TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION

11 August 2022

4:00PM – 5:00PM

"We will act now to reduce NOx and Ozone in the Middle Georgia Community to ensure that we protect the region's public health, maintain a robust economic growth, and show leadership in environmental sustainability."

4:00	Welcome and Call to Order • Approval of Minutes	Chairman Barbee
4:05	Financial Report	Sam Kitchens, Sec-Treasurer
4:10	The Clark Group • Inflation Reduction Act • EVs • Smart Growth • Delegation Trip to Washington • Meeting with Chairman Perdue, Houston County	Ray Clark
4:20	I-75 Legislative Summit	Laura Mathis
4:30	I-75 Update • Report from yesterday's meeting • Letters of Support for Corridor Designation	Ray Clark / Laura Mathis
4:40	Discussion	
5:00	Adjourn	

MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 2022, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Chairman Greg Tapley, Monroe County*****
Mayor Ed Barbee, City of Gray*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Councilman Rusty Adams, City of Byron*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*
Rogie Roberson, Flint Energies
Elizabeth Ruark - Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Former Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert, Macon-Bibb County
Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership
Tiffany Davis, Jones County
Bill Mulkey, City of Warner Robins
Leah Vinansky, Chargepoint
Bryan Jones, Robins AFB

***Denotes Voting Member or Local Government Staff Proxy for Voting Member**

Support Staff Present

Ray Clark, The Clark Group
Greg Boike, MGRC Director of Public Administration

Welcome/Call to Order

Chairman Greg Tapley called the May meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the conference call meeting. It was determined that a quorum was present, and the committee was able to conduct business.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Sam Kitchens and a second Ned Sanders.

Financial Report

Greg Boike provided the Financial Report beginning May 1, 2022, through May31, 2022. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $293.40 and expenditures in the amount of $12,250.00; the ending balance as of May 31, 2022, was $157,774.77.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Ned Sanders and a second by Ed Barbee.

Introduction of New Officers

Chairman Greg Tapley welcomed the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition new officers.

Ed Barbee as Chair
Clifford Holmes as Vice Chair
Sam Kitchens as Secretary-Treasurer

Recognition of Chairman Tapley

The MGCAC Green Team presented Greg Tapley a certificate of appreciation for his support and commitment in working with the MGCAC from 2018 – 2022 to improve the air quality of Middle Georgia.

Greg Tapley then passed the gavel over to Ed Barbee as the new Chairman. Greg Tapley thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve. Chairman Ed Barbee gave his vision on how he wants the Clean Air Coalition to evolve with collaboration from state and local involvement, including from industry partners.

FY 2023 Budget Adoption

Sam Kitchens and Greg Boike presented the proposed FY 2023 budget. Included in the budget is additional funds for clean air incentives to highlight ongoing activities of the MGCAC.

The FY 2023 budget was approved on a motion by John Harley and a second by Eric Wilson.

Smart Growth Updates

Robert Reichert reported on the ongoing projects with the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition to promote smart growth and rail access between Hartsfield and Robins AFB.

DRAFT

Update on EPA Clean School Bus

Dale Aspy with EPA gave an update on EPA's new Clean School Bus Program that will provide $5 billion over the next five years (FY 2022-2026) to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. More information can be found at https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.

Discussion

Due to the lack of a MGRC Council meeting in July, Ed Barbee made a motion to cancel the MGCAC meeting scheduled July 14, 2021. The motion was seconded by Clifford Holmes and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the June MGCAC meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

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It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on August 11, 2022, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

DRAFT

Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition

Financial Report
As of July 31, 2022

Beginning Balance -June 30, 2022			$ 144,104.08
Revenues			
Bank Interest	$ 1.16		
Member Contributions	433.00		
Total Revenues			$ 434.16
Subtotal			144,538.24
Expenditures			
Ray Clark	14,185.37		
Total Expenditures			14,185.37
Ending Balance - July 31, 2022			$ 130,352.87

U.S Department of Transportation
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News

FRA 05-22
May 13, 2022
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FRA Announces New Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program to Guide Nationwide Expansion and Enhancement of Intercity Passenger Rail Service

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) today established the new Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program, which is the first step in an unprecedented undertaking to transform America's passenger rail network through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Corridor ID Program will establish a pipeline of projects ready for funding – allowing them to be implemented faster and with greater coordination than ever before. The program will serve as a key vehicle for directing federal investments and technical assistance toward new or improved intercity passenger rail services across the nation.

