

TO: PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

FROM: MR. CURTIS BROWN, JR., 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 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via a Zoom video/conference call. Committee Chair Curtis Brown, Jr., welcomed the members and called the meeting to order. Mr. Bennie Horton gave the invocation and afterwards, Committee Chair Brown led the committee members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll call was taken and the following individuals attended:

Planning and Projects Committee Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chair, Heard County
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Doug Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Norman Allen, Chair, Upson County

Additional Three Rivers Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Deputy Administrative Services Director
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary, Administrative Services
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Ms. Kim Dutton, Planner
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner
Mr. Tommy Kennedy, Director, Transit Program
Ms. Pavielle Ludlow, Manager, Transit Program

Ms. Stephanie Glenn, Director, Workforce Development
Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Deputy Workforce Development Director
Mr. Danny Mitchell, Business Services Manager, Workforce Development

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2021 MINUTES (action item)

Committee Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the January 28, 2021 meeting. Ms. Kay Pippin made the motion to approve the January 28, 2021 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey. Committee Chair Brown called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Committee Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Greg Wright made the motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Mr. Doug Hollberg and carried unanimously.

TRRC BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Jarrell presented this portion of the agenda. He advised that the Georgia House approved \$20 million for this midyear budget and \$10 million for next year while the Public Service Commission (PSC) has approved an agreement for broadband utility providers to use EMC poles. Mr. Jarrell informed the committee that the USDA CARES Act – 2021 ReConnect will provide \$4.6 million for Georgia; he noted that the call for projects has not started at this time. OneGeorgia will have \$30 million and the CDBG CV (Coronavirus) CARES Act will have multiple rounds available with the total funding amount of \$82,850,607. The first round will focus on Public Infrastructure for Broadband and be worth \$23 million. The application process and details are still being fine-tuned and additional information will be released from DCA in the future. Mr. Jarrell assured the committee that the TRRC staff will keep them informed of future developments.

Mr. Jarrell mentioned the broadband initiative of the expansion partnership between Central Georgia EMC, Southern Rivers Energy and Conexon. This partnership will affect 80,000 homes and businesses throughout eighteen (18) counties with six (6) of those counties in TRRC's region. There is not an established timeline for this initiative as of yet. Mr. Jarrell and several of the committee members participated in a question and answer session concerning the broadband initiative.

GA SMART COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE 2021 PROPOSALS

Mr. Jarrell presented this portion of the agenda. He advised that this is an initiative from the Georgia Tech Center for Innovation. This program assists cities and counties in the use of advanced technologies; the 2021 focus is on rural communities. More information should be released in March regarding the project's application deadline. Mr. Jarrell encouraged the members to think of data based or technology based projects currently in their areas that could be advanced by this program. He also provided the program's website (<https://smartcities.gatech.edu/georgia-smart>) for the members to access.

UPDATE ON THE CENSUS

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She began researching the update due to committee members having some questions about different deadlines for Census information. Ms. Brantley receives information via the Census' Acting Director's (Ron Jarmin) weekly blog. She advised that the Census has been impacted by COVID-19 and it is causing delays in releasing the redistricting information. Originally, the Census planned to release apportionment data to the President by March 2021 and the redistricting data to be delivered to the states by July 2021; those deadlines have changed to now reflect April 30, 2021 for the delivery of the apportionment to the President and the redistricting data will be delivered to the states and to the public by September 30, 2021. The staff will undergo training in March to learn how to assist local governments with the drawing of the new district lines according to the 2020 Census information. Ms. Brantley will keep the members informed of the training process and will continue to monitor for any changes in the Census deadlines.

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI) PROJECTS FOR TRRC (July 2020 to FEBRUARY 2021)

Ms. Kim Dutton presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the members that there were four (4) projects that the TRRC Planning staff reviewed during the July 2020 – February 2021 timeframe. These are large-scale projects that neighboring communities and state agencies review and provide comments on them. The normal DRI review period is thirty (30) days unless the developer and another interested party requests an extension; the review period can be extended up to three (3) 30 day periods.

1. DRI #3115 – Green Rock Quarry in Carroll County - The developer filed an application for a permit with Carroll County; this permit application plus the fact that the project is a rock quarry triggered the DRI process. The application was filed on May 29, 2020 and concluded on September 28, 2020. The extended review period allowed for comments from various state agencies, several cities and counties as well as private citizens.
2. DRI #3188 – Project Cobra (a 525,000 square ft. manufacturing and warehouse facility) in West Point - The developer filed for a permit as well as the project's square footage triggered the DRI process. The application was filed on October 27, 2020 and concluded on November 17, 2020. There were no extensions filed and only GDOT commented on the project.
3. DRI #3196 – Tussahaw Quarry in Butts County– This project was triggered due to a rezoning matter regarding the establishment of a rock quarry. The application was filed on October 30, 2020 and concluded on November 20, 2020. Comments were received from several cities and counties, GDOT, two (2) other regional commissions as well as private citizens.
4. DRI #3198 – Gordon Road Project (464-lot subdivision) in Coweta County. The triggering action was the developer wanting to file for vesting rights and a preliminary plat review in addition to exceeding the number of residential lots. The application was filed on November 5, 2020 and concluded on February 1, 2021; there were no extensions filed. DRIs filed in Coweta County must go through a GRTA review process, which extends the timeframe of the review. Comments were received from GDOT and the City of Griffin.

A committee member asked what the next step would be for a developer if the DRI project was denied. Ms. Dutton advised that the next step would normally be through the legal system.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Chair Brown asked if there was any other business; nothing was mentioned.

He asked if anyone had any news to share; Ms. Pippin shared that the City of Jackson's trail, The Creeks, has a new logo. She shared other details about the trail and advised everyone that it would open on June 5, 2021, which is National Trails Day.

Mr. Doug Hollberg shared that the environmental studies process were completed for the City of Griffin's newest airport site.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Committee Chair Brown advised that the Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Brown adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Ms. Pippin and a second from Ms. Kathy Knowles.

Curtis Brown, Jr., Chairman
Planning and Projects Committee