

RIVER VALLEY ROUNDTABLE

MEETING #1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2011

BUENA VISTA, GEORGIA

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A T T E N D A N C E

GDOT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Todd Long

MEETING FACILITATOR

Inga Kennedy

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS PRESENT

Muscogee County: Teresa Tomlinson
Skip Henderson

Harris County: John Harry Lange
Dennis McPherson

Talbot County: Freeman Montgomery
James Carter

Chattahoochee County: Emmett Moore, Jr.
Jim Lawrence

Marion County: George Neal
Ralph Brown, Jr.

Taylor County: Clinton Perry

Schley County: Greg Barineau

Macon County: Richmond Felton
Gerald Beckum

Stewart County: Joe Lee Williams
Adolph McClendon

1 Webster County: George Moore
Melvin Crimes
2
3 Quitman County: Richard Morris
David McMiller
4
5 Randolph County: Jimmy Bradley
6
7 Clay County: Barry Waters
8
9 Sumter County: George Bagley, IV
Randy Howard
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11 Dooly County: Terrell Hudson
12 Charles West
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14 Crisp County: Wallace Mathis
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10:08 a.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

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TODD LONG: If I could get everybody's attention, I'd like to go ahead and get started. We're a little bit -- running a little bit behind, but we were waiting til everybody got here on this cold morning. Hope it's going to warm up today.

My name is Todd Long. I am with Georgia DOT out of Atlanta from -- originally from South Georgia, been doing roundtables all over the state. You guys are the tenth of the twelve roundtables, so we've had a little bit of practice, but this is one of the bigger roundtables, to be honest. I think there are 32 -- you guys have 16 counties, one of the biggest ones, but we -- we're looking forward to this morning. We've got a good agenda.

Before we get started on the agenda, let's go ahead around the room and do introductions. And I want to start over here with the mayor of Buena Vista, Mr. Brown, Mayor Brown, and thank you for hosting us here --

RALPH BROWN: All right.

TODD LONG: -- in the town. I appreciate it,

1 so start with you.

2 RALPH BROWN: My name is Ralph Brown. I am
3 the mayor of Buena Vista, been here for eleven
4 years, and happy to have everyone here.

5 GEORGE NEAL: I'm George Neal, chairman of
6 Marion County Commission.

7 CLINTON PERRY: Clinton Perry, chairman of
8 Taylor County Board of Commissioners.

9 DAVID McMILLER: David McMiller, vice-chairman
10 of the Unified Government of Georgetown, Quitman
11 County.

12 MELVIN CRIMES: Melvin Crimes, Webster County
13 Commission.

14 JOE LEE WILLIAMS: Joe Lee Williams, chairman
15 of Stewart County Commission.

16 RICHARD MORRIS: My name is Richard Morris,
17 chairman of Georgetown and Quitman County
18 Commission.

19 ADOLPH McCLENDON: Adolph McClendon, mayor,
20 City of Richland.

21 GEORGE MOORE: George Moore, I'm chairman of
22 Webster County Commission.

23 DENNIS McPHERSON: Dennis McPherson, Waverly
24 Hall.

25 CHARLES WEST: Charles West, mayor of

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Unadilla.

TERRELL HUDSON: Terrell Hudson, chairman of Dooly County.

SKIP HENDERSON: Skip Henderson, Columbus City Council.

TERESA TOMLINSON: Teresa Tomlinson, mayor of Columbus.

FREEMAN MONTGOMERY: Freeman Montgomery, chairman of Talbot County.

JAMES CARTER: James Carter, mayor of Woodland, Georgia.

BARRY WATERS: Barry Waters, chairperson of Clay County.

EMMETT MOORE: Emmett Moore, chairman of Cusseta, Chattahoochee County.

JIM LAWRENCE: Jim Lawrence, commissioner of Chattahoochee County.

HARRY LANGE: Harry Lange, chairman of Harris County.

WALLACE MATHIS: Wallace Mathis, chairman of Crisp County.

GEORGE BAGLEY: George Bagley, mayor of the City of Leslie.

RANDY HOWARD: Randy Howard, chairman of Sumter County.

1 RICHMOND FELTON: Richmond Felton, chairman of
2 Macon County.

3 GERALD BECKUM: Gerald Beckum, I'm the mayor
4 in Oglethorpe.

5 GREG BARINEAU: Greg Barineau, chairman of
6 Schley County.

7 JIMMY BRADLEY: Jimmy Bradley, chairman of
8 Randolph County.

9 TODD LONG: All right. Let's go ahead and
10 introduce -- we've got a smaller crowd here --
11 introduce those folks here too.

12 Mary.

13 MARY HUFFSTETLER: I'm Mary Huffstetler with
14 M.P.H. & Associates.

15 INGA KENNEDY: I'm Inga Kennedy with P.E.Q.

16 PATTI CULLEN: Patti Cullen, safety director,
17 River Valley Regional Commission.

18 RICK JONES: I'm Rick Jones with the City of
19 Columbus.

20 COLIN MARTIN: I'm Colin Martin with the
21 Chamber of Commerce in Columbus.

22 DANNY BRIDGES: Danny Bridges, county manager
23 in Harris County.

24 DAVE WILLS: Dave Wills, Association of County
25 Commissioners.

1 JEFF JOHNSON: Jeff Johnson, city manager of
2 Cordele.

3 GENE CRAPSE: Gene Crapse, administrator,
4 Crisp County.

5 JO CHILDERS: Jo Childers, Department of
6 Community Affairs for Region Eight.

7 SARAH WALLS: Sarah Walls, River Valley
8 Regional Commission.

9 RICK MORRIS: Rick Morris, River Valley
10 Regional Commission.

11 ANDREA BROOKS: Andrea Brooks, Sumter County
12 Commissioner and River Valley Regional.

13 CHARLOTTE COTTON: Charlotte Cotton, city
14 manager, City of Americus.

15 BARBARA GROGAN: Barbara Grogan with the
16 Sumter Archway partnership.

17 WALLY SUMMERS: Wally Summers, South Georgia
18 Technical College.

19 JOE JOHNSON: Joe Johnson, Jacobs
20 Engineering.

21 PHILIP ADAMS: Philip Adams, Jacobs
22 Engineering.

23 PERRY IVIE: Perry Ivie, administrator, City
24 of Unadilla.

25 RODNEY HAIR: Rodney Hair, Public Works

1 Director, Dooly County.

2 MITCHELL GREENWAY: Mitchell Greenway with
3 Stantec Consulting.

4 DAVID MILLER: I'm David Miller with Georgia
5 DOT, District Three, containing twelve of the
6 sixteen counties.

7 KIMBERLY LARSON: Kimberly Larson, District
8 Three, GDOT, communications.

9 BILL ROUNDTREE: Bill Roundtree, District
10 Three, reconstruction.

11 TOM QUEEN: Tom Queen from District Three,
12 planning and programming, soon to be retired.

13 JACK REED: Tom's replacement, District Three,
14 GDOT, district planning and programming engineer.

15 TIM KASSA: Tim Kassa, Georgia DOT planning.

16 CINDY VAN DYKE: Cindy Van Dyke with GDOT in
17 planning.

18 RODNEY SIMPSON: Good morning. Rodney
19 Simpson, Georgia DOT, planning.

20 GRADY SMITH: Good morning. Grady Smith with
21 Jacobs Engineering.

22 WADE CARROLL: Wade Carroll with Jacobs
23 Engineering.

24 GERALD MIXON: Gerald Mixon on the Regional
25 Commission staff.

1 TODD LONG: All right. Go ahead.

2 PEGGY LITTLE: Peggy Little. I'm your court
3 reporter and please speak up.

4 TODD LONG: All right. Peggy's very
5 important. Let me tell you why.

6 Under the House Bill 277, it requires that we
7 produce a report to the General Assembly about the
8 ongoings of these meetings, so that's going to be
9 the transcript that she writes, okay, so I don't
10 have to re-write it.

11 So when you say anything today on the
12 roundtable, if you would, just state your name and
13 then she will have that in front of your
14 transcript. You've seen transcripts before, but
15 that would be very helpful.

16 So, now we had a couple people come in when we
17 were doing introductions. I don't know -- yeah.

18 SANDRA HIGGINBOTHAM: Sandra Higginbotham,
19 manager of Talbot County.

20 TODD LONG: Okay. Great, great.

21 All right. Let's go over the agenda for the
22 day.

23 We did welcome introductions, obviously.
24 There's a big crew here from GDOT. Obviously, we
25 have our district folks here, our Atlanta folks,

1 but we're here not just to observe. We're here to
2 -- we'll be part of this process all along and
3 helping the roundtable out because it's going to
4 take a lot of manpower to get all this done by
5 2012 and it's going to be very important that you
6 get to know some of these folks, particularly on
7 our staff in Atlanta. And, of course, you already
8 know some of the folks here out of our Thomaston
9 office and they do a great job.

10 And I was a district engineer at one point in
11 my career, where Dave is, and it absolutely is a
12 joy dealing with local governments. I probably
13 enjoyed that aspect of my job more than anything
14 I've done so far is dealing back with local
15 governments. A lot of you, obviously, as you come
16 up to see the commissioner about different
17 matters, I'm in those meetings as well, and see a
18 lot of familiar faces, which is good.

19 We're going to go over a quick overview of the
20 Bill. I know that in some of your practice
21 sessions there's been some presentations made.
22 It's going to be kind of -- it will be very
23 quick, but not everybody has been in attendance at
24 all those meetings. I want to make sure everybody
25 is on the same page.

1 And every time you re-look at the Bill, you'll
2 learn something new. Trust me. We'll go through
3 guidelines and how these committees should operate
4 and then ultimately we'll go through the selection
5 of a chairman, potentially, for the so-called
6 committee and then ultimately the election of the
7 executive committee. We'll have a discussion and
8 approval of the criteria. And ultimately we'll
9 have next steps.

10 So the only two items though that are required
11 by law for you to do today is election of an
12 executive committee and the adoption of criteria.
13 So we got to get out of here with that -- that
14 check box on those two items. So let's go over
15 the Bill right quick.

16 All right. Just on a high level point, as you
17 know, the Bill creates twelve special tax
18 districts and the tax district in your case is
19 this River Valley, which includes sixteen
20 counties.

21 It is a very unique tax district because
22 there's never been a tax district in the State of
23 Georgia that's been bounded by regional commission
24 boundaries. So the Bill wrote -- is written very
25 similar to your SPLOST legislation so that the

1 attorneys and the counsel that wrote the language
2 in the Bill were the people who had expertise in
3 SPLOST language and that's sort of how it's
4 written, from that perspective. But each district
5 can levy a one percent sales tax for a period of
6 ten years. You may ask, Why ten?

7 Well, if you're doing road projects, real big
8 road projects, you need longer than five. And we
9 debated and we really don't want to go through
10 this big, long two-year process again quickly, so
11 we came up with the ten-year and that kind of
12 floated the boat for most of the legislators and
13 they liked that, so we went with ten years.

14 Now, I want to mention quickly, you do have
15 two legislators -- three legislators that will be
16 part of this process in executive committee. They
17 could not come today because, obviously, where are
18 they at? They're in Atlanta. The General
19 Assembly started, I guess, this week, so they
20 couldn't come today.

21 The next bullet though is a big one. Money
22 raised in this district stays in this district. I
23 cannot tell you how many times I've heard people
24 from Atlanta say that all their money is being
25 spent where?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: South Georgia.

2 TODD LONG: South Georgia. Everybody in South
3 Georgia says all our money is being spent where?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: In Atlanta.

5 TODD LONG: In Atlanta.

6 So both of you are wrong. There's no money
7 being spent. There's just not enough money.

8 But here's the deal. This money that you're
9 going to talk about, and that this body will
10 ultimately decide how to spend, at least part of
11 it, you guys keep every single dime stays in this
12 region. That's important. Okay. There's no
13 administration fee given to the Department of
14 Revenue. I mean, there -- this is set up so it
15 comes back to you which is great.

16 And also, the money is not subject to
17 congressional balancing. As y'all know, part of
18 your district is district -- Congressional
19 District Two, you got Congressional District
20 Three, probably have a few more. I don't know --
21 is it just three and two for the most part?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And part of eight.

23 TODD LONG: Part of eight?

24 Well, as you know, our federal aid money and
25 our state money, we have to spend that equally

1 among those thirteen congressional districts
2 around the state. Well, that's very challenging.
3 Ask your board members. You got Johnny Floyd and
4 you got Sam Wellborn, and both of them wanted to
5 come today, but they could not come. I talked to
6 both of them.

7 But it's a struggle to spread that money out
8 among the commissioners. So this money right here
9 is totally separate from that and it's not subject
10 to the balance. That's very important.

11 All right. Individual counties cannot opt
12 out. Let's just clear the air. When the Bill was
13 written, there was a lot of push by GMA and ACCG
14 and others in individual counties that we want the
15 county to be able to opt out. Well, there was a
16 lot of debate about that. The Bill on the
17 surface, hey, I don't want to do it, let me opt
18 out, but then it puts holes all in your planning.
19 You really can't do regional planning and regional
20 efforts when you have individual counties opting
21 out here or there. So the Bill was written so
22 that no one in the county can opt out.

