract cycle the year before the vehicles do in fact reach their five (5) year mark. Ms. Ludlow reiterated the vehicles travel extensively on the roads in the various counties; some of the roads (and clients' driveways) are not in great condition, which adds to the wear and tear on the vehicles. Mr. McCoy added that a tree recently fell on one of the buses in Meriwether County and that no one was injured. Ms. Ludlow added that TRRC is grateful to the counties for their support of the Transit program. Vehicles' maintenance was mentioned with Ms. Ludlow assuring the members that the buses were being maintained by a third party operator in some areas and by the counties in others.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul asked Mr. Allen what the "Heart and Soul" program (a two-year program based in Upson County) was doing to be so successful and to generate the public's interest. Mr. Allen responded that it was the "boots on the ground" presence as well as being at public events, social media, etc.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The Planning and Projects Committee will meet on September 27, 2018; the meeting time is set for 11:15 a.m. and the location is the Turin Town Hall in Turin.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion to adjourn from Mr. Hollberg followed by a second from Ms. Armstrong-Lackey.

Briar Johnson, Chairman
Planning and Projects Committee