December 2, 2019

Citizen’s Review Panel (CRP) Members
Mr. C.M. “Buddy” Leger, Chairman
River Valley Special District

RE: Transportation Investment Act (TIA) of 2010

Dear Citizen’s Review Panel Members:

The Georgia Department of Transportation presents the attached update through calendar year 2019 on the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 for the River Valley Special District. Also attached is a summary for the completed project in the region within the last year. This summary can be utilized in the determination of benefits by the CRP for completed projects. The Transportation Investment Act of 2010 legislation requires submittal of an annual report by the CRP to the legislators by December 15th each year.

As of this letter, 11 TIA projects have been completed in River Valley, six are currently under construction, and five are in preconstruction. Unfortunately, revenue collections in the region have failed to meet projections. The latest revenue collections for River Valley are 18.2% less than originally anticipated. The Department has taken a number of steps to mitigate this revenue shortfall, and will continue to implement cost saving strategies wherever feasible. As a result, all TIA projects will be delivered.

We are closely coordinating with all local governments to ensure successful delivery of the program. The Department remains committed to the people of River Valley for showing Georgia how to take an active role in its transportation future.

This update is provided to you for your information. Please let me know if you need further information regarding the TIA 2010 Program.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Franks
State TIA Administrator

Enclosure: Annual Project Status Report, Annual Report, Completed Projects Report, and CRP Meeting Minutes

cc: Diana Pope, Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission
    Jim Livingston, River Valley Regional Commission
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Completed Project Report

River Valley

Project: SR 103 Passing Lane
County: Harris
Project ID: RC08-000022
GDOT ID: PI-0011430

Project Description
This project added a northbound passing lane in Harris County on SR 103 from just south of South Progress Parkway to the Troup County Line.

Project Benefit
This project has benefited the public by improving traffic flow, and potentially reducing the incidence of crashed along this corridor of SR 103.

Schedule Information
NTP Date: 09.29.2017
Completion Date: 07.31.2019

Budget / Cost Information
Original Budget: $4,479,598
Projected Final Cost: $4,659,867

Project Delivery
GDOT Let
Project construction managed by GDOT

Project Photos

Pre-Construction  Completed
Completed Project Report

River Valley

Project: Columbus River Walk
County: Muscogee
Project ID: RC08-000054
GDOT ID: PI-0011433

Project Description
The project extended the River Walk behind Bibb and City Mills along the Chattahoochee River in Muscogee County.

Project Benefit
This project has benefited the public by providing a multi-use trail facility between the central business district in downtown Columbus and the activity centers in North Columbus.

Schedule Information
NTP Date: 08.17.2016
Completion Date: 07.26.2019

Budget / Cost Information
Original Budget: $10,000,000
Projected Final Cost: $10,002,605

Project Delivery
Local Let
Project construction managed Locally

Project Photos

Pre-Construction

Completed
Completed Project Report

River Valley

Project: US 280 Bridge over Lake Blackshear
County: Crisp
Project ID: RC08-000012
GDOT ID: PI-0012578

Project Description
This project constructed a new bridge on US 280 over Lake Blackshear in Crisp County.

Project Benefit
The new bridge, built parallel to an existing bridge, now provides four lane access over Lake Blackshear. The combination of these two bridges has provided better flow for both commercial trucking and local traffic, as well as an alternative route across the lake in the case of accident or emergency evacuation.

Schedule Information
NTP Date: 03.24.2017
Completion Date: 06.28.2019

Budget / Cost Information
Original Budget: $30,000,000
Projected Final Cost: $26,870,968

Project Delivery
GDOT Let
Project construction managed by GDOT

Project Photos

Under Construction
Completed
Completed Project Report

River Valley

Project: South Lumpkin Multi-use Facility
County: Muscogee
Project ID: RC08-000058
GDOT ID: PI-0012579

Project Description
This project constructed a multi-use trail in Muscogee County now known as the Follow Me Trail.

Project Benefit
This project utilized an abandoned rail corridor between South Lumpkin Park and Old Cusseta Road, transforming the space into a linear park. The new trail provides pedestrian and bicycle connectivity for a variety of destinations, including seven schools, parks, restaurants and several shopping centers.

