

MPC Mendonsa Hearing Room – 10:00 a.m.  
112 East State Street, Savannah  
Minutes

**Mar. 22, 2017 Meeting of the CORE MPO Board**

<b><u>Voting Members</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
James Aberson	ACAT	X
Phillip Claxton	City of Port Wentworth	
Eddie DeLoach	City of Savannah	
Ron Feldner	City of Garden City	
George Fidler	Savannah Airport Commission	X
Harold Fowler	City of Richmond Hill	X
Howard French	CAT Board	X
Caroline Hankins	Town of Thunderbolt	
James Hungerpillar	Town of Vernonburg	
Wendall Kessler	Effingham County Commission	
Curtis Koleber	Chatham Area Transit Authority	X
Mike Lamb	City of Pooler	
Tom McQueen	GDOT	X
Jannine Miller	EDFAC	
Tanya Milton	MPC	
Ben Rozier	City of Bloomingdale	
Al Scott	Chatham County Commission	X
George Shaw	City of Tybee Island	
Pete Shonka	City of Savannah	X
Lee Smith	Chatham County	X
Bob Tully	CAC	X
Vacant	City of Savannah Alderman	
Vacant	Chatham County Commissioner	
<b><u>Regional Coordination Guests</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Ginnie Kozak	LATS MPO	X
Jeff Ricketson	HAMPO	
<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Scott Allison	Richmond Hill	X
Pamela Bernard	Chatham County Engineering	X

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Byron Cowart	GDOT District Five	X
Beverly Dumas	Chatham Area Transit	X
Andrew Edwards	FHWA Georgia Division	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Nathaniel Panther	Chatham County Engineering	X
Troy Pittman	GDOT District Five	X
Stephanie Rossi	MPO Staff	X
Grant Sparks	Chatham Area Transit	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah Traffic Engineering	X
Melony West	MPC Interim Exec. Director	X
Mark Wilkes	MPO Interim Exec. Director	X

**I. Approval of Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

**II. Committee Reports (verbal)**

**A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation**

2. Report

Mr. James Aberson said that ACAT had not met since the previous MPO Board meeting, and so there was nothing to report at this time.

**B. Citizens Advisory Committee**

3. Report

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Mr. Bob Tully stated that the CAC had not met since the previous MPO Board meeting, and so there was nothing to report at this time.

**C. Economic Development and Freight Advisory Committee**

4. Report

No report at this time.

**D. Technical Coordinating Committee**

5. Report

Mr. Nathaniel Panther said that the TCC had met and had endorsed the Congestion Management Process (CMP).

**E. Executive Director's Report**

6. Report

Mr. Mark Wilkes informed the Board members that they should see any reported in-kind match reflected in their dues statements, and asked members to let him know if they find any discrepancies.

Mr. Wilkes reported that the National Association of Counties Officials is holding a peer exchange in Savannah on Thursday and Friday of this week. He will be giving a presentation about some of the MPO's work in freight planning. Tom McQueen, of GDOT Planning, also will give a presentation at the event.

Mr. Wilkes noted that adoption of the Congestion Management Process update at today's meeting will fulfill the last outstanding action item from the preliminary findings of the Federal Certification Review as expressed in the November 9th letter from Rodney Barry.

The MPO's April meetings look to have a light agenda, because the development of the new Transportation Improvement Program is expected to occur a little later this year, once the MPO receives information from GDOT. Unless we have sufficient information to prepare a draft TIP in advance of the April MPO meeting, we will likely recommend canceling the meeting. MPO staff will keep the board posted on the outlook for the April meeting.

### **III. Action Items**

7. Approval of the Feb. 22, 2017 CORE MPO Board Meeting Minutes

Attachment: CORE MPO Board minutes 2-22-17.pdf

The minutes of the Feb. 22, 2017 CORE MPO Board meeting were approved as written.

8. Congestion Management Process Update

Attachment: cmpagenda3\_2017.pdf

Attachment: CMP FINAL.pdf

Ms. Stephanie Rossi gave a comprehensive presentation on the process and results of the 2017 update of the CORE MPO Congestion Management Process (CMP). She covered: the purpose of the CMP; the strategies from prior CMPs that have been implemented; identification of the CMP network; types of data examined; performance measures (average travel time, average travel speed, 95th percentile travel time, and buffer index); the list of congested segments; strategies to address those; evaluation in the form of a CMP report card; future steps to improve the next CMP update; and the nature of comments received on the CMP report. As a result of the comments, she is making scrivener's edits and adding more explanations of the tables.

Staff recommended CORE MPO Board approve the 2017 update of the CMP.

There were no questions. A motion was made and seconded to approve the CMP. The motion passed with none opposed.

9. Endorsement of Funding Requests for PL Discretionary Funds

Attachment: County Request I-16 JDL Transportation Study.pdf

Attachment: Airport Request I-95 Airways Avenue Transportation Study.pdf

Mr. Mark Wilkes reported that MPO staff had received two proposals for the Discretionary Highway Planning (PL) Funds, which are awarded semi-annually through the Georgia Association of MPOs (GAMPO), in cooperation with GDOT Planning and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Georgia Division. MPOs outside of Atlanta can submit requests for these planning funds.