23 The region as a whole can opt out of this
24 process, and I'll tell you how to do that later,
25 but you -- as individual counties say we're not

1 going to play.

2 Recommended criteria; we're going to talk
3 about that later. I just want to say this up
4 front, the recommended criteria was developed by
5 the director of planning commission. The criteria
6 that will be used is not my criteria. It's --
7 after today, it will totally belong to you as a
8 roundtable. Okay?

9 So when I sent the letter back November 9th to
10 the individual roundtable members, y'all got the
11 letter, that was when I handed it off. And some
12 of y'all made -- added to it and changed it.
13 Whatever you adopt today will be used in the
14 future.

15 The roundtable has final approval on the
16 project list that goes before the voters. Not the
17 director of planning. Not legislators. But it
18 will be this body, the roundtable.

19 Funds. A vote will be in the primary election
20 of 2012. According to a verbal phone call from
21 the Secretary of State's office, the primary
22 election is actually in August of 2012. Now,
23 that's not posted on the web yet. Usually, those
24 are in July. So there's a little bit of confusion
25 if it's July or August, but -- so you're looking

1 at a vote by the public in the summer of 2012.

2 The funds will start flowing in the first part
3 of 2013 essentially. So we're quite a ways off
4 from these funds to start flowing.

5 All right. Next slide.

6 All right. Now, this is a very important
7 slide. You need to understand this slide as we go
8 forward. If you don't understand this slide, you
9 really won't understand your role in the
10 roundtable.

11 Your role as a roundtable is all about the
12 left side of this page, and not the right side.
13 You as a roundtable will be dealing with 75
14 percent of the proceeds or the revenues from the
15 sales tax. And those 75 percent will basically,
16 as it comes in and your region raises in the
17 course of a year, look at the bottom of that left
18 side, raises about 52 million dollars, so 75
19 percent of that is 39.3 million dollars. That's
20 in the first of 2013.

21 If you go out over the course of ten years,
22 obviously a lot more money than that. But you'll
23 be deciding on that money.

24 The delivery of those will be GDOT, but we'll
25 talk about all that in a minute. The right side

1 of the page the roundtable is not involved in, but
2 everybody on the roundtable will be involved in
3 some way with the discretionary money. The Bill
4 calls for -- we call it local share, but it's 25
5 percent of the proceeds go back to the cities and
6 counties within the region.

7 Now, on this board you've got 16 mayors,
8 right? But I'll bet you probably have twice that
9 number of cities in there.

10 What's the number of cities in the region?

11 PATTI CULLEN: 35.

12 TODD LONG: 35 cities. So you've got 35
13 cities, 16 counties. Those 35 cities and 16
14 counties will get a prorated share of the
15 discretionary money.

16 So in the case here, you got 13 million in
17 2013, for example, that will be prorated across
18 the cities and counties, all -- all of them. Not
19 just the ones represented on roundtable, and those
20 city councils, those county commissions will
21 decide how that money is spent, as long as it's
22 spent on a transportation project.

23 Now, the formula. How does the -- it's based
24 on four-fifth -- one-fifth population, four-fifths
25 center line miles.

1 Now, there's a little bit of confusion. A lot
2 of folks hear lane miles -- it's center line lane
3 miles. So if you have a four-lane road that's a
4 mile long, that's a one-mile stretch of roadway.
5 If you have a dirt road, it's one mile long,
6 that's one mile road. It's based on center line
7 miles paved and unpaved. That is spelled out in
8 the Bill. Okay? So that's actually the code. So
9 no change in that.

10 Next slide.

11 All right. What is the definition of a
12 project? All right. This applies to both the
13 local share and to the regional share that you'll
14 be talking about today. Very wide open. It can
15 be used on everything from airports to a bike lane
16 to transit. Of course, road projects, bridge
17 projects, you name it.

18 And then look at the middle part of this
19 paragraph. And it says, "useful and incident to
20 providing, operating, and maintaining the same."

21 Now, that is very unusual language to find in
22 SPLOST legislation. You think back in your SPLOST
23 that you may have in the county. Probably
24 everybody's SPLOST language is written, I think
25 it's statewide, is for capital; right?

1 You can build a library, but you can't use
2 SPLOST proceeds to run the library. You can build
3 a jail, but you can't use SPLOST proceeds to run
4 the jail. It's the same thing.

5 But in this case, you can actually use these
6 proceeds, particularly in the discretionary side,
7 to operate and maintain your transportation side.
8 So that is a big winner for a lot of the counties
9 in this state.

10 Next slide.

11 All right. This slide is going to give you a
12 visual of what we are going to be about today.
13 Now, we're fixing to move into a discussion about
14 the left side of that page. Remember what I
15 showed you a minute ago, the regional side. We're
16 not talking about the discretionary money. The
17 discretionary money is not subject to the
18 roundtable vote; it's not subject to the
19 roundtable criteria.

20 The regional pot, though, is going to work
21 like this. There's going to be a process where we
22 develop a unconstrained list of projects, fiscally
23 unconstrained. So if this region is to get -- on
24 the regional side if you were to get 5- or
25 600,000,000 over the course of ten years, then the

1 unconstrained list might be twice that. It might
2 be a billion dollars worth of projects.

3 The unconstrained list is developed, according
4 to the Bill, by the director of planning. That's
5 one of my roles. But I don't do it in a vacuum.
6 Like it says, I take suggestions and nomination --
7 project nominations from local governments and
8 MPOs. So we're going to be sending out,
9 hopefully, in the next couple of weeks, guidance
10 to all cities and counties across this state on
11 how to send that -- your project nominations in.
12 All right? And then we'll take those nominations
13 all across the state and we'll cobble together
14 this unconstrained financial list.

15 Out of that unconstrained investment list,
16 what happens is they have to be constrained
17 eventually, right? It's got to be narrowed down
18 to the available funds that you're going to have.

19 Well, that's where the executive committee
20 comes in. You will elect in a few minutes an
21 executive committee of five members off this big
22 32-member board. Okay? Their job is to hone down
23 that unconstrained list to a constrained based on
24 the amount of revenue that comes in.

25 And ultimately -- that's got to happen by

1 August 15th -- but ultimately by October 15th of
2 this year this full roundtable has to approve what
3 the executive committee has submitted.

4 Now, you may change projects out, you may have
5 amended it, you may totally trash what the
6 executive committee does, but ultimately you've
7 got to come up with, at the end of the day, a list
8 of projects October 15th that is constrained based
9 on the amount of proceeds that are expected from
10 the sales tax.

11 Now, there's been a lot of talk about the
12 carrot and stick or the -- some folks call it
13 punishment or whatever it may be if -- depending
14 on the outcome of these meetings and depending on
15 how the voters vote, then your match on another
16 program of funds is affected.

17 All right. So let's stop thinking for a
18 second about this regional sales tax. You all
19 know that we have another program called LARP,
20 right? Everybody, through the years, has been
21 getting LARP money. And you know we have a
22 program called State-Aid. Well, you know, last
23 year starting in July we combined LARP, which is
24 resurfacing, and State-Aid together. We renamed
25 that program the Local Maintenance and Improvement

1 Grant Program. We didn't do it. The General
2 Assembly did. They combined those together. And
3 that has about 96 -- 90- to a \$100,000,000 a year
4 in it.

5 And now instead of us basically giving you X
6 number of miles in LARP and then you coming to us
7 and asking for pave pipes, you know ahead of time
8 what your allotment is. It's by formula as well.
9 It's a little slightly different formula. It's
10 one-third population, two-thirds center line
11 miles, but similar. And if you know what your
12 allotment is, you can use that allotment on roads
13 and bridges how you see fit; you just have to go
14 through the commission on what projects you want
15 to submit.

16 Now, I will say that most cities and counties
17 around the state are using it for resurfacing.
18 All right? Just because you have so many
19 resurfacing needs. But you can use it for what
20 you want to, if it involves roads and bridges,
21 because that money is actually motor fuel money,
22 which is restricted by constitution to roads and
23 bridges only. All right?

24 Now, a lot of you guys know what I'm talking
25 about. Certainly, the people back in the back of

1 the room that -- y'all know what I'm talking
2 about. But that program, that LMIG program, the
3 max requirement on the LMIG program is affected by
4 the process that you follow under HP 277.

5 So on October 15th of this year, if this body
6 decides we can't come to grips with a list, we
7 think this is not going to do well, we want to
8 stop the process, this roundtable can vote no on
9 the list and stop the process. And that -- when
10 you do that it's called a special district
11 gridlock. And guess what happens? The process
12 stops. There is no opportunity for the voters to
13 vote. You're in, done, over with.

14 However, from that point forward, your match
15 requirement on the LMIG program is 50 percent.
16 All right?

17 Next slide.

18 Now, if this group votes yes, in a majority,
19 in this case a majority for you guys would be 17
20 votes, right? So if 17 people vote yes, then it
21 goes to the voters. And depending on how the
22 voters vote would depend on your max requirement
23 for LMIG. So the voters vote yes, the match
24 requirement is 10 percent. The voters vote no,
25 the match requirement is 30 percent.

1 You may quickly say, Well, I can't control the
2 voters. But I guess remember who wrote this --
3 the General Assembly wrote the Bill. They know
4 that the Bill's success or failure for the public
5 will depend a lot on the people in this room,
6 right? You guys, people in -- the citizens of
7 your community listen to you and you can dictate
8 whether this thing passes or not with the voters.
9 You know, it's not always the case, but certainly
10 you can make a big impact. That -- that's the
11 carrot and stick that the General Assembly put in
12 there to get you guys to really push the bill to
13 make your LMIG match even less, so.

14 All right. Now, some of you guys, it's not a
15 whole lot of money we're talking about. You're
16 not matching but -- you get 10,000 a year so
17 you're not matching but 10,000, but to some other
18 communities, it's a big deal. In Columbus, you
19 guys, your allotment of that is pretty big, so
20 matching 50 versus 30 is a pretty big dollar
21 amount. The same thing for Sumter County, some of
22 the bigger areas.

23 All right. Now, let's talk about project
24 delivery. Somebody's got to be responsible at the
25 end of the day for getting the projects out the

1 door, right? According to the Bill, GDOT is. But
2 we will be relying on a lot of help from local
3 governments, particularly local governments that
4 have administered federal aid projects before or
5 state projects before that know how to do projects
6 and get them out the door. So we'll be using you
7 guys as a great resource.

8 We'll also be doing a website showing project
9 status and, you know, how the project is doing on
10 budget, et cetera.

11 Next slide.

12 Now, there is public involvement in this
13 process. We don't have a slide that says this,
14 but the executive committee this summer is
15 required to hold two public meetings on the
16 project list, which will be very helpful to the
17 roundtable because it will give you insight
18 probably on what people are going to say about the
19 list and you may want to make tweak changes to the
20 list before your October 15th vote based on some
21 of the public input you get. It's at a minimum
22 two. If y'all choose to do more than that, y'all
23 may have -- choose to have multiple public
24 meetings all around the region. That is certainly
25 a prerogative of the roundtable. And I would

1 advise that, to be honest with you. Two is not
2 very many. A lot of regions are going to have a
3 lot more than that.

4 Now, once the voters vote yes, though, there
5 is also another aspect of citizen involvement.
6 This is the citizen's review panel. In this case,
7 the citizen's review panel, they will be formed
8 after the citizens vote yes. If they vote no,
9 there's not need for a citizens review panel. But
10 this will be appointed by the Speaker and by the
11 Lieutenant Governor and it will come from probably
12 people you know that are in this region. And
13 they'll -- actually, they have to produce a report
14 on their view from basically a third-party saying,
15 How are we doing? Are we doing what we told the
16 voters we would do?

17 And probably some of you guys have this same
18 setup with your SPLOST already. The difference
19 is, probably in your SPLOST you probably had a
20 citizen's committee helping you with the
21 development of the list where this Bill does not
22 call for that other than the public meetings.

23 At the conclusion of the ten-year, if you want
24 to re-initiate this entire process that we're
25 going through now, you may do so. You may say,

1 no, we've got enough. But you may want to go
2 further. It's totally up to the region.

3 All right. Guidelines. Now, the next part of
4 our meeting we'll talk about guidelines. Before
5 we do that, I want to pause a second. The Bill is
6 very long to read, but it's only about, you know,
7 26 pages or so, but it kind of gets cumbersome to
8 read through it and understand it. You've got a
9 copy under one of your tabs. In fact, everything
10 you need probably with PowerPoint, we got copies
11 of the Bill, it's all in your notebook. Keep
12 these notebooks. These are your notebooks, and
13 these will be good for you to have from this point
14 forward as reference material.

15 But I know if you don't read legislation very
16 often, it's very hard to read through these and
17 understand exactly what it's saying.

18 Do you have questions about any aspect of the
19 Bill itself? So you've got it down? Okay.
20 Good.

21 Jim?

22 JIM LAWRENCE: I didn't see anywhere in here
23 -- and maybe I just didn't see it, and I'm not too
24 smart, but can any of this money be spent on
25 equipment to redo the roads? Or did you go over

1 that and I missed it?

2 TODD LONG: Okay. We're going to -- on the
3 regional money, that would not meet the criteria
4 that we have proposed today. On the
5 discretionary, that's a good question about
6 equipment. You have to go back to the definition
7 of project.

