

1
2
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**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE #1**

OCONEE COUNTY CIVIC CENTER
WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA
DECEMBER 7, 2010

Meeting Reported by:
Kim R. Mitchell, CCR-CVR
Certified Court Reporter

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12
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14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

Jim Dove
INTRODUCTIONS Page 3

Todd Long
OVERVIEW OF HOUSE BILL 277 (not transcribed)
Questions Page 8

Morris Dillard
RECOMMENDED ROUNDTABLE GUIDELINES Page 11
ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON Page 35
ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Page 35

Todd Long
REGIONAL CRITERIA (not transcribed)

Morris Dillard
DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS Page 37
APPROVAL Page 54

Todd Long
NEXT STEPS Page 54

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
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2:00 p.m.

MR. DOVE: All right. We'll go ahead and get started. Fo those of you that don't know me, I'm Jim Dove. I'm Executive Director of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. And we have been looking forward to this day for a long, long time. We've worked diligently in our area to have the three meetings and we believe we're on the right course and we're on the right track.

There's some refreshments at the back, left-hand corner that the group out here at Oconee County have provided. Also, I'm going to ask that we go around the room and ask the members of the roundtable to introduce themselves and then we will ask the persons in the back of the room to introduce themselves as well.

So if you will, Mayor Joiner, we'll start with you, and if you'll state your name and tell what jurisdiction you represent.

I'm Jim Joiner, Mayor of the City of Jefferson.
Hunter Bicknell, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Jackson County.

Glenn Newsome, Mayor of the City of Monticello.
Heidi Davison, I'm the Mayor of Athens-Clarke County.

1 C.L. Rhodes, Mayor of Siloam, Georgia.

2 Dene Channell, Chairman of the Greene County Board
3 of Commissioners.

4 Charles Hill, Chairman of Jasper County Board of
5 Commissioners.

6 Kim Carter, City of Covington. And I really do
7 like Chairman Morgan, even though we're sitting across the
8 room.

9 Daniel Yearwood, Barrow County Board of
10 Commissioners.

11 Lin Walker, State Representative, District 107.

12 Greg Thompson, Mayor of Monroe.

13 John Stephens, Mayor of City of (inaudible).

14 Billy Pittard, Chairman of the Board of
15 Commissioners, Oglethorpe County.

16 Linda Blechinger, Mayor of the City of Auburn.

17 I'm here on behalf of Robert Bridges.

18 Tommy Lyon, Chairman of Elbert County Commission.

19 Melvin Davis, Chairman of Oconee County Board of
20 Commissioners.

21 Joe Walter, Mayor of the City of Watkinsville.

22 Kevin Little, Chairman of Walton County Board of
23 Commissioners.

24 Kathy Morgan, Chairman of Newton County Board of
25 Commissioners.

1 Anthony Dove, Chairman of Madison County Board of
2 Commissioners.

3 JIM DOVE: Alice, if you'll raise your hand.

4 Alice Kinman, Athens-Clarke County Unified
5 Government.

6 JIM DOVE: Those in the back.

7 (Introductions in the back of the room were
8 inaudible.)

9 And I think everybody has probably met Morris
10 Dillard who is the facilitator and, of course,
11 Todd Long. And I know all of you join me in
12 congratulating Todd. One of the first things the
13 governor elect did was to reappoint Todd as the
14 State Planning Director for Georgia DOT.

15 (Applause)

16 One thing I was asked to remind you as we get
17 into the discussion, to help out our reporter, if
18 you will state your name before you make a comment
19 or ask a question or whatever so we will know who
20 you are. And speak up very loudly so that she can
21 hear you as well.

22 I know you're ready and you're anxious for
23 this to get underway. You've had the agenda sent
24 to you, the criteria from Todd, the other
25 material. So at this time I will turn the meeting

1 over to Todd Long.

2 TODD LONG: Thank you very much, Jim. It is
3 a pleasure to be here. You guys are the fourth
4 official roundtable we've had. We had one last
5 week over in Calhoun, for Northwest, Georgia.
6 Then we had two yesterday. We had Three Rivers
7 Regional Commission over in a little town called
8 Turin, Georgia, which is just outside of
9 Sharpsburg. I'd never been to Turin before; nice
10 little town. And then we went last night to
11 Camilla for the Southwestern Regional Commission.
12 And all three we've had so far have gone very,
13 very well, and the interaction between the
14 roundtable has been great.

15 Some regional commissions have done a lot
16 more educating than others. Jim Dove has done a
17 great job here, as you guys have had multiple
18 meetings, private sessions, you've educated
19 yourself. I've been over here two or three times
20 for different functions with ACCG and GMA. In
21 fact, I've been to Athens probably too many times.
22 I don't really like coming to Athens. I'm just
23 kidding. I like Athens. In fact, I love Oconee
24 County. I always told my wife I like -- this is
25 one of the prettier places to live in all of

1 Georgia right here in Oconee County. And a
2 special thanks to Melvin here for hosting us in
3 this great facility. And I feel like this is home
4 again for me because I know our district folks
5 here, we've been to -- how many public hearings
6 have we had in this room over the years? A
7 gazillion of them it seems like in this very room.
8 So we're glad to have Jordan Brewer here also from
9 down in our Tenille District and Tom McDuffie from
10 our Gainesville District.

11 We're excited to be here today because really
12 we're here to culminate the start, the official
13 start of a very exciting process. And today we're
14 going to have to get some checks at the end of the
15 day and say we've done this. And we can walk away
16 and say, what are the next steps?

17 You guys have done a lot of prep work so this
18 meeting really should go a lot smoother and
19 quicker than my other regional commissions. I
20 will tell you those meetings have been running a
21 couple of hours. If it takes us a couple of hours
22 we probably haven't done quite as well today --
23 because you guys have done so much prep work.

24 So this is the agenda. We're going to do an
25 overview. The document itself, I'm not going to

1 spend a lot of time on the overview so don't
2 worry. We're going to talk about the guidelines
3 for how we run these meetings, making sure
4 everybody is on the right page of how to
5 participate regarding proxies, regarding
6 chairmanship, Robert's Rules of Order, those kind
7 of things. All right.

8 We've already elected a Chairman, I think.
9 We're going to talk about the formal election of
10 the Executive Committee, which is one of the
11 requirements of the Bill, and then ultimately the
12 approval of the regional criteria.

13 And so far, I'll let you know that this
14 process, everybody does it a little bit different;
15 how we elect our chairmans, how we elect our
16 executive committees. There's nothing in the Bill
17 about how to do that so a lot of freedom is given
18 to the roundtables. And then, last but not least,
19 the Next Steps, some important time frames that
20 y'all need to be aware of.

21 **OVERVIEW OF HOUSE BILL 277 - TODD LONG**

22 (Not transcribed per Ms. Lance.)

23 TODD LONG: Do you have questions for me?

24 (Pause.)

25 TODD LONG: All right. Well, I want to

1 introduce --

2 KEVIN LITTLE: Wait a minute, I did have one
3 question. I think you answered it but I want to
4 hear it again.

5 Where you said GDOT would be responsible,
6 what about the Newton, Walton and Barrow where we
7 do have some projects that's going to be in the
8 ARC, do you still -- GDOT brings it?

