



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

**CORE BOARD and TCC AGENDA ITEM III-E  
CAC and ACAT AGENDA ITEM II-E**

**Agenda Item:** Approval of the MPO priorities for development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Presenter:** Wykoda Wang, MPO staff

**Summary:** As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of the Savannah urbanized area and all of Chatham County, CORE MPO is required to prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The 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. All transportation projects must appear in an approved long-range transportation plan and TIP before they may receive federal funds for implementation.

Because there are more identified transportation improvement needs than the allocated funds each year, the TIP also documents how decisions are made as to which projects to program with allocated federal, state and local funds. During the FY 2007-2009 TIP development, CORE MPO established TIP prioritization policies and priority project lists which were continued in later TIPs.

In order to support the project prioritization study conducted by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), CORE MPO evaluated the TIP priority projects for their construction readiness back in 2008. The findings are that the established TIP priorities sometimes do not match the project development schedules – in most cases the priority projects are delayed. Also because of funding shortfalls facing the state and the local governments, some transportation projects have changed concepts to less costly improvements. To incorporate the findings and changes, the MPO staff is re-evaluating the established TIP prioritization policy and priority list and will work with ACAT, TCC and CAC to recommend revisions to the CORE MPO Board at the June 2009 meeting for the FY 2010–2013 TIP development.

The following tables list the formerly adopted policies and priorities as well as current project development status for highway projects.

## HIGHWAY TIP PRIORITIZATION POLICY

Established Prioritization Policy	Recommended Revisions
A priority project is important regardless of its production schedule.	<p><b>To be discussed by the ACAT, CAC and TCC committees and determined by the CORE MPO Board.</b></p>
Production schedule determines when the priority project can be programmed, which includes different stages in the project development and implementation: concept report, environmental process, preliminary engineering, utility relocation, right-of-way acquisition and construction.	
There must be sufficient funds for programmed projects each year.	

## HIGHWAY TIP PRIORITY PROJECTS DEFINITION

Priority Tier	Established Priority Definition	Recommended Revisions
1st Priority	Projects that had construction phase programmed for funding in previous TIPs	<p><b>To be discussed by the ACAT, CAC and TCC committees and determined by the CORE MPO Board.</b></p>
2nd Priority	Projects that have significant regional impacts.	
3rd Priority	Projects in previous TIPs with higher benefit / cost ratios.	

## HIGHWAY TIP PRIORITY PROJECTS LIST

Project	Current Priority	Currently Programmed CST Year	Construction Ready by 2013?	Recommended Priority
PI# 533200: Abercorn Street bridge replacement at Harmon Canal	1st	2009	Yes	To be discussed by the ACAT, CAC and TCC committees and determined by the CORE MPO Board.
PI# 0007402: Gwinnett Street widening from Stiles Avenue to I-16	1st	2010	Yes	
PI# 533205: Montgomery Cross Road bridge replacement at Casey Canal	1st	2009	Yes	
PI# 521855: Ogeechee Road widening from Lynes Parkway to Victory Drive	1st	Long Range	Not Sure	
PI# 571060: Skidaway Road improvements from Rowland Avenue to Ferguson Avenue	1st	2012	No	
PI# 0002140: SR 307 widening from US 17 to I-16	1st	2010	No	
PI# 550560: Whitefield Avenue widening from Old Whitefield Road to Ferguson Avenue	1st	2009	Yes	
PI# 522870: Abercorn Street widening from King George Boulevard to Rio Road (2)	2nd	Long Range	No	
PI# 0002922: Abercorn Street widening from Rio Road to Truman Parkway Phase V (2)	2nd	Long Range	No	
PI# 0008651, Skidaway Narrows Bridge Replacement (3)	2nd	2009	Yes	
PI# 0008561, PI# 0008562, PI# 0008607, PI# 0008608: Strategic Planning Studies.	2nd	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
PI# 0002921: Truman Parkway Phase V construction (1)	2nd	2010	Yes	
PI# 0002923, Bay Street widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct (1)	3rd	Long Range	Not Sure	