Schedule Information
NTP Date: 05.14.2015
Completion Date: 05.31.2019

Budget / Cost Information
Original Budget: $3,500,000
Projected Final Cost: $3,500,000

Project Delivery
Local Let
Project construction managed Locally

Project Photos

Pre-Construction  
Completed
Panel Attendees: Buddy Leger, Chair; Jerry Carney, Vice-Chair; Joseph Brannan and Todd Schuster

Others Present: Kenneth Franks, GDOT; Jason Floyd, GDOT; Don Bodycomb, GDOT; William Eastin, GDOT; Linda Temples, City of Columbus; Jim Livingston, RVRC; Jimbo Littlefield, Sumter County; Wally Summers, South Georgia Tech; and Randy Howard (Sumter County)

Chair Buddy Leger called the meeting to order. Mr. Leger asked that the panel review the minutes from the November 27, 2018 meeting. Mr. Schuster made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Jerry Carney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Leger asked Jim Livingston to give an update on activities of the RVRC. Mr. Livingston said that a resolution was drafted and sent to counties to set up the Regional Roundtable to review the potential projects and timing for renewing the Regional TIA tax. Mr. Livingston said that the RVRC approved sending the resolution to all Chief Elected Officials for each of the 16 counties in the region as well as the lead administrative staff or County Manager for each county. This was done April 25. Mr. Livingston believes that counties will start sending their approved resolutions in May. Once 9 signed counties have sent in their resolutions, the Roundtable will be set up. The goal is to have this process completed by the end of the summer so that the Roundtable can do its work to determine timing and a project list. Mr. Carney asked about the other potential sales tax referendum that Columbus was going to ask voters to approve. Mr. Livingston, Mr. Brannan, and Ms. Temples outlined the published plans for Columbus to ask for both a City SPLOST and an Education SPLOST in 2020.

Mr. Leger than turned the meeting over to Mr. Kenneth Franks, the State TIA administrator. Mr. Franks gave an overview of the four TIA regions. Mr. Franks went through projected and actual collections for the region. Joseph Brannan asked about the projected growth rates for the original revenue forecast for both the original 3 regions, all three of which are between 16% and 21% behind forecast collected revenues (River Valley region is 18.2% behind forecast revenue as of February, 2019). Originally, state forecast for the region was 3% year over year growth. The newest region to approve TIA, Southern Georgia, revised their expected forecast to 1.4% year over year growth. Mr. Franks stated that future revenue projections from the state were going to match more closely to the 1.4% growth rate.

He said the River Valley region has collected $282,874,000 in TIA funds through February 2019. Mr. Franks reiterated that projects are still being delivered under budget and the shortfall is being made through cost savings to the projects thus far. Mr. Franks also identified 2019 as an important year in delivery as we are in the last year of the Band 2 projects. He did note that GDOT was behind in closing
projects, but that they had staffed up to push several of the projects to close-out. One of 8 Band 1 projects were closed, with an additional 5 projects closing out soon. Kenneth then asked Mr. Eastin to give the update on River Valley projects. To-date, 7 of 9 Band 2 projects are in construction. Projects discussed by Mr Eastin include:

- Riverwalk Columbus – Complete
- Follow Me Trail Columbus – Complete
- South Georgia Tech Parkway, Roundabout – Complete
- State Road 103 – Open in March
- Lake Blackshear Bridge – Open, Complete by June, 2019
- SR 233 Macon County – Utility relocation complete, Grading work ongoing
- SR 219 Passing Lane – GDOT injection of $5 Million to facilitate
- District Line Road (Sumter Co.) – Mid-May start

Other projects in the planning phase:

