

MACON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE #1

MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

JANUARY 18, 2011

1:00 P.M.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Reported and transcribed by Melinda D. Flewellyn, Certified
Court Reporter, State of Georgia, Certificate Number B-2307.

CLAUDE JOINER REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
410 AMERICAN FEDERAL BUILDING
P. O. BOX 94
MACON, GEORGIA 31202-0094
TELEPHONE: 478/742-6611 OR 478/746-7804

IN ATTENDANCE:

GDOT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING:
MR. TODD LONG

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS:
CHAIRPERSON LINDA FUSSELL-BALDWIN COUNTY
MAYOR RICHARD BENTLEY-MILLEDGEVILLE
CHAIRMAN SAMUEL F. HART, SR.-BIBB COUNTY
MAYOR ROBERT REICHERT-MACON
CHAIRMAN DEAN FRIPP-CRAWFORD COUNTY
MAYOR BECKY SMITH-ROBERTA
CHAIRMAN TOMMY STALNAKER-HOUSTON COUNTY
MAYOR JIMMY FAIRCLOTH-PERRY
CHAIRMAN PRESTON HAWKINS-JONES COUNTY
MAYOR GUS WILSON-GRAY
CHAIRMAN JAMES A. VAUGHN-MONROE COUNTY
MAYOR TYE HOWARD-FORSYTH
CHAIRMAN MELVIN WALKER-PEACH COUNTY
MAYOR LARRY C. COLLINS-BYRON
COMMISSIONER C. BROOKS BAILEY-PULASKI COUNTY
CHAIRMAN JAMES COLSON-HAWKINSVILLE
CHAIRMAN TOM THOMPSON-PUTNAM COUNTY
MAYOR JOHN REID-EATONTON
CHAIRMAN RAY BENNETT-TWIGGS COUNTY
MAYOR SONJA MALLORY-JEFFERSONVILLE
CHAIRMAN DENNIS HOLDER-WILKINSON COUNTY
MAYOR KENNETH TURNER-GORDON

MR. RALPH NIX
MR. MORRIS DILLARD

1 MAYOR REID: John Reid, Mayor of Eatonton.
2 MAYOR BENTLEY: Richard Bentley, Mayor of
3 Milledgeville.
4 CHAIRPERSON FUSSELL: Linda Fussell, Chair of Baldwin
5 County.
6 CHAIRMAN HART: Samuel Hart, Chairman of Bibb
7 County.
8 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Melvin Walker, Chairman of Peach
9 County.
10 MAYOR MALLORY: Sonja Mallory, Mayor of the city
11 of Jeffersonville.
12 CHAIRMAN BERRY: Shelley Berry, Chairman of the
13 city of Hawkinsville.
14 MAYOR TURNER: Kenneth Turner, Mayor of the
15 city of Gordon.
16 MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: Jimmy Faircloth, Mayor of the
17 city of Perry.
18 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: James Vaughn, Chairman of Monroe
19 County.
20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Tom Thompson, Chairman of Putnam
21 County.
22 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman of
23 Houston County.
24 CHAIRMAN BAILEY: Brooks Bailey, Chairman of
25 Pulaski County.

1 (INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES AT MEETING)

2 MAYOR REICHERT: And I came in late, Ralph. I
3 apologize. I'm Robert Reichert. I'm the Mayor of
4 Macon.

5 MR. NIX: Very good. I believe at this
6 point we're going to call on Morris Dillard to help us
7 get the meeting going. Todd, sorry, go on ahead.

8 MR. LONG: Well, guys, it's good to be
9 here. Let me get to a spot that I'm not shining, or
10 glowing. Maybe I'll stand in front of the court
11 reporter. How about that?

12 All right. This person is very important, okay?
13 This court reporter is here because we, under the Bill,
14 House Bill 277, it is required that we document all the
15 meetings and actually provide a report to the General
16 Assembly about the proceedings of the meeting. So the
17 best to do that obviously, we thought, would just be a
18 court reporting of the meeting. And as you speak, if you
19 would say, if it's Sam Hart, if you'd say it's Sam Hart,
20 Bibb County, right before you speak. That allows her,
21 she's taking, talking into her little microphone system.
22 She'll get that in there and that will be a better
23 document. So we appreciate that. Is that good for you?

24 THE REPORTER: Yes, sir.

25 MR. LONG: Good. My name is Todd Long.

1 Let's go through the items we have to cover today. When
2 the letter was sent out to the Roundtable which was
3 established back in November, establishing this meeting,
4 y'all came to me a couple of times. But really basically
5 there are only two reasons we're here today. One is
6 we've got to elect an executive committee, which we're
7 going to get through and you guys know that. You've done
8 a lot of pre-work on that.

9 And then number two, you have to approve criteria.
10 That criteria will be something that I am using to
11 develop an unconstrained list and ultimately you guys
12 would use as your executive committee of the full
13 Roundtable to finalize your vote.

14 So those are the two things we're really for. Now,
15 while we're here today, we're also going to do a very
16 quick and dirty overview of the Bill itself just to make
17 sure everybody is on the same page. I am aware that the
18 RC staff here has done a good job providing y'all a lot
19 of material and education on the Bill. But it's just
20 going to be a quick overview of why we're here at this
21 point. Then we're going to go over some guidelines about
22 how your meeting should be run, which should take like
23 this (snapped fingers) because you guys have already done
24 a lot of that work. Which is great. We're going to have
25 an election of a chairman. Hopefully you guys have done

1 work there. Then we go on down, the last step is the
2 next steps in the process. And what's going to happen
3 essentially this spring and this summer.

4 Next slide. Quickly. Next slide.

5 All right. As you know, it creates 12 special tax
6 districts. And for those who don't know, this Bill is
7 very historic in nature. When I go out of state,
8 anywhere, other states are lined up to talk to Georgia
9 about what we're doing regarding transportation. Having
10 a sales tax purely for transportation on a statewide
11 basis is monumental. Nobody else in the country has been
12 able to pull this off except now for Kansas, who's done a
13 similar venture, and now Oregon is looking for something
14 like this. So when you look at what we've done in
15 Georgia, it took three or four sessions for the General
16 Assembly to write House Bill 277 and get it passed, but
17 it did do something very historic in regards to what
18 other states are doing.

19 And other states, we can't go to them and see what
20 they are doing, because guess what they're doing?
21 They're doing nothing. Some of them are raising the gas
22 taxes a little bit, but most of them are sitting still
23 and they're seeing their revenues dry up. So they're
24 very nervous about what's going on.

25 The sales tax is a ten year tax. And that was

1 important. Just give you a little background. There was
2 a push in the very beginning to make it a five year tax,
3 then somebody suggested seven. And then when you
4 culminate it with ten years, so that gives your bigger
5 projects a lot of time to grow and mature into a project
6 that, by the time you buy the right of way and get it
7 constructed, it lays out the tax for a period of ten
8 years so you can really rely on the revenue sources for a
9 longer period of time than five. Most of your sales tax,
10 or some sales tax is going back. And some sales tax is
11 going to three and four years. So we're glad to have ten
12 years.

13 Now, the money raised in this regional commission, I
14 can't say this enough, everywhere I go I say this,
15 because people still are confused. None of this money is
16 going to Atlanta to run GDOT. None of this money is
17 going to the far reaches of south Georgia to build a
18 four-lane road. It's not going to Atlanta to solve their
19 congestion. It is going to be spend on roads, and
20 bridges, and transit, whatever you guys decide on, right
21 here in this regional commission boundary. That's very
22 important.

23 This money also is not subject to Congressional
24 balancing. Most of this district is in, I don't know if
25 most of it is. Some of it's in Congressional District 8,

1 some of it's in Congressional District 3, I think some of
2 it's in Congressional District 12. Is that all we got
3 here, guys?

4 MAYOR MALLORY: Two and 3.

5 MR. LONG: And some in 2. So you've got
6 four Congressional districts. And if you know anything
7 about GDOT, that when we spend our federal aid money, we
8 balance that money among the 13 Congressional districts.
9 Well, this money is separate from that. It does not have
10 to be balanced by Congressional districts, which is a big
11 advantage.

12 This is not about individual counties. I know
13 there's a lot of consternation about that. I see David
14 Wells, AGGC here, and typically GMA comes to these
15 meetings as well. Well, when we first started, there was
16 a big push by a lot of counties to say we want to be able
17 to opt out of the tax. Well, that debate culminated in
18 HB 277, which did not allow that opting out. And
19 basically now you're functioning in thought and action as
20 a region as opposed to individual counties. And
21 certainly from my standpoint, it makes, you know,
22 planning a lot easier. If you had a holes in your
23 region, if you had four or five counties that opted out,
24 it would make planning for the region very difficult.

25 The criteria we're going to talk about today, I

1 recommend the criteria. Guess who has to adopt it? And
2 approve it? This body here. So y'all do have final say
3 on criteria. The Roundtable has a final view on the
4 list. This Bill was written lightly, we kept saying the
5 State has too much power. Well, guess what? The Bill I
6 think is probably the other way. Local governments that
7 you represent have ultimate say on their project list.
8 The state DOT does not. Y'all decide the final project
9 list. So it is very much in favor of local governments.

10 The votes can be in primary election of 2012. I
11 will let you know that we verbally have talked to the
12 Secretary of State's office, and they tell us that the
13 primary election of 2012 is actually in August, not July,
14 of 2012. I have not found that in written form on their
15 web page yet, so we're talking about a couple of years
16 out.

17 A lot of folks wanted it to be sooner and wanted it
18 to be this last November, but there was no way that you
19 could all those ducks in a row with a Bill to sign in
20 June, and get your ducks in a row and do a campaign.
21 From November 2nd of this year, the next statewide
22 election is not until that primary election in the summer
23 of '12. There is no primary election in 2011 statewide.
24 So that's why we have the tax in the year it is.

25 And just so you know how the Bill was written.

1 Eighty days after the election by the people, da, da, da,
2 it works out that the funds really don't start flowing
3 until 2013. And that's kind of hard to stomach for some
4 because I look around this room and I see lots of
5 familiar faces that are going to come to see the
6 Commissioner about various different projects. And it's
7 hard to stomach because you're out of money today, but
8 that is the layout of the Bill.

9 All right. Now, we're going to spend most of our
10 time here today talking about the left side of this page.
11 But we don't want to minimize the right side of this
12 page. The Bill passed, and the only reason it really
13 passed was a significant portion of this money was
14 distributed by a formula back to the cities and counties.
15 In this case, your area is 25 percent. Eleven of the 12
16 regions in the state get 25 percent back to local
17 governments. Atlanta, it's a little bit less at 15
18 percent. But the share we're going to talk about on the
19 left page, that's where this body would decide the
20 projects. This is 75 percent of the money. So in your
21 case, this region raises in the first year, in 2013, it
22 raises about 78, almost 79 million. Of that 75 percent
23 is roughly 59 million. Over the course the ten years, it
24 turns into real money, right? It's a good bit of money.
25 And this body will decide that list.

1 Now, the discretionary is distributed by what the
2 Bill calls the Lark Formula. And if any savvy persons in
3 the audience, you know the Lark Program doesn't even
4 exist any more. There's no such thing as Lark in our
5 present day. But the Lark Program is one-fifth
6 population, four-fifths lane miles. All right. Now,
7 paved and unpaved, and these are center line lane miles.
8 So a four-lane road, that's one mile in length, that is
9 paved, is equivalent to a dirt road that's two lanes wide
10 that's paved. All right? A lot of folks get confused
11 about that, but that's how it is. And if you have any
12 questions or concerns about the mileage that's in the
13 system, you need to let us know. We at least have some
14 time to get it up to speed. A lot of counties are doing
15 GIS applications and they're getting better records. But
16 we're actually working, and in fact, expect to see a
17 letter in the next few weeks from our folks that do our
18 road mileage.

19 And it's important you get this right. Because not
20 only is this program based on that mileage, you're now,
21 was formerly State Aid in Large, which is now Local
22 Maintenance Assistant Crew, Local Maintenance Improvement
23 Program. That also is figured by the same mileage. So
24 it's important to get it right. So you might want to
25 check your status on that.

1 But it's a significant amount of money. The \$20
2 million, or 19.7, gets distributed by formula, and
3 everybody probably already looked at the numbers. In
4 your notebook you actually have a, one of the tabs that
5 shows how much your city or county gets in that first
6 year.

7 If you're wondering how we came up with the
8 projections, the state economist, Ken Hagler, he's out of
9 Atlanta, he does all the projections for the General
10 Assembly, and they're making projections about their
11 budget. He also did our first cut projections at the
12 sales tax. Now, he plans to go back and refine that and
13 do a much thorough job, more thorough job later in the
14 spring. But a lot of you guys have looked at your
15 numbers. And you can quickly see that the money you get
16 from this program is actually quite a bit more money than
17 you would get from the program that we have going on now.
18 And you can combine those two together, and actually you
19 have a lot to deal with.

20 Now, a reminder. The locals' share? Who makes that
21 decision on how the monies are spent?

22 MAYOR MALLORY: We do.

23 MR. LONG: Who said we do? Yeah. The
24 counties and the cities. How many cities do we have in
25 our seat?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. NIX: Ralph, we've got total governments of 33.

MR. LONG: Thirty-three.

MR. NIX: And 22 cities out there.

MR. LONG: Twenty-two cities. So those 22 city councils will decide exactly how that money is spent. The county commissions will decide. GDOT will not be involved in that decision process.

Now, you have to spend the money in accordance with the definition of a transportation project. And I'll flash that up here in a minute. But that is the only criteria. So it's a pretty good deal for local governments.

Next slide.

All right. Let's look at definition right quick. Just a reminder, and you've seen this definition before. It's kind of real wide open and broad. But just remind ourselves, the middle part of this paragraph, all activities have structures useful and incident to providing, operating, and maintaining the same.

Now, if you know anything about sales tax law, and remember, the lawyers who wrote this Bill also were sales tax legislators who made sales tax legislation. They've been doing it for years. This is a provision that's typically high in the sales tax; right? Your sales tax

1 you have back home is for capital only; right? Not
2 proper. You can build a library but you can't run it;
3 right? You can build a park but you can't run it? Well,
4 this is different. Now, you can build a road and
5 maintain it. A significant improvement in the language.
6 And a lot of local governments are fired-up about this
7 and have decided this is a good possibility.

