



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**COASTAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
JUNE 2009 MPO MEETINGS**

**CORE BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
TCC and CAC AGENDA ITEM  
ACAT AGENDA ITEM**

**Agenda Item:** FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)  
Amendments to Transit Section

**Presenter:** Wykoda Wang, MPO staff / Beth Thulin, CAT staff

**Summary:** The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the MPO's short-range programming document and is a staged, multi-year listing of surface transportation projects proposed for federal, state and local funding within the metropolitan area. The FY 2008-2011 TIP was adopted by the MPO on June 27, 2007 and amended in 2007, 2008 and 2009 for various highway and transit projects.

In May 2009 the Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) requested that an amendment be made to the transit section of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the transit center station project. Detailed information for this project is listed below.

**Project Description:**

CAT proposes to construct an Intermodal Terminal near downtown Savannah at the location selected through an alternative site analysis. The proposed downtown Intermodal Terminal will serve as a centralized facility for the transfers between existing and proposed bus routes. The Intermodal Terminal will also serve the intercity bus system, Greyhound bus lines, and taxi services.

The current and proposed bus routes were analyzed and a new route plan was developed to more effectively use the new Intermodal Terminal. A no-action / no-build alternative and two alternative site locations are evaluated for this project. The alternative site locations include the Greyhound bus station on Oglethorpe Avenue (Greyhound Site) and an undeveloped site at the corner of Louisville Road and W. Boundary Street (Louisville Road Site).

**Project Status:**

CAT, through consulting services, has completed an Alternative Site Analysis and an Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Furthermore, CAT has developed a schematic rendering of the proposed Intermodal Terminal and potential cost implications of the project as designed. Currently CAT is negotiating with First Transit for land acquisition of the preferred location.

**Reason for Requested TIP Amendment:**

CAT is requesting a TIP amendment at this time to secure additional funding necessary to bring the project to completion. The earlier phases of the transit center project were supported by various grants and local funds. The total grant (Project 50104-001-97-017 and Project MTG-00-0098-00-001 GA03-005801) spent from fiscal year 2001 to 2009 is \$2,278,215. Right now CAT has approximately \$7 million in grants and local matched funds and will need an additional \$10 million to complete all phases of project implementation including but not limited to planning, design/construction and closeout of this project.

**Expected Funding Sources:**

CAT is expecting to secure the necessary additional funding (\$ 10 million) through either of the following sources:

1. ***Congressional earmark of FTA discretionary funds in the next SAFETEA-LU reauthorization.*** SAFETEA-LU expires on September 30, 2009 and the earliest possible transportation bill reauthorization is September 2009. In this case, the earliest time that CAT expects to receive the additional funding through the transportation bill re-authorization is September of this year (fiscal year 2010). However, SAFETEA-LU was passed two years after the previous transportation bill, TEA-21, expired. It is unlikely that SAFETEA-LU reauthorization will take place in 2009. It is also unknown at this point whether CAT can secure the earmark funds through this source.
2. ***Discretionary grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) – Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or so called TIGER Discretionary Grant.*** According to the Federal Register that was published in May 2009, the deadline for TIGER grant application is September 15, 2009. The grants will be awarded to eligible projects that have significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region on a competitive basis no later than February 17, 2010. CAT will submit an application package for the TIGER grant by the deadline (09/15/2009), but it is unknown at this point whether or not CAT will receive the funds and if yes, when and how much.

**Programmed Phase:**

CAT currently has funding through existing grants for the preliminary engineering (PE) and right-of-way purchase (ROW) for this project. Addition funds requested will be for construction of the project.

**Programmed Year:**

This project could be ready to go as soon as funding is made available. Depending on the funding sources, the construction phase can be programmed in fiscal year 2010 or 2011.

**TIP Amendment Public Involvement**

The TIP amendment process follows the requirements of the CORE MPO's Participation Plan. CORE MPO is conducting a 15-day public review and comment period for the proposed TIP amendments, including the amendment for inclusion of the transit center project. Final adoption is expected on June 24, 2009. The advertisement for the public review and comment of the proposed TIP amendments were published in the *Savannah Morning News*, posted on the MPC website and sent to the other local media as well as the CORE MPO committees and others.

**Summary of Requested Amendment**

- PI#: Unknown
- LRTP Priority: Public Transportation
- Project Description: Construct an Intermodal Terminal near downtown Savannah
- Requesting Agency/Date: Chatham Area Transit, 5/22/2009
- Funding/Phase/Year:
  - CST, \$10 million, to be programmed in either fiscal year 2010 or 2011 through either federal earmark or TIGER Grant, whichever is available.
- Comment Period: 6/9/2009 – 6/23/2009

**Recommendation:** For endorsement and approval with the expectation of available funds from either the congressional earmark through SAFETEA-LU reauthorization or TIGER Discretionary Grant. It should be noted though that if funds are not available, the project has to be removed from the TIP as a future amendment.