



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY OCTOBER, 2006 MPO MEETINGS

Agenda Item: Amendment to the MPO 2030 LRTP for language in support of enhancement projects

Summary: Transportation Enhancement (TE) is a program that provides funding for a broad range of activities that enhance natural and cultural resources related to transportation. The following activities are eligible for TE funds: design and construction of bicycle, pedestrian or non-motorized facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors; acquisition, preservation and rehabilitation of historic sites and structures; and aesthetic improvements, such as landscaping and other scenic beautification efforts. In Georgia, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) administers the TE program.

According to the FHWA Final Guidance on Transportation Enhancement Activities, TE activities must be included in the appropriate metropolitan and statewide transportation improvement programs in order to be funded. The FHWA guidance also states that "The metropolitan and statewide planning processes should occupy a central role in the identification, planning, and funding of TE activities. In particular, the planning processes are the appropriate mechanisms for determining funding priorities among competing TE activities, including those not part of larger transportation projects. The FHWA field offices should strongly encourage the State and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to seek out and fully integrate TE activities into both their plan development and programming processes".

In January 2006, news reached the Savannah MPO that funding for the following TE projects for Chatham County has been awarded (see enclosed for detail).

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd Streetscape Phase 2: earmarked funds of \$500,000.
2. AASU Bicycle / Pedestrian Path, earmarked funds of \$500,00.
3. Pooler Sidewalk Extension, earmarked funds of \$140,000.

GDOT staff subsequently requested individual LRTP amendments for the three funded TE projects. The MPO staff is proposing a more inclusive amendment 2030 LRTP in support of TE projects which meet state and federal requirements for TE projects and have been duly selected for funding by the State Transportation Board. The full text of the proposed



amendment is attached, and would supersede p. 76 of the current 2030 LRTP. FHWA staff have reviewed and concurred with the proposed amendment.

A copy of the FHWA guidance on Transportation Enhancements will be added to the 2030 LRTP Technical Appendix, for information.

Recommendation: For adoption.

Transportation Enhancement Projects

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program pays for surface transportation related activities that enhance the travel experience by improving natural, cultural and historic elements of the transportation system. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005 continues the federal commitment to enhance the surface transportation system. For a project to qualify for TE funds, it must relate to the surface transportation system as one of the following 12 eligible activity types:

- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety and educational activities
- Acquisition of scenic or historic easements and sites
- Scenic or historic highway programs including tourist and welcome centers
- Landscaping and scenic beautification
- Historic preservation
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities
- Conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails
- Inventory, control, and removal of outdoor advertising
- Archaeological planning & research
- Environmental mitigation of runoff pollution and provision of wildlife connectivity
- Establishment of transportation museums

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) administers the TE program in Georgia and funds projects every 2 years on a competitive basis by congressional district. Applications for TE funding are made directly to GDOT, and final project selections are made by the State Transportation Board. TE projects which meet current state and federal requirements for TE projects, and have been duly selected for funding by the State Transportation Board are considered to be consistent with the MPO's 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The MPO has further adopted the following list of priority transportation enhancement projects and cost estimates for illustrative purposes in order to provide guidance to local project applicants. The projects in this list were identified in the MPO's adopted Bikeway Plan and through discussions with local government sponsors.

Priority Transportation Enhancement Projects	
Project Description	Cost Estimate
Enhancement projects listed in order of priority (highest first) Location	
Coastal Georgia Greenway Multi-use Trails – Savannah and Ogeechee Canal Section 1	\$ 2,413,800
Section 2 Section 1 – 5.7 miles, from the Ogeechee River to I-16; Section 2 – 4 miles, from I-16, extending	\$ 1,579,600
Section 3 east to Dean Forest Rd; Section 3 – 5.7 miles, from Dean Forest Road to Old Louisville Rd;	\$ 2,433,900
Section 4 – ¾ miles, from Louisville Rd to Lock 1 near the Savannah River. Section 4	\$ 781,400

Coastal Georgia Greenway Multi-use Trails –Truman Linear Park Phase II of the Master Plan. Savannah	\$ 1,525,600
Multi-Purpose Trail System (Phase I total length: 5 miles) Phase I of the Port Wentworth Master Plan Design District. Includes sidewalks in urban areas and a multi-purpose trail in natural areas connecting neighborhoods and the new town center. Port Wentworth	\$475,000
On-Road Bikeway System Extension (Phase I total length 4 miles) Phase I: Major roads in the Port Wentworth Master Plan Design District to include 5 ft bike lanes. Minor roads in the district to be designated as Share the Road facilities. Port Wentworth	\$337,000
Savannah Bikeway additions connecting the SCAD community Savannah Addition of bike lane to Oglethorpe Avenue and Liberty Street Share the road designation for the remainder	\$9,200
Habersham R/W South of Stephenson Avenue Savannah Multi-use path between Stephenson Avenue and Eisenhower Drive. Requires some right-of-way acquisition and construction of culverts.	\$80,000
Washington Avenue Corridor Savannah 1.3 miles of Shared Lane / Wide Sidewalk 0.3 miles of Bike Lane	\$184,000
Wilmington Cross Connectors East Chatham Wide Curb Lane on Cromwell Road and Deerwood Road	\$353,000
Cloverdale / West Gwinnett Bikeway Corridor Savannah 1.1 miles of Wide Curb Lane between Crosby Street and MLK Jr. Blvd. Share the Road designation for remainder	\$341,000
Johnny Mercer Bikeway Corridor East Chatham 2.3 miles of Bike Lane 0.8 miles of Paved Shoulder	\$631,000
Building Restoration at State Railroad Museum Savannah Stabilization and restoration of 10,000 square foot carpentry shop located within the Central of Georgia Railway National Historic Landmark District.	\$750,000
Pedestrian Overpasses Construct pedestrian overpasses over 2 active CSX rail lines that bisect several Savannah neighborhoods north and east of Lynes Parkway. Connects to existing trail system.	\$800,000
Savannah and Ogeechee Canal Phases 1 & 2 Varies	\$200,000
Port Wentworth Pedestrian Facilities Port Wentworth	\$200,000
Triplett Community Park Trail	\$625,000
Tybee Island Light Station/Assistant Keeper's Cottage Phase 2 Tybee Island	\$ 320,000
US 80/SR 26 Curb Cuts and Solomon Avenue Bike Lanes Tybee Island	\$ 80,000
Pooler Sidewalk Project Pooler	\$ 140,000
Total	\$14,259,500

For more information on the TE program a copy of the FHWA Guidance is included in Technical Appendix K.