8 Next slide.

9 All right. Why we're here today, now remember,
10 remember, this slide right here deals with the left side
11 of that previous page, the original share. And we're
12 here to funnel down. We're going to start pretty soon at
13 the top of this funnel, which is, the process is going to
14 be this unconstrained list. And according to the Bill,
15 the director of planning makes the unconstrained list
16 based on the criteria established by this Roundtable. So
17 over the course of a ten year period, you guys make, I
18 think it's, is it seven or eight hundred million dollars,
19 Ralph? Do you know what it is?

20 MR. NIX: On the regional side? It's like
21 seven or eight hundred million.

22 MR. LONG: So you can take that, it may be
23 twice that, is what the unconstrained list looks like.
24 Or one and a half. We don't know what that number is.
25 And that's where you start. This unconstrained bucket.

1 And then you, working through the executive committee
2 which you'll elect today, you confine that down to what's
3 called a constrained list, that meets the projections of
4 revenue. All right?

5 And then ultimately the final vote in October will
6 be based on this group, a majority of those present at
7 the Roundtable meeting come this fall.

8 So theoretically, according to the Bill and the
9 writers of the Bill, this Roundtable doesn't have to meet
10 but twice. Now, if you're smart, you've met before
11 today. Which y'all have met how many times?

12 MR. NIX: Several.

13 MR. LONG: Several? If you're smart,
14 you're going to meet several times beyond this point.
15 Right, Ralph? That's what you're going to do. You're
16 going to meet and talk through things. But from a voting
17 standpoint, it's really only two meanings. And that was
18 kind of the intent of the Bill. They didn't want it to
19 become a governmental bureaucracy that you created. It
20 was get in, get out, and get done.

21 All right. Next slide.

22 All right. I do want to bring this up because we
23 get so many comments about the repercussions of I guess
24 the outcome of the roundtable. What happens if the
25 roundtable does this or that regarding the carrot and

1 stick, some people call it punishment. I'm not going to
2 call it that. This was added language to the Bill,
3 language that was added to the Bill during the process,
4 and it's caused a lot of frustration. But remember I
5 mentioned earlier we have the local maintenance
6 improvement grant program or the Mig program, which is
7 former state aid Lark. It's a separate program from this
8 whole regional sales tax. And actually that new program
9 started this summer. You guys, a lot of you guys are
10 doing resurfacing out of that now. You're paving dirt
11 roads, you're putting in left turn lanes. Well, that
12 program has about between 90 and 100 million per year,
13 statewide. And you know that your share, some of the
14 counties' share, it's okay, not great. And some of the
15 city shares are pretty meniscal, right? We can't do but
16 a couple, three roads, right? So that program, though,
17 in the past under Lark, the resurfacing, had zero match,
18 zero percent match, we did it all. But under the state
19 aid program, who did the engineering? For state aid
20 projects? The county did. Or city. Who bought the
21 right-of-way? The county and city. How much did you pay
22 for construction? Probably about 50 percent. So in the
23 grand scheme, your match from the old state aid program
24 is probably 75, 80 percent match. Now they've lumped all
25 that money together. You can resurface roads, you can

1 build a road, whatever you want to. It's all together.
2 You can use it for what you want to as long as you go
3 through the commissioner like you did in the past. But
4 the max requirement right now is 10 percent on non-
5 resurfacing, and zero percent on surfacing. But
6 effective in 2013, it will change to these percentages.
7 So if those group votes not to proceed with the sales
8 tax, if you vote the risk down, in other words, by a
9 majority vote or you decide not to even have a vote, you
10 create what's called a special gridlock according to the
11 Bill. And therefore, from that point forward, your match
12 on this separate program is 50 percent. All right?

13 Now, next slide.

14 If you pass it at this roundtable, and the voters
15 vote yes, the match is 10 percent. If the voters vote
16 no, the match is 30 percent. You might quickly ask why
17 is there a difference. You know, if you pass it out of
18 your committee, you can't control the voters, right? You
19 may ask why is there a difference. Well, the difference
20 is, and I think the writers of the Bill will quickly tell
21 you that if the individuals in this room don't get out
22 and support the Bill after they vote yes on the list, and
23 you start backing out, thinking the sales tax people,
24 essentially what's going to happen, it's not going to
25 pass. They know that politically speaking, this group's

1 got to be behind it. And that's the incentive to get out
2 and fight for the Bill and make it pass. So.

3 I didn't write this part of the Bill. I didn't
4 write any part of the Bill. I didn't write the Bill.
5 I'm just the administrator I guess of the Bill, from the
6 state's perspective.

7 All right. Next slide.

8 All right. Project delivery, just a real quick
9 reminder. The Bill has to have somebody responsible for
10 delivering the projects. And according to the Bill, GDOT
11 is responsible for delivering those projects. But
12 ultimately, we're going to be making use of county and
13 city resources that have the ability to deliver projects
14 for us. And we already have the local certification
15 process going on. I know Bibb County is going through
16 that, and a couple of others. But there will be
17 opportunity for some assistance from locals in helping us
18 deliver the program. There's also going to be a website
19 ultimately that is published that shows the progress of
20 the projects, et cetera.

21 All right. Now, the citizen involvement. Let's
22 talk about that a second. Because we get a lot of
23 confusion. This summer, the executive committee is
24 required, according to the Bill, to hold at least two
25 public meetings on the list. You may choose to hold

1 more. I know we've talked to some of the RC's, and
2 they're planning on holding more than two. You may want
3 to hold some around the region, you may want to hold one
4 in Milledgeville versus down in Houston County, maybe up
5 in Monroe County, just to get around the region, a little
6 bit more coverage. Those public meetings are intended to
7 help you as a roundtable make your decision on what final
8 projects you're going to have on that list. So the
9 executive committee, according to the Bill, (inaudible)
10 they develop, and it kind of helps you solidify that this
11 is the right direction.

12 Now, after the fact, after they vote yes, only
13 condition, if they vote yes for the sales tax, then once
14 that happens, a citizens review panel will be formed,
15 and this review panel is tasked with basically producing
16 a report to the General Assembly on an annual basis,
17 making sure you spend the money appropriately. Now,
18 who's on this committee? Well, it'll be two appointees
19 by the Speaker, I mean, but the Lieutenant Governor, and
20 three appointees by the Speaker. And they'll be people
21 that live and reside here in this region. Probably
22 people you know. If you do a good job, ten years, guess
23 what? You get to do it again. Or you may say at the end
24 of ten years, hey, we've done enough. We've met the
25 immediate needs we needed to meet, great. So that's kind

1 of, in a nutshell.

2 Y'all have seen a lot of these slides before, but I
3 wanted to go back. It's always good to recap the Bill.
4 The Bill is not that long of a Bill. If you haven't read
5 it, you need to read it. In fact, there's a copy of it
6 on one of the tabs of the Bill that allows you to do
7 that. So.

8 Are there any questions about the Bill?

9 (NO RESPONSE)

10 MR. LONG: No questions? All right.

11 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Todd?

12 MR. LONG: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: One question for you. You had
14 mentioned the cost would come back into the region. Has
15 there been any discussion for administrative cost of
16 GDOT? What dollars are going to be retained for
17 administration?

18 MR. LONG: What we'll do, project by
19 project, we have project oversight. There may be
20 individual dollars assigned to that project for - Let's
21 take for instance, let's say Houston County is going to
22 actually administer a project, because you guys will be
23 qualified to do that, most likely. Right? So say we got
24 oversight. Because ultimately who is responsible for
25 delivering the projects on paper? GDOT. So there will

1 be some oversight money. But it'll be very little. But
2 in general, since we're designing the projects, those
3 costs associated with the projects would be ours. The
4 Bill does not allow an administration fee by the
5 Department of Revenue, by the way. Just remember that.
6 That is actually spelled out in the Bill. Because I
7 think when you guys have a self tax, doesn't the DOR keep
8 one percent or something like that? Is that right?

9 COMM. BAILEY: They keep all the interest I
10 think.

11 MR. LONG: Yeah. The administrative fee is
12 not, there is no administration fee from the Department
13 of Revenue for collection of this tax. That's actually
14 spelled out in the Bill

15 MR. STALNAKER: And on the 25 percent, I'm going
16 to call it the street money, does that money come back in
17 monthly increments, or -

18 MR. LONG: The Bill does not say. Now, of
19 course we've got a new Department of Revenue
20 Commissioner, I guess starting last week. But the
21 previous one, I had some conversation with them. The
22 money will be collected and come back in. I would hope
23 that we could come up with - I wouldn't say we, it's
24 going to GDOT, because it won't flow through us at all.
25 But it will be some process where either monthly or

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

quarterly, that money just comes directly back to the cities and counties.

CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: But not on the reimbursement?

MR. LONG: Not on the reimbursement. Now, the funding on projects, though, the way that is listed in there, it basically says, as phases of work are needed to be funded, you request the money. So in our case, if we need the right-of-way money, we request and actually an organization called GSFIC, which is Georgia State Investment and Finance Commission, they send us the money. But on the discretionary, we call it local, whatever you want to call it, that money theoretically should be coming directly back to the cities and counties. Which is what you want.

CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: But the commissioners make that decision, or the legislature, or what?

MR. LONG: There's nothing in the Bill that says what basis it comes back to them. At least not in my reading, unless somebody can correct me from the crowd. But, it just says it gets distributed to, back to the local governments. I would assume that would be on a monthly or quarterly basis.

COMM. BAILEY: Makes sense they'd do it the way they're doing now, but I'm not sure they will. Get it every month.

1 MR. LONG: Yeah. I would hope so. Monthly
2 sounds much better to me. And of course, you would need
3 it monthly I would think.

4 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: We'd like some clarification on
5 that.

6 MR. LONG: Yeah. Well, we need to ask our
7 General Assembly if they want - If they want to clarify
8 it, they've got to clarify it in law. But it's not
9 spelled out in law at all.

10 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: By the revenue commissioner?

11 MR. LONG: Right. Who is the new revenue
12 commissioner? I forgot. Do y'all know him?

13 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: I saw the name, but I can't
14 remember it.

15 UNIDENTIFIED ATTENDEE: McGibbons (phonetically) I
16 believe.

17 MR. LONG: Is that something the ACCG,
18 y'all can handle for some of the counties? You get GMA
19 together and y'all answer that question for him?

20 UNIDENTIFIED ATTENDEE: Well, the county
21 commissioners in the room know that this is one of the
22 things that we would address until it's opened up. I
23 don't know if it will be opened up, but perhaps it's
24 something that we can ask for administratively to be
25 addressed by the new commissioner, and we'll certainly

1 do that.

2 MR. LONG: Thank you very much. Are there
3 any other questions?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 MR. LONG: All right. Guidelines. Now,
6 what I'm going to do is I'm going to sit down and let
7 Morris Dillard, Morris Dillard is here and he's been
8 doing a lot of transportation work all around Georgia for
9 years, and I got him to know Morris back in the Olympic
10 days. We've been running these other meetings. We kind
11 of help facilitate a discussion about how you want to run
12 your meetings. Now, some RC's have done less work than
13 other RC's. In this case you've done a lot of work about
14 how you want your meetings to be run. And I'll let
15 Morris walk you through that process. But it's like
16 proper source of order, electing a chairman, those kind
17 of things. So Morris, I'll turn it over to you.

18 MR. DILLARD: Thanks, Todd. On the inside of
19 your binders, inside covers of your binders, behind the
20 agenda, the set of guidelines that Todd sent out with the
21 agenda and the criteria. These are the guidelines which
22 Todd recommended. And I believe you have done your own
23 preparations concerning guidelines. And if we could just
24 briefly go over these, and if you are comfortable with
25 them and want to accept them, let's do that. If you want

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

to change some of them, let's do that.

There are a couple of specific items on the list which we think you will need to spend some time on. One has to do with the executive committee and the other has to do with the chairman. But basically these guidelines, as Todd indicated, speak to how you will run your meetings, or question of majority vote or question of Robert's Rules of Order. Question of who is eligible to vote. We think that the law is pretty clear on that, that members of the roundtable who are present at the meetings are eligible to vote. We think that you may want, if you are for some reason unable to attend meetings, you may want to have someone sit in for you. And that's perfectly all right. But that person not being on the roundtable would not be eligible to vote. Do you have any concerns about that?

(NO RESPONSE)

MR. DILLARD: We added in these guidelines the whole question of public participation. These meetings are public meetings, and some roundtables chose to allow the public to speak at the meetings, others have decided not to do it. It's strictly up to you, as to whether or not you want members of the public to speak at the meeting. We have, today, we have members of the public. Obviously you feel comfortable with those persons that

1 were allowed in the meeting to be open to the public.

2 So let's see if there is any concern about the
3 public's participation. Are you comfortable with or
4 without having the public speak?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 MR. BAILEY: Is there any comment?

7 MAYOR TURNER: As kind of a sideline question,
8 but the RC is working with us as you know. If there are
9 costs associated with the assistance they're giving us,
10 are the local people supposed to pay for that or are
11 there any other way we can get some help on that?

12 MR. NIX: We are providing this under the
13 contribution that you make for the regional commission's
14 operations. There are no additional charges. Of course
15 if you choose to make a donation, I'm sure they'll take
16 that.

17 MAYOR TURNER: There's no other provision for
18 this sort of technical support or anything?

19 MR. DILLARD: No, there isn't.

20 MAYOR TURNER: There is not?

21 MR. DILLARD: There is none. There is none.

22 MAYOR REICHERT: This is Robert Reichert from -

23 MR. DILLARD: Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor.

24 MAYOR REICHERT: - Macon. Are these meeting
25 subject to the Open Records, Open Meetings Law?

1 MR. DILLARD: Our understanding is that they
2 are, yes.

3 MAYOR REICHERT: Well, doesn't that answer your
4 question at least in large, and I suppose it would be
5 kind of - Well, now I'm speaking for myself. I can't
6 imagine having a public meeting and not allowing the
7 public to speak.