9 TODD LONG: Now, these are roundtable
10 projects, not the local projects. The roundtable,
11 the way the Bill is written there's an ultimate
12 responsible party in making sure --

13 KEVIN LITTLE: GDOT.

14 TODD LONG: That's GDOT.

15 KEVIN LITTLE: Even though if we got a
16 project -- if it's a roundtable project that is
17 under the --

18 TODD LONG: Let's say, it's a roundtable
19 project --

20 KEVIN LITTLE: But it's under ARC's non-
21 attainment area.

22 TODD LONG: Still, the delivery of the
23 project will be our responsibility but we will
24 work with Walton County to deliver that project.

25 KEVIN LITTLE: Okay.

1 TODD LONG: But we'll sign an agreement like
2 we do now. You've got consultants hired by Walton
3 County --

4 KEVIN LITTLE: That's right.

5 TODD LONG: -- doing work for us right now.
6 Somebody ultimately has to be responsible. That's
7 the way the Bill is written.

8 KEVIN LITTLE: Clear.

9 TODD LONG: But we need that help. All
10 right. Any more questions?

11 (Pause.)

12 All right. Well, I'd like to have Morris
13 Dillard step up for a second. Morris is going to
14 give us kind of a -- just a rundown of the meeting
15 guidelines a little bit. He may not spend much
16 time with us because you guys have done some of
17 this, but we'll make sure we're all on the same
18 page.

19 Just so y'all know, Morris has a long history
20 of transportation work in Georgia. In fact, I
21 worked for Morris's people back in, I guess, at
22 the Olympics. He didn't know I was working with
23 him but he was a big dog in the ACOG for the
24 Olympics, and he was well known and well
25 respected. And I worked for a lot of folks

1 working for him, and he's been around for a long
2 time and he'll do a great job today. I just want
3 you to know that he really cares about this. He's
4 doing six of these. We've got another lady named
5 Eva Kennedy who's doing six of them. So we're
6 kind of splitting it up and this is his third one
7 he's been doing. So he wants to see this Bill
8 passed like the rest of us and he's excited to be
9 here, so...

10 MORRIS DILLARD: Thanks, Todd.

11 TODD LONG: All right.

12 MORRIS DILLARD: As far as working with Todd,
13 I'll say he's really juiced up about this
14 legislation and what it means for this region and
15 for the State of Georgia.

16 **RECOMMENDED ROUNDTABLE GUIDELINES**

17 MORRIS DILLARD: What I like to do is to move
18 the process along; that's my job, is to make sure
19 we don't get bogged down. And I am grateful for
20 the help that we've got from Jim Dove and his
21 staff as we have planned this meeting. It's one
22 of two roundtable meetings required in the
23 legislation. I know that you've had other
24 meetings and I suspect that you will have
25 additional meetings. But the legislation requires

1 two meetings of the roundtable and it requires one
2 meeting, at least one meeting of the Executive
3 Committee.

4 One of the guidelines -- and you can find
5 these guidelines -- they were mailed out with the
6 criteria -- on the inside cover, inside pocket of
7 your binders. And by the way, these are your
8 binders, so take them with you and bring them back
9 at the next meeting.

10 What we'd like to do is just to kind of
11 briefly go through these guidelines and see if you
12 have any concerns about any of the recommendations
13 that Todd is making here, how these should be --
14 should proceed.

15 GDOT is proposing that for the two official
16 meetings and the one meeting of the Executive
17 Committee that it would provide facilitators for
18 any other meetings we -- that facilitators
19 provided by GDOT will not be required.

20 Any concerns about that? We can discuss it.

21 They suggested that the meetings be conducted
22 in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order; you're
23 familiar with that. It's no different than the
24 way you run your county commission meetings and
25 your city council meetings.

1 They suggested that we come back to the
2 Chairman. The legislation does not require the
3 election of a Chairman but we think it's a great
4 idea and most of the roundtables we have met with
5 so far have agreed and all of them have agreed and
6 they all have elected Chairs.

7 We'll come back to the Executive Committee.

8 On the question of voting, as you do with
9 your commission meetings and your council
10 meetings, we suggest that you have to be
11 physically present to vote. You may want to
12 discuss that. It's been suggested that perhaps
13 there are other ways in this modern age of
14 technology of conducting the vote, and we're open
15 to discussion on that.

16 Anybody want to do it differently?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that a question
18 that you're asking at this point?

19 MORRIS DILLARD: That is a question that I'm
20 asking at this point.

21 MELVIN DAVIS: I think in some instances it
22 may be appropriate with a call-in opportunity that
23 the person be available and can participate at the
24 discussion but may not be physically present here
25 at the event or at the meeting and the potential

1 to cast their vote as an individual may be
2 something that out to be considered.

3 MORRIS DILLARD: Any other thoughts on that
4 question?

5 ANTHONY DOVE: I'm Anthony Dove, Madison
6 County. I concur with Chairman Davis on some of
7 those issues. I've got a -- my representative,
8 Mayor of Colbert has -- as a lot of mayors in
9 small towns has a difficult time being here
10 because they're not full time. And that's the
11 issue today. He had something with his job and
12 his vote is not going to be able to be counted
13 because he has to do that job first. So it's just
14 something considered. It's not something that I
15 would want to push on anybody or anything. But
16 there may be some type of proxy, I don't know.

17 MORRIS DILLARD: Any other comments about --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not always
19 possible to be present. I'm here representing
20 another mayor from one of our cities now, Bruce
21 Gilbert, the Mayor of Anderson, and Mayor Bostwick
22 was voted to be our representative here today. I
23 think there should be some opportunity for input
24 on the elected representative from our area.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would agree with

1 that also except that I think that we have to have
2 a commitment to be here if at all possible. And
3 we don't want to be in a situation where we're
4 counting on phone-in votes to have attached to the
5 forum. I certainly hope we do have a commitment
6 among this group to (inaudible)...

7 TODD LONG: I'll speak to that. This is a
8 governing body set up by the General Assembly. So
9 unlike the commission or county, a proxy would not
10 be able to vote in your place; you need to be here
11 present. This group can decide participation
12 level of the proxy. We have one region that
13 actually said that the proxy can't speak unless
14 they prepare a written statement. You can do
15 whatever you want to; I don't care. Obviously
16 input from others is very important, like Jake
17 came in place of his other mayor; you can speak
18 up. And I think that's a great advantage to the
19 group. When it comes time to vote you would not
20 be able to vote because you're not the official
21 representative by definition on the roundtable.
22 And so you're right, Mayor, this is a proxy -- or
23 whoever said that...

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I guess the other
25 question is that even if someone wanted to

1 participate by phone, would that be illegal --
2 would that be legally allowed?

3 TODD LONG: I can only speak my experience
4 with our DOT Board -- Mr. Bill Culkey is here
5 today. But we do allow conference calls for our
6 DOT Board. But we're a governing --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But there are --

8 TODD LONG: What's that?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But they're not
10 elected. I mean they're elected from the Board
11 but they're not --

12 TODD LONG: They are a governing body. I
13 mean, they're not -- I'm not a lawyer. I didn't
14 bring a lawyer with me.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think that ought to
16 be a question.