8 Slide back up there.

9 Now, ACCG has asked the question -- I'm not
10 part of that.

11 DAVE WILLS: I'm not going to offer an
12 opinion.

13 TODD LONG: A lot of people asked that
14 question. I think we're going to probably need at
15 some point some a legal counsel. Because it says,
16 In all activities, structures -- and structures
17 useful and incident to providing, operating and
18 maintaining the same.

19 So you're talking about capital equipment. If
20 it's just for transportation purposes, maybe so.
21 But the problem is most communities use their
22 capital equipment for all host of things besides
23 transportation projects, so you got to be real
24 careful with that.

25 JIM LAWRENCE: So our county attorney's got to

1 contact someone is what you're saying. Okay.

2 Thank you.

3 TODD LONG: If you've got a better idea, let
4 me know.

5 What's your view on it? How about that. Do
6 you think it is?

7 JIM LAWRENCE: Well, you know, there's too
8 many words. I -- you know, I don't know.

9 TODD LONG: Okay. All right. We -- we've
10 debated this issue quite a bit, so. That's a good
11 question though.

12 All right. Somebody else?

13 - - -

14 (Whereupon, there were none.)

15 - - -

16 TODD LONG: All right. Well, good. Let's go
17 to the guidelines.

18 The guidelines deal with how you run the
19 meetings, about what -- you elect a chair and for
20 that I'm going to ask Inga Kennedy to come up and
21 kind of facilitate a discussion about guidelines.
22 And we're very fortunate that this region has done
23 a lot of up front work. Patti and her staff has
24 gotten y'all together and y'all have had some
25 discussion about this already. In fact, I think

1 y'all have some additional things you want to add
2 to -- we gave some recommended guidelines on how
3 you run your meetings. Y'all have added some
4 things to it. So I'm going to invite Inga.

5 Inga's been doing transportation for about 20
6 years and is helping us with some of these
7 roundtable meetings and she does a great job and
8 I'll just turn it over to her.

9 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. Thank you, Todd. And
10 good morning to everyone. I'm going to be moving
11 around. I'm going to be walking around this real
12 round table up here, so that I can make sure that
13 we are communicating very clearly and very
14 importantly making sure that the court reporter
15 captures all of our discussions, and so I'll ask
16 you if you'll remember to state your names and who
17 you're representing as we begin to talk about some
18 of the issues that you have to approve this
19 morning.

20 To reiterate what Todd just said, you all have
21 done a lot of work, actually. Now, I understand
22 that there are some new people who have joined the
23 roundtable since the beginning of the year and
24 we'll bring you up to speed if you haven't already
25 been brought up to speed, but this really has

1 helped. Your advance meeting and discussions have
2 -- has really helped the roundtable process as we
3 have experienced over the last several weeks
4 working with other roundtables, so we appreciate
5 the time that you put in, in advance, to get ready
6 for this first official meeting.

7 You should have a copy of -- and let's go
8 through -- yeah. We have a couple of bullets of
9 roundtable guidelines that were submitted as
10 recommendations, but you have developed a
11 two-and-a-quarter page list of roundtable
12 guidelines and I want to go through a couple of
13 those bullets that you've added that are different
14 from or in addition to what we have here on the
15 screen.

16 I think it goes without being said that most
17 of you use the Robert's Rules of Order for your
18 normal meeting formats and that's something that
19 you have agreed to use here in this particular
20 process. Going through the governance, this is
21 straight out of the Bill in terms of how the
22 membership of the roundtable will be selected.
23 You're here, so obviously you followed that --
24 those guidelines.

25 But let's get down to the chair because that

1 is something that you have decided as a group that
2 you're going to do slightly differently --
3 slightly different and every roundtable has done
4 things differently. Some roundtables, or maybe a
5 roundtable here or there, decides not to have a
6 chair at all. Some of them have a chair and it's
7 only for the roundtable and not for the executive
8 committee. But let me point out -- and I'm going
9 to be looking at this -- at the sheet that you
10 have here.

11 Under chairman, the second bullet says, The
12 executive committee shall elect a chairman who
13 shall preside over all meetings at the executive
14 committee and the roundtable.

15 So what you have decided is that you're going
16 to a elect a chairperson from your executive
17 committee, and we'll get to that, to the executive
18 committee in a second, and that person is going to
19 serve as the chair of both the executive committee
20 and the roundtable. That's something that has
21 been added here.

22 And the chairman shall be elected via majority
23 vote of the executive committee members present at
24 the meeting. So we'll flip our script a little
25 bit. We'll flip the flow of the agenda to elect

1 the executive committee first, then that group
2 will come back and elect the chair who will serve
3 as the chair for the roundtable and the executive
4 committee.

5 The third bullet says, and that you've added,
6 is that the chair of the roundtable will be -- or
7 will also be a voting member of the executive
8 committee and the roundtable. So in some places,
9 chair -- the chairs are elected and they are
10 non-voting members of the executive committee, but
11 you have agreed that the chairman of the
12 roundtable will be both a voting member of the
13 executive committee and the regional roundtable.

14 The third bullet or fourth bullet says that
15 the chair of the River Valley Regional Roundtable
16 may be placed by another member of the roundtable
17 with cause by two-thirds vote of those present at
18 an official meeting.

19 So if there is something -- and it's important
20 that you address that because things happen along
21 the way. You never know what's going to happen
22 and you need to make sure that you have a chair,
23 but you've agreed that two-thirds of the vote of
24 the -- of those who are present will be needed to
25 elect that chair or elect -- or replace the chair,

1 if you will.

2 Are there any questions about the chair's
3 role? Because these are processes that you have
4 put in place and that we'll be using from this day
5 forward. Are there any questions and -- any
6 questions about that?

7 - - -

8 (Whereupon, there were none.)

9 - - -

10 INGA KENNEDY: All right. Let's go to the
11 executive committee because we'll elect -- we'll
12 elect the executive committee first, after we
13 approve these guidelines, and then we'll come back
14 and elect a chair.

15 So what's different or what's in addition to
16 what we have and is a part of the House Bill
17 itself is the fourth bullet. And it says that a
18 quorum of the River Valley Executive Committee
19 shall not be less than three members when an
20 action is needed by the executive committee. So
21 you're deciding that you need -- you want to have
22 at least three members of the executive committee
23 present, not necessarily all five, but at least
24 three to -- that will constitute a quorum when an
25 action is needed.

1 And then for the Bill -- Todd, and back me up
2 on this -- we do need to add that you're also
3 responsible for holding public meetings. This --

4 TODD LONG: The executive committee.

5 INGA KENNEDY: The executive committee,
6 right. But that's a requirement of the Bill and
7 we need to add that too. We need to add that as a
8 bullet.

9 So that's the -- those are the requirements of
10 the executive committee. So everything is spelled
11 out here with the exception, and we will add to
12 this bulleted list, and there will be a fifth
13 bulleted list -- or, I mean, a fifth bullet that
14 says that the executive committee is responsible
15 for holding public meetings. That's a requirement
16 of the Bill.

17 All right.

18 TERRELL HUDSON: At least two.

19 INGA KENNEDY: I'm sorry?

20 TERRELL HUDSON: At least two.

21 INGA KENNEDY: At least two. That's correct.

22 And we'll make sure that we get everyone
23 copies of everything that we formalize here today.

24 Yes, sir. Mr. --

25 DENNIS McPHERSON: Dennis McPherson --

1 INGA KENNEDY: Dennis McPherson.

2 DENNIS McPHERSON: -- from Waverly Hall,
3 Georgia.

4 INGA KENNEDY: Okay.

5 DENNIS McPHERSON: The bullet where you
6 referred to the chairman of River Valley -- the
7 RTR be replaced by another member of the River
8 Valley RTR by two-thirds vote, that probably needs
9 to say that that person's going to come from the
10 district of the one being replaced.

11 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. Okay.

12 DENNIS McPHERSON: Because --

13 INGA KENNEDY: All right. All right. Okay.

14 DENNIS McPHERSON: And then that person will
15 also be replaced on the executive committee.

16 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. All right. See, you can
17 tell he's been -- he's been involved. Because he
18 already knows how the executive committee is going
19 to be selected and he makes a good point.

20 What he's saying is that he's recommending
21 that the wording be changed to say that that
22 person, if in fact has to be replaced, should come
23 from the same district that the previous
24 chairperson represented.

25 Is that okay? Does that make sense? That

1 make sense? And I think that's a descent
2 discussion. Everybody okay with that? Everybody
3 in consensus with what he's saying? He's saying
4 that that person should be replaced by someone
5 from the same district.

6 DENNIS McPHERSON: Because theoretically the
7 body could replace everybody on the executive
8 committee --

9 INGA KENNEDY: That's right.

10 DENNIS McPHERSON: -- with people from the
11 same district.

12 INGA KENNEDY: That's right. That's right.
13 That's right. And you've elected -- or you've
14 decided that -- how you're going to select your
15 executive committee.

16 DENNIS McPHERSON: We would never do that, but
17 --

18 INGA KENNEDY: Right. No. I understand.
19 It's going to be by district. So that's good.

20 All right. So we'll add that as a -- we'll
21 change that, we'll revise that to say that that
22 person should come from the same district.

23 Any -- any other questions before we flip over
24 to the second page?

25 DAVID McMILLER: I have a question.

1 INGA KENNEDY: Yes, sir.

2 DAVID McMILLER: David McMiller, Quitman
3 County.

4 INGA KENNEDY: Okay.

5 DAVID McMILLER: Executive committee is going
6 to be responsible for holding public meetings; is
7 that a regional public meeting or a local public
8 meeting?

9 INGA KENNEDY: That's a regional public
10 meeting.

11 Todd?

12 TODD LONG: Yeah. The Bill just says that
13 sentence. It says the executive committee will
14 hold the two meetings, but how we envision this is
15 -- I wouldn't -- I wouldn't worry about that
16 burden because ultimately it's going to -- we've
17 asked the RC staff to help out with those
18 meetings, we're going to be helping out, and they
19 need to be, you know, depending on how you decide
20 to do it, but you may decide to do a meeting in
21 this part of the region, a meeting in this part of
22 the region, so it may be more localized so we can
23 reach people easily, you see. Just have to kind
24 of play it by ear, but right now -- that's not
25 going to be a big burden on the executive

1 committee, if that's one of the things you're
2 worried about.

3 DAVID McMILLER: Okay.

4 INGA KENNEDY: And was that the basis of your
5 question was --

6 DAVID McMILLER: Yes.

7 INGA KENNEDY: -- how you're going to manage
8 all of -- yeah.

9 And you're right. Getting people from your
10 entire region to one meeting would be a challenge
11 and maybe you can look at how your -- how you've
12 divided your executive committee, which regions,
13 and have the meetings that way.

14 Anyway, Todd suggested that you not -- not
15 worry about that. Everybody is going to help with
16 that process, but that's a good question.

17 Any other questions before we move to page
18 two?

19 - - -

20 (Whereupon, there were none.)

21 - - -

22 INGA KENNEDY: All right. So page two and
23 here is what -- here is where his question --
24 here's where his -- the foundation of his question
25 kind of evolved from. You have come to consensus

1 and decided that the executive committee, of
2 course, the Bill requires that the executive
3 committee be made up of five members to be
4 appointed by the roundtable, but you've gone a
5 step further and looked at how your district or
6 how your region is set up kind of geographically
7 and you've decided that from the five members that
8 you've identified five quadrants, and those five
9 members will come from the following five
10 quadrants.

11 So you've identified Muscogee County as one.
12 The second quadrant consists of Chattahoochee,
13 Harris, Marion, and Talbot Counties. The third
14 district or quadrant is made up of Schley, Macon,
15 and Taylor.

16 PATTI CULLEN: Schley.

17 INGA KENNEDY: I'm sorry. Schley.

18 I was thinking of the security name Schlage.
19 I'm sorry.

20 The fourth quadrant is Clay, Quitman,
21 Randolph, Stewart, and Webster.

22 And the fifth quadrant is Dooly, Crisp, and
23 Sumter.

24 Is everyone in agreement and understands that
25 that's what's happening? I saw some of y'all

1 huddle out there this morning, so I'm assuming
2 that you -- you had agreed to that.

3 Okay. Any questions about how the executive
4 committee is going to be selected? We'll get --
5 we're going to get there, but we've got to go
6 through these guidelines.

7 So then the next issue on your guidelines is
8 voting. The only thing that I want to point out,
9 a couple of bullets here that are above and beyond
10 some of the recommendations, some of the
11 requirements of the Bill, the fourth bullet says
12 that roundtable members may send a proxy if they
13 are unable to attend, but that person is not
14 permitted to vote for that voting member.

15 You can send a proxy and they can sit at the
16 table and maybe even have discussions or bring
17 issues to the table that, in your absence, you
18 want to make sure are provided and shared with the
19 group, but that that proxy cannot vote when it --
20 when it comes time to vote.

21 The last bullet there relative to voting is
22 that you've determined that a quorum of the
23 regional roundtable shall be nine member counties
24 and/or cities within a county.