8 MAYOR BENTLEY: You know, with the Water
9 Planning Council, we did the same thing. Water Planning
10 Council are under the same type of discretion they allow
11 in discussion at certain points in time. Usually toward
12 the end of the meeting. And they're covered by the
13 meetings (inaudible).

14 MR. DILLARD: So I take it you would favor
15 allowing the public to speak?

16 MAYOR BENTLEY: I don't want to agree. I don't
17 know how you can -

18 MR. DILLARD: As you see in the guidelines, we
19 are suggesting a time limit. Are you comfortable with
20 that?

21 MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: I believe that the time limit
22 ought to be commiserate with whatever is being discussed
23 and whether or not we need additional information from
24 the members of the public from a technical nature. I
25 won't limit them to two minutes. Or for even ten if we

1 deem it necessary to hear from them. That's my opinion.

2 MR. DILLARD: You always have the authority to

3 extend it if you choose. Yes, sir?

4 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I'm James Vaughn. I agree with

5 that. If there's only one member of the public in a

6 meeting that wants to speak, I see no reason to limit

7 them to two minutes as long as they're providing useful

8 information to the Board. And announcing that ahead of

9 time tends to chill people.

10 MR. DILLARD: Any other comments?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 MR. DILLARD: So would you then, do I hear you

13 saying that you want the public to speak, and that you

14 want to reserve the right to determine how much time will

15 be allocated for that purpose? Is that the consensus?

16 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Yes.

17 MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: Yes.

18 MAYOR BENTLEY: Yes.

19 MR. DILLARD: Okay. Then I suggest let's go

20 with that. Any other comments on the guidelines?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

22 MR. BAILEY: Okay. Would you like to adopt

23 them? Could I hear a motion to adopt them?

24 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: May I raise a question?

25 MR. DILLARD: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: James Vaughn again. The
2 guidelines that we're talking about here, that we're
3 about to call for a motion, it seems to me that this RC
4 and this roundtable has by prior motion selected the
5 regional commission to do some or all of these things
6 that are on that list. And I think we have published an
7 agenda out to the group to follow up on our meeting not
8 too long ago, to do the things that are required by law
9 such as select an executive committee and deal with the
10 criteria. And I was wondering if we're going to follow
11 that agenda or exactly what we're going to do because we
12 voted to do that earlier.

13 MR. DILLARD: You voted to allow the RC to
14 elect the executive committee?

15 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: We set up a procedure. We
16 haven't nominated the committee. (Inaudible) by Mayor
17 Faircloth. And really we might could sort of cut through
18 the chase if we followed our agenda that we established
19 earlier.

20 MR. LONG: We are basically cutting to the chase
21 on that. We're going to get there real soon. But this
22 is, hey, listen. This is a new body. And all I'm saying
23 is, are these the guidelines you want to follow? Roberts
24 Rules of Order, et cetera. Now, other RC's have not done
25 this, okay? Some of these guys have done nothing. So

1 we're following the same procedure. But if y'all have
2 already adopted, you're going to follow the Roberts Rules
3 of Order, you've already adopted that you're going to
4 have a chairman of this committee. Have y'all done that?
5 Have y'all adopted how you're going to deal with the
6 public? It doesn't sound like you have.

7 MAYOR HOWARD: That was the only line item that
8 we haven't already addressed up there, with the
9 presumption that if we're meeting it's already open to
10 the public.

11 MR. LONG: Okay. But you didn't take up
12 how you were going to do that, right? That's the only
13 issue? You just didn't take up the method. So, you
14 know, the guidelines are for you. We don't care. The
15 guidelines aren't required by law. All right? So if you
16 want to continue to the next part, that's fine with me.
17 But theoretically I think the group needs to say that
18 this is the direction we're going. And I wasn't at that
19 previous meeting. If you did adopt all these things,
20 that's fine.

21 MAYOR REICHERT: I would suggest, though, or I
22 would make a motion that we adopt this written set of
23 guidelines for these meetings that we hold, but I would
24 like to suggest that pursuant to the conversation that
25 we've just had, that we amend the bottom paragraph on

1 that sheet to delete the reference to ten minutes, and
2 just say a period for public comments is recommended at
3 the beginning of each meeting. And then delete the next
4 full sentence, each speaker will be limited to two
5 minutes. Because I understood that we didn't want to
6 limit people to two minutes. But then leave the last
7 sentence there that says, if the comment period expires,
8 comments may be provided to the roundtable in writing.

9 So if we up a period of time for public comments,
10 and if it runs long, then we can say people are welcome
11 to send in written comments. And I would make that
12 motion with that amendment.

13 MR. DILLARD: Do I have a second?

14 MAYOR MALLORY: I second it.

15 MR. DILLARD: Further discussion?

16 MAYOR MALLORY: The only discussion would be,
17 some of these guidelines could be amended as needed. I'm
18 in 100 percent favor.

19 MR. DILLARD: Yes. Absolutely.

20 MAYOR TURNER: That was the question I was
21 fixing to ask.

22 MR. DILLARD: Okay. Any other questions?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 MR. DILLARD: Those who favor raise their
25 hand, please.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(ALL MEMBERS SIGNIFY IN FAVOR)

MR. DILLARD: Any opposition?

(NO RESPONSE)

MR. DILLARD: Thank you very much. Now, let's address the question of chairman. You have, as I understand it, you've had a lot of discussion about that. And if I understand, you decided you did not want a chair. Is that correct?

MAYOR TURNER: I didn't hear that.

MR. LONG: Yeah. Ralph, why don't you give them a report about, there was some discussion about a nominating committee, or the executive committee, and to the chairman. Why don't you give us a summary for that?

MR. NIX: At the last meeting, the roundtable elected a nominating committee to bring back things for the executive committee. And I believe that the specific discussion did not include selecting a chairman at that time. But prior to a report, it may be that the nominating committee wants to take a very brief recess and decide whether or not they want to recommend a chairman. Or we can go through the process of selecting one from the floor if that's appropriate.

MR. DILLARD: What is your pleasure?

MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: Jimmy Faircloth, city of Perry. Maybe I was in another meeting, but I thought we talked

1 about this, that we had essentially decided that we would
2 rather elect our executive committee first. And then
3 make a determination of two things. One, who would be
4 the chairman of the executive committee; and then two,
5 who would be chairman of this whole body, because it may
6 be one and the same person.

7 MR. BAILEY: Perfect. That's fine.

8 MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: That was my memory.

9 MR. LONG: And you're not alone. Other
10 RC's have done kind of similar thought processes.

11 MR. BAILEY: And you have a nominating
12 committee that is ready to report?

13 MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: Yes, sir.

14 MR. BAILEY: Okay. Can we have that report?

15 MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: You may. This is the report the
16 nominating committee - Jimmy Faircloth, city of Perry.
17 The nominating committee met on December 16th of 2010,
18 and we reviewed and discussed members of the roundtable
19 who had previously expressed a desire to serve on the
20 executive committee of the roundtable as is outlined in
21 House Bill 277. Each of the candidates then provided for
22 the nominating committee's information, their
23 qualifications for our consideration and review. And in
24 selecting the nominees, the committee considered several
25 things. One, city and county; two, urban and rural;

1 three, small, medium and large population size; four,
2 experience; five, temperament; and six, the ability to
3 reach a compromise while considering the regional
4 benefits as well as individual government benefits.

5 After much discussion of each candidates'
6 qualifications and other factors, the nominating
7 committee submits the following roundtable members to
8 serve as the official members of the executive committee.

9 Brooks Bailey from Pulaski County; Mary Collins, for
10 the city of Byron; Preston Hawkins, Jones County; Robert
11 Reichert, city of Macon; Tommy Stalnaker from Houston
12 County.

13 These constitute, from the cities, both a large city
14 and a small city, based on population, and from the
15 counties, one each from a small, medium and large.

16 MR. BAILEY: Would you go back over those,
17 please?

18 MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: Sure. Brooks Bailey, Pulaski
19 County; Larry Collins, city of Byron; Preston Hawkins,
20 Jones County; Robert Reichert, city of Macon. And Tommy
21 Stalnaker, Houston County. S-T-A-L-N-A-K-E-R.

22 Considering the magnitude of the task, and given the
23 outstanding qualifications of the other candidates who
24 were not nominated to serve as voting members, and
25 because of the number of limitations contained in the

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

House Bill 277, the nominating committee hereby submits the following roundtable members to serve as non-voting members of the executive committee.

Richard Bentley, city of Milledgeville; Dennis Holder, Wilkinson County; Tom Thompson, Putnam County; Kenneth Turner, city of Gordon; and James Vaughn, Monroe County.

There was a vote of the regional roundtable, and the unanimous recommendation from the nominating committee, these non-voting members shall have all the rights and privileges of the executive committee, to include offering motions and seconds, participation in all discussions of the executive committee to vote in any straw polls that may be taken by the executive committee, and to participate in any activities at the executive committee with the sole exception of casting any final or binding vote of the five member executive committee.

This concludes the report of the nominating committee, and I hereby move that the nominees and recommendations of the nominating committee be approved as read.

MR. BAILEY: Is there a second to that motion?

MAYOR HOWARD: Second.

MR. BAILEY: Mr. Howard. Well, I got to tell

1 you, we haven't had this one before. That's interesting.
2 That's very interesting. Any comments? Discussion?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 MR. BAILEY: Any discussion, comments?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 MR. BAILEY: Those who favor, raise your
7 hand?

8 (ALL MEMBERS SIGNIFY IN FAVOR)

9 MR. BAILEY: And those who oppose?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 MR. BAILEY: It's unanimous.

12 MR. REICHERT: I think you're going to have to
13 call the nominations from the floor. One question first.
14 Would non-voting members count toward a quorum or no?
15 I'm assuming a quorum of the executive committee would be
16 three. I'm assuming.

17 MR. LONG: Legally, I think you've got to
18 go with the five voters for a quorum. I don't think that
19 you've done anything that's against the Bill, or intended
20 to have five members that vote. If you want to have
21 helpers. And that's why - Listen. Every RC in the state
22 is going to have, if they don't have it formally, they're
23 going to have it formally, people coming to meetings. So
24 it's not a big deal.

25 You made a comment, Mayor, about nominations. There

1 was a motion to approve these five. So once you approve
2 these five, there is no more nominations from the floor.
3 You're done. Right?

4 MAYOR TURNER: In most cases we also allow
5 nominations from the floor. Not in every case, but in
6 many cases in addition to this.

7 MR. LONG: And you had done that before
8 your vote -

9 MAYOR MALLORY: I agree. I can tell you that.
10 Sonya Mallory from Jeffersonville. And the only problem
11 that I have is, and I know you men are very good. But
12 for some reason, I think there should be a female
13 somewhere. It's just not a happy medium. And it's
14 nothing on your part, I mean, it's just that I, I just
15 think there should be a female. Whatever you want to
16 call it. Maybe you should put one on the non-voting.
17 But I think somewhere, a female should be represented in
18 this whole scenario.

19 MR. LONG: Response?

20 MAYOR HOWARD: Just for the meetings and the
21 nominating side, we didn't gender ask, but we know
22 balance is part of what we would want. The demographics
23 of the various cities, small, medium, large. And also
24 (inaudible).

25 MAYOR MALLORY: My point exactly. My point, if

1 you had a female or even thought about that, because as
2 you know, I just think that the - I don't know. Go ahead
3 and do whatever. I mean, the majority rules. But that
4 just was my opinion.

5 MR. BAILEY: Chairman of the nominating
6 committee?

7 MR. NIX: Just for posterity sake or
8 anything else. If you are on the nominating committee,
9 would you please raise your hand? I just wanted, I
10 wanted everybody that participated in creating this, just
11 so you know that that were women involved.

12 CHAIRPERSON FUSSELL: Linda Chester Fussell,
13 Chairman of Baldwin County, Board of Commissioners. I
14 had the opportunity to be on the non-voting. My plate is
15 full. And I just didn't, I didn't have room to, I didn't
16 want to overload myself. That's why I passed. It's not
17 that I didn't have a choice.

18 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: The other question, and you may
19 address it a little later, is that serving tenure of
20 these payments; does it continue?

21 MR. DILLARD: No, no, no, no. This committee
22 will work over the six months or so with the planning
23 director to convert the unconstrained list, who the
24 constrained list. They will then hold public meetings on
25 the list. On the draft, unconstrained list. And then

1 they'll bring it back here for you to act on. And then
2 they'll be finished with them.

3 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Then they're defunct after that?

4 MR. DILLARD: Absolutely.

5 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: That's no longer a committee
6 thing or -

7 MR. DILLARD: Absolutely. This committee
8 would go out of business.

9 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: None of us know what tomorrow
10 may hold, but what are the replacement for those, any of
11 those?

12 MR. DILLARD: What, if some member dropped or,
13 out?

14 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Well, it's not, you know, you've
15 made your plan and -

16 MR. DILLARD: Right. Well, it's going to be
17 up to this committee.

18 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Well, is there a guideline that
19 says if someone moved, or relocated, that we've got to
20 place that on a nominating committee?

21 MR. LONG: There are no guidelines, but the
22 roundtable would be totally responsible for voting by
23 majority vote on the executive committee. So if one
24 person steps off, we'd have to reconvene the roundtable
25 and elect a replacement. In fact, we had, in Atlanta, it

1 was a person that actually resigned off the executive
2 committee, and they met again last week and elected a
3 replacement for that person.

4 MAYOR MALLORY: Sonja Mallory again. I didn't
5 mean to start a conversation about anything. I just
6 wanted to offer my opinion so that the next time we think
7 about it, we could just consider it. Because like I say,
8 I mean, we're human beings here and we know that that
9 window (inaudible) are just a little different. So I
10 just think any time you decide something about a
11 community, I think that a woman should be involved in at
12 least part of it. That's just my opinion. And we can
13 carry on because the vote has already been.