17 TODD LONG: You may be right. There may be a
18 fine line between a publicly elected official
19 versus a board member. There may be some issue
20 there.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know with the Public
22 Defender's Members Council that they do allow the
23 call-in participants to vote. But again, that's
24 an appointed board. It's not an elected body.

25 TODD LONG: Most boards do allow call-ins.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Morris, would this be
2 something that we would need to make that
3 determination today?

4 MORRIS DILLARD: Well, the question having
5 been raised, I don't see where we can make the
6 determination today. Someone had suggested
7 there's a legal question here.

8 TODD LONG: You could adopt the criteria in
9 the guidelines like they are and then amend them
10 later if you can't determine that here.

11 MORRIS DILLARD: So if you were asked to
12 adopt the guidelines, this particular provision of
13 the guidelines today, would your preference be to
14 allow -- assuming that it could be done legally --
15 allow members of the roundtable, meaning
16 commission chairs and mayors, to call in a vote?
17 Is that what I'm hearing?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would prefer that we
19 wait until we get that definitive answer of
20 whether or not that is a legal -- or if we legally
21 can do that.

22 MORRIS DILLARD: So you want to table that
23 question?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd prefer to adopt it
25 like it is and then amend it if we need to.

1 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. All right. Good
2 enough.

3 Let's move to the question of proxy. We just
4 talked about the question of proxy. Our
5 interpretation of the legislation is that the law
6 requires the members of the roundtable to vote,
7 the members of the Executive Committee to vote.
8 The roundtables that we've met with so far have
9 all agreed that members of the roundtable should
10 be permitted to send a proxy to listen in and
11 participate to varying degrees.

12 What is your pleasure?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Participate but not
14 vote.

15 MORRIS DILLARD: All right. Participate but
16 not vote.

17 Is that the sense of the group?

18 (Pause.)

19 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Let's move then to
20 the question of public meetings.

21 Ms. Carter has indicated this is an official
22 body created by the General Assembly and as such
23 the meetings should be open to the public. The
24 question is is -- will you allow or do you want to
25 allow the public to speak at your meetings, or

1 would you prefer the public to participate in
2 other forms?

3 The legislation does require that once the
4 constrained list of projects is typically agreed
5 on by the Executive Committee that the Executive
6 Committee has to go out and hold at least two
7 public meetings before it brings the list back to
8 you for final action. The public will have an
9 opportunity to comment on the constrained list
10 before you vote on the final list.

11 The question is, your next meeting of the
12 roundtable, your next official meeting of the
13 roundtable and those unofficial meetings that you
14 had, what would you like -- how would you like to
15 deal with the public?

16 MELVIN DAVIS: Just for a thought, I have no
17 problem with the last comment here on the
18 guidelines that allows the ten-minute opportunity
19 to speak at the beginning of a meeting or held to
20 two minutes each and then -- or see if they know
21 of people who are speakers, that they submit their
22 written input. But at least that gives -- it
23 gives the reality that the meetings are open to
24 the public and public input is desired and
25 appreciated.

1 MORRIS DILLARD: Any other comments?

2 KEVIN LITTLE: Kevin Little from Walton
3 County.

4 I agree. I think the public should be
5 allowed and -- and at the beginning would be the
6 -- as it's stated here.

7 MORRIS DILLARD: Good.

8 ALICE KINMAN: I'd just like to say, I also
9 agree with that. I really think we need to hear
10 from people directly before we vote. Not
11 necessarily scattered about throughout the time
12 period. (Inaudible)... that there be enough time
13 for...think about if we really want to limit it to
14 that small amount of time. But I do think we
15 ought to allow public input.

16 MORRIS DILLARD: Are you proposing more time?

17 ALICE KINMAN: No, we're all new at this so I
18 don't know how much to expect. I think the two-
19 minute limit is a good idea, but then that limits
20 us to five people speaking at that meeting. That
21 just seems -- that seems like not very much to me.
22 Does anybody else have any thoughts about that?

23 LINDA BLECHINGER: (Inaudible)... an
24 opportunity to break down their statements...

25 MORRIS DILLARD: Would you state your name,

1 please, for the court reporter?

2 Linda Blechinger.

3 LINDA BLECHINGER: Just that they still have
4 an opportunity to write what their comments are,
5 or statements would be.

6 TODD LONG: Can I say something real quick.

7 MORRIS DILLARD: Yes.

8 TODD LONG: The reason we have a court
9 reporter here today is because in the Bill they
10 were nice enough to put a requirement that I
11 produce a report to the General Assembly about how
12 these meetings went.

13 So she is trying her best to write names down
14 and hear you guys. We don't have a PA system in
15 here or a microphone. So if you could, make sure
16 you clearly say your name and then speak up, and
17 that'll help her a lot.

18 Thanks.

19 MORRIS DILLARD: Thanks, Todd.

20 ALICE KINMAN: My name is Alice Kinman. I'm
21 the one that suggested that maybe we needed a
22 little more than ten minutes.

23 MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, ma'am.

24 KIM CARTER: I concur. It gives folks an
25 opportunity to voice their feelings rather than

1 just (inaudible)... In our city we afford an
2 opportunity for folks -- I didn't say my name, by
3 the way, for the court reporter after he just told
4 us, did I? I did not. Kim Carter, City of
5 Covington. Excuse me.

6 In our city we afford an opportunity when we
7 have a public agenda, if someone wishes to speak
8 about a topic on that agenda then they sign up in
9 advance and talk as long as the Chair will allow
10 them to talk relevant to the agenda items.

11 If you're just there to complain about
12 something you can stand up and complain but you're
13 limited to a very short amount of time and you
14 have to sit down. So it makes people do their
15 homework relevant to what's on our agenda. So
16 then I think two minutes is an extremely short
17 amount of time to state your case.

18 MORRIS DILLARD: What would you suggest?

19 KIM CARTER: I'd have to give some more
20 thought to that but, you know, I think that people
21 do take the time to do their homework and get
22 involved in the process and care about their
23 region. I think it should be up to the discretion
24 of the director of the meeting. You know, if
25 they're just up there complaining and not

1 participating in a give and take conversation or
2 trying to make the process or the project better
3 then they should sit down. If they're prepared
4 and are engaged it should be up to the discretion
5 of whoever's chairing the meeting, be it the
6 Chairman or the Executive Committee.

7 MORRIS DILLARD: It would be my thinking,
8 that if you don't set a limit you're going to have
9 a hard time shutting certain people off.

10 HEIDI DAVISON: I'm Heidi Davison. I --

11 MORRIS DILLARD: I'm sorry.

12 HEIDI DAVISON: Oh, go ahead.

13 CHARLES HILL: I'm Charles Hill from
14 Jefferson County. We always give three minutes
15 for each individual to come up and talk and say
16 what they want to say. It think three minutes
17 gives you enough time to get your point across.