- Spider Web (Muscogee Co.) – 21 of 28 property acquisition complete. Likely need condemnation for 4 of the remaining properties.
- US 280 widening (Crisp Co.) – Replacement property needed to mitigate acquisition in Veteran’s State Park has been acquired. Need Utility relocation. There was some discussion on the timing for linking this project with the bridge widening over Lake Blackshear. The project is likely 1.5 to 2 years behind the bridge widening. Mr. Howard mentioned need in Sumter County to bring this project west towards Americus eventually.
- US 27 (Harris Co.) – Public Information Open House held. There was some discussion about this project. Original plan was for 4 lanes, but because of cost and potential harmful impact of residents in Cusseta due to needed right-of-way acquisition, the project has been adjusted to a 3 lane road to SR 315.
- Cussetta Road/I-185 Interchange – Environmental underway. Church kept in loop regarding needed acquisition. This will likely be the last project delivered for the region.

Mr. Leger noted that the sooner these individual projects are completed, and the sooner they are closed, the better off the overall project is, because it is easier to explain to residents. Mr. Franks stated that TIA staff is actively monitoring each of the projects to control cost, and that the additional staff will help close projects quicker. Mr. Leger, Mr. Schuster and Mr. Carney expressed their appreciation to the TIA staff.

Mr. Leger announced that he was planning to roll off the board in December and that the Lieutenant Governor would be looking for a replacement.

Mr. Leger suggested several dates for the August meeting in Columbus and a November meeting in Cordele. Mr. Livingston said he would get these dates distributed and work out the logistics.

Jerry Carney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.
River Valley Citizens Review Panel
Minutes
August 14, 2019
River Valley Regional Commission
Columbus, Georgia

Panel Attendees: Buddy Leger, Chair; Jerry Carney, Vice-Chair; and Todd Schuster

Others Present: Kenneth Franks, GDOT; Jason Floyd, GDOT; Don Bodycomb, GDOT; William Eastin, GDOT; Rick Jones, City of Columbus; Jim Livingston, RVRC; Gerald Mixon, RVRC; Allie Dean, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer.

Chair Buddy Leger called the meeting to order. Todd Schuster asked that the panel review the minutes from the April 30, 2019 meeting. Jerry Carney made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Mr. Leger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Leger asked Kenneth Franks to give an update from GDOT on TIA funded projects. Mr. Franks first gave an overview of the four TIA regions. Both CSRA and HOG areas are also proceeding along with the River Valley to establish and use the Round Table to consider another 10 year extension for the funding. The CSRA has moved their Round Table to executive committee, and HOG has convened their Round Table twice. The River Valley Round Table is scheduled for September 4. Mr. Carney asked if a county representative could have a proxy. Mr. Franks replied no.

Mr. Franks went through projected and actual collections for the region. Thus far through June 2019, the River Valley has collected $299,872,364. There was some discussion about the collections being 18.2% behind original revenue forecast. The good news has been that the shortfall has been consistent and that the budgeting decisions made early in the process have allowed the projects to proceed under budget and on time thus far. Mr. Livingston asked whether they were still finding favorable bid prices still with so much activity happening. Mr. Franks said that on resurfacing projects yes, but that bridge replacement and concrete prices were both higher than originally budgeted. Mr. Carney asked whether there were any projects that were at risk because of the shortfall in budgeted projections. Mr. Franks said not currently.

Mr. Franks reiterated that projects are still being delivered under budget and the shortfall is being made through cost savings to the projects thus far. Mr. Franks also identified 2019 as an important year in delivery as we are in the last months of the Band 2 project timeline.

The state economist has updated fiscal projections and the River Valley was the only region in the TIA funded regions with projected decrease in revenues, which caused some concern amongst the group.
Mr. Franks then asked William Eastin to give the update on River Valley projects. Projects discussed by Mr. Eastin include:

- Lake Blackshear Bridge – Open. In close-out process.
- SR 224 Macon County – Base down, Grading work ongoing.
- SR 128 Macon County – Demo existing bridge and bypass in place.
- District Line Road (Sumter Co.) – Clearing and grubbing right-of-way.