14 MR. DILLARD: No, we're about to vote now.

15 MAYOR MALLORY: We already voted.

16 MR. DILLARD: Well, a motion and a second.

17 MAYOR MALLORY: Oh, okay.

18 CHAIRMAN HART: I think she raises - Sam Hart,
19 Bibb County. I think she raises a point that I hadn't
20 really thought about as it relates to diversity. I think
21 that the truth of the matter is these men have
22 responsibility for pulling this off in the various
23 counties. And the composition of some of those counties'
24 demographics are a little sensitive to the first group
25 that might be out there that appears to be making

1 decisions. I hadn't thought about it, but I think again,
2 that gives a consideration as we go forth and this is
3 published, that we do need to represent some diversity.
4 I think it will be a concern as (inaudible).

5 MR. DILLARD: Any other comments?

6 MR. LONG: And I would say, there's been
7 several comments made that we're fixing to call for a
8 vote. I thought we voted already?

9 MAYOR MALLORY: We did.

10 (SEVERAL IN UNISON): We did.

11 MR. NIX: Then we had a motion and second
12 for nominations to be voted.

13 (SEVERAL TALKING AT SAME TIME - INAUDIBLE)

14 MR. NIX: We voted, but the nominations,
15 opposing nominations has not been submitted for vote yet.

16 MR. DILLARD: Yes, sir?

17 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I made that motion to close the
18 nominations half in jest, but just to close the
19 procedural question that was raised from up front. If we
20 wanted to vote on that, I'll stick by it, and that should
21 conclude that discussion.

22 MR. DILLARD: Well, let's see. Are we ready
23 to vote? All those -

24 CHAIRMAN HART: Voting to close the nominations?

25 MR. DILLARD: Voting on closing the

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

nominations. Raise your hand.

(INDICATING UNANIMOUSLY)

MR. DILLARD: Okay. Now the motion. That motion carries. The motion to close the nominations carries. Those who favor the motion, to accept the nominated committee's recommendation, please raise your hand.

(INDICATING UNANIMOUSLY)

MR. DILLARD: Those who oppose?

(NO RESPONSE)

MR. DILLARD: None opposed. Okay. Yes, sir?

MAYOR FAIRCLOTH: Just a comment. And I don't know how technical you can be with the record here. I'm not technically the chairman of the nominating committee. I was just the poor soul who was asked to give the report.

MR. LONG: Thanks very much. You did fine. Okay.

MR. DILLARD: Guidelines over. The next item on the agenda is to elect a chairman. Would you like to caucus, would you like to send the nominating committee out to address the question of the chairman? Or would you like to nominate candidates on the floor for chairman, or would you like to pass up the question of a chairman? Mr. Mayor?

1 MAYOR REICHERT: This is Robert Reichert again.
2 Just as a comment, it would seem to me that the chairman
3 ought to be the chairman of both the executive committee
4 and full roundtable. I think it would be confusing to
5 have a chairman of the roundtable that wasn't also the
6 chairman of the executive committee. That's just kind of
7 a comment, that it needs to be the same person.

8 MR. DILLARD: That's a point. It doesn't have
9 to be, but that's a point.

10 MAYOR MALLORY: Can you introduce the executive
11 committee? I know most of us know everybody, but I don't
12 really know their name. Since we've just voted for one,
13 could they stand up so I could see them?

14 MR. DILLARD: The members of the executive
15 committee, just voting and non-voting members of the
16 executive committee who were just elected, please stand.
17 As your names are called. Would you call the names out?

18 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Brooks Bailey, Larry Collins,
19 Preston Hawkins, Robert Reichert, and Tommy Stalnakar.

20 MR. DILLARD: And the non-voting members?

21 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Robert Bentley, Dennis Holder,
22 Tom Thompson, Kenneth Turner, and James Vaughn.

23 MR. DILLARD: Okay. Thank you. We're back to
24 the question of the chairman.

25 MAYOR MALLORY: I'd like to make a motion to

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

elect Brooks Bailey for the chair.

MAYOR HOWARD: I second.

MR. DILLARD: Other nominations? We have a nomination of Brooks Bailey to be chairman of the, of both. Okay. And we have a second. Any other nominations?

MAYOR TURNER: One comment. This is Kenneth Turner. The only comment I was going to make, I was going to make a comment that the executive committee make the chair from the five, this is fine, too.

COMM. BAILEY: I appreciate that, I really do. But I'm a full-time commissioner and I know there are some bigger fish in this pond than me. I appreciate being involved in it, but I don't prefer to be chairman.

MR. DILLARD: Do Chairman Bailey declines.

CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I've got a nomination.

MR. DILLARD: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Tom Thompson, Chair of Putnam County. I'd like to nominate Tommy Stalnaker.

COMM. BAILEY: I second that.

MR. DILLARD: Tommy Stalnaker has been nominated, there has been a second to the nomination. Are there other nominations?

(NO RESPONSE)

MR. DILLARD: Other nominations? Other

1 nominations? Yes, sir, Mr. Stalnaker? You're not going
2 to decline? We're taking too much time here.

3 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: You know what happens to the
4 new guy on totem pole? He usually gets selected. I had
5 really thought about Chairman Vaughn as a candidate for
6 the chair of the roundtable, and then have him chair of
7 the executive committee. Having two different committee
8 chairs when in fact the chair of the roundtable is only
9 going to chair the roundtable meetings. And you would
10 have some coordination on it. And that's the reason I
11 had in mind James Vaughn. I appreciate the opportunity
12 that's been given. I would do the best I could. But I
13 also think with his expertise, he would be an outstanding
14 chairman.

15 MR. DILLARD: Are you nominating him?

16 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: I so move.

17 CHAIRPERSON FUSSELL: I second.

18 MR. DILLARD: We've got the nomination and a
19 second for James Vaughn. Any others?

20 MAYOR HOWARD: In one context or both?

21 MR. LONG: May I say something right quick?
22 Just so you know, it has been done a lot of different
23 ways. We've had one region didn't elect a chairman,
24 we've had chairmans that have been non-voting chairmans,
25 we've had, you name it. Any different combination. So

1 there's not one way to do it. And certainly having a
2 chairman on the executive committee, a lot of people have
3 chosen that route, but they're also, several have chosen
4 the route that the Chairman of Houston County suggested
5 as well. Have a non-voting member chair both the full
6 committee and the executive committee.

7 COMM. BAILEY: That wasn't my statement. I
8 said the executive committee would have its own chair.

9 MR. LONG: Oh, you did say that.

10 COMM. BAILEY: Yes. He would have his own
11 chair. The executive committee would elect its chair.
12 The roundtable would select the chair, to conduct the
13 roundtable meeting. And that was my motion, for Chairman
14 Vaughn to be the chair of the roundtable. Since he's
15 already a non-voting member, he's going to know what's
16 going on in the executive committee anyway.

17 MAYOR TURNER: Was there a second on that vote?

18 MR. DILLARD: There was a second to that vote.

19 MAYOR TURNER: Specifically as I proposed.

20 MR. DILLARD: We have a motion that Chairman
21 Vaughn be the chair of the roundtable.

22 MAYOR TURNER: And the executive committee
23 would select its own chair. Isn't that correct?

24 MR. DILLARD: That would be the, that's the
25 motion. Any other nominations for chair of the

1 roundtable? Yes, sir?

2 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: One question. We first were
3 talking about having one chair, being the one of both.
4 And now we're talking about splitting them. Don't we
5 need to make that decision first and then go to the
6 individual?

7 MR. DILLARD: Those who favor one chairman to
8 serve both as the executive committee chairman and the
9 roundtable chairman, please raise your hand.

10 CHAIRMAN HART: That's not on the -

11 MAYOR TURNER: That question is not on the
12 floor.

13 MR. DILLARD: No, it was put on the floor.

14 CHAIRMAN HART: But there was already a motion
15 and a second.

16 MAYOR TURNER: Yeah, a motion and a second.

17 MR. LONG: Morris, dispose of that motion -
18 If they elect Vaughn as their chairman, so they've
19 decided that, then you don't have to deal with the
20 executive committee. So just take the vote on Vaughn.

21 MR. DILLARD: If they decide Vaughn is the
22 chairman of the roundtable?

23 MR. LONG: If they make the decision that
24 the chairman of the roundtable did not have to be on the
25 executive committee as a voting member.

1 MAYOR MALLORY: The executive committee could
2 get their own chairman.

3 MR. DILLARD: That's part of his motion. Part
4 of his motion is the executive committee elect its own
5 chairman. That's the problem.

6 Let's try it this way. Those who favor Chairman
7 Vaughn be the chairman of the roundtable, please raise
8 your right hand.

9 (INDICATING AFFIRMATIVELY)

10 MR. DILLARD: Those who oppose?

11 (THREE INDICATE OPPOSE)

12 MR. DILLARD: You have two in opposition.
13 Three in opposition. Okay. So we now have a chairman
14 for the roundtable. You can help me now.

15 Now the question of the chairman of the executive
16 committee. Do you want to do that now or do you want to
17 leave that to the executive committee? What is your
18 pleasure?

19 MAYOR TURNER: I think we ought to vote.

20 MR. DILLARD: Okay. You want to vote to
21 decide to do it now or later? Those who favor electing
22 the chairman of the executive committee now, please raise
23 your right hand.

24 (NO RESPONSE)

25 MR. DILLARD: Those who oppose?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(INDICATING UNANIMOUSLY)

MR. DILLARD: It looks like the executive committee will get a chance to elect its own chairman when - Okay. That was hard.

Okay. The next item on the agenda - Todd?

MR. LONG: Do you want to take a break?

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Five minute break.

(OFF THE RECORD)

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Tommy, would you like to make an announcement on the executive committee?

CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. The executive committee just got through meeting. I'm sorry. Tommy Stalnaker, Houston County. The executive committee unanimously chose Robert Reichert to be the chair of the executive committee, and he overwhelmingly won. The only dissension we had was him. We submit our new chairman to you.

(APPLAUSE)

MAYOR REICHERT: And Mr. Chairman, the executive committee did take one action there, and we decided that any meeting of the executive committee would be advertised to that every member of the roundtable, and every member of the roundtable invited to attend if you want to. Speaking for myself personally, I can tell you that I envision our role to be kind of a workhorse role,

1 and sifting through a lot of data, but basically making
2 no decision, only to just bring the recommendations to
3 the full roundtable. But nevertheless, we're going to
4 invite anybody on the roundtable that wants to attend as
5 well as open to the public. Certainly we'll let you
6 know, we'll advertise it, and cordially invite you to
7 come and be with us.

8 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: All right, Mr. Mayor. I think
9 that's as it should be. That's what contemplated.

10 We will proceed to discuss the criteria.

11 MR. LONG: All right. Part two to this
12 meeting is to get you guys to adopt criteria to provide
13 guidance to both me and your executive committee, to
14 prepare that final list.

15 Next slide.

16 All right. Just as a backdrop, when you're
17 developing criteria, you kind of have to have some kind
18 of backdrop. The bill clearly calls for the director of
19 planning to make recommended criteria to the roundtable.
20 And that recommended criteria is to include guidance and
21 direction on how the money is spent, and allocation of
22 those funds.

23 Now, as we developed this, we stepped back several
24 years ago and we said, listen, the state embarked on a
25 business plan for transportation. We actually hired a

1 firm that does business type planning for corporations,
2 and they help us with a high level business plan. And
3 basically what they said was simple. It said if you
4 invest in an infrastructure, good things happen. I
5 didn't just say transportation. I said infrastructure.
6 And everybody knows that. In the past, if you've had the
7 water system, sewer, you name it, good things eventually
8 happen to you. You will eventually garner businesses.

9 We want Georgia to be a very competitive state. Not
10 only to recruit people to come to Georgia, but we want to
11 be able to retain the people that are already here. And
12 we have not been making that investment in infrastructure
13 in Georgia. In fact, we only have one state in this
14 country that invests less per capita than we do on
15 transportation. And that's not a good stat to have.
16 I'll be honest with you.

17 We have historically garnered all of our money from
18 the gas tax. As you know, we have a federal gas tax when
19 you pump up in your car. It's 18.4 cents a gallon. Then
20 we have a state gas tax. Well, right now, transportation
21 gets about 15.1 cents a gallon. So you combine those
22 together, you've got about 33, 34 cents a gallon coming
23 as transportation. That sounds like a lot, and it's been
24 a great tool. The gas tax is what made America great.
25 Think about that.

1 Compare our country to other countries. We can get
2 around. We have mobility. If you want to live in Monroe
3 County and work in Macon, you can do it. Because you can
4 get around this state.

5 Now, the problem is, we've stopped making those
6 investments at a higher level over the last 15, 20 years.
7 It's because the revenue stream from the gas tax is going
8 to be very suspect in the future. And it's because of
9 one simple principle. You guys are driving more fuel
10 efficient cars.

11 Right now, the average vehicle in America gets like
12 20 miles per gallon. If you look at the (inaudible)
13 standards they're talking about, reading papers, you'll
14 see by 2016, they're talking about they want cars to come
15 off the line and at least get 35 miles per gallon. By
16 2020, some places are talking between 40 and 60 miles per
17 gallon.

18 Now, that sounds great, you know, if you drive a
19 personal car, right? A hybrid, whatever. Because you
20 can get that gas mileage. But what's happening is, it's
21 just like me. I drove a Chevy Silverado pickup truck
22 for 20 years. I got 16 miles per gallon. And this
23 spring, I bought my dad's old Toyota. I get 24 miles
24 per gallon. But Todd Long's personal contribution to
25 the transportation infrastructure in Georgia just went

1 down 33 percent.

2 And that's happening all over this country. And
3 what's happening is, that's why all the states are
4 screaming, is you're going to see a flattening. As we
5 drive in America - We're driving more every year. It
6 inches up. And some places decrease. But in general,
7 our vehicle miles traveled is staying about the same.
8 Well, if that's not increasing to make up for the fuel
9 efficiency, eventually what you're going to see is a
10 bottoming out in a really stable to decreasing amount of
11 motor fuel across this country.

