

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an MPO / MACORTS ?

- MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Name of the MPO based in Athens is the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)
- MPO has three major roles, in general:
 - Cooperative organization that is a venue for counties to coordinate transportation efforts with Federal and State agencies at the table
 - Federal funding is channeled through MPO process
 - Provides for local input into how federal dollars should be spent

What is the make-up of the MPO ?

Composition and boundary of MPO approved by Governor and updated every ten years after the release of most current U.S. Census Bureau data

MACORTS is made up of two committees:

Policy Committee – decision making body of MACORTS

- Currently 9 voting members: Mayor/Chairman of Board of Commissioners for Athens-Clarke, Oconee, and Madison Cos., citizen representative from each county, Commissioner of GDOT or designee, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration for UGA, and U.S. Navy Supply Corps School

Technical Coordinating Committee – provides technical input to the Policy Committee

- Members include county engineers, UGA Auxiliary Services and Transit, planning directors, county administrators, transit planner, GDOT representatives, citizen representatives, Navy School, school boards, transportation industry professionals, and other technical county staff

What are the documents that the MPO produces ?:

There are 4 documents that all MPO's must produce in order to qualify for federal funding for any of its transportation programs.

1. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – annual budget of the MPO
2. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
 - Covers timeframe of 20 years and is updated every 5 years
 - Addresses anticipated transportation needs for next 20 years
 - Includes all projects that are anticipated to be necessary in next 20 years
 - Projects must be in LRTP to be considered in the Transportation Improvement Program

3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Annually updated program of projects to receive federal funding during the next 4 fiscal years – MACORTS also includes a section of local projects to make the document more useful at the local level
 - Also included is 2nd Tier of projects (following 2 fiscal years) – this is as far out as is federally budgeted
4. Participation Plan
 - Outlines the way that the MPO will interact with the public
 - Updated whenever necessary

Where are we now in the LRTP update process ?

The Draft LRTP has been approved to go to the public for comment. This is not the final form of this document.

What will happen to my comments ?

After all public comment has been received, all comments will be taken to the Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee for review and consideration. Appropriate changes in response to the public comment will be incorporated into the document. A final version of the document will then be approved by the TCC and PC. The final version of the document will contain a summary of all comment received.

Will the public be able to see the Final LRTP ?

Yes, after the Policy Committee approves the Final 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, it will be available in hardcopy or on CD free of charge to the public at the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department. Requests may be made by phone at (706) 613-3515, fax at (706) 613-3844, by e-mail to macorts@co.clarke.ga.us, by mail at Athens Planning Dept., Attn: MACORTS, 120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, GA 30601, or in person. The document will also be posted on the MACORTS website (www.macorts.org).