The two requests that staff received were both proposals to study interchange improvements: 1) Chatham County wishes to use planning funds to study the interchange of Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy. at I-16; 2) the Savannah Airport Commission wishes to use planning

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funds to study the interchange of Pooler Pkwy./Airways Ave. at I-95. Each of those agencies is committing the required local match. The deadline for submittal to GAMPO was March 13. The TCC endorsed the submittals, and MPO staff submitted them noting that the CORE MPO Board resolutions of support would be considered at this meeting on March 22. The purpose of the Board resolution in this process is mainly to confirm local match, which was already done by the partner agencies ahead of the submittal deadline.

Staff recommended MPO Board approval of the resolutions of support for the two planning study submittals to the GAMPO PL Funds Review Committee. Such a motion was made and seconded. The motion passed.

#### **IV. Other Business**

#### **V. Status Reports**

##### 10. FY 2017 Planning (PL) Funds Budget Adjustment

Attachment: 2017 UPWP Budget Adjustment Request March 2017.pdf

Mr. Wilkes informed the Board members of a budget adjustment of the highway planning funds in the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program. The adjustment simply shifts some funding from certain planning tasks to other tasks, in light of some modified approaches during the first part of the fiscal year, such as carrying out the CMP update in house, which necessitated an increase in that task budget for staff to charge against. The budget adjustment does not change the overall level of funding.

This report is for transparency. No action is necessary.

Mr. Wilkes added that, due to these kinds of changes in work flow, the discretionary PL funding that GAMPO awarded last year for some CORE MPO tasks such as the CMP Update, Socio-economic Data, and TDM Strategies is not needed now, and unless the Board objects, he would ask GAMPO to return those funds to the statewide PL fund balance to be available for future planning proposal awards.

No objections were expressed by members present.

##### 11. Federal Certification Review Status

Chairman Al Scott asked Mr. Wilkes if there was anything he'd like to say about the Federal Certification Review findings. Mr. Wilkes said that MPO staff has addressed all items in the Draft Certification Report and the MPO should receive the final report from FHWA and FTA soon.

Mr. Wilkes noted that Andy Edwards from the FHWA Georgia Division was present today.

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Chairman Scott offered Mr. Edwards an opportunity to speak. Mr. Edwards said he had nothing to add at this time, but CORE MPO would be certified.

## **VI. Information Reports (verbal)**

### **A. Georgia Department of Transportation**

#### 12. Report

Mr. Byron Cowart reviewed the status of numerous projects on the Pre-construction and Active Construction handouts.

### **B. Member Governments**

#### 13. Reports

Chatham County -- Mr. Nathaniel Panther reported that they had received environmental approval on the Truman Linear Park Trail and would begin right-of-way acquisition in the next couple of weeks.

City of Savannah -- Mr. Mike Weiner stated that the Coffee Bluff sidewalk project is complete. On Project DeRenne, the consultants are working on the scope. On the Delesseps Ave./LaRoche Ave. project, the consultants are addressing utility relocation. He noted that the City is working with GDOT on the Savannah Regional Traffic Operations Program (SRTOP), which provides ongoing monitoring of 56 signals along 35 miles, including US 17 and Victory Drive/US 80 out to Tybee Island. This is the first implementation of this program outside the Atlanta area.

City of Richmond Hill -- Representatives said a report was not necessary at this time.

### **C. Chatham Area Transit Authority**

#### 14. Report

Mr. Grant Sparks said that CAT is using the same AirSage data that the MPO used for the CMP to conduct an Origin & Destination study. This allows CAT to assess how the transit

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routes relate to observed travel patterns. The information is broadly useful to all planners in the area.

**D. Georgia Ports Authority**

**E. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport**

15. Report

Mr. George Fidler reported that the airport's activity is growing, including flights to Canada now, flights to the Caribbean expected soon, and flights to England and Germany after that. This means more gates, expanded security area, and expanded international processing area are planned. Repaving of Airways Ave. is starting soon. Also, the Savannah Airport, Savannah Traffic Engineering, and Pooler are installing an adaptive traffic signal coordination system on all the signals on Airways Avenue/Pooler Parkway (including the I-95 ramps) which will coordinate/synchronize all the signals along the corridor to mitigate congestion and delays. The system is scheduled go live in mid-April.

**F. Hinesville Area MPO (neighboring MPO)**

**G. Low-country Area Transportation Study (neighboring MPO)**

16. Report

Ms. Ginnie Kozak reported that the construction on the US 17 widening is expected to begin in the spring of 2018. Now that FTA designated Palmetto Breeze as the transit provider, they will sit down to coordinate with Chatham Area Transit.

**VII. Other Public Comments (limit to 3 minutes)**

**VIII. Announcements**

17. Next CORE MPO Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

18. Introduction of new CORE MPO Board member

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Chairman Al Scott noted the presence of Mr. Howard French, whom the CAT Board had recently elected as their chairperson, thus replacing Pete Liakakis on the CORE MPO Board.

**IX. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference**

**X. Adjournment**

19. Adjournment

There being no other business, the March 22, 2017 meeting of the CORE MPO Board was adjourned.

*The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.*