12 So we had to come up with a different game plan.
13 That's why the sales tax is on the table. Because the
14 gas tax, you can raise the gas tax. You can raise it a
15 nickel. But guess what happens? That nickel goes away
16 in about five years. It's like you didn't even raise it.
17 So you went through all that blood and sweat, you're
18 getting a tax gas increase. So the General Assembly,
19 they debated all these issues, and all the facts and
20 figures. That's why we have the sales tax.

21 I will say this. And I'll take a moment.
22 Representative Donna Schultz insists this is all our
23 speeches. She's vice chair of the transportation
24 committee. She says this is plan A. And we don't have a
25 plan B. So there are a lot of folks in this room that

1 aren't real happy about House Bill 277. And in fact,
2 competing against their own local sales tax or for
3 whatever reason they're not happy about it. But it is
4 the plan that we have that got presented to us. And
5 watching you guys in action, I have total confidence that
6 we can ultimately make this work across the state. And
7 we've got put our differences behind us and move forward.

8 The criteria is just one of these processes that
9 allows us to get to the next step. The criteria, guys,
10 is just a document. It's a document that's used as a
11 tool, as a compass. A guidepost. To help us know what
12 direction we're going. If you guys were going to do a
13 sales tax in your county, you don't just sit down and
14 blindly start saying, well, what are we going to do with
15 the sales tax? You kind of have to go into the sales
16 tax, you know you have a percentage of funds going to
17 jails, you have a percentage of funds going to parks and
18 recreation, a percentage of funds by going to
19 transportation, a percentage of funds going to libraries
20 or whatever they need. You kind of have a thought
21 process about where you're going. And you don't have to
22 follow that verbatim, but it's there to allow you some
23 guidance on where to spend your money. And that's what
24 the criteria is for. And the Bill is very clear that
25 ultimately this body decides the criteria.

1 So what y'all have done is basically a document
2 before you that lays out a similar document that sent
3 back in November. So we'll be going through just some
4 high level pieces of that document.

5 It starts out real simple. It says the premise is
6 you've got goals and objections. Well, the goals and
7 objectives we have proposed are straight from the
8 statewide (inaudible) transportation. Support the growth
9 development. Ensure safety and security. Take care of
10 what you have, asset management. Minimize the impact of
11 the environment. I don't think anybody here would
12 disagree with those general premises for any kind of
13 sales tax. If you do, let me know. But those are
14 general that you'll find in any kind of program we have
15 across the country. But it is very important that we use
16 those as a backdrop.

17 So outcomes. At the end of the day you've got these
18 goals and projections, but you've got to have, for this
19 to pass, now, this has got to be, the projects have to be
20 a value to the taxpayers, they've got to be deliverable,
21 and the public has to want them. And those apply to any
22 sales tax you have, too. In your local sales tax you
23 have now. I guarantee if you don't deliver the projects,
24 what happens? You don't get renewed, right? If the
25 public doesn't want them, guess what? They're not going

1 to vote for it. So these are kind of common sense.

2 So you've got to focus on deliverability, you've got
3 to take products that there already has been some vetting
4 on. You can't just start thinking of projects out of the
5 blue. There's got to be some thought process to the
6 products. These are products that you had on the shelf,
7 not necessarily done that I know, but they've been out
8 there, people have thought about before, there have been
9 some studies on them, at least some preliminary looks at
10 them. And that's very important.

11 Macon, your one NPO in the area, has to do - That's
12 right. We've got two. Warner Robins. So both of those
13 area are required by federal law to have a long range
14 transportation plan. I suspect many of the other
15 counties in this region already have their own
16 transportation plan, too. (Inaudible) planning study
17 some years back, or you even did one on your own through
18 your, actually, if you read the comprehensive planning
19 laws for the state of Georgia (inaudible) Planning Act,
20 everybody is required to have a comprehensive plan
21 anyway. Now, sometimes that's pretty weak on the
22 transportation element, but most people have done some
23 sort of planning. You've got a list of products that
24 you're familiar with. So it's very important.

25 And these plans obviously, we want the products

1 picked to be similar and consistent with, you know,
2 obviously, our goals and objections.

3 Next slide.

4 Let's talk about construction. We're going to
5 emphasize construction projects. The reason we emphasize
6 construction is, that means some preliminary work has
7 been done. By emphasizing construction, that means these
8 are projects that are rightfully not to be failures.
9 That you've done enough work on them, you've moved down a
10 path, you're going to be able to deliver them. Because
11 deliverability, I'm very nervous. Deliverability is the
12 key driving these projects that you can actually get out
13 the door. And so that is very important.

14 Next slide.

15 We've broke the product areas into basically five or
16 six different component areas. Roadway capital, and you
17 can break them however you want to. We don't really
18 care. But we've broke them into these different
19 segments. Roadway capital, essentially new roads,
20 widening, interchanges, interstate improvements, bridges,
21 economic development quarters. You've got all those
22 types of projects here in this region. But look at the
23 first part. The first red line there. Products must
24 serve employment and activity centers. That's the
25 regional nature of the products. You don't want to just

1 pick a random project that doesn't serve that. Most of
2 your big projects are going to serve a regional center or
3 activity center, right? You can quickly think of the
4 widening of Road X that's serving this area and this
5 area. So it's not that hard to come up with a list of
6 projects that do that.

7 Some of the money may need to be spend on bridge
8 maintenance and road maintenance. Let's remember for a
9 second. This is the regional money, the 75 percent
10 money. Your 25 percent (inaudible) share, you can use
11 100 percent of that on maintenance if you want to. In
12 fact, I'm believing that a lot of counties will use 100
13 percent of their money on maintenance. If they're smart.
14 Because you're so far behind on your roads. But we
15 thought some of the money on the side could be used for
16 roadway bridge maintenance.

17 Now, you've got to be careful. We want to reap the
18 purpose of a successful sales tax. Right? Value to the
19 taxpayers, deliverability. These will meet those. But
20 public acceptance. Sometimes maintenance projects aren't
21 really high on people's list as far as public acceptance.
22 They should be. But you know what? They're not. So
23 you've got to think of along those lines. What sales to
24 the public? The result at the end of the day, if your
25 product doesn't sell to the public, and they vote no,

1 what do you have? You're basically back to square one
2 where the only money the region gets is the regional, the
3 regular federal aid program, which I told you a minute
4 ago is flattening out where ten years from now we may
5 have less money than we have today.

6 Safety and operation projects. These are good
7 products. These are products that obviously a lot of
8 folks are interested in. These are good sellers to
9 people. You can basically picture exactly what the
10 problem is and solve it. Real good projects.

11 Next slide.

12 Freight logistics. That sort of overlaps a little
13 bit with roadway capital. But you've got the products,
14 you know, the whole Fall Line Freeway corridor. That's a
15 freight logistic project, although it's a roadway
16 project, too. But certainly freight logistics court
17 order that's going from basically serving segments of our
18 state.

19 Next slide.

20 Aviation. How many airports have we got?

21 MR. NIX: You mean commercial, or?

22 MR. LONG: All together.

23 MR. NIX: That's a good question, but I'd
24 have to stab at it. I think we've got seven.

25 MR. LONG: There are over 100 airports in

1 the state. Did y'all know that? So there are a lot of
2 needs that some of these small airports. You know, if a
3 company is coming to look at a county, your chances are,
4 of course, site location. They're not driving. They're
5 flying in. So taxing improvements, runways, aprons,
6 navigational aids. Those are eligible. Once again, some
7 of those are a value to taxpayers if you can deliver
8 them. But sometimes you have to be careful with what's
9 publicly appealing. It may make sense from a county's
10 cash standpoint to put a runway lengthening on there,
11 going from a 5,000 to 6,000 feet. You can make all the
12 arguments on paper you want to, but is that publicly
13 appealing? Are people going to vote for it?

14 Bike and pedestrian. I will say this. That I was
15 very surprised of all the comments we got on the draft
16 criteria, since August 3rd of this last year, I sent
17 draft criteria to every city, county in the state. And I
18 got more comments on bike and ped improvements than any
19 other category. And they wanted a lot more money than we
20 were showing percentage-wise. Now, that may not play out
21 in all the rural communities without your, Mayor Reichert
22 from Macon, I got some comments from folks in Macon. I
23 can assure you. So that's a very high value publicly
24 appealing project although it's a pretty low dollar
25 amount.

1 Once again, though, if you're doing it strategically,
2 remember, you can use your 25 percent money, but if
3 you're doing a roadway, a bike and a pedestrian, hey
4 listen, let's let it connect activity centers and
5 employment centers. Do it on those types of routes.
6 Make sense?

7 Transit. You certainly have several transit systems
8 here in the region. These even could be rural transit
9 systems. You guys have, probably most of your counties
10 have some form of that. I bet you RC administers some of
11 that program, or tries to at least. It's a very
12 complicated program, I know. But all this transit work,
13 money can go to that as well. Particularly we're trying
14 to focus in, you know, hey listen, prioritize, you know,
15 routes that are regional in nature.

16 Next slide.

17 Now, we have proposed an allocation of funds. The
18 Bill required the director of planning to give an
19 allocation of funds to the different categories. And
20 this is what we've done. We've made the categories very
21 broad. We've made them, out of the hundred, because in
22 other words, if you spend 70 percent of roadway capital
23 and 30 percent on safety, that's a hundred percent of
24 your money, right? But theoretically, this is your
25 guide. This is your compass. Now, you don't have to be

1 exact on this. If your roadway capital comes in at 73,
2 74 percent at the end of the day, so be it. But I need
3 some guidance. Because remember, where the state is
4 involved in this. We developed that unconstrained list.
5 Now, we're going to solicit nominations from all the
6 local governments. So I may get five or six times,
7 dollar amount-wise, in part of these remittals. I need
8 some guidance on deciding how to spend that money.

9 I know that in front of you is a document that you
10 guys have prepared, and y'all proposed several changes to
11 the criteria. I have no problem with any of the changes
12 y'all proposed. Except the one here. Y'all propose to
13 change these percentages to, you combined some
14 categories, which is not a big deal. But you combined
15 roadway capital and roadway maintenance. It's not that
16 big a deal. But you propose to do zero to a hundred.
17 What you've done in making that proposal, I'm not sure
18 who was involved in that, because it might have just been
19 a handful of you guys, you've given me ultimate authority
20 to decide your programs. And I don't think that was your
21 intent.

22 MAYOR HOWARD: Oh, no.

23 MR. LONG: By changing it to zero to a
24 hundred, you've given me the authority to cull down and
25 develop your unconstrained list. Remember, your

1 unconstrained list theoretically can be, it can't be just
2 a dollar or two more than the constrained. It basically
3 tying their hands around it. This is your list. You
4 have no ruling. I'm not going to do that, obviously. I
5 would never do that. But you need to give me, and you
6 need to give the executive committee some guidance on
7 where to spend the money. Like I could come in here
8 under y'all's proposal, I could do basically 90 percent of
9 the projects (inaudible).

10 Yes?

11 MAYOR REICHERT: This is Robert Reichert again.
12 Explain to me how we, by doing what we did, collectively
13 as a group incidently, by assigning zero to a hundred,
14 how have we given total discretion to you to decide when
15 I thought that the constrained list was developed by the
16 roundtable and it would come back to you?

17 MR. LONG: Yeah, but who develops the
18 unconstrained list?

19 MAYOR HOWARD: You do.

20 MAYOR REICHERT: And we have to select our
21 projects from the unconstrained list?

22 MR. LONG: That is correct.

23 MAYOR REICHERT: What information are you going
24 to get to help you develop the unconstrained list?

25 MR. LONG: I will get it from, the Bill

1 calls for, I will take solicitations, nominations from
2 local governments, I'll be sending out a letter telling
3 you that this is the next step part of the presentation.
4 I'll be asking Houston County, give me your list. Perry,
5 give me your list. Not just the cities that are here,
6 but also the cities that are, the other cities that
7 aren't represented here. We're asking for solicitation,
8 but there is nothing in the Bill that says I take every
9 nomination or project. I mean, chances are, think about
10 it now, Mayor, there will be projects that will be
11 submitted by location jurisdictions in this state that
12 should not be on the unconstrained list that do not meet
13 the criteria. And they should not be ultimately on the
14 unconstrained list.

15 MAYOR REICHERT: Let me just follow this through
16 one more add on question then. So if you send us a list,
17 an unconstrained list, that it either doesn't include
18 projects that we wanted to see on it, and we put them on
19 there and send it back to you saying no, and then there
20 we are kind of at cross purposes, and -

21 MR. LONG: We would be at a crossroads.

22 MAYOR REICHERT: And then we'd end up at an
23 empass?

24 MR. LONG: Yes.

25 MAYOR REICHERT: So the deal is, we've got to

1 convince you on the front end to put the projects that we
2 want on your unconstrained list. That would be our first
3 challenge; is that right?

4 MR. LONG: That is right.

5 (INAUDIBLE - MULTIPLE PEOPLE TALKING)

6 MR. LONG: The director of planning does
7 adopt unconstrained lists. It says with the approval of
8 local governments. I'm going to get that input. It
9 doesn't say anything about I've got to take every -
10 Matter of fact, I'll give you an example. I'll get the
11 city nameless. It's not in this room. But I got a list
12 of projects the other day, unsolicited, and it was a
13 bunch of basically pipe replacements on side streets.
14 Culvert replacements on all the little side streets in
15 the city. Now, that doesn't meet any of the criteria.
16 Would you agree with that? Now, should I be required to
17 accept that no matter what and put it on the
18 unconstrained list? Of course I shouldn't. That's why
19 the Bill is written the way it is.

20 MAYOR REICHERT: One more comment and then I'll
21 be quiet. Part of our rationale in doing zero to a
22 hundred was because, now I'm speaking for me personally,
23 I have no clue at this point what Jones County and Putnam
24 County consider priority. I've got to sit down and talk
25 with John and find out what they've got. And we just

1 didn't know. So we were trying to leave ourselves some
2 latitude. We were trying to leave ourselves the latitude
3 to decide amongst these different categories at this
4 point, and we've even asked the RC to try to get more
5 information about existing projects throughout the region
6 for us to consider, and evaluate and prioritize.