18 MORRIS DILLARD: So three minutes has been
19 suggested.

20 HEIDI DAVISON: I'm Heidi Davison, and I was
21 going to say, we allow people three minutes in
22 Athens. I don't have a problem with two. I do
23 have a problem with ten minutes because I think it
24 does limit the number of people to five, but I'm
25 not sure that five people speaking on behalf of

1 twelve counties is necessarily enough.

2 And we don't put a limit on how long people
3 can talk at the beginning of the meeting; everyone
4 in this room knows that. Because we've had some
5 very long meetings in Athens. We let our citizens
6 come and say their peace and we sit and listen
7 until they're done and then we start our business.
8 So if it takes them two hours to talk then it's
9 two hours. I'm not suggesting that we do that
10 here. However, I do have a concern with saying
11 that only five people can talk when we represent a
12 twelve-county region.

13 So I don't know what the right amount of
14 total time is. I don't have a problem with two
15 minutes to get your case on the table.

16 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay, so three minutes has
17 been suggested as an alternative to two minutes.

18 Do we have a suggestion for the total amount
19 of time that should be dedicated to public
20 comment. Somebody suggest --

21 BILLY PITTARD: I like the idea of leaving it
22 to the discretion of the chair. I do believe we
23 have chair people who will keep on the subject or
24 stop reiteration of the same thing.

25 Billy Pittard, Sorry.

1 MORRIS DILLARD: Those who would leave it to
2 the discretion of the Chair.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would say a minimum
4 of two minutes or three, whatever you decide. But
5 ultimately if there's constructive discussion
6 going on I think it should be able to continue.
7 But if it become unconstructive then at the
8 discretion of the chair, they will determine that.
9 That's pretty much the way we do it.

10 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Does everybody feel
11 comfortable with that, by the way?

12 (Pause.)

13 MORRIS DILLARD: I sense that everybody feels
14 comfortable with not putting a maximum amount of
15 time for public comment. Okay. All right.
16 That'll be interesting to see. That'll be
17 interesting to see how that works out. That's
18 fine.

19 (Roundtable members speaking simultaneously,
20 unintelligible).

21 MORRIS DILLARD: Because there's a lot of
22 interest in this legislation, by the way. And
23 you're going to be talking about a lot of very
24 specific transportation projects and
25 transportation is a very personal thing. And a

1 lot of people who have come before you -- who have
2 potentially come before you with very, very good
3 arguments and cases. So you could spend a lot of
4 time.

5 And as someone over here said, this is not
6 the only opportunity for public input. There are
7 a lot of other avenues that the public has for
8 input.

9 JOE WALTER: My name is Joe Walter, City of
10 Watkinsville.

11 Do I understand that we have to have two
12 public meetings? Can we have more?

13 MORRIS DILLARD: You can have more,
14 absolutely.

15 JOE WALTER: So would an option be to have
16 maybe additional public meetings and keep this
17 relatively short?

18 MORRIS DILLARD: That would be an option.
19 That would be an option, yes.

20 CHARLES HILL: I'm, again, Charles Hill. I
21 think 30 minutes to keep people from hashing and
22 saying the same thing over and over again.

23 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay, so we have
24 unrestricted, leave it to the discretion of the
25 chairman, and then we have the 30-minute proposal.

1 Let's nail this one.

2 GLENN NEWSOME: I'm Glenn Newsome from
3 Monticello.

4 I would support the 30 minutes. And then I
5 have a question: How do you amend these
6 guidelines if we get into something and decide --
7 it could be six months from now -- that we need
8 more time than that?

9 MORRIS DILLARD: Well, I would think that the
10 roundtable has the authority -- if you want to
11 extend it some you could do that. You're all
12 powerful when you're in session. So I don't --
13 and that's where the discretion of the Chairman
14 comes in. He has a guideline but he also has
15 discretion.

16 MELVIN DAVIS: Of course, I'm assuming,
17 though -- Melvin Davis.

18 I'm assuming that in the particular meeting
19 should there be a particular issue that needs that
20 public input and public discussion would have the
21 discretion if the roundtable approved of it.

22 MORRIS DILLARD: Correct. Exactly.

23 So is everybody comfortable with that?

24 ALICE KINMAN: And I've said -- Alice Kinman.

25 I can't feel comfortable with limiting the

1 number of people that can come speak to us. I
2 feel comfortable limiting the amount of time that
3 individuals speak. But we're asking people to
4 vote on a very big thing, a lot of money out of
5 their pockets. And as to the way we all do
6 business in our counties, we get a lot of people
7 to come down to a meeting and speak, we should --
8 we should hear them. I really think that. And I
9 think that the Chairman can be entrusted with the
10 job of saying, thank you, we heard that point of
11 view, let the next person come in. I know our
12 Chairmans around the region do that already. So
13 that's really how -- I feel strongly about that.
14 We need to let people speak to us in a formal,
15 constrained manner.

16 MORRIS DILLARD: Right, right.

17 ALICE KINMAN: And not limit the number of
18 people that can do that. I hate the idea of 15
19 people being out there and we only get to 12 in
20 the allotted amount of time. Well, what about
21 those other three?

22 MORRIS DILLARD: Right. And that's the
23 sense, I think of the group, is that the Chairman
24 would use his discretion in favor of allowing more
25 people to speak.

1 Am I stating that correctly?

2 JOHN STEPHENS: John Stephens.

3 If we were to use those rules today and
4 everybody who is sitting back here wanted to
5 participate and we gave three minutes, we would
6 have two hours worth if you adhere to exactly
7 three minutes. So you've got two hours
8 (inaudible) before you can move into your meeting.

9 MORRIS DILLARD: But the reality of the
10 situation is -- and this is what happens when you
11 start dealing with hypotheticals. The reality of
12 the situation is is that everybody will not want
13 to speak.

14 JOHN STEPHENS: I understand that. I'm just
15 saying that that would be a potential. And as you
16 say, your meetings go on to 11:00 or 12:00 at
17 night.

18 HEIDI DAVISON: Not always. But...

19 JOHN STEPHENS: And they indeed do. You get
20 to a point where everybody wants to say something,
21 and where do you set the line? I like the idea of
22 setting a finite number. And if you have got a
23 full house of people, this body that has the
24 ability to say, we won't to continue to hear, I
25 have not heard anything repeated, let's --

1 MORRIS DILLARD: Right.

2 JOHN STEPHENS: You know. And you can do
3 that and that body can extend the time. And you
4 can do it (inaudible) so people will know that
5 there is a potential for a finite.

6 MORRIS DILLARD: And that's the sense that I
7 get, is that the group wants the Chairman to have
8 the discretion to extend the time required.

9 JOHN STEPHENS: If you give these rules to
10 him that the Chairman has got nothing that he can
11 do to extend those times under Robert's unless the
12 body agrees to. I believe I -- that's...

13 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. I think we may have
14 beat this one enough. Okay. All right.

15 All right. Let's talk about the Executive
16 Committee. That's one thing you have to do. The
17 law requires the roundtable to elect an Executive
18 Committee. I understand you've done a lot of
19 thinking about this and that you've done some
20 preparation and that you may, in fact, may be
21 ready to nominate members to the Executive
22 Committee. You have to elect five. Three more
23 are designated by the Chairman of Transportation
24 Committee of the House. Two are designated -- I'm
25 sorry. Two are designated by the Transportation

1 Committee of the House. One is designated by the
2 Transportation Committee of the Senate. Those
3 three are non-voting. But the Executive Committee
4 is made up of eight people. Five elected by this
5 body.