Other projects in the planning phase:

- Spider Web (Muscogee Co.) – Property acquisition ongoing, with condemnation approved to acquire needed railroad right-of-way. Mr. Jones said he believes it would be out for bid by the end of 2019.
- US 27 (Harris Co.) – Public meeting held. Questions about round-about. Schedule for February 2022.
- Cussetta Road/I-185 Interchange – Draft concept in house and sent to Federal Highway Administration. No comments received. Environmental needed. Rick Jones asked about holding a public meeting to keep the neighborhood informed and Mr. Franks said that it would be planned.

Jim Livingston gave an update on the process to seat the next Round Table to consider an extension of the TIA funding. The Round Table is slated for September 4 in Buena Vista. Mr. Livingston is working with communities in the region to confirm their representatives to the round table. Thus far, he has most responses from the local governments but they have until August 23 to get the information to him. Mr. Jones gave an update on where Muscogee County was with their SPLOST funding structure, and their need to do an individual infrastructure request to address the government center. He believed the county was not going to be in a position to be able to support the TIA this round.

The next TIA CRP meeting will be held November 19 in Cordele at the South Georgia Tech campus.

Mr. Carney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.
River Valley Citizens Review Panel
Minutes
November 19, 2019
South Georgia Technical College
Cordele, Georgia

Panel Attendees: Buddy Leger, Chair; Jerry Carney, Vice-Chair; Todd Schuster; Joseph Brannan

Others Present: Kenneth Franks, GDOT; Jason Floyd, GDOT; Don Bodycomb, GDOT; William Eastin, GDOT; Jim Livingston, RVRC; Gerald Mixon, RVRC; Jim Littlefield, Sumter County Public Works; Susan Leger-Boike, Visitor.

Chair Buddy Leger called the meeting to order and asked that the panel review the minutes from the August 14, 2019 meeting. Jerry Carney made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Todd Schuster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Leger asked Kenneth Franks to give an update from GDOT on TIA funded projects.

Mr. Franks went through projected and actual collections for the region. Thus far through September 2019, the River Valley has collected $312,893,618. Revenues continue to be behind the original forecast, but costs have been managed to keep the negative impacts of this shortfall to a minimum. There was a project by project review of the original budget and actual expenditures to see where savings have been realized to address this shortfall.

Mr. Franks reiterated that the projects to be delivered at the end of 2019 were still on track for being completed and on time for Band 2. There are 11 projects that have been completed and 5 that are in construction currently. Others are in the design stage.

Mr. Franks then asked William Eastin to give the update on River Valley projects. Projects discussed by Mr. Eastin include:

- Lake Blackshear Bridge – Open, but construction is complete. Fiscal close-out in process.
- SR 224 Macon County – Base down, Grading work ongoing.
- SR 128 Macon County – Bridge stringers in place, decking to follow.
- District Line Road (Sumter Co.) – Base down, waiting on paving.

Other projects in the planning phase:

- Spider Web (Muscogee Co.) – property acquisition ongoing, with a conditional let to be completed by the end of 2019, remaining on track for Band 2 projects.
- US 280 widening (Crisp Co.) – Awaiting approval on environmental replacement property.
• US 27 (Harris Co.) – Issues raised by GDOT regarding proposed road design, which are in negotiation to adequately address.
• Cussetta Road/I-185 Interchange – Federal Highway Administration preliminary approval with no comments received. Environmental needed.

Jim Livingston gave an update on the Round Table to consider an extension of the TIA funding. There have been two Round Table meetings with one more slated for November 20. The Roundtable has approved their guidelines, investment criteria and Executive Committee. No decision has been made about when the TSPLOST question will go to voters.

Buddy Leger announced that he would be retiring at the end of 2019 and new leadership would need to be selected for the CRP. Buddy Leger nominated the following slate of officers:
  • Todd Schuster – Chairman
  • Jerry Carney – Vice Chair
  • Joseph Brannon - Secretary
Joseph Brannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jerry Carney and all board members thanked Buddy Leger for his service and guidance to the TIA Citizens Review Panel.

A discussion on the 2020 meeting dates was held and it was agreed that the meeting schedule would remain the same, with an April, 2020 meeting in Americus, August meeting in Columbus and November meeting in Cordele. An email would follow to confirm schedules.

Mr. Carney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.