7 MR. LONG: You have that latitude. I'm
8 going to give you the answer, though. This is a guide
9 book, a compass. It is something to help you. It is a
10 strategic direction of - This is what we felt like,
11 looking back at the statewide plan and all the things
12 that we've done in the past, the breakup of how we should
13 spend the money on the sales tax.

14 All right. Now, but it is a compass. If you end up
15 not following this exactly, there's nothing in the Bill
16 that says, oh, you screwed up. You can adjust, not
17 adjusting the criteria, but you're not following the
18 recommended - Matter of fact, look at the name of this.
19 Investment Allocation Target, what's that next word?
20 Ranges. And what's the work before that? Target. These
21 are target ranges. So I think you have a lot of
22 latitude. But it certainly helps in the process of what
23 kind of projects you end up doing.

24 We've had this debate in three or four of the other
25 regional commissions. And by the end of the meeting they

1 all came around and said, oh yeah, I agree, let's have
2 the percentages. And nobody has elected to do the zero
3 to a hundred, out of ten other regions. So I will let
4 you know.

5 MAYOR TURNER: One comment followup. This is
6 Kenneth Turner. Followup on Mayor Reichert's comment.
7 Part of our discussion did, we understood that this is a
8 statewide percentages. But what we were worried about
9 and concerned about, our region may not fit the state,
10 and we were concerned with that so we wanted to know
11 about it.

12 MR. LONG: You're right. We sort of do
13 this on a statewide thought process. If you want to
14 change the percentages today, I have zero problem with
15 doing that. What you're proposing, though, would change
16 it from zero to a hundred, why have criteria? Spend the
17 money how you want to. I mean, the intent was to have a
18 guidepost as you're going in to know what to do. So this
19 basically nullifies the need to have criteria. If it's
20 zero to, heck, we can spend it where we want to. Forget
21 the Bill.

22 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Tommy Stalnaker from Houston
23 County. Todd, I agree with Mayor Reichert. You know,
24 we're going into this thing setting percentages without
25 knowing any idea what the needs are, or the projects are.

1 It would appear to me that you need to get your arms
2 around the needs before you set the percentages. And
3 zero to a hundred gave the roundtable flexibility to get
4 in that target range. The other comment that I heard you
5 say while ago, you selected the projects and sending them
6 down. It was my understanding that this roundtable had
7 the final vote on any project that is on that list.
8 Whether you put them on and the roundtable takes them
9 off. Correct?

10 MR. LONG: The roundtable has the final
11 vote on the project list. No question about that. But
12 the development of that list, how it works, how it
13 cascades down is, you start with the unconstrained list.
14 And you don't start with any projects outside of the
15 unconstrained list. I think you have that latitude. If
16 you want to put language in there, some other areas,
17 they'll put language that, you know, these are guidelines
18 to be used to help you guide the process. You say you
19 don't. We have done a lot of analysis and study. And
20 this is the breakdown that we thought was appropriate.
21 This didn't come with very little thought. This came
22 with a lot of thought about where the percentages should
23 be. And I think Middle Georgia actually fits in these
24 ranges, personally.

25 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: One followup question. If we

1 approve that percentages today, those percentages today,
2 we've got the flexibility to come back in a month from
3 now and change those percentages?

4 MR. LONG: You have the flexibility not to
5 follow the percentages.

6 MAYOR MALLORY: Target.

7 MR. LONG: The Bill doesn't say come back
8 and amend those criteria. You have the authority not to
9 follow the percentages.

10 MR. DILLARD: As long as the projects are not,
11 as long as the projects are on the unconstrained list.

12 MR. LONG: Well, that's true. Mayor, did
13 you have something?

14 MAYOR REICHERT: Actually it was kind of a
15 followup question. I'm going all the way back and
16 looking at your funnel shaped diagram, and if I
17 understand the time lines on it, you are supposed to
18 present to us an unconstrained list by early summer of
19 2011. I suppose between now and then is when we give you
20 as much input as we can give you about projects we'd like
21 to see on that unconstrained list. But then the
22 roundtable has got to finalize the list by August the
23 15th, 2011 and bring it back to the, the executive
24 committee has got to finalize it and bring it back to the
25 roundtable by August the 15th. So from "early summer"

1 with no deadline, what do you consider to be early
2 summer?

3 MR. LONG: Go to the next slide. Let's
4 pull this up right quick. We'll go down here. The plan
5 is right now we'll be soliciting from January to April.
6 Okay? So once we've finished all the roundtable
7 meetings, which by the way the last roundtable was
8 Thursday of this week. We will send out a blast by email
9 including ACCG and GMA and other sources, basically say,
10 listen, send us your project submittals. We'll have a
11 standard form that you submit them by, and we've asked
12 all the RC's across the state, wrote them a letter back
13 in December, to basically be your repository. You send
14 them to the RC, the RC makes sure the I's are dotted, the
15 T's are crossed. They're not going to do a, basically an
16 evaluation, but. And we will then in turn, we'll be
17 evaluating those projects from a standpoint of public
18 benefit. The way the Bill reads, it says the director of
19 planning submits his unconstrained list, and it will
20 include public benefits of each project. So what is the
21 benefit. That may be a number, it may be a verbal text
22 section that says these are the benefits of the project.
23 And you'll help us with that as well. But that process
24 will take really from February to May. So the theory is,
25 by May, which is early summer to answer your question,

1 right? You would have that. So the Bill did not call
2 for that by the way. The Bill did not give a date. We
3 just know, stepping back, you need May, June, July, and
4 August to finalize that list essentially. You've got the
5 summer. That's why we say summer. That's when you do
6 all your work.

7 You've got the hard job. You know that. If I give
8 you an unconstrained list that's not very much over the
9 constrained list, and I'm going to give you a pretty big
10 list. I can think of literally (inaudible) in ten
11 minutes. And think of a project that probably total two
12 or three times the amount of money available in your
13 sales tax. It's not going to be hard to develop an
14 unconstrained list. The hard part is breaking it down.

15 MAYOR TURNER: On the unconstrained list, when
16 you're developing that unconstrained list, you would
17 follow the percentage guidelines?

18 MR. LONG: That's right.

19 MAYOR TURNER: We would have more flexibility
20 at a later time. Is that a correct assessment?

21 MR. LONG: Not exactly. Because mine is
22 unconstrained. Okay? Mine is unconstrained. But I need
23 to know the types of projects you want on your list.

24 MAYOR TURNER: Excuse me. I meant in terms of
25 percentage of dollars allocated.

1 MR. LONG: Well, not really. The
2 percentages are more along the lines of executive
3 committee narrowing down. Because ultimately what I'm
4 looking for is guidance. When I'm developing your
5 unconstrained list, these are the types of projects that
6 you want to see. So if you've got, on your list if
7 you've got, let's just say for instance this community
8 was really big in aviation. And you wanted 50 to 60
9 percent aviation. That would give me guidance, hey,
10 listen, I need to know I need to put, I'm using a
11 hypothetical, but that would give me guidance on where to
12 put -

13 MAYOR TURNER: But you wouldn't be bound by
14 that number? It's still unconstrained?

15 MR. LONG: It's unconstrained. Yes?

16 MS. MATHIS: Todd, it's Laura Mathis for the
17 regional commission. It might be helpful to explain what
18 the constrained versus unconstrained. It has to do with
19 the cost of the project and the projected revenue from
20 the region. It's not whether, the screening of it, if it
21 meets the criteria or not. That will be done before we
22 start looking at dollars. Irrespective of the dollars of
23 the project. That's what unconstrained example projects
24 are.

25 MAYOR TURNER: It's the dollars I'm referring

1 to. You are unconstrained on the dollars?

2 MR. LONG: That's correct.

3 MAYOR TURNER: That's the question I had.

4 MR. LONG: Thank you for clarifying that.

5 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: My suggestion is that let's
6 look, while we're here and we're all here, let's look at
7 some of the categories that we combined and tweaked. We
8 spent a fair amount of time discussing this. And see if
9 maybe the group as a whole might have some comfort, for
10 example, in transit operation and maintenance, which I
11 think we said that might have to do with rails? That
12 goes zero to ten. But I doubt that this is going to
13 happen, because we've been waiting for 25 years for it to
14 happen. I know there's been a lot of discussion about
15 rail lately. Maybe some of that might come to fruition
16 if the region wanted to spend a large sum of money on the
17 rail, and that ten percent might be a limitation. So one
18 way to skin this cat might be to take some of those
19 categories that we're interested in and instead of going
20 from zero to a hundred, just raise that upper limit to
21 some reasonable amount that would give us the flexibility
22 we're concerned about without leaving it wide open for
23 the department.

24 MAYOR REICHERT: Actually I think, perhaps I'm
25 wrong, but I think that the lower number, the threshold,

1 is the more important number, because then we constrain
2 him and get at least some money. I mean, it's the bottom
3 number that you have to be worried about. It seems like
4 to me.

5 MR. LONG: It is. So in other words, if
6 you said, let's take for instance if you said zero to a
7 hundred on bikes. Or zero to a hundred on aviation. And
8 I decided not to do any aviation. That's fine. But if
9 you said hey, five percent aviation, then I know I need
10 to extend some to aviation.

11 Here's a thought. Now, I don't know. We spent a
12 lot of time breaking these down and y'all combined some
13 together. But if you want to add a sentence. Now, I
14 don't know - Wade, you don't have anything we did last
15 time? You don't have any of our criteria from other
16 regions? We've added a sentence or two that said, you
17 know, this could be used as a guide, in, you know, the
18 executive committee and roundtable can veer off this as
19 needed. I mean, if that makes you more comfortable, I'm
20 willing to add language along those lines.

21 But I mean, I'll combine. The only regions, three
22 regions combined I think two of the categories together.
23 Two different ones combined together so they reduced it
24 by a total of two. But they are the only ones who
25 combined. The other ones have left it basically the

1 same, including Atlanta.

2 Atlanta was a lot different. Their percentages are
3 a lot different than y'all's.

4 CHAIRMAN HAWKINS: Todd?

5 MR. LONG: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN HAWKINS: Preston Howard from Jones
7 County. Why have you got zero on any of them?

8 MR. LONG: Well, it goes back to this whole
9 thought process of if this group as a body decides that
10 they don't want to spend any money on transit, they can
11 do so. If this group doesn't want to spend any money on
12 aviation, this gives them that express authority spelled
13 out criteria. Not that the criteria is binding, but it's
14 just the fact that it gives you that direction.

15 CHAIRMAN HAWKINS: The reason I ask, because like
16 on roadways and bridges maintenance. We've got a bunch
17 of maintenance repair now that's come in from the bridge
18 department. And that's what brought it to my attention.

19 MR. LONG: This goes back to the public
20 acceptance. If you could convince this region, the
21 voters, remember the voters are the key here, that
22 maintenance of roadways is a product that you sell to
23 them to get them to vote yes for a 1 percent sales tax,
24 then put as much as you want to on there. Now, other
25 places haven't been able to do that around the country.

1 But I will say this. That Kansas did this. Their roads
2 were falling apart because of the freezing and thawing.
3 And they actually did a referendum, and most of their
4 money was spent on maintenance. And they were able to
5 sell it. You know, you could put all the points together
6 about changing your oil, the things you know already.
7 The marketing campaign has to be geared toward that.

8 CHAIRMAN HAWKINS: It's about like doing your
9 SPLOST, ain't it?

10 MR. LONG: It is. What's what it is.

11 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Preston, this is James Vaughn
12 again. On our SPLOST in Monroe County, we put almost the
13 last two or three SPLOTS, we've put almost 25 percent of
14 that money in roads and bridges, which is perceived as
15 maintenance. And I think our last SPLOST passed 89
16 percent. So I might differ with that a little bit, at
17 least from the Monroe County folks. It may be a little
18 unusual. But the last time we voted, and this is the way
19 that this is set up, Laura just handed me this. But we
20 voted to have four categories. We combined the top two,
21 roadway capital and roadway bridge and maintenance, and
22 safety and traffic operations. We combined those three.
23 We had great logistics on this bike and pedestrian. We
24 combined the last two, transit capital and transit
25 operation and maintenance. And I think I agree, Mr.

1 Mayor, that the bottom number is the right number to
2 constrain them at least to some extent. But my concept
3 that I've thrown out is that way. If we could come up
4 with a number that we're comfortable with or either we
5 need to decide that we want to go back to their
6 categories, I myself am fairly comfortable with what we
7 set out. But I think hearing discussion today, we need
8 to do something other than zero to a hundred. How to
9 allocate those out.

10 MR. LONG: And just so you know, Three
11 Rivers, they did combine transit operations and
12 maintenance. I forgot which other ones they combined. I
13 think they put traffic operations up with roadway
14 capital. But they separated it a little bit to make this
15 out.

16 Any other questions for me? I'll let the chairman
17 handle it from here.

18 MAYOR REICHERT: Todd?

19 MR. LONG: Yes?

20 MAYOR REICHERT: Sorry to be the one asking so
21 many questions. Will there be some consideration given
22 to current projects that are in the still, for example,
23 waiting funding? And have been waiting funding for a
24 long time? What we've been doing up to this point in
25 time is waiting for state funding. And my question is,

1 that if we put that project on our list, does it then
2 become a hundred percent local funding, or will the state
3 kind of think, well, this is one that's been in the
4 pipeline waiting, we'll come up with 50 percent of the
5 money if they'll come up with 50 percent of the money?

6 MR. LONG: I think that's what, that's why
7 the Bill is written like this. It says the director of
8 planning and the executive committee will collaborate
9 together. So there are going to be projects on that list
10 that we're moving down the path on, that are federal
11 aided. You've got a number of them right here in your
12 county. They are big ticket projects that you may want
13 to do some kind of, like 50 percent is going to come from
14 the sales tax and 50 percent is going to come from the
15 federal government. Because to get it fast forwarded to
16 the federal program, it may take a long time. I'm not
17 going to tell you the projects I'm thinking of, but I can
18 rattle them off one after another. And that may very
19 well be the case. And I think that will be very wise, if
20 you want to fast forward some of those bigger projects to
21 put some of the regional sales tax on them. But not all
22 of them. Does that make sense?