6 Are you ready to nominate five? I'm told
7 that you are.

8 C.L. RHODES: C.L. Rhodes.

9 MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir.

10 C.L. RHODES: I thought we already did that.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Well, we're
12 going to do it officially. We've got to make it
13 official.

14 TOMMY LYON: Tommy Lyon. I make the
15 nomination of Kevin Little, Hunter Bicknell,
16 Melvin Davis, Billy Pittard and Kathy Morgan as
17 the Executive Committee.

18 ANTHONY DOVE: Anthony Dove. I second that.

19 (Roundtable members speaking simultaneously,
20 unintelligible.)

21 MORRIS DILLARD: We need to elect a Chairman
22 first. You want to nominate from the floor.

23 KATHY MORGAN: May I make a substitute motion
24 that we table this until we nominate a Chair?

25 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay.

1 KATHY MORGAN: I'm Kathy Morgan from Newton
2 County.

3 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. We have a substitute
4 motion here that Executive Committee nominees --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second that.

6 MORRIS DILLARD: -- until we elect a chair.
7 I apologize.

8 HEIDI DAVISON: Well, I'll put a nomination
9 on the floor for Chair.

10 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay.

11 HEIDI DAVIS: I'm going to nominate Hunter
12 Bicknell.

13 JIM JOINER: I second that.

14 HEIDI DAVISON: And I'm Heidi Davison.

15 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Hunter Bicknell, from
16 Jackson County.

17 Any other nominations?

18 ANTHONY DOVE: I'm Anthony Dove and nothing
19 against Hunter but I just want to put also a
20 nomination for Melvin Davis, Oconee County.

21 MORRIS DILLARD: Melvin Davis, Chairman of
22 Oconee County Commission.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll make a nomination
24 for Kevin Little from Walton County.

25 MORRIS DILLARD: Kevin Little, Walton County.

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Okay. Any other nominations?

BILLY PITTARD: I'll second Kevin Little.
I'm Billy Pittard. Sorry.

DANIEL YEARWOOD: Daniel Yearwood, Barrow
County Commission Chairman, making a nomination
for Walton County, Kevin Little.

MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Any other
nominations?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I make a motion to
close the nominations.

MORRIS DILLARD: We have a motion to close
the nominations. Do we have a second on that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

MORRIS DILLARD: Is there a floor agreement?
There is. I believe all voted members of the
roundtable should have received a ballot. It
looks like this (indicating). That should have
been given to you as you registered. If you did
not get one we have more. Only voting members of
the roundtable should have the ballot.

TODD LONG: Proxies are not voting.

MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir.

BILLY PITTARD: Mayor (inaudible) has
indicated there's a proxy but these actually are
nominees that -- where the previous nominee had

1 declined and they are elected among the mayors to
2 have John serve as -- so he's really not a proxy.

3 TODD LONG: Is that the email I got today,
4 Jim? Where's Jim at? Is that the email I got
5 today? Okay. Yeah, so y'all have re-elected a
6 new mayor round officially? Okay. Because that
7 was sent to me about two hours ago. So you're
8 right; you're not a proxy then in that case.

9 TODD LONG: Whoever the mayor is elected by
10 the mayors is the person.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that's not a proxy?

12 TODD LONG: No, that's correct. So you can
13 vote. Yeah, you're on the roundtable.

14 (Roundtable members speaking simultaneously,
15 unintelligible.)

16 MORRIS DILLARD: Cast your vote and we will
17 collect the ballots.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I speak?

19 MORRIS DILLARD: Yes.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would like to say
21 that three top notch people were put up for
22 Chairman.

23 NOMINEES: Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, there was a pause in the
25 proceedings for votes to be tallied.)

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

2 TODD LONG: In an extremely tight three-way
3 race... Hunter Bicknell.

4 (Applause.)

5 MORRIS DILLARD: Do we have a motion to
6 approve the nominees for the Executive Committee?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

8 HUNTER BICKNELL: Any discussion? All those
9 in favor of the five nominees signify by raising
10 your right hand. Motion carries.

11 TODD LONG: Now, I think you need to vote on
12 the guidelines. We never really voted on that.

13 HUNTER BICKNELL: Right. Okay. At this time
14 we will entertain the motion to adopt the
15 guidelines as we have discussed. And if you could
16 help me with what the modifications were that were
17 recommended.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Two minutes or three
19 minutes.

20 HUNTER BICKNELL: I think, two, yeah. The
21 amount of time -- three-minute maximum and 30-
22 minute total. And I forgot, did we --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: With your discretion
24 as for --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You would have the

1 discretion to extend the discussion or halt the
2 discussion.

3 HUNTER BICKNELL: We had a discussion of a
4 two-minute limit as opposed to a three-minute
5 limit. So the motion is to adopt the recommended
6 guidelines with the amendment to allow up to 30
7 minutes total input by the public with a two-
8 minute limit by any individual with the Chair
9 having the discretion to extend the public
10 comments as it sees fit.

11 Were there any other items on the guidelines
12 that we had changed?

13 BILLY PITTARD: The Chair has the discretion
14 of the total time of 30 minutes or is that the
15 individual time?

16 HUNTER BICKNELL: The total time. All right.
17 Yes, Kathy.

18 KATHY MORGAN: I have a question. In the
19 recommended guidelines it allowed for someone to
20 submit in writing if they did not get to speak.
21 Are we still going to allow that?

22 HUNTER BICKNELL: I think so. No reason not
23 to. All right. So a motion.

24 TOMMY LYON: I'll make the motion. Tommy
25 Lyon.

1 MELVIN DAVIS: I'll second that motion.
2 Melvin Davis.
3 HUNTER BICKNELL: Any further discussion?
4 All those in favor signify by saying "I".
5 ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS: I.
6 HUNTER BICKNELL: Opposed?
7 (Pause)
8 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay.
9 TODD LONG: All right. Thank you very much,
10 Morris.
11 Hunter, we had in our schedule a break. I
12 think I could do a presentation probably in five
13 or ten minutes. That's really all we have left.
14 So subject to your pleasure, do you want a break
15 or just --
16 HUNTER BICKNELL: Let's move forward.
17 TODD LONG: Okay.
18 HUNTER BICKNELL: Five minutes.
19 TODD LONG: Okay. Five minutes. All right.
20 Let's talk about the criteria. You all have
21 copies of the criteria.
22 **REGIONAL CRITERIA** (not transcribed)
23 **DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS**
24 TODD LONG: For discussion I'm going to ask
25 Morris to come back up and facilitate that, if

1 y'all have any discussion.

2 And Morris, take it away.

3 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. You are required to
4 approve the criteria that will be used by you, by
5 the local, by the cities, by the legislators to
6 select projects, submit them to Todd for the
7 unconstrained list. These are the criteria that
8 he will use to put projects on the unconstrained
9 list. These are the criteria which the Executive
10 Committee will use to move from the unconstrained
11 list to the constrained list. These are the
12 criteria which ultimately you will use to select
13 the final...

