

-----PRESS RELEASE-----

For Immediate Release
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Comments Sought for Transportation Project List

The Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO) is seeking comments on its draft FY2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program. The VLMPO is the designated agency responsible for carrying out federally funded transportation projects in Valdosta and Lowndes County. Created in 2003, the VLMPO Policy Committee selects and approves projects to receive federal funding annually.

The Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, is the short-range plan approved by the VLMPO Policy Committee that allows federal funds to be spent on various transportation projects in the region. The projects are selected from the 2035 Transportation Plan that was adopted in September 2010. Projects in this year's draft TIP include: the construction of an overpass on West Hill Avenue, the widening of Forrest Street, from Park Avenue to Bemiss Road, and the purchase of right-of-way at several I-75 interchanges ahead of future construction activities.

The VLMPO is a transportation planning organization that is responsible for the development of local transportation plans that will utilize federal motor fuel tax revenue to construct projects in Lowndes County. "The VLMPO staff analyzes transportation data, statistics, and public input to develop projects, this includes freight data, traffic counts, and crash data," says Corey Hull, MPO Coordinator. The VLMPO plans for all forms of transportation including highways, public transit, bike and pedestrian facilities, and freight transportation.

The draft TIP covers federally funded transportation projects to be undertaken in the next four years and includes both highway projects and public transit projects. The TIP is available on the VLMPO website at www.sgrc.us/transportation and at all local public libraries and government administration offices. The VLMPO is seeking public comment from May 1-31, 2012. Comments can be submitted via phone at 229-333-5277, by email at chull@sgrc.us, or by fax at 229-333-5312.

The VLMPO staff will also host an Open House on May 22, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission office located at 327 W. Savannah Ave. in Valdosta. Hull says, "VLMPO staff will be on hand to answer questions from the public about their transportation concerns. The open house format allows people to quickly get their questions answered without having to sit through a long meeting."

The VLMPO Policy Committee will discuss the adoption of the TIP at the new regularly scheduled meeting date on June 6 at 10:30 a.m. All meetings of the VLMPO Policy Committee and its advisory committees are open to the public.

If you have questions or comments please contact Corey Hull, MPO Coordinator at 229-333-5277 or at chull@sgrc.us.

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