<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Priority</b>	<b>Currently Programmed CST Year</b>	<b>Construction Ready by 2013?</b>	<b>Recommended Priority</b>
PI# 0007128, Islands Expressway at Wilmington River /Bascule Bridge (1)	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Long Range</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>To be discussed by the ACAT, CAC and TCC committees and determined by the CORE MPO Board.</b>
PI# 522790, Jimmy DeLoach Parkway extension from US 80 to I-16	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Long Range</b>	<b>No</b>	
PI# 522860, President Street widening from General McIntosh Boulevard to Truman Parkway (1)	<b>3rd</b>	<b>2010 or 2011</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
PI# 522880, SR 21 widening from Smith Avenue to SR 307 / Dean Forest Road	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Long Range</b>	<b>No</b>	
PI# 0000345, SR 307 overpass over new Port Authority rail line (1)	<b>3rd</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Yes</b>	

(1) CORE MPO is applying for statewide ARRA funds or allocating the MPO sub-allocation of the ARRA funds for PI# 0000345, 522860, 0002921, 0007128 and 0002923 to expedite the project delivery.

(2) GDOT is having an integrated environmental study for PI# 522870 and 0002922. For PI# 522870, the widening project might be replaced by an interchange construction at SR 204/King George Blvd.

(3) GDOT is requesting to replace the Diamond Causeway widening project with this bridge replacement project at Skidaway Narrows.

## **TRANSIT TIP PRIORITY PROJECTS**

The following priorities were identified by the Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) and kept unchanged:

- Passenger Amenities – Funding for shelters, benches, signage, and other passenger amenities are included in this line item. The development of enhanced transfer stops to include bike racks is anticipated.
- Facility Renovations – This line item provides funds for CAT's property expansion and for needed facility modifications in order to improve CAT's facility layout. These facility modifications and improvements will improve CAT's safety and efficiency.
- Bus and Bus-related Facilities – This line item will be used to purchase replacement vehicles with related equipment through leasing and purchase. Funding buses will have a positive impact on providing transportation to persons with disabilities, as all buses will be lift-equipped.
- Job Access – This line item provides funds to support CAT's existing program and additional programs stated in the grant application. This will enable CAT to continue its commitment to provide various forms of transportation to the community.
- Intelligent Transportation System – Geographical Information System (GIS), Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL), other management information systems, and Operational Technology Improvements.
- Transit Station – This line item will be used for construction and related costs for a downtown transit station.
- Tool and Equipment – Purchase of new and replacement tools and equipment for the shop.
- Water Ferry – Funding for water ferries facilities and equipment

## **TIP PRIORITY ESTABLISHMENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

According to the CORE MPO's Participation Plan, the MPO will host at least one public meeting on the TIP early in the development process, for the purpose of establishing project priorities. To solicit input from the general public and interested parties in the early TIP development process, CORE MPO held a public meeting on March 24, 2009 and put the TIP priority establishment as an agenda item for the CORE MPO Board and its committees at the April meetings. In addition, two public hearings are scheduled in June 2009 in conjunction with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting and the CORE Board meeting for priority establishment for the FY 2010-2013 TIP development.

The comments received so far regarding the FY 2010-2013 TIP priorities are listed below:

- Upgrade Islands Expressway Bascule Bridge Replacement at Wilmington River from 3<sup>rd</sup> priority list to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> priority list
- Upgrade President Street Widening from 3<sup>rd</sup> priority list to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> priority list
- Include Truman Linear Park as an ARRA funded priority project for fiscal year 2010
- Include the streetscape improvements to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard as an ARRA funded priority project
- Include the implementation of the planned streetscape improvements to Broughton Street as an ARRA funded priority project
- We need a complete streets policy so that all new projects will include reasonable accommodation of bicycles, pedestrians, and transit.
- We need to update our bikeways plan from 2000 and include off-road facilities in the network.

More comments regarding TIP priorities are expected at the June CORE MPO committee meetings and the public hearings. All the comments and responses will be a part of the FY 2010-2013 TIP document.

**Recommendation:** For endorsement and adoption of revised TIP prioritization policy, definition and priority list.