14 Are there any comments?

15 HUNTER BICKNELL: Is there a motion?

16 HEIDI DAVISON: Well, I'm Heidi Davison. Let
17 me make sure I understand. So all we're doing is
18 either accepting or not accepting these
19 percentages and then we're not expecting them to
20 come up with new percentages?

21 MORRIS DILLARD: You're adopting the entire
22 document.

23 HUNTER BICKNELL: As Todd said, you don't
24 have to get within that range.

25 Is that correct, Todd?

1 TODD LONG: That's right.

2 HUNTER BICKNELL: It's a target range.

3 HEIDI DAVISON: But do we have to assign
4 ranges ourselves today?

5 TODD LONG: Okay. Let me back up a second.

6 The criteria is the guidelines. I give -- I
7 have basically -- the moment I sent the
8 recommended criteria to the roundtable it's in
9 your hands. If you decided to adopt it you can
10 amend it, you can change anything.

11 So, Mayor, I think your question was, can you
12 change things -- yes, this body can change the
13 whole document if you wanted to. If you wanted to
14 make 100 percent bikeways you could. But you know
15 you're not going to do that. But obviously -- the
16 document has a lot of flexibility and you can use
17 it to help me guide how I -- ultimately what I
18 submit back to you in that unconstrained list,
19 like you said.

20 HEIDI DAVISON: Well, I understand that
21 there's flexibility. But my question is, where is
22 that flexibility? If I put my hand up and I say,
23 yes, I agree it's going to be 70 percent roadway
24 capital, are you going to give us something
25 that's, you know, 40 percent or is it for us to

1 decide that we only want you to use 40 percent and
2 then we'll accept what you bring us? And so, my
3 question is, when we raise our hands are we saying
4 yes to these percentages or do we need to have
5 some discretion as to whether or not these
6 percentages reflect what it is that we want in the
7 region? I understand about the other part of
8 this. But you know, once we walk out of here
9 we're locked into these percentages. Where does
10 the flexibility then come in? The flexibility is
11 between 50 and 70 so...

12 TODD LONG: You have flexibility on two
13 fronts. You have flexibility right now to change
14 these percentages however you want to.

15 HEIDI DAVISON: That's my question.

16 TODD LONG: Question number two, you have
17 flexibility -- even if you adopt them today you
18 still have the flexibility because it's a wide
19 range and you don't have to hit necessarily --
20 it's a target range.

21 JIM JOINER: Have you got to hit within that
22 parameter?

23 TODD LONG: Generally that's -- that's the
24 compass you're going by, you want to be in that
25 parameter. So at the end of the day you want --

1 for instance we have bike and ped, 1 to 5, right?
2 So you want -- at the end of the day on the final
3 constrained list you want to be between 1 and 5
4 percent in that category.

5 Now, does it have to be exact? No. These
6 are targets ranges. But it gives you a guide to
7 go forward and -- and really, it's going to be
8 needed for, not necessarily me alone. It's needed
9 for the Executive Committee. Because the
10 Executive Committee has got a big list of
11 projects. They're trying to nail down what they
12 spend money on and this is your guide.

13 HUNTER BICKNELL: But the point is, it is a
14 guide. And if we were to end up with 6 percent
15 for bike paths we could still do that even though
16 the guidelines are 1 to 5.

17 TODD LONG: That's my understanding of the
18 reason of the Bill, yes.

19 HUNTER BICKNELL: It doesn't lock us in. I
20 mean, it's kind of unrealistic that you're going
21 to end up because if you add these percentages up
22 then you're going to end up outside of a range
23 somewhere along the line.

24 TODD LONG: Well, actually the math does
25 work. If you pick somewhere in the ranges all the

1 way you can get to a hundred.

2 (Laughter)

3 DANIEL YEARWOOD: According to what's being
4 presented here what we're saying is we're not
5 going to spend over 50 to 70 percent. So we've
6 got a range there. But on transit operations and
7 maintenance it's zero to 10. So what we're
8 agreeing to here is we've got to stay in that
9 guideline with what's in the document. Is that
10 not -- we can't go -- where we've got a -- we
11 can't go 6 percent because we've already agreed to
12 go 1 to 5 percent. Is that --

13 MORRIS DILLARD: Let me state it the way I
14 understand it is that the 50 and 70 percent is
15 your guideline. You may hit it, you may miss it.
16 But that's the guideline that you're working
17 towards. You may end up in say roadway and bridge
18 maintenance rather than zero to 10, you may end up
19 9 percent, which still means that you could exceed
20 the 70 percent in roadway capital. So look at the
21 ranges as guides so that you're not all over the
22 place, you've got something to go by.

23 TODD LONG: It's a tradeoff. If you do 70
24 percent roadways then you're going to do less in
25 other categories.

1 Does that make sense?

2 HUNTER BICKNELL: Danny, I think, if I
3 understand the planning director correctly, we can
4 go over.

5 TODD LONG: Yeah, you can.

6 HUNTER BICKNELL: This is a guideline; it's a
7 target that you shoot for. You can exceed it.
8 This doesn't lock you in to -- Roadway Capital,
9 if we came up with 71 percent in that category, we
10 can do that even though the target range is 50 to
11 70.

12 DANIEL YEARWOOD: Then why can't we just say
13 we're going to spend it where we want?

14 MORRIS DILLARD: And your name, please, for
15 the court reporter?

16 DANIEL YEARWOOD: Daniel Yearwood, I'm sorry.

17 I'm just saying (coughing, inaudible) we're
18 voting on and you guys wanted to spend 50 to 70
19 percent of our money in something and we spend 75
20 percent, we've just violated what we voted for.

21 TODD LONG: You're exactly right. You have
22 violated it. But guess what? It's a guidance.
23 Just like in your home. There's so much you're
24 going to overspend in one budget, assuming you
25 have a budget, right? It's a guide to get you

1 started where you spend your money. If you don't
2 have that starting point -- because you asked the
3 question, why have it at all? And I want to
4 answer that question because we get a lot of
5 cities across this state, not necessarily
6 counties, but cities asking, well, just have total
7 flexibility. There's not a soul in this room that
8 would start --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We never set -- we
10 never -- we never set percentages on ours, never.

11 TODD LONG: No, but I guarantee you -- going
12 in you knew what category you were going to spend
13 money on, though.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, we have the
15 categories but not the percentages.

16 TODD LONG: Absolutely. Well, you know
17 generally what you're going to spend.

18 BILLY PITTARD: Let's just assume for a
19 second -- well, first of all, I understand the
20 fact that you can go outside these, this is a
21 guideline and everything. But personally I'll
22 tell you that I feel like that even if this was
23 set in stone you couldn't go below 50 or above 70
24 on roadway capital. I feel like there's enough
25 flexibility inside that guideline for us to hit

1 the targets, even if the targets were concrete.
2 So let's just assume that they are correct. Has
3 anybody got a problem with the percentages of the
4 rest of them?