25 Let me make sure I --

1 PATTI CULLEN: There's sixteen counties.

2 INGA KENNEDY: Yes. And so there should be --

3 Yes, yes, okay.

4 PATTI CULLEN: So it's nine.

5 INGA KENNEDY: Nine, okay. All right. Okay.

6 So that's how voting -- that's above and beyond --

7 those are some things that you've added relative

8 to voting above and beyond what was required or

9 what you agreed to. And then I think you said --

10 you agreed to that you have to be physically

11 present. I think that's --

12 Yes?

13 TERESA TOMLINSON: Just to clarify --

14 INGA KENNEDY: Ms. Teresa Tomlinson.

15 TERESA TOMLINSON: Yes, Teresa Tomlinson,

16 Columbus, Georgia.

17 I think to be clear, it's not nine of the 16.

18 It would be nine of the 32; is that correct?

19 PATTI CULLEN: Actually, the way -- the way

20 the regional roundtable talked about it, it was

21 nine of the 16; whereas, a city could represent

22 that county, you see, because a city is -- a city

23 is within the county, so it was nine of the 16

24 versus -- I think if we went to 32, then it would

25 be 17 of the 32.

1 TERESA TOMLINSON: Okay. So we're getting one
2 vote per jurisdiction --

3 PATTI CULLEN: Yes.

4 TERESA TOMLINSON: -- is that correct, at the
5 roundtable vote?

6 PATTI CULLEN: Well, as a voting member of the
7 roundtable. Because what was happening, we were
8 not having as large a group as this and so we
9 talked about what if, you know, what if we didn't
10 have the people that would come? So that's why we
11 went with nine with 16.

12 You get 32 votes. Okay? So we could do 32
13 and 17, if you want to do it like that, but each
14 county -- each city -- each county has a city that
15 represents that county too.

16 HARRY LANGE: Well, yeah, I think it was nine
17 of the sixteen counties, that's correct.

18 PATTI CULLEN: Right. Because any person that
19 is here for that county, they count as that
20 county. If a county representative is not here,
21 then that city would be representative of that
22 county.

23 SKIP HENDERSON: What I think the mayor's
24 comments were when you add --

25 INGA KENNEDY: And this is --

1 SKIP HENDERSON: Skip Henderson, also from
2 Muscogee County.

3 INGA KENNEDY: Skip Henderson, yes.

4 SKIP HENDERSON: When you add and/or city
5 within the county, and just identify the number
6 nine, I'm not -- I asked -- she's an attorney. I
7 -- it leaves open the opportunity to have nine
8 cities there representing six counties.

9 Do you follow what I'm saying?

10 TERESA TOMLINSON: And it --

11 And, again, Teresa Tomlinson. And it also, I
12 think, creates an issue, which is fine as long as
13 there's consensus, but you will have to caucus for
14 your vote because you only get one -- obviously,
15 there's multiple representatives from each
16 jurisdiction, and if you're only getting one vote,
17 you're going to have to caucus for each vote.

18 PATTI CULLEN: No. Just for a quorum. That's
19 just to make --

20 INGA KENNEDY: That's for the quorum for the
21 roundtable. So we're talking about a quorum of
22 the roundtable, but there will be voting --

23 GERALD BECKUM: I have a question.

24 INGA KENNEDY: Yes. Yes.

25 GERALD BECKUM: The way this came up is that

1 we didn't have as many people as we have today --

2 INGA KENNEDY: Okay.

3 GERALD BECKUM: -- and we were worried that if
4 we met, but we didn't have enough for a quorum to
5 decide anything, that we, you know, could possibly
6 -- we didn't know at that time.

7 INGA KENNEDY: Yeah. No. I understand. I
8 understand.

9 GERALD BECKUM: When we all were here, we
10 decided if we had at least nine county members
11 present from a city or county --

12 INGA KENNEDY: Okay.

13 GERALD BECKUM: -- that that would constitute
14 a quorum, but not necessarily -- that would just
15 be the minimum, not --

16 PATTI CULLEN: Not the max.

17 INGA KENNEDY: Nine -- nine of the 16.

18 GERALD BECKUM: That's right.

19 INGA KENNEDY: What your -- what your concern
20 --

21 TERESA TOMLINSON: Well, I think that there
22 may be some clarity, but I think my concern was
23 it's fine as long as everybody is aware that
24 typically quorums are based on voting members --

25 INGA KENNEDY: Right.

1 TERESA TOMLINSON: -- and that's not the way
2 you're doing it and that's fine. You're doing it
3 on jurisdictions, not on voting members. So
4 that's just something for everybody to be aware of
5 as we move forward.

6 And then I think Councilor Henderson's point
7 is that simply the way it's worded there is a
8 possibility you could show up for three cities or
9 for one jurisdiction and they would -- a quorum
10 would be attained and there would be a
11 disproportionate representation. But as long as
12 we all know, then we just prepare for it.

13 SKIP HENDERSON: We understand the intent, but
14 I just didn't know how literally we were going to
15 take it.

16 TERESA TOMLINSON: If you want to do it nine
17 of the sixteen jurisdictions, then you might want
18 to clarify your wording.

19 PATTI CULLEN: To say jurisdiction, just say
20 nine of the 16 jurisdictions.

21 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. All right. Then we --
22 then we're agreeing to change the wording of this
23 particular bullet to say, Shall be nine member --
24 nine of the sixteen member county and/or cities.

25 PATTI CULLEN: No. Of the sixteen

1 jurisdictions.

2 INGA KENNEDY: Of the sixteen jurisdictions.

3 Gotcha. Gotcha.

4 PATTI CULLEN: I think what happened -- what's
5 happening here is because we have four
6 consolidated governments in this region --

7 INGA KENNEDY: Yes, yes.

8 PATTI CULLEN: -- those four consolidated
9 governments get two votes each.

10 INGA KENNEDY: Okay.

11 PATTI CULLEN: And then the other counties
12 have a city representative from their counties, so
13 that's where it's kind of getting confused.

14 INGA KENNEDY: Nine of the sixteen
15 jurisdictions. Okay.

16 All right. Is everyone okay with that? And
17 is everyone clear in terms of what the intent is
18 here as Mr. Beckum described, and we understand
19 that it's kind of hard to get everyone here, but
20 we're glad to see everybody this morning.

21 So understanding and building in that kind of
22 level and building in and those expectations, if
23 you will, that some people may be absent from time
24 to time. Okay. So shall be nine of the -- nine
25 of the 16 member jurisdictions. Okay. All

1 right. Thank you so much.

2 Any other questions, comments about the voting
3 procedures for the roundtable?

4 - - -

5 (Whereupon, there were none.)

6 - - -

7 INGA KENNEDY: All right. So let's go to the
8 -- let's go to the next item, which is meetings,
9 the fourth bullet. So the first couple of bullets
10 are kind of what are -- are spelled out in the
11 House Bill, but here are some things that --

12 Well, we already agreed -- I think that's
13 understood that the Robert's Rules of Order would
14 be the format for the meeting unless anyone has
15 anything different they'd like to add. Robert's
16 Rules of Order is so popular til I forget all the
17 rest of the formats that are -- that are used,
18 so.

19 The bullet that says -- and then input from
20 non-governmental parties is encouraged. We know
21 that and we have lots of people here as we have
22 had at our other roundtables who have been
23 participatory and provided feedback.

24 The last bullet, A ten-minute period for
25 public comments will be held at the beginning of

1 each regular meeting. All of the meetings are
2 open to the public anyway, but you have decided
3 that a ten-minute period of public comments will
4 be held at the beginning of each roundtable
5 meeting, and that each speaker, if they desire --
6 if someone desires to speak, will be limited to
7 two minutes. And if that comment period of ten
8 minutes goes by and not all -- and there are 20
9 people who want to speak, not everybody got
10 through, then we're going to end the ten-minute
11 comment period and those persons will be allowed
12 to provide written comments.

13 I want to reiterate that written comments
14 because those -- written comment opportunity
15 because for those of you who are visiting and who
16 are not members of the roundtable this morning and
17 who would like to provide comments into this
18 meeting and into this process, there are comment
19 forms that you should have received when you
20 signed it. So there will always at a minimum be
21 an opportunity to provide written comments, but
22 you agreed that on the front end of the meeting
23 ten minutes will be allowed for -- allotted for
24 verbal comments.

25 Okay. That's how the meetings will run. Any

1 -- any questions, any issues about the meetings
2 themselves?

3 - - -

4 (Whereupon, there were none.)

5 - - -

6 INGA KENNEDY: And just some other preliminary
7 things, and thank you for looking at all of this,
8 because it's very important.

9 Staffing. You've decided that the River
10 Valley Regional Commission will be designated as
11 the official staff, and a lot of roundtables we've
12 worked with have looked at the RCs as the -- as
13 the official staff. It only makes sense because
14 they work with you on a day-to-day basis anyway,
15 and that they'll also work with the regional
16 roundtable and executive committee to work through
17 meetings and provide logistical planning and other
18 coordination.

19 CINDY VAN DYKE: Inga, I do think we might
20 want to add though that GDOT be part of the
21 staffing as well as the MPO, and that has not been
22 put in there.

23 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. Okay. All right. So
24 then we'll add --

25 TODD LONG: Coordination.

1 PATTI CULLEN: The River Valley -- say the
2 Georgia Department of Transportation, the Columbus
3 MPO, and the River Valley.

4 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. And then likewise on the
5 third page, and here are some of the others.
6 You've agreed that a technical advisory committee
7 will be established to provide technical advice
8 and additional information along the way, kind of
9 a, you know, advisory role, as you're working
10 through these -- working through this process.
11 And that the committee will include the River
12 Valley Regional Commission, the Columbus
13 Metropolitan Planning Organization, and three
14 county and/or city administrators.

15 Okay. You all have quite some guidelines. So
16 -- and that's a real good thing because it
17 provides a lot of clarity in terms of how you're
18 going to conduct yourself through the process.

19 Yes, sir. Mr. --

20 DENNIS McPHERSON: Dennis McPherson, Waverly
21 Hall.

22 INGA KENNEDY: Yes.

23 DENNIS McPHERSON: Does the Bill prohibit
24 proxy voting?

25 INGA KENNEDY: The Bill does --

1 DENNIS McPHERSON: It's been a while since I
2 read it. I don't know --

3 TODD LONG: Yeah. The Bill -- the Bill says
4 nothing about proxy voting. It's silent. But the
5 question that we asked everybody is for your
6 county or your city, do you allow proxies to vote
7 for your city council members. And the answer
8 obviously is no. And so we're treating this like
9 a legal body here because you guys are approving a
10 list for the voters to vote on. So just like a
11 county commission or a city council, you don't
12 allow proxies to vote for you, we're not going to
13 allow proxies to vote on these.

14 DENNIS McPHERSON: But we -- but we could.

15 TODD LONG: All the lawyers we've asked said
16 you couldn't. It's silent -- the Bill is silent,
17 but I think you'll be violating the fact that this
18 is a governing body and you're -- that means you
19 could say, okay, I want this person back here to
20 be my proxy today. You certainly can't do that in
21 any formal government that I can think of.

22 DENNIS McPHERSON: The reason I'm bringing
23 that up is because, obviously, you know, we're
24 going to have these meetings preset and it would
25 be, you know, a shame for a district not to be

1 represented because their representative was in
2 jail. I don't know, you know.

3 INGA KENNEDY: I hope none of the
4 representatives will be in jail, but they -- but
5 well --

6 DENNIS McPHERSON: But they could be required
7 to stand in front of a judge in Columbus when this
8 meeting is going on.

9 TODD LONG: Right. Well, we only have --
10 think about it. This body as a whole really only
11 -- after today you'll have one more official vote
12 where they have to be there, the final vote on the
13 list. So, I mean --

14 DENNIS McPHERSON: We just hope that everybody
15 can be present that day.

16 TODD LONG: Well, it's -- it's no different
17 than if the city council is voting on a budget.
18 It's a shame somebody's not there to vote on the
19 budget, right?

20 DENNIS McPHERSON: But --

21 TERESA TOMLINSON: Yeah, but --

22 DENNIS McPHERSON: -- reset the meeting.

23 WALLACE MATHIS: (unintelligible)

24 TERESA TOMLINSON: But just --

25 And again, Teresa Tomlinson, from Columbus.

1 Just, you know, when you vote, you know, on the
2 budget, you have multiple representatives, you
3 know, from a jurisdiction. I mean, here each
4 jurisdiction has basically one shot, but --

5 TODD LONG: Okay.

6 DENNIS McPHERSON: But we don't want to cause
7 problems. I think that's going to be a problem.
8 I think they're going to have some problems with
9 some of these penalties anyway. I don't -- I
10 think there's going to be -- there's going to be
11 some suits on that anyway. I'm anticipating it's
12 going to be.

13 INGA KENNEDY: But now your proxy can come and
14 speak for you just like you're talking --

15 TODD LONG: Right.

16 INGA KENNEDY: -- and share your thoughts and
17 ideas and issues.

18 DENNIS McPHERSON: They can try to influence
19 the other members.

20 TODD LONG: Right. That's right. They can.

21 INGA KENNEDY: They can. That's right.
22 That's right. And that's actually, you know, when
23 it's all said and done, that's why you want a
24 proxy.

25 PATTI CULLEN: And Todd's just mentioned that

1 there really are only two official roundtable
2 meetings, but certainly throughout this process I
3 do think this group will come back together, even
4 though we may not be officially meeting, y'all
5 will definitely need to know what projects are
6 going forward on the list.