"Americans deserve what people in many other countries currently benefit from: a world-class rail system that allows you to get where you need to go quickly and affordably, while reducing traffic and pollution on our roads," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "In launching the Corridor Identification and Development Program, which was made possible thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are taking a major step to transform America's passenger rail network and connect our smallest towns and our biggest cities with great train service."

"The Corridor ID Program will help expand intercity passenger rail service beyond the Northeast Corridor," FRA Administrator Amit Bose said. "This is just one of many ways the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is bringing about the next great rail revolution."

President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on Nov. 15, 2021 – which made the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak, including $1.8 billion for the Corridor ID program. The law directed the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Corridor

ID Program within 180 days, giving public entities a formal mechanism to partner with FRA to develop proposals that will expand, enhance, or restore passenger rail service in their communities. Within a year, FRA will submit an annual report to Congress on the program and its project pipeline.

In February, FRA published a Request for Information to inform the program's key components. That solicitation attracted hundreds of responses from a diverse range of stakeholders, which helped inform the Corridor ID program.

Following today's establishment of the Corridor ID Program, FRA will be soliciting formal proposals for the program within this calendar year. FRA will select corridors for participation in the program based on readiness to commence development and statutory criteria. For each selected proposal, FRA will work with the entity that submitted the proposal, the relevant states, and, as appropriate, Amtrak to prepare or update a service development plan.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is an opportunity to build a better America, and the Corridor ID Program will strengthen the partnerships and project pipeline necessary to reshape America's passenger rail network for generations to come," said Bose.

The notice establishing the Corridor Identification and Development program is published in today's *Federal Register*. Click here to view the notice.

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I-75 Central Corridor Coalition, Inc.

Promoting Smart Growth in Georgia's Central Corridor

August 5, 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to thank everyone who attended the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition Legislative Summit on June 3, 2022. Well, my perspective is that it exceeded expectations and that is because of the great team we have collectively built. You were essential to the success of the Legislative Summit, which was attended by senior leadership officials from Georgia, Department of Transportation (GDOT), members of the Georgia General Assembly and every member of the I-75 Congressional delegation had a senior level staff in attendance.

Amit Bose, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) sent a message to the group that truly complimented our accomplishments and encouraged the Coalition to continue our efforts. He also sent us a message to apply for a coveted slot in the FRA Corridor Identification Development (CID) Program.

This particular designation is extremely important in addressing the issues raised at the Legislative Summit highlighting the rising costs of studies, blocked railroad crossings and talent mobility. I am committed to addressing these issues and will continue to build our coalition, raise our profile with the business and economic development community.

We particularly thank Representatives Holly and Washburn for their willingness to create the I-75 Caucus in the General Assembly.

I am requesting each of you to complete two action items in the next couple of weeks.

(1) Write a letter that we will forward asking the FRA to designate the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition (CCC) as a high priority for the Corridor Identification Development (CID) Program. A sample is attached. Once the letter is prepared, please send it via email to Laura Mathis at lmathis@mg-rc.org.
(2) Please attend the next in-person I-75 CCC meeting conducted in Griffin, August 10 at 10:00 AM.

We are moving ahead and will accomplish great things for the I-75 CCC. We want you to be an active key to the Team's success. Thank you for your consideration and support

Take care,

Anthony S. Ford
Chairman, I-75 Central Corridor Coalition
Mayor, City of Stockbridge
(678) 215-6142

Form Letter: City or County Letterhead

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Bose:

As (mayor) (Chairman) of the (City of XXX) (XX County), Interstate I-75 affects every citizen in INSERT COMMUNITY NAME . Whether these citizens are trying to get to a job, healthcare, or trying to make a flight on time I-75 plays a central role.

My (city) (county) needs transportation options and that is why we became a part of the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition. It is our responsibility to help mitigated the current congestion and begin planning for the future of mobility and economic development in the I-75 corridor. We are a community of urban, suburban, and rural people whose health and well-being are connected and we cannot separate the economic, environmental, and social values

We secured the funding for GDOT to initiate a major study of the corridor, captured the attention of state elected official and now we are asking the FRA to designate our corridor as a high priority corridor which will help us help the FRA as you make decisions about federal investments. This partnership could provide technical assistance as we contemplate the possibility of new passenger rail service from Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson International Airport to Macon and Robins AFB.

We commend your efforts to begin connecting cities around the nation. We urge you to consider designating the I-75 as one of your high priority corridors in the new Corridor Identification and Development (CID) Program. We think Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport would make an excellent destination not only for air travel but also for connection to passenger and it has independent utility from all other initiatives.

Sincerely,