5 TODD LONG: Good question.

6 BILLY PITTARD: I mean, we may be kicking
7 something around that really doesn't matter.

8 KIM CARTER: I expressed those comments when
9 the initial -- when the initial feedback was
10 requested. I think if a category is worthy of
11 being on the list it should not be zero
12 percentage. So yes, I do have a problem with
13 that.

14 BILLY PITTARD: But there's nothing on here
15 that will hold you to zero. There's nothing here
16 less than 5 percent.

17 KIM CARTER: Right, but I just disagree that
18 if it's worthy of being on there then some money
19 should be spent on the category. And
20 theoretically it could be zero percent. I'm
21 hearing the flexibility. If we need more roads
22 and bridges it's 20 percent. That's got to come
23 out of the highs in these other categories and
24 some of these may be left with zero percent to
25 make up the difference. And I have a problem with

1 anything being zero percent. But you know --

2 BILLY PITTARD: Yeah, and I see where you're
3 coming from, Kim. But I can tell you that each
4 region is probably going to have higher needs in
5 some of these categories and some lesser needs in
6 some of these categories. And there's a broad
7 enough set of categories out there to -- for every
8 -- why all these categories may not fit in there.

9 KIM CARTER: That's right.

10 BILLY PITTARD: So there may be a logical
11 reason for it to be zero percent in some regions.

12 MORRIS DILLARD: Where would you put a number
13 rather than zero. I mean, would you -- just say
14 we're going to put something in every category?

15 KIM CARTER: Uh-huh, I do feel that way. We
16 have General Aviation Airport, for example, and
17 it's important in our region. It's 30 minutes
18 from Atlanta, the metropolitan area, it's a -- you
19 know -- all the way down to the I-20 corridor and
20 back over to Athens. That would have a huge
21 impact for our region. Zero, I --

22 MORRIS DILLARD: So are you --

23 KIM CARTER: That's just our one example.
24 But there are other regional projects like that
25 that are in those categories with that zero.

1 Transit. We don't have transit in our county but
2 I think there are populations that are represented
3 in the room today that say zero.

4 MORRIS DILLARD: Are you proposing a specific
5 number for Aviation and Transit?

6 KIM CARTER: I don't have a specific
7 percentage. I think it ought to be for our region
8 to decide.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what this is --
10 (Roundtable members speaking simultaneously,
11 unintelligible.)

12 HUNTER BICKNELL: You don't have to pick
13 zero. Pick 1, 2, 3.

14 MORRIS DILLARD: Exactly. That's why we're
15 here. That's why we're here.

16 BILLY PITTARD: The other thing is, I don't
17 know how many airports there are in the region but
18 there's a number of counties that don't have an
19 airport so, you know, most of the airport money or
20 airway money is going to go to -- so it don't
21 really need to be used.

22 KIM CARTER: Right.

23 BILLY PITTARD: So it's going to be difficult
24 for us who don't have airports to accept.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There are seven

1 general aviation airports. I was counting them
2 when Todd asked.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's eight or nine,
4 I think, if I counted right.

5 MORRIS DILLARD: Well, let's get back to the
6 zero.

7 KIM CARTER: Maybe I'm just flipping with
8 semantics perhaps.

9 MORRIS DILLARD: No, no, no.

10 KIM CARTER: Yeah, it could be.

11 TODD LONG: Morris, if I could just answer
12 your question.

13 We debated about this lower level. In fact,
14 I think the bike and pedestrian is a great example
15 because we had lots of comments in the Bike and
16 Ped corridor. In fact, we had comments from
17 Athens and your region. But it was zero to 5, do
18 you remember that, in the draft and we changed it
19 to 1. And the thought was we wanted to make sure
20 at least we had a minimal level of investment in
21 that because there's such a big need in that area.

22 This roundtable can decide ultimately if
23 there's a need in the Aviation to put money in
24 there. Now, you know, I debated about doing a 1
25 to 5 on Aviation, a 1 to 10 on Transit. But we

1 decided to leave them at zero. We did the Bike at
2 1 really because just responding to all the
3 comments we got. I mean, I'm not kidding you, 30
4 to 40 percent of the comments we go on the
5 criteria were dealing with that Bike, Ped issue.
6 So if we had that many comments we knew that
7 publicly having bike and pedestrian accommodations
8 somewhere in the Bill would potentially help sell
9 the Bill, right?

10 Kind of like the guy works downtown. He's
11 got a sign on his store it says, no, we don't sell
12 ice cream. Well, maybe he should be selling ice
13 cream, right? So we got the same thing here. If
14 we've got that many people pushing Bike there may
15 be something real popular to help sell it. So
16 that was the...

17 This roundtable ultimately at the end of the
18 day by October 15th of next year, you will decide
19 where the minimum investments are. I'm going to
20 give you -- ultimately the unconstrained list will
21 have projects in it. But if you choose to spend
22 70 percent on Roadways and 30 percent on Traffic
23 Operations then you have no money for the other
24 categories. It's a tradeoff.

25 So it's ultimately -- you know, the guides

1 are here. We've wrote them just as flexible as we
2 can. I get -- it kills me when people say these
3 guidelines are not flexible. The guidelines are
4 extremely flexible. So that's why they're
5 presented. It's up to you to vote how you want
6 to. And if you want to change things you're
7 certainly welcome to. Just to give you some
8 guidance.

9 We presented it to Northwest Georgia; they
10 didn't change anything. Three Rivers combined a
11 few categories, and last night down in Southwest
12 Georgia, they adopted them as is. But I don't
13 care. Ultimately they're your guidelines.
14 Ultimately you have to own them and I'll work with
15 you however you decide for me to work with you.

16 KIM CARTER: Well, I have no -- the game is
17 total flexibility of the 12 -- 24 folks around
18 this table. Kim Carter, City of Covington. I'm
19 sorry. (Inaudible)

20 HEIDI DAVISON: Would you feel better if
21 there were some threshold that was a higher level
22 than zero? I mean, I didn't hear what you said
23 about trying to get to 100 percent. But I -- I
24 don't think that matters. If you change all of
25 that to just say 1 or 2 percent as the bottom

1 threshold you've still got to come out to 100
2 percent at the end of the day. It's speaks to
3 your issue of saying that every one of these on
4 here is important. You know, if you've got 40
5 percent of the people saying they want Bike and
6 Ped --

7 I mean, everybody in this room knows that
8 Athens-Clarke is Bike and Pedestrian and Transit,
9 because just the nature of the community, those
10 are the things that we need. That doesn't say
11 that we don't need Roads; we do. It doesn't mean
12 we don't need intersection improvements; we do.
13 We have an airport.

14 So to respond to what you're saying, I -- if
15 it would make you feel better to have a bottom
16 threshold that says this is important, it's on the
17 list and to validate it in some way that it is an
18 important part of transportation and mobility
19 issues, and I would prefer we talk about mobility
20 issues, then what would be a bottom threshold for
21 you; would it be two percent for all of like
22 Roadway and Bridge Maintenance, 2 percent, Freight
23 and Logistics, 2, Aviation, 2, Bike and Ped, 2,
24 Transit 2, Transit, 2? And you still at the end
25 of the day you've got to get to 100 percent.