23 UNIDENTIFIED ATTENDEE: Todd, you mentioned to me
24 on this subject that if you would do something like that,
25 you would, a Congressional balancing would be less

1 restricting and you'd have a little more flexibility if I
2 remember correct.

3 MR. LONG: Say you have a project that's
4 \$80 million, that you want to do. All right? That 80
5 million might be killing you on Congressional balancing,
6 but we figure 40 million will come from the sales tax.
7 That now means you only have to balance 40 million.
8 Because I'm only balancing the other money. And that
9 certainly allows you to move up in the federal aid
10 program. Yes?

11 MAYOR REICHERT: I have one more comment. It's
12 just a general comment. This is Robert Reichert, again.
13 Just a general comment. As much as some of us around
14 this table chafe at some of this being constrained and so
15 on and so forth, I will say this, though. It seems like
16 we as a group have a lot more influence with this vehicle
17 than we have ever had before. Now, I'll have to say
18 that. I mean, because before we were just whistling in
19 the wind and hoping somebody would do something for us.
20 At least this time we've got some constrain.

21 MR. LONG: There's no question, the
22 smaller open areas that have (inaudible) have struggled.
23 You've got all this power, you think, but you really, in
24 the grand scheme of things, there's not but X number of
25 dollars to decide that. This has far more local input

1 than anything we've had in the past.

2 CHAIRMAN HAWKINS: Preston Hawkins, Jones County.
3 I think another selling point would be let the people
4 know that we're automatically going to get 25 percent
5 back to each county.

6 MR. LONG: I will say that, from a campaign
7 standpoint, we haven't really talked about campaign. But
8 campaign is very important for the sale of this. Atlanta
9 is doing a lot of their campaign, but eventually we're
10 going to need a champion. That doesn't necessarily have
11 to be somebody from this room. From the business
12 community that's championing this region. And how you
13 sell that to the business community is going to be very
14 important. And the sale of this is going to have to take
15 revenues that people actually have to raise funds. We
16 can't use the money from this to pay for a campaign. You
17 know how that works on a regular SPLOST. You guys can't
18 be full-time on the campaign. It's got to be from the
19 business community. So we'll bring the Chambers of
20 Commerce, and the Georgia Chamber, and groups like TMA,
21 ACCG, and others will be very active in that effort.
22 They're already meeting. They've hired some contractors
23 to help them out, strategically thinking through how
24 they're going to do it. But that campaign, which
25 officially will kick off October 15th? Right?

1 Hopefully. So the regional commission here working hand
2 in hand with you guys, I think, there's no question
3 there's enough need to sell it.

4 MAYOR TURNER: (Inaudible) from RCA; would they
5 come and help us put on a meeting in our county with
6 business leaders, the industry leaders, the education
7 folks, to help us select projects that we would make as
8 recommendations with the DOT at a later time? And
9 hopefully that will help us we think. Because we think
10 we're going to have a tough time passing a SPLOST and
11 this tax at the same time.

12 MR. LONG: The most compelling argument is
13 the Bill. There is no doubt about it. I didn't finish
14 answering Chairman Hawkins' question.

15 The 25 percent part of the campaign becomes as
16 important as the 75 percent part of it. Now, the Bill is
17 required to have a list, but if you can spell out, you
18 know, if you can say Jones County, we plan to, you know,
19 with our discretionary money, we plan to stay on these
20 types of projects, however it's done, that will be very
21 helpful to the campaign. And I guarantee you, the
22 Georgia Chamber is going to be asking, how are you going
23 to spend your money, so they can actively campaign that
24 25 percent.

25 MAYOR REICHERT: And I did notice that you can

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

use the 25 percent as match money.

MR. LONG: Oh, yeah.

MAYOR REICHERT: So if you've got a grant that you hadn't been able to come up with a local match to draw it down, you can use that 25 percent to draw down. We hadn't been able to draw done money.

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: We're moving on to about three o'clock here. And I know we've got some folks that have some other things to tend to today. Let's see if, Mayor Collins, either one or the other meets, let's see if we can take this thing in small bites.

We made some changes to the criteria and the verbiage. Rather than just in the numbers that were up on the board a minute ago. And I believe I heard Mr. Long say those changes were acceptable. Is that an overstatement, or is that -

MR. LONG: That's fine.

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I entertain a motion that we reaffirm those changes to the verbiage, and then let's tackle the groupings as a percentage.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: So moved.

MAYOR COLLINS; Second.

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Motion and a second. Any discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

1 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Hearing none, those in favor of
2 that motion, signify by raising your right hand.
3 (INDICATING UNANIMOUSLY)
4 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Any opposed?
5 (NO RESPONSE)
6 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: The next item is a group. We
7 all have the information. Could we put the slide back up
8 that has the department group? I think basically we
9 combined the top three and the bottom two.
10 MS. MATHIS: And you also combined freight
11 logistic and aviation.
12 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: All right. Thank you.
13 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, I move we - Ray
14 Bennett from Twiggs County. I move that we keep the four
15 basic areas and (inaudible) about one, to safety and
16 traffic operation as a fifth item there, and move forward
17 with the presentation. The others are so related that I
18 think they go well together. When you get to talking of
19 that particular issue of safety and traffic operations,
20 that's sort of an animal in itself.
21 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: All right, that was a motion.
22 MAYOR REICHERT: I second it for purposes of
23 discussion.
24 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: And a second. Go ahead.
25 MAYOR REICHERT: My question is, can anybody

1 explain the difference to me? And I guess I could read
2 over here what safety and traffic operations is on the
3 back of the next page. We wouldn't have any trouble
4 deciding what the road project, what the roadway capital
5 project, and what the roadway maintenance project, and
6 what was a safety and traffic operation. Because it
7 seems like they all kind of work together for traffic
8 signals, and safety, and road maintenance and
9 construction. We were worried about this.

10 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: And a good point. The
11 distinction I think should be made that roads and bridges
12 are tangible, safety traffic operating are, those are
13 intangibles in that classifications differ, and when you
14 have that, then different objectives come up there, and
15 that's my thinking on that.

16 COMM. BAILEY: Brooks Bailey, Pulaski County.
17 One of the things we're going to be faced with is
18 changing out all our signs in 2012, '13. Dave?

19 MR. MILLER: I think 2014 I believe.

20 COMM. BAILEY: That might come under this
21 category of safety. And it's going to be very costly,
22 and I understand at this point in time there's no bit of
23 money coming. So you better be aware of that. We're
24 taking inventory in our county right now of all our signs
25 that are going to need to be upgraded or replaced. And

1 even a little county like ours, it's a big number. I
2 think that would certainly, might be feasible to put that
3 safety and traffic operations in one category like we
4 suggested. And maybe that would, you could use that
5 money for the sign replacement. It's going to go
6 mandated if they don't change the law.

7 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Tommy Stalnakar, Houston
8 County. David Miller, I've got a question I'm going to
9 ask to you. The safety enhancement project, the 41
10 Highway and Houston Road, that is a safety project?

11 MR. MILLER: That's correct.

12 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Which is actually a road
13 improvement project? But they have it under the safety
14 enhancement program. So now road work is even under
15 safety?

16 MR. LONG: They blur a little bit. There's
17 no question about it. Now, roadway maintenance doesn't
18 necessarily blur with road - Roadway capital, we mean by
19 widening and improvements.

20 MR. MILLER: Think about through mains when
21 you think about capital projects. And think about turn
22 lanes and operation improvement when you think about
23 safety and traffic operations. If you are not increasing
24 the number of through lanes in your project, that's how
25 we typically define the capital project. So if you had a

1 four lane project, and you have a median, and you change
2 it to a raised median (inaudible) five mile long project.
3 Because the raised median is operational by nature. It
4 didn't change the through lane.

5 So it's not the largeness of the project, it's the
6 type of project.

7 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Now that I'm totally confused -

8 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Even along those lines, Mr.
9 Chair, the, as indicated earlier, your purposes and
10 objectives between the two are distinct. Like the safety
11 improvement 41 versus regular road maintenance and bridge
12 maintenance.

13 MAYOR REICHERT: Just to follow up on Ms.
14 Bailey's point. If you wrap safety and improvement into
15 roadway capital, you've got a larger pool of money with
16 which to work, for all of those things. Am I not right
17 in thinking that? As opposed to constraining yourself to
18 a smaller number in a separate category.

19 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: It seems to me that, on the
20 issue of maintenance, that if we're talking about roadway
21 capital and maintenance as one category, that that may be
22 a better sale to the voters. This may fall into that.
23 If you combine all these things together, I'm not sure
24 the voters are going to just stay with what the, the DOT
25 just said. I think they're going to say hey, we're doing

1 a project on the I-16/I-75 interchange. And whether
2 that's help or not.

3 MR. LONG: The point the Chairman is making
4 is if he sees safety and traffic operations, y'all see
5 that as important. Which I'm hearing, everybody in here
6 thinks that's an important category. I thought it was
7 important. I put 15 to 50 percent. If you lump it into
8 roadway capital, maintenance, it's all coming in
9 together, you're not telling me, I'm getting no guidance
10 whatsoever from this group that you even think it's
11 important at all.

12 UNIDENTIFIED ATTENDEE: If you use what the Mayor
13 said, we have a safety program in the DOT which includes
14 projects that are categorized by a cost benefit analysis
15 that says this meets our safety funding category. So if
16 you want to use some of the money and kind of quick fund
17 some of those things, that, keeping that category would
18 help you to do that.

19 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Any other discussion?

20 (NO RESPONSE)

21 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I think we've got a motion that
22 we combine roadway capital, roadway bridge and
23 maintenance, safety and operations would be separate,
24 freight logistics and aviation would be together, bicycle
25 and pedestrian will be separate, and transit capital and

1 transit operations would be a category. That's the
2 motion that's on the floor. Any further discussion?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Hearing none, any in favor of
5 that motion, signify by raising your right hand.

6 (INDICATING UNANIMOUSLY)

7 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: All opposed?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

9 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: That carries. Now we're down to
10 the sharp pencil point, and put the numbers to it. Does
11 anybody have a recommendation about that? As to the
12 Department's recommendation, and I think we can do a
13 little math and add that together pretty easily. Ours
14 was zero to 100 percent, which they explained to us why
15 that might not be the best way to go about it. We might
16 still want to go it about it that way. But does anybody
17 have any other ideas? Mayor?

18 MAYOR REICHERT: I will throw out an additional
19 suggestion. The 30 percent is the bottom figure and 60
20 percent is the top figure in roadway capital. It has
21 been a combination under our new category one, roadway
22 capital, road and bridge maintenance. You've got - Well,
23 I can't add your figures together in those top two
24 categories. It looks like you'd go from 50 to 80 percent
25 if you add those top two categories together. I'm

1 suggesting 30 to 60. But that's just for purposes of
2 discussion. And the reason I'm hedging a little bit is
3 because I'm hoping that we as a region can look at
4 transit operations. I know that many of us here are
5 interested in passenger rail. And now, whether or not we
6 can advance passenger rail, planning for a passenger rail
7 or any aspect of that. And Todd, you may want to tell us
8 that before we go any further.

9 MR. LONG: No, I don't think we're far
10 enough in the discussion to really go into a discussion
11 about commuter rail. Because commuter rail is a big
12 picture. You've got three region commissions that touch
13 that area. And Gordon is struggling. Gordon comes to
14 all these meetings, too. And we're struggling with
15 exactly how to even handle that from a region by region
16 by region standpoint. I don't want to comment on a
17 particular project. But if you do what you say, if you
18 combine them together, theoretically you'd be at 50 to 80
19 percent. Right?

20 MAYOR REICHERT: Under your recommendation.

21 MR. LONG: Right.

22 MAYOR REICHERT: Right. And I was saying 30 to
23 60.

24 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Well, if you have a flow all the
25 way through?

1 MAYOR REICHERT: Well, I mean, I do, that I can
2 throw out there. I had 15 to 40 under safety and traffic
3 operations. I put 10 to 40 under the freight and
4 logistics, and aviation, those two combined. And that's
5 because so many of us, I think, are going to be
6 interested in this extension of the Sardis Church,
7 Avondale Mill crossing the river and tying onto Sgoda
8 Road in Twiggs County. Wouldn't that factor in under
9 freight logistics, in trying to create this -

10 MR. LONG: It could go either place.
11 Roadway capital or -

12 MAYOR REICHERT: Well, see. That was the reason
13 I broke it down. So I put 10 to 40 under freight
14 logistics and aviation. I put 5 to 10 on bicycle and
15 pedestrian, and 10 to 35 under transit operations,
16 maintenance and capital.

17 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Tommy Stalnaker with Houston
18 County. To follow up on Mayor Reichert, some of my
19 thoughts were 50 to 90 on road capital, and maintenance.
20 On the safety operations, 15 to 50. On freight logistics
21 and aviation, 5 to 15. Bicycle and pedestrian, 1 to 5.
22 And transit operation and maintenance, 5 to 20. And I
23 think the key is, as Todd said, is the bottom number.
24 You have flexibility to leave the top number. You're
25 just saying, the low number is saying this is what you've

1 got to spend.

2 MAYOR REICHERT: Right. That's correct.

3 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: And then you can exceed it.

4 MAYOR REICHERT: Mr. Chairman?

5 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: Yes, sir.

6 MAYOR REICHERT: One comment just in response.

7 If I heard Mr. Long correctly, he says you're going to
8 get a lot of votes out of bicycle and pedestrian. So
9 rather than one, you may want to bump that to 3 or 5.
10 Because I do, I agree with that. I think you're going to
11 get a lot of people, if they see bicycle and pedestrian
12 improvements, walking paths and that kind of thing,
13 you're going to hurry some favor. So rather than 1 as a
14 bottom number, bump it up.

15 MAYOR BENTLEY: Richard Bentley from
16 Milledgeville. I want to make sure that I understand
17 this, too. It's been brought up by Mayor Reichert. In
18 the freight and logistics, you just mentioned a large
19 project that might go through several different areas,
20 including Bibb and Twiggs County. A project that will
21 interest our part for the region is the Fall Line
22 Freeway. Is that, Todd, going to be something that we
23 need to look at if we're go into look that project under
24 freight logistics instead of roadway capital?