7 TODD LONG: And if your proxy comes to those
8 meetings, that's fine.

9 INGA KENNEDY: Yes, sir.

10 TERRELL HUDSON: Terrell Hudson, Dooly
11 County. Do we have to have a court reporter at
12 all official meetings?

13 TODD LONG: No, you do not. We chose to have
14 a court reporter because I'm required to produce a
15 report about all these meetings across the state.
16 I've got twelve of them and instead of writing a
17 bunch of meeting minutes, we decided to do a court
18 reporter, but that was our decision.

19 WALLACE MATHIS: Todd, for that reason I'd
20 like to have that comment entered into her thing
21 that my concern was about the proxy voting was
22 when we meet at a commission meeting there are
23 four, five, or six members. But just by the
24 nature of the size of this body, for everybody to
25 be present wouldn't be the same -- possibly have a

1 lot more variable. And I'd just like to have that
2 entered in there for that reason.

3 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. That was Wallace Mathis.

4 TODD LONG: And my argument to you, though, as
5 far as the transportation goes, this is one of the
6 most important pieces of legislation we've had in
7 years and years and years if you think about it.
8 And if we have people that are not willing to come
9 to that -- this meeting, it's problematic --

10 WALLACE MATHIS: No. And what I'm speaking to
11 is somebody probably can't attend every meeting.
12 I don't think Harry or somebody ought to be -- a
13 penalty just because one of their specific
14 representatives couldn't be here if it was a case
15 that they just absolutely could not be here. In a
16 group this size, you're going to have more
17 possibilities of that than you would in a group of
18 four or five people. That's the only reason I
19 wanted to enter it in the comments.

20 TODD LONG: Well, I mean, if you're a chairman
21 of a county, and you're incapable of serving,
22 another -- they -- you can step down as chairman
23 and somebody serves as vice-chair on your county
24 commission, correct?

25 WALLACE MATHIS: Yeah.

1 TODD LONG: And so you basically change the
2 active -- whoever the active chairman is for your
3 regular county. Well, that new active chairman
4 can come to this meeting and vote.

5 SKIP HENDERSON: Skip Henderson from Muscogee
6 County. Each jurisdiction gets two votes, and you
7 don't want to be giving proxies, which you said,
8 but if one member shows, certainly, they would
9 counsel with one another. Why couldn't they cast
10 both votes for that jurisdiction?

11 And I know that's pick and knit, but I'm just
12 --

13 TODD LONG: If that was -- if the General
14 Assembly had wanted that to be a possibility, they
15 would have written it into the code and they did
16 not write it into the code.

17 TERESA TOMLINSON: And they didn't do it the
18 other way either.

19 SKIP HENDERSON: They didn't deny it. No, I
20 understand.

21 TERESA TOMLINSON: I think it -- maybe just
22 leave it as this, and I take your point of this is
23 so critically important all of us should rearrange
24 everything to be here, and I think we all will.
25 We understand that.

1 But it is so critically important to leave our
2 jurisdictions unrepresented because of, you know,
3 some act of God or something is highly unfortunate
4 too. And so obviously we sought legal counsel on
5 this subject and the only thing I would ask is I
6 do not think that somebody who sits on this
7 committee could give a proxy to their
8 mother-in-law, you know, or just some random
9 person. I do think that there might be a legal
10 possibility that you could give a legal proxy to
11 somebody otherwise qualified to serve under the
12 criteria of the Act. And so perhaps -- it doesn't
13 seem like it's going to be an issue right now, but
14 as we get closer to critical issues, maybe you
15 could confer and see on that more refined point if
16 there's a possibility of a proxy to somebody
17 otherwise qualified to serve.

18 TODD LONG: Yeah.

19 TERESA TOMLINSON: I mean, for instance, you
20 know, God forbid, I get hit by a truck. What are
21 you going to do? I mean, you know, we -- it seems
22 like there has to be a process for something --

23 TODD LONG: Well, there is a legal process in
24 your county right now. If you get hit by a truck

25 --

1 Let's not use that example.

2 TERESA TOMLINSON: Yes. Okay. But --

3 TODD LONG: If a mayor in Arizona gets hit, or
4 some other state, gets hit by a truck -- not
5 Arizona maybe.

6 TERESA TOMLINSON: Yeah, he would be
7 replaced. And that's a very good -- fair point.
8 But if there is something that prevents you from
9 being there, and so I only ask that maybe you just
10 put a finer point on the question and ask legal
11 counsel and see. And if not, then we'll just all
12 have to understand that point.

13 WALLACE MATHIS: That's my only reason for
14 wanting that in there as a comment --

15 COURT REPORTER: I can't hear you.

16 INGA KENNEDY: He said he wants his official
17 comment --

18 WALLACE MATHIS: I said that's -- what she's
19 saying is my main reason for wanting that
20 introduced in the comment section. Thank you very
21 much.

22 INGA KENNEDY: And so we'll be investigating
23 it.

24 TODD LONG: I will be glad to follow up.
25 We've asked that question numerous times and all

1 the attorneys have said the same thing.

2 INGA KENNEDY: Mr. McPherson.

3 DENNIS McPHERSON: Dennis McPherson, Waverly
4 Hall. So, technically, if I couldn't be here for
5 the meeting, I could sign a document stepping down
6 as mayor for the day in favor of the mayor pro tem
7 and the mayor pro tem could show up and vote.

8 TODD LONG: If you step down as mayor for the
9 day legally --

10 I'm not a lawyer.

11 DENNIS McPHERSON: Would that work?

12 INGA KENNEDY: At a roundtable --

13 Your earlier question, the roundtable would
14 have to approve that person.

15 TODD LONG: Well, no. No. On executive -- on
16 the executive --

17 That's a great point. Now, are you talking
18 about the roundtable? On the roundtable if you
19 step down as mayor for the day, then theoretically
20 your caucus of mayors from that county may need to
21 reconvene to elect their mayor rep for the county.

22 DENNIS McPHERSON: But I think -- I think the
23 mayor of Harris County elected the mayor of
24 Waverly Hall. They didn't elect Dennis
25 McPherson.

1 PATTI CULLEN: I don't know about that. I
2 think they elected --

3 DENNIS McPHERSON: We're bogging that down.

4 INGA KENNEDY: I know. We're getting down --
5 down deep now, but we'll investigate that. These
6 are good questions so far. This is a large group
7 and this is an important process, and so the
8 issues are very real and we've had this discussion
9 -- these discussions a few other places as well.

10 So we'll clarify some of the points and get
11 back with you. That's fair.

12 Any other questions about the guidelines,
13 issues and discussions about the guidelines?

14 PATTI CULLEN: I have just one I wanted to
15 ask.

16 INGA KENNEDY: Yes.

17 PATTI CULLEN: Because we didn't really
18 discuss this at the end of the meeting. Do you
19 think three county and/or city administrators is
20 enough to be on that technical advisory committee
21 or would y'all like to see it larger?

22 INGA KENNEDY: So she's on the -- on the last
23 item, page three, the technical advisory committee
24 where it calls for the makeup of the technical
25 advisory committee and it says the River Valley

1 Regional Commission, the Columbus MPO, and you're
2 asking if three county and/or administrators are
3 enough to fill that -- that role.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

5 INGA KENNEDY: Any --

6 HARRY LANGE: Harry Lange, Harris County. I
7 -- it doesn't bother me too much, but one of the
8 things with the number of consolidated governments
9 we have in this region, theoretically you could
10 have three people from one -- one jurisdiction and
11 that -- maybe you don't want to have three from
12 one jurisdiction.

13 PATTI CULLEN: No. I think it's just intended
14 to be three either county or city administrators
15 throughout the region, which, you know, one would
16 come from each one. What -- I think what we were
17 thinking about when we wrote this is that we were
18 worried that a lot of the communities really do
19 not have a planning department, they don't have a
20 transportation planner, and we were trying to get
21 input from those communities that really do not
22 have transportation staff. And I just didn't know
23 if y'all felt three was enough or you think you
24 need a few more.

25 GERALD BECKUM: We could possibly change --

1 INGA KENNEDY: And you can -- you can --

2 Oh, go ahead, Mr. Beckum.

3 GERALD BECKUM: We could possible change that
4 from three to one from each one of these districts
5 throughout the region, one from each one of those
6 like we're going to have the --

7 INGA KENNEDY: With the executive committee.
8 All right. So Mr. Beckum is recommending that
9 just like you have decided to select your
10 executive committee from -- by quadrant, that
11 perhaps the representation follow the same
12 delineation, if you will.

13 Any other -- any -- any suggestion on that?

14 GEORGE BAGLEY: So that would be five.

15 INGA KENNEDY: And that would be five.

16 GEORGE BAGLEY: So that would be five, one
17 from each quadrant.

18 INGA KENNEDY: Quadrant. One from each
19 quadrant, yeah, right. That's right.

20 GERALD BECKUM: That seems to be --

21 GEORGE BAGLEY: Yeah, that makes more sense.

22 INGA KENNEDY: Is that a consensus? The
23 quadrant? Okay. So we're going to change that to
24 five and it's going to say -- it should say five
25 county and/or city administrators by quadrant and

1 we'll know what that -- we understand what that
2 means. Okay.

3 SKIP HENDERSON: We've already got a
4 representative from Columbus MPO. I don't know
5 that you need -- I don't know that we need another
6 administrator from Muscogee County.

7 You have one person who's representative of
8 our -- the quadrant anyway.

9 TERESA TOMLINSON: So probably it should read
10 four.

11 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. So it will be four
12 because you're acknowledging that you already have
13 one. Okay.

14 So we've beat the guidelines to death. Let's
15 go ahead and -- but they're important. And so
16 let's go ahead and approve the guidelines.

17 Do I have a motion to approve the guidelines
18 as discussed and amended based on what we have
19 today?

20 And I have a motion --

21 HARRY LANGE: Motion, Harry Lange. Second by
22 Jim Lawrence.

23 INGA KENNEDY: I'm sorry? Second --

24 JIM LAWRENCE: Jim Lawrence.

25 INGA KENNEDY: Jim Lawrence. Okay. Jim,

1 okay. I'm looking at your name tags there. Jim
2 Lawrence. It's been moved and properly seconded
3 that we approve the River Valley Regional
4 Transportation Roundtable Guidelines as discussed
5 and amended this morning.

6 All in favor indicate by raising your right
7 hands, please.

8 - - -

9 (Whereupon, all members raised their hands.)

10 - - -

11 INGA KENNEDY: All right. Any opposed?

12 - - -

13 (Whereupon, there were none.)

14 INGA KENNEDY: All right. Thank you. It's
15 been unanimously approved that the River Valley
16 Regional Roundtable will follow these guidelines.
17 We will make the adjustments and get the
18 guidelines back out to everyone.

19 Okay. So then separate and apart from the --
20 we're going to reverse, based on your guidelines,
21 the flow of the agenda, and elect the executive
22 committee first and then the executive committee
23 is going to elect the chairperson.

24 Now, it's my understanding that, and as we
25 discussed in the guidelines, that the executive

1 committee will be made up -- we know that it's a
2 five-member committee, but you've decided that
3 you're going to divide them in quadrants as we
4 discussed earlier.

5 And what I'd like to do is -- and also it's my
6 understanding that some of you had caucused
7 already and from these counties and you know who
8 you're going to recommend for the committee.

9 So let's start with Muscogee County. Who is
10 recommended for Muscogee County?

11 SKIP HENDERSON: Teresa Tomlinson.

12 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. And, Wade -- yes,
13 uh-huh. Mayor Teresa Tomlinson from Muscogee
14 County.

15 Who is recommended for -- from Chattahoochee,
16 Harris, Marion, and Talbot?

17 HARRY LANGE: Harry Lange.

18 INGA KENNEDY: Harry Lange, from Harris
19 County.

20 Who is recommended from Schley, Macon, and
21 Taylor counties?

22 RICHMOND FELTON: Mayor Gerald Beckum.

23 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. Mayor Gerald Beckum from
24 Oglethorpe.

25 Who was recommended from Clay, Quitman,

1 moved and properly seconded that we will -- that
2 you will elect these five members as your
3 executive committee members.

4 All in favor please indicate by raising your
5 right hand, please?

6 - - -

7 (Whereupon, all members raised their hands.)

8 - - -

9 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. Do I have any opposers?

10 - - -

11 (Whereupon, there were none.)

12 - - -

13 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. Then that is your
14 executive committee as you have -- as you have put
15 forth.

16 Now, what we have to do and what you have
17 decided to do is to elect a chairperson from the
18 executive committee that will serve as both the
19 chair of the executive committee and the
20 roundtable.

21 And, Patti, I think we're going to ask the
22 executive committee to caucus for a few minutes
23 and --

24 PATTI CULLEN: If I could get the five of
25 y'all to come with me and --

1 INGA KENNEDY: Take your coats.

2 Five -- five-minute break. And everybody else
3 can have a five-minute break.

4 (brief break)

5 (upon resuming)

6 TODD LONG: I guess we just need to ask for a
7 representative of the executive committee to give
8 a report of your caucus activities.

9 HARRY LANGE: The executive committee --
10 excuse me -- the executive committee has met and
11 elected me as the chairman.