1 JIM JOINER: Well, I suggest, though, just
2 because it's on the list it shows that it's
3 important no matter what the percentage is.

4 KIM CARTER: Yeah, I hear what she's saying.
5 I don't know what the magic number is.

6 HEIDI DAVISON: And I don't know that any of
7 us do.

8 KIM CARTER: And it's going to be a tradeoff
9 in the end. But it's always just been my belief
10 -- I've just got this thing about goose eggs (ph).
11 If it's worthy of being on the list it's worthy of
12 having a percentage. If the possibility is to put
13 the goose egg back it means it doesn't work for
14 our region. And I think these are all very good
15 categories for the entire state. Some of them are
16 going to be higher and lower depending on what
17 part of the state you're in or even what part of
18 the region you're in. But if it's worthy of being
19 on there I just feel like it needs to be something
20 other than zero. But I'm happy to go along with
21 the group.

22 MORRIS DILLARD: What happens -- Todd, this
23 is a question for you.

24 The process moves forward, we get a
25 constrained list that the Executive Committee has

1 worked with the planning director on. It's gone
2 to public hearing and the constrained list comes
3 back to you for final adoption and there is no
4 money -- there is no Aviation project on the
5 constrained list that comes back to you for
6 adoption. If you had an Aviation project on the
7 unconstrained list you still have an opportunity
8 to put some money in Aviation. Is that correct?

9 TODD LONG: Yes. The roundtable can amend,
10 adopt, you know, they can basically take it as is
11 from the constrained list from the Executive
12 Committee or take products out, put products in,
13 swap them out. So you have that authority.

14 KIM CARTER: As long as that's there and we
15 can ultimately decide, that's fine. I think it's
16 semantics. It's just the way I'm viewing this
17 from my perception. I hear what you're saying,
18 Heidi. But as long as all 24 of us -- it's going
19 to be a tradeoff -- we can decide what's the best,
20 I'm fine with that.

21 MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Any other comments or
22 questions? Mr. Chairman?

23 HUNTER BICKNELL: Is there a motion?

24 BILLY PITTARD: I make a motion to accept the
25 list as is.

1 KEVIN LITTLE: Kevin Little from Walton.
2 Second.
3 HUNTER BICKNELL: All right. Any discussion?
4 All those in favor signify by saying "I".
5 ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS: I.
6 HUNTER BICKNELL: Opposed?
7 (Pause)
8 HUNTER BICKNELL: Motion carries.
9 MORRIS DILLARD: Did you get the name of the
10 maker of the motion?
11 THE COURT REPORTER: I did not.
12 BILLY PITTARD: Billy Pittard.
13 **NEXT STEPS**
14 TODD LONG: Okay. So what you've done today,
15 you've elected a Chairman, you've elected an
16 Executive Committee, you've approved a regional
17 criteria. So those are three big checks. Two of
18 the checks were required under the Bill; the
19 Chairman was not, of course.
20 Now, what's next? According to the Bill we
21 can have privates from local jurisdictions, local
22 governments, regional plans, et cetera, they'll be
23 coming in and will be developing this
24 unconstrained list.
25 Now, how that process is going to work, we're

1 still trying to nail that down. But we've asked
2 the regional commissions staff to help us in a lot
3 of regards. They're helping us with the logistics
4 of these meetings, helping us with public
5 hearings, helping us facilitate the election of
6 the mayors, a great resource.

7 We're also probably going to have them help
8 us where we're going to develop a standard form
9 once the project ends and we'll send those to the
10 regional commissioner for the state, Jim Dove.
11 And Jim will make sure the i's are dotted and the
12 t's are crossed. We (coughing, unintelligible)
13 evaluation and project. And that'll be sent over
14 to us and we'll do the evaluation.

15 If you read the Bill carefully it says that
16 when you view the list, the list includes public
17 benefits associated with the project. Those
18 public benefits are performance-related of some
19 kind, you know, where does it fit in the criteria.
20 So we'll make sure it fits the criteria and it's
21 got public benefits. So ultimately, at the end of
22 the day, you know, you'll have potentially a
23 project sheet with a map, shows the project,
24 information about the public benefits.

25 Guys, this is not going to be easy. You're

1 going to have great projects going head to head
2 with other great projects, and trying to figure
3 out how to do both, or do one or the other. So
4 that's what's going to play out. We'll get some
5 guidance to our regional commission partners
6 around the state, hopefully in January. We've got
7 (unintelligible) is on board, some of the
8 evaluations with the deliver-ability of the
9 projects, helps us with that. So we're excited.
10 I think it's going to be a great process.

11 Now, ultimately, the unconstrained list
12 sometime in May -- so the Summer we go on vacation
13 with our project. We're going to work. Because
14 this Summer y'all are going to be doing that,
15 finalize the list down. So yeah, there's nothing
16 in the Bill that says that -- ultimately by August
17 15th you really need to have your ducks in a row.
18 You can't just operate in a vacuum. So we're
19 going to encourage you to communicate back to the
20 roundtable.

21 Now, the roundtable can meet as often as they
22 like but you're only required to meet one more
23 time officially. One of the regions might meet
24 monthly. So that's going to be playing out this
25 Summer, and then ultimately August 15th, you've

1 got that list and we'll go forward from there.

2 This is my contact information. A lot of
3 y'all know me already and you've already called
4 me. But feel free to. I consider a lot of you
5 guys in here close friends of mine. So this is a
6 great day. And this is a great place to work and
7 live. And we've got a great region. I am very
8 proud of the Northeast Regional Commission. You
9 guys, I'm not -- I'm not making this up. Of all
10 our regional commissions you guys have been the
11 most supportive and most out front and
12 progressive. So I want to say thank you very much
13 to all of you, and your staff has done a great job
14 as well. And I'm not just making that up.
15 Somebody said, oh, you tell everybody that. I
16 don't tell everybody that because it's not true,
17 and it's only true here.

18 All right. Our website does have a lot of
19 information on it. We're trying to get it up to
20 speed all the time. We've had a lot of changes in
21 the meeting days and we're trying to keep all that
22 current on our website.

23 With that I will close and offer to be around
24 for a few minutes after the meeting and answer any
25 questions you may have.

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HUNTER BICKNELL: That was a long five
minutes.

(Laughter)

HUNTER BICKNELL: The meeting is adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA)
COUNTY OF HABERSHAM)

I, Kim R. Mitchell, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Georgia, hereby certify that the foregoing roundtable meeting was taken down by me; that the foregoing pages 3 through 57 represent a true and correct transcript of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Roundtable Meeting, on December 7, 2010; that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties; am not a relative or employee of attorney or counsel for any of said parties; nor am I financially interested in the action.

Pursuant to Article 8.B of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council of Georgia, I make the following disclosure:

I am a Georgia Certified Court Reporter. I am here as an independent contractor. I was hired by Marguerita Lance with D.W. and Associates to provide court reporting services for this meeting.

This 28th day of December, 2010.

Kim R. Mitchell, CCR-CVR
Certified Court Reporter
No. B-1711