25 MR. LONG: It could be either category.

1 MAYOR BENTLEY: I guess I'm asking because the
2 Mayor is thinking toward that large project, and
3 obviously this is an ongoing large project. And although
4 we know it's a priority of DOT for the Fall Line, we're
5 talking going from one side of the state to the other,
6 except it's not completed in our area yet. And we would
7 just like to, we'd kind of like to have it finished if we
8 could. In my mind, that changes the way I would think or
9 freight logistics or roadway capital. I guess my
10 question is, should we be thinking along those lines?
11 It's going to be much easier, I think, personally for us
12 to sell this in our area, by saying that, you know, we
13 are looking at those type of projects instead of maybe
14 some others.

15 MR. LONG: Well, the Fall Line Freeway is a
16 great example. You're caught between two regions. And
17 the beauty of this, if Augusta, is it called Savannah
18 River Valley? Central Savannah. If they pass it, and
19 Middle Georgia passes this sales tax, even if that
20 project is not on the list, guess what it does? It frees
21 up our federal aid program to build. You know, we've got
22 two pieces left. We've got another \$120 million left,
23 outside the one we're going to let spring. So you're
24 talking about a lot of money just on that one project.
25 That's the beauty of it. Even if it's on the list, it

1 does free up money.

2 MAYOR BENTLEY: I guess I just wanted some
3 clarification on the logistics as opposed to the roadway
4 capital. Does it matter either way?

5 MR. LONG: It's either or. There are
6 certain projects around the ports that may just be pure
7 logistics in nature. But up here, I think your freight
8 logistics and your roadway capital projects are
9 interchanged.

10 CHAIRMAN WALKER: This is Melvin Walker, Peach
11 County. Is the goal to get the money in the three
12 categories at the top? Are we concerned about the amount
13 of money in those three categories, or how it can be
14 used? Because transportation, you're asking for 360 plus
15 110 million be in that top category. So we combine those
16 three, and put a minimum of 65 percent at the bottom,
17 that would give the total amount of money in those two
18 categories at a minimum, the same level. The 360 and the
19 110? Are you concerned only about how it's distributed
20 in those three categories, then the bottom, you would
21 combine the three and may it 65 percent. That would keep
22 the same amount of money.

23 MR. LONG: You need to go back to the
24 previous. He's talking about the money.

25 CHAIRMAN WALKER: See the 360 and the 110? And we

1 have the 50 and the 15? If we're only concerned about
2 how the money is distributed among those three
3 categories.

4 MR. LONG: Right.

5 CHAIRMAN WALKER: Then if we take the, put a
6 minimum of 470 million in there, that would give a 65
7 percent floor, 65 to whatever.

8 MR. LONG: Yeah. A 50 percent floor is
9 basically 400 million. That's what the gentleman over
10 here proposed, 50 to 90. So it gives you a 400 minimum
11 floor.

12 CHAIRMAN WALKER: But if we are concerned about
13 moving the money out of those three categories into the
14 others, then that wouldn't work. But if we're happy with
15 the amount of money that's going in those three, we just
16 want to be able to use it differently.

17 MR. LONG: I would stick to your
18 discussion, the percentages used on money, except one
19 category. Bike and ped. The Mayor brought up the fact
20 that bike and peds are popular, but you don't have to
21 give a large percentage to it necessarily because even a
22 small percentage is a lot of money for bike and peds.
23 You see what I'm saying? A little bit of money goes a
24 long way theoretically. So in this case if you said, you
25 know, he said 5 percent. Five percent equals about, I

1 guess 35 million. Right? So it's a lot of money for
2 bike and ped.

3 CHAIRMAN WALKER: (Inaudible - multiple people
4 talking) - wouldn't change any of that at the bottom. If
5 we combine the three and kept the same amount of money up
6 there, it wouldn't change anything below that.

7 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Can we put the two, there you
8 go.

9 MS. MATHIS: Chairman Stalnaker, make sure
10 that's correct.

11 MR. LONG: It is. No, it's not. He had 5
12 to 15 in category two. Oh, I'm sorry.

13 CHAIRMAN STALNAKER: 15 to 15 in category two. The
14 only thing the Mayor and I was talking about, because he
15 thinks the bike needs to be a little more than one. And
16 I don't have a problem raising it from one. I think
17 maybe split the difference.

18 MR. LONG: That's an urban road question. Most
19 of my comments for bike were for urban areas, though.

20 MAYOR REICHERT: Just to give you a little bit of
21 thinking. There is an abandoned rail line between Macon
22 and Milledgeville. There's a lot of effort in the Rails
23 To Trails, converting the projects. And that would take
24 a lot of money. I mean, you'd have the equivalent of a,
25 what's that thing, the West Georgia, the Old West

1 Georgia, the Golden something Trail? Silver. You'd have
2 the equivalent of the Silver Comet Trail, and bicycles
3 from all over everywhere are coming to ride between Macon
4 and Milledgeville, on that abandoned rail line. I was
5 trying to bump the money up a little bit for that. But
6 just on an idea. It may be a wide variety.

7 MAYOR BENTLEY: I don't have a problem with that
8 either. My question was answered as far as it didn't
9 matter whether it was freight logistics or a regular cap
10 put on those projects. So you know, leave them that
11 high, and breaking the others to a certain amount like a
12 1 to 5 or 5 to 10. I think that's proper.

13 MAYOR MALLORY: Sonja Mallory. What's the
14 motion on the floor?

15 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: We don't have a motion. That's
16 where I was headed. We need to put a motion on the
17 floor, but I was hoping to see sort of what the sense of
18 the group was. Yes, sir?

19 MAYOR REICHERT: Can I suggest that we ask Laura
20 to add a third category for consensus?

21 MAYOR MALLORY: Could we add the one that the
22 DOT added? I'd like to make a motion that we accept that
23 one, adding the two?

24 MAYOR REICHERT: That would be number two.
25 Safety and traffic operations I believe.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MAYOR MALLORY: Okay.

MAYOR REICHERT: On our category.

MAYOR MALLORY: So I would like to make a motion to accept that one.

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I think that's already passed. Safety and traffic operations, we've already gone over.

MAYOR MALLORY: We need to vote on the total thing now, don't we?

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: We're already passed to make safety and traffic operations a separate category.

MAYOR MALLORY: Exactly. So now you're going to vote on the percentage?

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Right.

MAYOR MALLORY: My motion was to accept the DOT's, only just to add the two together and whatever percentage that they're recommending, and to add it to that and let it go. Because he's already told us we still have fluctuation of changing it when the time comes. So I'm trying to figure out why we're spending a lot of time on it when we can develop it when it comes up anyway.

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: The motion by Mayor Mallory is that we use, let me see if I can't state it closely, we use the categories we just approved, but using a combination of the DOT percentages?

1 MAYOR MALLORY: Uh-huh.

2 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: That's the motion.

3 MR. LONG: Laura, just write it - You

4 ready?

5 MS. MATHIS: Uh-huh.

6 MR. LONG: Okay. It would be 50 to 80,

7 safety would be 15 to 50, freight and logistics and

8 aviation. Those are combined together, right? That

9 would be 2 to 15. And the bike and ped would be like it

10 was before, 1 to 5; right? And then transit would be

11 zero to 20. I had one on my original. And then transit

12 would be zero to 20. It would be zero to 10, plus zero

13 to 10, zero to 20. So if you took my original

14 recommendation back on November 9th, and you combine

15 those categories that you have combined already, this is

16 what you get, which is not a whole lot different than

17 what Chairman Stalnaker said.

18 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I have a motion. Do I have a

19 second?

20 MAYOR TURNER: I second.

21 MAYOR REICHERT: What was the motion?

22 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Make that third column. To

23 accept it. To accept it. The motion is that that's the

24 criteria, what's in the third column.

25 MAYOR REICHERT: So right now we've got a motion

1 to accept that third column? Is that what I understand?

2 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: That was the motion seconded.

3 MAYOR REICHERT: I just think we ought to have
4 some amount of money other than zero as the bottom line
5 for transit. If anything, this regional transportation
6 bill ought to kind of convince us and coerce us to think
7 regionally, and put more mass transit, and I think that's
8 the category where this would fall. Some sort of mass
9 transit, a light rail system that could connect different
10 cities within our region. That's the kind of planning I
11 think we need to be doing and forward thinking. And I
12 would hate to have a zero up there.

13 MAYOR MALLORY: I would like to amend it then.
14 I'll amend that and to do the 5 to 20 on that last
15 category.

16 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Do you accept that?

17 MAYOR REICHERT: Yes, sir.

18 MS. MATHIS: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to point
19 out under that transit capital. That applies, although
20 the Mayor has mentioned a mass transit system, it also
21 applies to your rural transportation programs. And your
22 existing transportation programs.

23 MAYOR MALLORY: That's why I amended it.

24 MS. MATHIS: So your county transit programs,
25 and the Macon Transit Authority, and all sorts of

1 transit. Not just a mass transit system.

2 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: In the way of discussion, let me
3 make one comment. It seems to me that if we raise the
4 bottom number in category three, on the motion that's on
5 the floor, the numbers, and maybe the, we just put it up
6 to five. But I want to just discuss that a little bit.
7 If we raise category number three some, the bottom
8 number, which I think we've been lead to believe is the
9 important number, would be about the same all the way
10 across there. Am I reading that correctly?

11 MAYOR REICHERT: Well, kind of, minus 10.

12 MR. LONG: You can raise it 5 to 15. They
13 overlap, so it's fine.

14 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Would you accept that amendment
15 to put category number three to 5 to 15 instead of 2 to
16 15?

17 MAYOR MALLORY: Absolutely.

18 MAYOR TURNER: We'll take it.

19 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Tommy, do you accept that?

20 MR. LONG: Rename this the consensus
21 column.

22 MAYOR REICHERT: Well, can we, since we're
23 combining aviation into that same freight logistics
24 thing, now that y'all have pulled the bottom number down
25 to 5, how about increasing the top number to 20?

1 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: On number three?

2 MAYOR REICHERT: On number three.

3 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Is that all right with you?

4 MAYOR MALLORY: Oh, my God. 20 is fine. I'm
5 just trying to say, and I know if needed to later on, it
6 can be changed. Y'all are acting like it's like solidly
7 in gold. In other words, what we might of should have
8 done was put all of them like 20 to 100.

9 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Will this be accepted?

10 MAYOR MALLORY: Yes. Absolutely.

11 MAYOR COLLINS: Are we still in discussion on
12 the motion?

13 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Yes, sir. Mayor Mallory said
14 something really valid about this whole process. As I
15 understand the list, it's amendable and correctable, it's
16 changeable. The only requirement today is that we do
17 something. That we send something to DOT. They want us
18 to come up a list of stuff and determine what is doable
19 within that parameter, send it back to us. Is that how
20 it works?

21 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: That's exactly what I
22 understand. They take that to be a suggestion.

23 MAYOR COLLINS: And what I'm primarily concerned
24 about there is, we had limited these categories and
25 shortened these categories. That we are limiting

1 ourselves. For instance, a lot of us are interested in
2 great things. How we could make a municipal airport. Or
3 regional airport. We're interested in light rail, we're
4 interested in Sardis Church Road extension over into
5 Twiggs County. We're interested in the Fall Line
6 Freeway. A lot of stuff is going on. I don't want
7 anything that we do here to limit, you know, a broader
8 discussion. But as long as this list, we're sending up a
9 target, and within that concept it's amendable, it's
10 changeable, further discussabl (sic). We're not driving
11 the nail in our coffin today. I'd be in favor of the
12 motion. Let's rock and roll.

13 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I agree with that. And I also
14 think, from what I've heard here today, that projects
15 sort of fit in whichever one of these categories we -
16 (INAUDIBLE - LAUGHTER)

17 MAYOR REICHERT: Chairman, if you'll permit me.
18 On the word levee, that reminds me of the old story and
19 joke about the fellow that asked the umpire about how he
20 told the difference between strikes and balls. And he
21 said ain't none of them neither one 'til I says they is.

22 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Are we ready to vote on the
23 consensus column? Any in favor of the motion, then
24 signify by raising your right hand.

25 (INDICATING UNANIMOUSLY)

1 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: All oppose?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: I think that's unanimous.

4 MR. LONG: I've already gone over the next
5 step, so we're done if you want to go. Any questions?

6 CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Any other business for the good
7 of the order? Yes, sir.

8 MAYOR REICHERT: Would the five members of the
9 executive committee be available for a ten minute meeting
10 immediately after this meeting to start talking about
11 when we're going to get together? Would those be
12 available for a ten minute meeting for the executive
13 committee?

14 CHAIRMAN WALKER: If the percentage bill we've
15 just approved can be changed, what will they be used for?

16 MR. LONG: Nobody said they were going to
17 be changed. You've adopted criteria that we use as a
18 guide. And we use those as a guide to follow. Now, you
19 don't have to match them exactly as they are, is what we
20 said.

21 CHAIRMAN WALKER: But you will use them in order
22 to determine what the projects that we submit?

23 MR. LONG: The executive committee will use
24 them.

25 CHAIRMAN WALKER: And you'll have to have a

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

minimum of 76 percent already committed based on the category?

MR. LONG: That's right.

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Anything else?

CHAIRMAN HAWKINS: On behalf of the 22 people at the roundtable, I'd like to thank Mr. Long and his staff, and all the rest of the people that came and gave us this presentation.

(APPLAUSE)

MR. LONG: Thanks to your RC staff. They've done a great job.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRMAN VAUGHN: Then I guess we'll stand adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED: 3:35 P.M. JANUARY 18, 2011

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

I, MELINDA D. FLEWELLYN, Certified Court Reporter, Certificate Number B-2307, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did attend and report verbatim the matter of House Bill 277, held at the time and place aforesaid, and that the foregoing typewritten pages, consisting of pages 2 through 105, is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as held therein.

I further certify that I am neither kin nor counsel to the parties in the case and in no way interested in the event of the cause.

This 26th day of January, 2011.

_____, CCR
MELINDA D. FLEWELLYN
CERTIFICATE NO. B-2307