12 TODD LONG: Okay. Good.

13 HARRY LANGE: And we made the comment we
14 certainly plan to keep everyone informed, each
15 member of the executive committee, their members
16 informed of what's going on so that comments can
17 be made along the way as we move along.

18 TODD LONG: Okay. All right. There is no
19 need -- according to your guidelines, there is not
20 need to vote on that matter. You guys voted on
21 your executive committee, so that's good.

22 So a round of applause for your executive
23 committee and chairman.

24 - - -

25 (Whereupon, there was a round of applause.)

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INGA KENNEDY: Before you go to the criteria, go ahead and finish your food. We'll call you up to help us finish this meeting. We put you to work right away.

TODD LONG: All right. Great.

All right. Let's talk about the criteria. The criteria is -- we're going to spend the next part of our meeting and get through that and probably one of the -- one of the more important guideposts in the process.

Now, let's understand the criteria. The criteria is to be used by the director of planning position, the executive committee, and the roundtable to help guide and shape decisions. It is a compass to help us down a path.

If you were doing a sales tax in your county, you wouldn't go into it blindly, right? You would go into it knowing you've got to spend X number of dollars on parks and recreation, X number of dollars maybe on transportation, X dollars on maybe jails, or whatever it may be, libraries. So this is a guidepost to help you go through the process and allow you to -- help you make decisions on where you spend your money.

1 Now, this is just applicable to the regional
2 money, not the discretionary money. Always keep
3 reminding ourselves of that. That's very
4 important.

5 How we developed the criteria. Well, the Bill
6 called for the development of that to come under
7 the position I'm in. It started out several years
8 ago with this whole need for a -- the State
9 identified it needed to develop a business plan
10 for the State of Georgia. We actually went
11 through and developed a statewide transportation
12 plan and that business plan told us sort of what
13 -- if you're in transportation, you knew this
14 already, but if you invest in infrastructure, good
15 things happen. All right. Economic benefits far
16 outweighs the expenditures on infrastructure
17 investments.

18 And notice I'm saying infrastructure because
19 it really applies to more than transportation.
20 You know that for a fact, you guys in the
21 business. You know putting in a water system or a
22 sewer system, you get the benefit in the long run
23 because at the end of the day we're trying to
24 support economic growth and competitiveness.

25 We want Georgia to be a place that people come

1 to work and the companies that are already here,
2 we want them to stay in Georgia. The problem is
3 what we've done to Georgia in transportation is we
4 have not been keeping pace. We built a pretty
5 good freeway system. We've got pretty good
6 maintained roads on a whole compared to other
7 states. If you travel any, you know that. But we
8 really haven't made any significant investment in
9 transportation in Georgia at a level that we need
10 to, to be able to recruit and retain businesses.

11 If you look around the state, think about our
12 big -- the big items. We've got Atlanta, of
13 course, with the congestion. The needs are
14 obvious there, but we've got a great airport.
15 We've got a great port in Savannah, a pretty good
16 freeway network.

17 Think of the last major freeway expansion
18 we've had in the state. It's been a long time, if
19 you think about that. And if you look at per
20 capita spending on transportation, we're second to
21 last. Tennessee spends less per person than
22 Georgia. That's not a good stat to have, guys. I
23 want to -- you to understand. You don't need to
24 be in the bottom tier of that expenditure. The
25 states that are kicking our tails basically on job

1 recruitment are spending far more on
2 transportation than Georgia is.

3 Our gas tax is one of the lowest in the
4 country. In fact, when you gas up at the pump,
5 you pay a federal gas tax and you pay a state gas
6 tax. Our state gas tax that goes toward
7 transportation is only about 15.1 cents per gallon
8 right now, effective January 1st.

9 That's why gas prices are typically lower in
10 Georgia than they are in other states because our
11 gas tax is lower. We do have a local sales tax on
12 gas, which doesn't go to transportation. It goes
13 where? Where does it go? The local sales tax
14 goes back to you guys. So that's why our prices
15 are about even with South Carolina and Alabama.
16 But in general, if you drive around the country,
17 you'll notice our gas prices are generally less
18 than other states. It's because our state gas tax
19 is so low. Sometimes half as much as other
20 states.

21 The gas tax has been a great tax. It's a user
22 tax. It's served our country. It's probably
23 what's made America great, if you think about it.
24 Why is America better than other countries? Why
25 are people dying still to come here every day?

1 It's because we have mobility. We can get around
2 this country. We built a great network of roads
3 in this country. It's been built on the back of
4 gas tax.

5 The problem is the gas tax is not sustainable
6 in the future, and the reason is pure and simple.
7 We as Americans are driving less, or about the
8 same as we always have. It's kind of steady. So
9 the vehicle miles driven per year in your family
10 is probably about the same as it was last year and
11 the year before that, so very little growth
12 there. But the fuel efficiency of the fleet of
13 cars in American is shooting up
14 year-by-year-by-year.

15 And I give this example in every region I go
16 to. I drove a Chevy Silverado pickup truck for 20
17 years, and last spring I bought my father's
18 Toyota. I went from 16 miles a gallon to 24 miles
19 per gallon.

20 Todd Long's personal contribution to
21 transportation infrastructure just went down 33
22 percent. Think about that. And you can think
23 through all examples of people you know that are
24 buying more fuel efficient cars. If you look at
25 the CAPA standards they're talking about in

1 Congress, you see that they want to raise, you
2 know, the fuel miles per gallons of new cars
3 coming out to 35 miles per gallon by 2016.
4 There's some talk of by 2020 to have cars with
5 over 40 miles per gallon.

6 The fleet in American right now, the entire
7 fleet gets about 20 miles per gallon. So think
8 about that. If we go from 20 to 40, what happens
9 to the revenue stream if we don't drive more? It
10 goes down, right? We could be ten years from now
11 with less money for transportation than we have
12 today and build in inflation and -- it's just a
13 no-win situation.

14 So you say why don't we raise the gas tax?
15 Well, you can go through raising the gas task, but
16 guess what, you got to kind of keep up with this
17 whole fuel efficiency mode or you're going to be
18 -- if gas prices go up to four dollars a gallon
19 like some people are saying, I'm not -- I hope
20 they don't. But if they go up to four dollars a
21 gallon, yeah, you may generate a little bit more
22 revenue from the gas tax, but guess what, people
23 will do what if it's four dollars a gallon?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They'll drive less.

25 TODD LONG: They'll drive less. So you're

1 stymied. So in the long run, the gas tax, even
2 though it is a great user tax, it is not something
3 that's real sustainable. And if you're in a big
4 urban area where you want to do transit and other
5 modes where -- guys that ride transit don't pay --
6 they don't pay that user tax, right, the gas tax?

7 So if you want to fund transit, you got to
8 come up with another source. So the sales tax was
9 the way the General Assembly decided to go. Now,
10 I'll tell you, and nobody from the General
11 Assembly is here today, but they struggled
12 mightily with this issue. It took them about
13 three or four sessions of debating and talking
14 about how to get to the point where you need to --
15 how to invest more in transportation. So the
16 sales tax was the preferred method they decided to
17 go and that's why we're here today.

18 So that gets us to where we're going on the
19 criteria. So when we spend this money, you want
20 to spend it in a wise fashion. We went to this
21 huge effort to come up with a state-wide strategic
22 vision. These first four bullets there in the
23 performance goals, those are basically the four
24 real basic goals of what you're trying to do with
25 transportation. If you did a strategic plan for

1 your county, you might come up with similar
2 goals.

3 First off, hey, it's all about jobs, right?
4 Economic development. You want to grow the
5 economy. If you do not grow it, guess what?
6 You're going backwards. So that's the first one.

7 Second one, you always want to ensure safety,
8 right? Safety is always very important in every
9 community.

10 Third, you got to maximize the value of what
11 you already have in place.

12 If it means redoing the concrete section of
13 Dooly County on 75 because it's falling apart,
14 that's maximizing what you have by taking better
15 care of what you already have.

16 Poor David's got crews out here night and day
17 trying to patch concrete sections all the time,
18 right? Because our interstate system was built --
19 it started back in the '50s. It's all getting 50,
20 60 years old. It's going to start falling apart
21 all across this country, not just in Georgia.

22 And last but not least, when you're doing it,
23 minimize the impact on the environment.

24 So the outcomes. Outcomes for any sales tax,
25 not just this regional sales tax, if you do a

1 sales tax in your county, your outcome is going to
2 be the same thing. You want to have the best
3 value for your taxpayers, you want to have
4 projects that you can deliver on time and on
5 budget, and you want to have projects on your
6 lists, guys, that are publicly appealing.

7 If they're not publicly appealing, guess what
8 happens? Guess what the voters vote? They vote
9 no. So if you get -- we get a no vote in 2012 we
10 will be back to square one again. And you'll be
11 back in a situation where the revenue stream on
12 our traditional gas tax is not going to be enough
13 to even come close to meeting any demands.

14 Now, I quote one of the members of the
15 transportation committee in the house. She says
16 this everywhere she goes. She says, The regional
17 sales tax is plan A. We don't have a plan B.
18 There's not a back-up plan.

19 So that's why it's so important that we really
20 push forward and try to come up with additional
21 revenues for transportation. All these cities and
22 counties, I see you guys. You come to see the
23 commissioner begging for more money because
24 there's just not enough to maintain your roads and
25 your bridges. And you cities come to us about all

1 the congestion you have or needing roads widened
2 to four lanes. There's just not enough money to
3 do them in the time frame that you want them
4 done. And we keep meeting the needs -- we see
5 your needs. We just can't meet them.

6 So you want to have projects on the list that
7 are publicly appealing. And I think that won't be
8 a problem, to be honest with you. I think we can
9 come up with a good list.

10 Guiding principles. As you're going through
11 the selection process, hey, focus on projects that
12 you can deliver. We don't need to be picking
13 projects from the sky that you can't deliver in a
14 ten-year period. Projects -- that's why we say
15 projects need to come from some existing thought
16 process, there's been some bedding of the
17 project. It's not just some project that you
18 think up out of the blue. All right?

19 Investments need to be consistent with plans
20 that are on the shelf. We got a statewide
21 strategic plan. I just gave you the four goals up
22 top. That's a plan. It's not a list of projects,
23 but it's just a -- it's a vision. Of course, you
24 got one big MPO here in Columbus, Muscogee
25 County. You guys have a plan because you're

1 federally required to have a plan. It needs to be
2 consistent with that.

3 Next slide.

4 So, as we walk through these, we looked at
5 different program areas. Just like you looked at
6 a SPLOST, you have a -- maybe jails, parks,
7 transportation. We looked at it from a program
8 area broken down within transportation, like
9 roadways, transit, maintenance, but in all of them
10 what we're trying to focus in on is basically
11 projects that you can get done. You need to put
12 barrels on the street, all right, like any other
13 sales tax. So delivery is a big issue here.

14 Next slide.

15 All right. Roadway capital, let's look at
16 that area. When you look at roadway capital
17 projects, you're trying to pick projects that
18 serve employment centers or activity centers.
19 That's the regional nature of the list. This is
20 not trying to do a side street in some city in
21 this region. It's deciding to do projects of some
22 significance that's trying to serve some kind of
23 employment center or activity center. Be new
24 roads widening, interchanges, interstate
25 improvements, bridges, economic development,

1 corridors.

2 I know there's some talk about paving dirt
3 roads, we'll talk about that in a moment, in some
4 of the rural counties. That may be something you
5 may want to do, but if the road is regionally
6 significant. And you do have roads that are dirt
7 that are regionally significant that are
8 connecting communities.

9 All right. Roadway and bridge maintenance.
10 You got to be real careful here, in my opinion.
11 You got to decide how much you're going to -- it's
12 typically going to be in the range of a lower
13 percentage of your projects simply because roadway
14 and bridge maintenance aren't always publicly
15 appealing, even though we know they're needed.

16 Next category.

17 Traffic safety operations. These sometimes
18 can be great projects for you. These are sellers,
19 right? Intersection improvements, particularly in
20 your rural areas. These are big projects that
21 help you out.

22 Next slide.

23 Freight and logistics. Roadway capital kind
24 of overlays freight and logistics and our friends
25 in Sumter County will tell you US 280 is a great

1 logistics corridor, right?

2 Next slide.

3 Aviation. How many airports do you got here,
4 Patti, in your region?

5 PATTI CULLEN: Several. Some of them are
6 smaller. I'm not sure.

7 TODD LONG: Okay. You got one right here in
8 Buena Vista that's not long enough to land a
9 plane, right? But, you know, maintenance to
10 airports may be something you may want to spend
11 your money on. But once again, don't forget the
12 publicly appealing. You as a county official know
13 the need, but you've got to sell that to the
14 public also.

15 Next slide.

16 Bike and pedestrian. And I'm not going to say
17 that's limited to just urban areas. That's --
18 bike and pedestrian. In fact, of all the comments
19 that Cindy and Tim and I got on this in writing,
20 we got on the criteria, guess what the most
21 comments were about? Bike and pedestrian. Those
22 folks know how to write. They write lots of
23 letters and get lots of signatures.

24 That's, I suspect, a lot of your communities
25 have the same type of individuals living in your

1 towns.

