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A Publication of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission
Volume II Issue 4 - March 2010

Sustainability Partnership

In June 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined together to form the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, an unprecedented agreement to coordinate federal housing, transportation, and environmental investments, protect public health and the environment, promote equitable development, and help address the challenges of climate change.

The three agencies are working together more closely than ever before to meet President Obama's challenge to coordinate federal policies, programs, and resources to help urban, suburban, and rural areas and regions build more sustainable communities and make those communities the leading style of development in the United States.

The agencies are working together to identify opportunities to build more sustainable communities and to remove policy or other barriers that have kept Americans from doing so.

Livability Principles

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
3. Increase economic competitiveness.
4. Support existing communities.
5. Leverage federal investment.
6. Value communities and neighborhoods. (Source: USEPA)

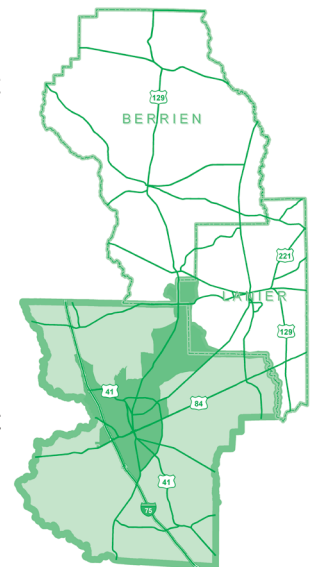
\$1 Billion in Transportation Projects in Draft 2035 Plan

The Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization 2035 Transportation Plan is in the middle of development and the draft project listing has recently been released. The transportation projects in the Metropolitan Planning Area total more than \$1 Billion.

These projects are identified needs over the next 25 years for highway, bike and pedestrian, and transit improvements. Currently there is enough revenue to fund just half of the projects. Based on public input and a scoring matrix developed by the MPO, the projects will be ranked and reviewed so that the best projects can be implemented in the region. The local and state engineers will review every project and make a recommendation to the VLMPO Policy Committee on which projects to keep in the 2035 Transportation Plan.

The final draft of the 2035 Transportation Plan will be available for public review from June 10 through August 11.

For more information and to stay updated on the progress of the development of the 2035 Transportation Plan please visit www.sgrc.us/transportation.



Phase 1 of Valdosta Urbanized Area Transit

As the VLMPO, GDOT, and other local partners begin to plan for the implementation of a fixed-route public transit service in the Valdosta community below are a few facts about the first phase of the transit implementation:

- Phase 1 has an estimated annual ridership of about 84,000.
- The capital costs to implement the system are \$1.5 Million, with only \$169K paid by local governments
- The annual operating cost of Phase 1 is \$763K with the federal government paying 50% and the local governments paying 50%.

Update on Census 2010: It's in Our Hands



The Census is officially here, if you have not already you should be receiving your 2010 Census form in the mail soon. You are encouraged to fill out and return these forms as soon as possible so that your community can get an accurate count of residents and its fair share of money from the federal government. If you do not return your form, a Census worker will visit your residence to complete the form. If you would like more information about the Census visit www.2010census.gov.

SAME Rights
Rules
Road
SHARE THE ROAD
&
SAVE A LIFE!

On Saturday, May 1st 2010, at 7:30 AM, a bicycle ride and safety awareness event will be held at the Wood Valley Community Center on Gornto Road in Valdosta. This event is being put on by Michael Jacobson, a freshman at Lowndes High School, as a memorial ride for his uncle who was killed by a vehicle while riding his bike across the country.

The goal of the event is to raise awareness of the Share the Road campaign, and to educate bicyclists and motorists on their responsibilities on the roadways to insure that bicycle riders have a safe and reliable form of transportation that can coexist with vehicles on the streets of Valdosta and



Lowndes County. Registration for the event is \$5 and all participants who register by April 19th will receive a t-shirt on the day of the event. If you are interested in this event you can contact Michael Jacobson at michaeljacobson3@yahoo.com, or visit any of the locations where registration applications are located: Moody AFB Gym, Get Active Fitness And Wellness, Valdosta Bike Center, or Valdosta YMCA. The registration forms can also be downloaded at www.azaleacitycyclists.com.

Welcome

Welcome to the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization newsletter. This newsletter is a tool to provide information to transportation stakeholders and the public about upcoming transportation improvements throughout Southern Georgia. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta Urbanized Area.

MPO Policy Committee

Kenny Allen, City of Dasher
John Fretti, City of Valdosta
Larry Hanson, City of Valdosta
John Leonard, SGRC
Ashley Paulk, Lowndes County
Joe Pritchard, Lowndes County
Vance Smith, GDOT

MPO Staff

Corey Hull, MPO Coordinator
David Morgan, GDOT Planner

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Technical Committee
4/13/10; 10:30 AM
6/8/10; 10:30 AM

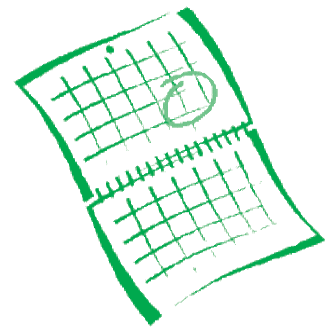
Policy Committee
4/13/10; 1:30 PM
6/8/10; 1:30 PM

Citizen's Advisory Committee
6/3/10; 3:00 PM

2035 Transportation Plan Public Meeting
7/20/10; 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM Valdosta City Hall Annex

Meetings are typically held quarterly in March, June, September and December. All meetings are open to the public and held at the SGRC office unless otherwise indicated.

Visit our website at: www.sgrc.us/transportation and click on Public Participation for more Information.



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