



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY APRIL, 2007, MPO MEETINGS

CAC AGENDA ITEM III-C

Agenda Item: East President Street Plan

Presenter: Jane Love, MPO staff

Summary: Properties on East President Street, between General McIntosh Blvd. and the Truman Parkway have become attractive to developers who envision a combination of residential and commercial uses. Currently the area has an industrial character. A group of stakeholders, including the developers, City of Savannah, Savannah Development Renewal Authority, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, Savannah Housing Authority, and Trustees Garden, are discussing ways to ensure that this area becomes an attractive, vibrant gateway for downtown Savannah.

An important initial step is to identify a transportation network that will achieve two objectives:

- to efficiently and safely handle the expected traffic, both in short-range and in long-range, and
- to ensure compatibility with the historic district.

The City asked the Metropolitan Planning Commission to contract with its task order consultant, Reynolds, Smith and Hills (RS&H), in order to accelerate the study of network alternatives for the East President Street area. Three concepts were modeled, and "Concept 2.0," which best handled the expected traffic, was selected as the preferred alternative (map attached).

Concept 2.0 features:

- 6-lane E. President for the short-term;
- Curb lanes of President St. to have different type of paving for eventual conversion to parking lanes and bike lanes in the long-term;
- Extension of Liberty St. with new interchange at Truman Pkwy (completion will trigger the conversion of E. President St. to 4 lanes with parking and bike lanes, as described above);
- Extension of General McIntosh to Wheaton/Liberty extension;



- Relocation of intersection of Wheaton and Liberty to align with extension of Gen. McIntosh;
- Pedestrian connection between Trustees Garden and new development (Savannah Landings) across General McIntosh;
- Extension of three streets in the existing grid into new development south of E. President St. (North Point).

Due to concerns about the extension of Liberty St. to Truman Pkwy., RS&H identified two other alternatives:

- one that removes a segment of Liberty St. between East Broad and General McIntosh extension, and
- one that shifts the Liberty St. extension southward.

RS&H has met with each of the stakeholders in the E. President St. corridor to present the preferred alternative and the supporting information. Cost estimates of the main components of the preferred alternative and a cross-section of E. President St. have also been prepared (attached).

MPC staff is currently reviewing the draft report with City staff.

Recommendation: For information.