2 Next slide.

3 Transit. It may not be important to
4 everybody, but you do have transit component right
5 there in Columbus, in Muscogee County, and then a
6 lot of the counties do in the rural counties.
7 Y'all got transit provided -- provided by van pool
8 programs and other things that you have.
9 Certainly, a lot of categories -- a category that
10 you may want to consider spending money.

11 Next slide.

12 All right. We laid out what we thought were
13 suggested spending ranges. Now, if you try to add
14 these up to a 100 percent, they don't add up. But
15 think about the logic. So if you spend 70 percent
16 on roadways, and 30 percent on traffic operation,
17 that's all your money, right? So you don't have
18 to spend any money in other categories, so -- but
19 these are ranges we thought that were acceptable.

20 And to be honest with you, most of the regions
21 have -- they have agreed with these ranges. There
22 hasn't been really a whole lot of discussion to be
23 honest with you. And -- but they are basically --
24 look at the title, "Investment Allocation Target
25 Ranges."

1 They're target ranges. Don't get hung up if
2 you have 71 percent of your money going to roadway
3 widening, it's not the end of the world, guys.
4 These are criteria to help guide -- this is a
5 compass for you guys. It helps you through the
6 process.

7 Next slide.

8 Now, you guys have met several times, and not
9 all of you have been part of those meetings, but
10 Patti has -- actually, there's two different
11 documents. In your notebook are the proposed
12 criteria that I sent November 9 to all the cities
13 and counties. And then also somewhere on your
14 table is a sheet that's got some highlighted
15 comments from members of the roundtable.

16 What I'd like to do is kind of highlight a few
17 comments I may have. Ultimately, you guys -- you
18 have to adopt this. I've got some views on some
19 of the changes that Patti has made, to basically
20 see if you agree or disagree with those.

21 If you look at this sheet here, and you look
22 at the very first sheet, the very first section
23 that's got yellow highlight, it's got just a
24 simple definition of discretionary fund. The
25 definition is perfectly fine except for one minor

1 correction. It says in the second sentence of
2 that yellow highlighting, It is a combination of
3 population and lane miles.

4 That should say what?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Center lane.

6 PATTI CULLEN: Center lane.

7 TODD LONG: I see where the roundtable was
8 listening earlier.

9 Center line miles, paved and unpaved. So that
10 change needs to be made, and it's a significant
11 change. Our guy from Columbus had to leave, but
12 the big cities of the regions have fussed about
13 that because guess what? A four-lane road counts
14 the same as a dirt road. And they're not usually
15 -- usually, the cities and the -- they are not
16 that happy about that provision, but the rest of
17 you guys that are here left today love that
18 provision, right?

19 It was added in to get the rural legislators
20 to vote for the Bill. Do y'all understand that?
21 Having dirt and paved roads. And having 25
22 percent of it go to discretionary. That was a big
23 selling point.

24 All right. The next highlighted yellow, the
25 process, those are all -- all she did was take the

1 paragraphs that we had and basically put them in
2 bulleted form. We have zero problem. In fact,
3 it reads -- it reads just fine like that.

4 Look at page two. Those two yellow highlights
5 certainly are just a continuation of the previous
6 page and those are fine.

7 Look at page three. Now that this is -- where
8 it says the "Final Recommended Criteria," this
9 would be the final criteria ultimately, and she
10 made some highlighted changes. We don't have a
11 lot of questions about this page, but I do -- I
12 want to bring up this because I think somebody
13 else is going to -- should bring it up. Look at
14 the -- under Item No. 3, the third bullet, it
15 says, Investment list is consistent with the
16 policies of the SSTP, the Columbus MPO TIP, and
17 the policies of the Regional Valley Region.

18 I guess I don't know what the policies of the
19 Regional Valley Region are.

20 PATTI CULLEN: They do have a regional plan
21 for the region that talks about transportation, so
22 I think it should be --

23 TODD LONG: Anybody else have any questions
24 about that aspect?

25 GEORGE BAGLEY: When there is overlap --

1 George Bagley, Leslie -- when there's overlap
2 between different regions with these from that
3 final criteria list, how -- would -- DOT already
4 has, you know, supposedly shovel-ready projects,
5 how is that handled when there is overlap between
6 --

7 TODD LONG: I'll -- I'll handle that. We
8 won't have too much problem in that regard, but
9 let's just -- let's pretend for a moment that
10 Three Rivers decided that their only criteria was
11 every project had to be a bike or ped project.
12 They didn't decide that by the way. But let's be
13 ridiculous here, right? So you have a project
14 that goes between the regions. How do you do
15 that? How do you break that --

16 Well, that's where I've got to step in and we
17 got -- I still have -- even though the gas tax is
18 going to get us one day because of the fuel
19 efficiency, there is a regular roadway program.
20 And I -- we can view that project as regional
21 significant and we're still going to want to do
22 it, we take the money that you guys have voted on
23 that project on your side, and we end up doing it
24 on their side with the regular roadway program, if
25 we think it's that valuable.

1 GEORGE BAGLEY: So planning will take care of
2 any discrepancies between --

3 TODD LONG: We will attempt to take care of
4 all discrepancies. And there are certainly
5 corridors that fall in that realm. I can't think
6 of one off the top of my head for this area, but
7 you guys all know Southwest Georgia, right? You
8 got 133 runs from Albany to Valdosta. So that
9 corridor is a high priority freight and logistics
10 corridor for them, but --

11 PATTI CULLEN: Well, Highway 27 would be.

12 TODD LONG: Well, 27 is a good one, I guess,
13 but you guys basically -- 27 runs into both. So
14 you've got, you know, you got one that may have a
15 different opinion in one region versus another
16 region. All right. So that's fine. I have no
17 problem there.

18 Okay. I do have an issue with page four at
19 the top. And this is -- I'm going to give you my
20 interpretation of the Bill. It says that the
21 project list shall demonstrate regional equity.
22 The Bill doesn't say anything about equity. All
23 right? And I want y'all to hear me. I want y'all
24 to understand what I'm saying here. I'm not
25 trying to -- there may be counties in here that

1 don't have very many if all -- if any projects on
2 the list, on the regional list. Remember that's
3 partly what you got discretionary funds for.

4 Regional equity, if you go with the regional
5 equity, you may jeopardize the passing of this
6 legislation. Okay? The voters in this region are
7 not dispersed in equal fashion among the region.
8 Is that a true statement or not? Where do the
9 voters live in this region?

10 PATTI CULLEN: Muscogee County.

11 TODD LONG: Right. So in order for Marion
12 County -- we're in Marion County, right? Before
13 you to get -- you need the discretionary money.
14 You like that pot of money because it's going to
15 help you a lot. It's a lot of money. In order
16 for you to get the discretionary, you have to have
17 this thing pass the population. And there's not
18 many people live in Marion County and Buena Vista
19 compared to your other areas.

20 So regional equity may get you in trouble if
21 you have that as part of your criteria. That's
22 why we did not include it in any of the language
23 that we did initially.

24 Do you understand what I'm saying?

25 PATTI CULLEN: But I think that second

1 sentence, Todd, talks about that it doesn't
2 necessarily mean dollars. See, so we're not
3 saying that it necessarily is --

4 TODD LONG: Yeah, but there becomes a level of
5 expectation of every member on the roundtable then
6 that they're going to get some project.

7 GEORGE BAGLEY: Our piece of the pie.

8 TODD LONG: Correct. And that may not be what
9 sells to the public, so you got to be careful.
10 Because you don't -- if you fight for your piece
11 of the pie and it kills -- it kills the list such
12 that the voters vote no for it, then guess what?
13 You don't get your piece of the pie or do you get
14 the discretionary money.

15 I'm just telling you that as my opinion. And
16 y'all can debate it all you want to whether you
17 want to leave it -- you can leave it in there.
18 That is certainly your prerogative, but that's my
19 opinion. I would remain silent on it would be my
20 recommendation and let that work out with the
21 executive committee and ultimately the
22 roundtable. Because guess what? Who gets to vote
23 on the list? The roundtable does.

24 Any thoughts? Do you disagree with me?

25 GEORGE BAGLEY: But isn't that an expectation

1 of the public when you push this? I mean, are we
2 talking about --

3 TODD LONG: That is why it is so important
4 when the campaign starts that individual counties
5 and cities -- you're not required to under the
6 Bill -- but you lay out what you're going to do
7 with your discretionary money. You lay it out
8 there so people know that Marion County plans to
9 resurface roads. You don't have to list them
10 because it's not required to list these projects.
11 That you plan to resurface roads, you plan to
12 replace culverts, you plan to fix this bridge.
13 You kind of lay out what you're going to do and
14 then there's that expectation from the public is
15 met because they see that Marion County --

16 How much do you get? Have you looked at it?
17 What do you get in 2013?

18 GEORGE NEAL: I don't know.

19 TODD LONG: It's a big number.

20 CINDY VAN DYKE: It's over -- it's over half a
21 million.

22 TODD LONG: Half a million dollars. It's a
23 half a million dollars. You've never gotten close
24 to that, have you?

25 What do you raise in a one percent sales tax

1 on your own?

2 GEORGE NEAL: 230,000, in that range.

3 TODD LONG: So you're getting double what you
4 could raise in a sales tax. Think about that.
5 He's getting double what he can raise in his own
6 sales tax in discretionary money, but he gets to
7 decide with his -- his chair and his four other
8 members of your commission, right?

9 GEORGE NEAL: (nodding affirmatively)

10 TODD LONG: If I'm Marion County, I don't want
11 to dictate that I got to have part of this
12 regional pie and put my foot down to fight for
13 it. Because if y'all kill it because you're
14 putting projects on there in areas that are
15 unpopulated, then I get nothing at the end of the
16 day, so.

17 Any other comments? Yes, sir.

18 JIM LAWRENCE: Yeah. You was talking about
19 the public's confidence. About two years ago the
20 State said they was going to put sidewalks in
21 Chattahoochee County and they ain't done it yet,
22 so when we go to the public and try to --

23 And I'm going to push for this vote because I
24 believe it's a good thing, but we have to overcome
25 it, you know. Well, what about those sidewalks?

1 They ain't been done yet. So here we go.

2 Then you talked about gas a while ago, people
3 cutting back on gas, that's one reason that the
4 postal service is going up because people are
5 paying online and guess what? They don't buy any
6 stamps anymore.

7 TODD LONG: It is the same principle.

8 JIM LAWRENCE: So you got to -- there's a lot
9 of things you got to overcome. It's not cut and
10 dry. You got to over -- you got to get the
11 confidence of those people if this is going to
12 work because it's a bad track record.

13 TODD LONG: All right. Any --

14 Yes, sir.

15 DENNIS McPHERSON: Dennis McPherson, Waverly
16 Hall. I kind of get what you're saying is it's
17 obviously going to be a document that a lot of
18 people are going to be able to read, including
19 somebody who gets ready to write an article in the
20 newspaper. And if they recite from this document
21 that first line --

22 TODD LONG: They will expect, where's my
23 project.

24 DENNIS McPHERSON: Then that's what
25 everybody's going to expect is going to happen.

1 And if they look at the list, and if they're not
2 included on the list, they're --

3 TODD LONG: Right. That's why you need to let
4 the roundtable and the executive committee do
5 their jobs on the project selection and then go
6 from there. That's my recommendation.

7 What's the preface of the group? All right.
8 How many people want to keep it in?

9 - - -

10 (Whereupon, some members raised their hands.)

11 - - -

12 TODD LONG: How many people are willing to
13 take that part out?

14 - - -

15 (Whereupon, some members raised their hands.)

16 - - -

17 TODD LONG: All right. All right. Okay.
18 We're going to have to -- it looks like we're
19 going to have to -- let me finish my discussion
20 overall and what we'll do is come back and let you
21 act as chairman here with the Robert's Rules of
22 Order. All right. So bookmark, Chairman, this --

23 The next bullet, it says, The criteria may be
24 amended by the roundtable. That actually is not
25 allowed in the Bill. The Bill has no provision

1 whatsoever for the criteria to be amended.

2 The second part of this is true. The
3 roundtable may deviate from the criteria. You can
4 deviate because it is basically -- remember I told
5 you it's a compass. But to say that you can amend
6 it is actually incorrect. So I would just strike
7 out and just put the criteria -- say that the
8 round -- just start the sentence at, "The
9 roundtable may deviate from the criteria." That's
10 fine.

11 All right. My other comment, at the bottom of
12 the page, I'll get through this quick, and I have
13 just a couple more. You've got the sentence
14 you've added about dirt roads and I am very
15 sensitive to the fact that we've got some dirt
16 roads that are regionally significant. If you
17 want to add some language that does that, that's
18 fine. But the last sentence you added, I'm not
19 sure that's allowed under the legislation. It
20 says that the region may establish a dirt-paving
21 fund.

22 The way the Bill is written is that you will
23 develop a list of projects. So you can have
24 project X which is a dirt road from point A to
25 point B on the list that voters approve, but you

1 can't have a thing that says project paving fund.
2 Now, your discretionary, you can do that all you
3 want to, but the Bill does not allow for a paving
4 fund. It allows for just a list. So I would
5 strike out the last sentence, but leaving in the
6 other items is fine.

7 All right. The next page, roadway and bridge
8 maintenance under item ci -- ci and cii, you've
9 got these terms, "at the discretion of the
10 roundtable." I think that's kind of redundant.
11 Ultimately, your list that you vote on is at the
12 discretion of the roundtable; is that not true?

13 I mean, this is just criteria. Ultimately,
14 you guys -- the list you vote on is in your
15 discretion, whether you vote up or down or amend
16 or change. So I would eliminate those items
17 there, Chairman, "discretion of the roundtable."

18 And outside of that, all the other changes
19 that you propose, I have no problem. Those are
20 just my comments.

21 So, Chairman, I would -- if you want to run
22 this part of the meeting, I want to take the first
23 page, your lane miles, and make sure we clarify
24 that that's center line lane miles, and then my
25 other recommendation is regarding the two bullets

1 at the top of page four. I would eliminate the
2 first bullet. The second would be taking out the
3 first part about amended. And then the bottom of
4 page four I would eliminate the sentence on
5 establishing a dirt paving fund. So those would
6 be my recommendations.

7 Is that -- is that clear to everybody?

8 - - -

9 (Whereupon, there was no response.)

10 - - -

11 HARRY LANGE: All right. We need to open this
12 for discussion and then vote.

13 We're back to the first page, the fourth
14 bullet down, where we said a combination of
15 population and the recommended change is "center
16 line road miles paved and unpaved."

17 Do I have a motion to make that change?

18 BARRY WATERS: So moved.

19 HARRY LANGE: We got a motion.

20 MELVIN CRIMES: Second.

21 HARRY LANGE: We got a second.

22 Any discussion?

23 - - -

24 (Whereupon, there was none.)

25 - - -

1 HARRY LANGE: All right. No discussion. Then
2 all in favor please raise your right hand.

3 - - -

4 (Whereupon, all members raised their hands.)

5 - - -

6 HARRY LANGE: Those opposed?

7 - - -

8 (Whereupon, there were none.)

9 HARRY LANGE: All right. That change is
10 made.

11 The next item is on page four, the top of page
12 four.

13 Suggestion was that we strike the first bullet
14 there at the top of that page, The project list
15 should demonstrate regional equity, both of those
16 sentences. Do I have a motion?

17 BARRY WATERS: So moved.

18 HARRY LANGE: We have a motion to remove it.

19 CLINTON PERRY: Second.

20 HARRY LANGE: Have a second.

21 Discussion?

22 - - -

23 (Whereupon, there was none.)

24 - - -

25 HARRY LANGE: All in favor of removing that

1 please raise your right hand.

2 - - -

3 (Whereupon, all members raised their hands.)

4 - - -

5 HARRY LANGE: Those opposed?

6 - - -

7 (Whereupon, there were none.)

8 HARRY LANGE: All right. Then the next bullet
9 down, the suggestion was that the first part of
10 that, The criteria may be amended or -- that that
11 be struck.

12 Do we have a motion?

13 BARRY WATERS: So moved.

14 HARRY LANGE: It's moved.

15 Do we have a second?

16 RICHARD MORRIS: Second.

17 HARRY LANGE: Second.

18 Discussion?

19 - - -

20 (Whereupon, there was none.)

21 - - -

22 HARRY LANGE: All in favor please raise your
23 hand.

24 - - -

25 (Whereupon, all members raised their hands.)

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HARRY LANGE: Those opposed?

- - -

(Whereupon, there were none.)

HARRY LANGE: All right. And then, Todd, you didn't mention in your recap, but I -- you were talking about -- oh, you did -- the bottom of that one. Remove the last sentence, "The region may establish a dirt road paving fund to improve off-system routes and may establish an off-system resurfacing fund to improve and maintain existing local roads."

Do I have a motion?

BARRY WATERS: Motion.

HARRY LANGE: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

GERALD BECKUM: Second.

HARRY LANGE: We have a second.

Discussion?

- - -

(Whereupon, there was none.)

- - -

HARRY LANGE: All in favor raise your hand.

(Whereupon, some members raised their hands.)

HARRY LANGE: Opposed?

1 (Whereupon, some members raised their hands.)

2 HARRY LANGE: That carries.

3 And then on the next page, page five, the
4 comment was in that first item, ci, toward the end
5 of that, off-system routes, and then scratch "at
6 the discretion of the roundtable;" is that what
7 you were saying?

8 TODD LONG: Yeah.

9 HARRY LANGE: All right. Do I have a motion?

10 JIM LAWRENCE: I'll move.

11 HARRY LANGE: Got a motion.

12 Do we have a second?

13 BARRY WATERS: Second here.

14 HARRY LANGE: And a second.

15 Discussion?

16 - - -

17 (Whereupon, there was none.)

18 - - -

19 HARRY LANGE: All in favor raise your hand.

20 - - -

21 (Whereupon, all members raised their hands.)

22 - - -

23 HARRY LANGE: Opposed?

24 - - -

25 (Whereupon, there were none.)

1 HARRY LANGE: All right. That carried.

2 Then I think that takes us over to the chart
3 of percents. And after -- I believe this was
4 after our discussion at our last meeting. The
5 only change that at least is highlighted in here
6 is a change to what had been recommended to us was
7 on the bicycle and pedestrian that that be changed
8 from "one percent to five percent" to "zero
9 percent to five percent."

10 Do I have a motion to accept that?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Adoption of the change.

12 TERRELL HUDSON: Motion.

13 HARRY LANGE: Got a motion.

14 Got a second?

15 EMMETT MOORE: Second.

16 HARRY LANGE: Second. Discussion?

17 GERALD BECKUM: Let me ask a question. Do we
18 want to go ahead and change all of them and have
19 zero percent to at least one percent. That would
20 be an indication that we intend to do something
21 within those areas. If you put zero percent down
22 there, we're basically saying we may not do
23 anything. And so if we are going to change that
24 one from one to five, why not change all of them,
25 one to whatever.

1 TODD LONG: Actually, you were changing "from
2 one to five" to "zero to five."

3 HARRY LANGE: Changing it from "one to five"
4 to "zero to five."

5 GERALD BECKUM: Okay.

6 HARRY LANGE: And I think the discussion was
7 that when we talked about this at our last meeting
8 was there were some people that while they might
9 not have an objection to spending some money
10 there, they didn't want it down there because they
11 felt that their areas certainly would not get any
12 -- any money for bike or pedestrian and it might
13 sway some voters.

14 GERALD BECKUM: If you look at it regionally,
15 you might need to look at having at least one
16 percent in those categories. If you don't, if you
17 put down zero percent, you're saying we may not
18 spend any. That's all.

19 HARRY LANGE: All right. Someone else want to
20 comment on that?

21 COURT REPORTER: Mr. Chairman, I need the name
22 for who did the motion and second. I didn't catch
23 either one on this one.

24 HARRY LANGE: The motion was Terrell Hudson.
25 And Emmett Moore was the second.

1 Any other discussion?

2 - - -

3 (Whereupon, there was none.)

4 - - -

5 HARRY LANGE: All right. Hearing none, then
6 I'll call for the vote.

7 Motion was to accept the change from "one to
8 five percent" to "zero to five percent."

9 All in favor of that?

10 - - -

11 (Whereupon, some members raised their hands.)

12 - - -

13 HARRY LANGE: Opposed?

14 - - -

15 (Whereupon, some members raised their hands.)

16 HARRY LANGE: That motion carries.

17 All right. Are there any other items in here
18 that anyone would like to bring up for discussion
19 before we vote on the whole -- this as a whole?

20 - - -

21 (Whereupon, there were none.)

22 - - -

23 HARRY LANGE: All right. Hearing none, then I
24 would entertain the motion as to the adoption of
25 this entire framework.

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ADOLPH McCLENDON: So moved.

RICHMOND FELTON: Second.

HARRY LANGE: All right. We got a motion.

ADOLPH McCLENDON: McClendon.

HARRY LANGE: And second over here. Felton --
Richmond Felton. Okay. Mr. Felton.

Discussion?

- - -

(Whereupon, there was none.)

- - -

HARRY LANGE: All in favor please raise your
hand.

- - -

(Whereupon, all members raised their hands.)

- - -

HARRY LANGE: Opposed?

- - -

(Whereupon, there were none.)

HARRY LANGE: All right. Thank you very
much. I think we have that approved.

Anything, Todd, you want to add?

TODD LONG: Yeah. Give me a couple of minutes
and we'll be out of here. All right. Next
steps.

Congratulations on adopting the criteria.

1 That's good.

2 You elected a chairman. You elected an
3 executive committee. You approved the criteria.

4 So you have finished the legally required
5 items on your list which is very important.

6 The schedule is between basically now and May
7 we'll be accepting nominations. Some of you guys
8 got to go back and think. You've changed your
9 criteria to put dirt roads in there. Some of you
10 guys will be kind of thinking through that a
11 little bit different than you thought before now.
12 And that's fine. And I'll need to know those
13 because I don't think David and I have those
14 thought processes down as far as dirt roads go.
15 So make sure it's in your -- if you don't have a
16 comprehensive plan that has paving dirt roads in
17 it, you need to get them in there. You need to
18 work on that.

19 So between now and May, I'll be accepting
20 nominations. I'm going to give you guys guidance
21 on that. I'm going to send you some kind of
22 blast, some kind of memo that says, all right,
23 here's a project nomination form. It will have
24 what you need to put on the form and a project
25 description, et cetera, and we'll be taking those

1 over the next -- till May.

2 And then sometime between now and then what we
3 do is rating. The Bill calls for us to do what
4 they call the public benefits, that's what it says
5 in the Bill. Basically, it's the benefits of the
6 Bill. Benefits of the project itself and lay
7 those out so when we submit it back to the
8 executive committee they have the project, then
9 they have the benefits of the project on one
10 sheet. So they can clearly -- it helps them make
11 their minds up.

12 And ultimately, between June and August,
13 that's when the executive committee is going to do
14 a lot of their work. And by August 15th they have
15 to submit it, like I said before, the full
16 roundtable. The full roundtable has then several
17 months to work through that list, amend it,
18 whatever they need to do, and then finally have a
19 vote by October the 15th, as I told you earlier.

20 So that's it. Do y'all have any questions for
21 me?

22 - - -

23 (Whereupon, there were none.)

24 - - -

25 TODD LONG: Next slide.

1 I've got -- this is my contact information up
2 here. Guys, a lot of you guys already know me.
3 You know, I'm -- call me. I'm going to answer
4 your call. Or call Dave and he'll answer your
5 call. We'll listen. We certainly -- if you come
6 to Atlanta for some other reason, coming up to see
7 your general assembly member or whatever, call us,
8 stop by and see us. We'd love to see you. And I
9 know a lot of you guys have periodic meetings with
10 the commissioner anyway. And I'll be trying to
11 sit in on those as much as I can.

12 So any closing questions?

13 WALLACE MATHIS: You don't have any kind of
14 like -- I know it would be totally hypothetical --
15 but any kind of projection on the possible loss of
16 revenue based on the gas consumption going down
17 over the next, say, five or ten years?

18 TODD LONG: No. Because it's hard to predict
19 the vehicle miles -- vehicle miles travelled. If
20 it goes up, you know, there's a -- there's a cost
21 component and we don't know -- there's been
22 economists discuss some of that, but everybody --

23 Listen, guys, everybody in the country is
24 scrambling to see what Georgia's doing because
25 they're all facing the same problems we are.

1 BILL ROUNDTREE: Todd, do you mind if I talk
2 before we all scatter?

3 TODD LONG: Yeah.

4 BILL ROUNDTREE: I wanted to mention to
5 everybody in the room that next week Tom Queen
6 will be his last day on the 20th, and so I know
7 that a lot of y'all know who he is, but next week
8 will be his last day on the 20th and we're going
9 to have a reception for him from 2:00 to 4:00 on
10 the 20th in the district office building in
11 Thomaston if any of y'all would like to come.

12 Also, Jack Reed, and he mentioned it earlier
13 when he introduced himself, he's going to replace
14 Tom Queen as planning and programming engineer for
15 our district.

16 And one other thing I wanted to mention to
17 you, if y'all need any lists, as far as projects
18 for your county, please contact me. I'll be glad
19 to provide that for you as far as DOT projects in
20 your area. Okay? Thank you.

21 TODD LONG: Thanks, Bill. Thank you, Tom.
22 Chairman, you can ask for a motion to close, I
23 guess, now.

24 HARRY LANGE: Yeah. I -- we'll -- the
25 executive committee will certainly be meeting in

1 the interim and we'll coordinate with River Valley
2 as far as our meeting and notify all of you in
3 advance so that you can put it on your calendars.

4 We're going to try and coordinate the
5 executive committee -- executive committee meeting
6 prior to the regular roundtable meeting, so we can
7 bring you up to date with everything. So with
8 that being said, if no one else has any other, I
9 will entertain a motion for adjourning.

10 GEORGE BAGLEY: So moved.

11 GERALD BECKUM: Second.

12 HARRY LANGE: All in favor get up and leave.

13 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at
14 12:10 p.m.)
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STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF MUSCOGEE

C E R T I F I C A T E

The forgoing transcript of the proceedings
was taken before me as a Certified Court Reporter
in and for the State of Georgia and reduced to
typewriting under my direction and supervision, and
I certify that it is a true and correct transcript
to the best of my ability of the proceedings.

This 20th day of January, 2011.

Peggy A. Little
Certified Court Reporter
No. B-1718

PAL