



## CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

### August 21, 2023 CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Meeting

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Ben Lewis	Chatham County	X
Vacant	Savannah Council of the Blind	
Wayne Dawson	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	
Pala Valdez	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	X
Carol Hunt	NAACP - Savannah Branch	
Jackie Immel	Georgia Infirmary Day Care Center for Rehabilitation	
Shannon Ginn	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	
Patti Lyons	Senior Citizens Savannah - Chatham County, Inc.	
Pamela Oglesby	Savannah - Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)	X
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind, Local Chapter	X
President & CEO	Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire	
Representative	Effingham County	
Representative	GDOT District Five	
Representative	Richmond Hill	
Asia Hernton	CORE MPO	X
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Terry Tolbert	Economic Opportunity Authority	X
Tia Baker	Chatham Area Transit	X
Vacant	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Association of the Deaf	
<b>Voting Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Neil Ligon	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
<b>Others</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Pamela Everett	MPC	X
Sally Helm	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Anna McQuarrie	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO	X
Genesis Harrod	CORE MPO	X

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Neil Ligon motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Asia Hernton. The motion passed with none opposed.

## **II. Action Items**

### [1. Approval of the April 24, 2023 CORE MPO ACAT Meeting Minutes](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton motioned to approve the April 24, 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Paula Valdez. The motion passed with none opposed.

### [2. Approval of the June 26, 2023 CORE MPO ACAT Meeting Minutes](#)

Ms. Paula Valdez motioned to approve the June 26, 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Ben Lewis. The motion passed with none opposed.

### [3. Proposed Time change for Future ACAT meetings](#)

Ms. Pamela Oglesby, Chairwoman, stated she would like to table Item 3. She attended the ACAT and CAC workshop last week and is in support of the merging of the two committees. With there being only two meetings left this year, she recommends no action taken to allow the merger process to go through.

Mr. Ben Lewis motioned to approve tabling the proposed time change for future ACAT meetings to allow the merger process to go through; seconded by Ms. Paula Valdez. The motion passed with none opposed.

## **III. Status Reports**

### [4. 2050 MTP Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said staff is still working on the socio-economic data development using 2050 projection year data. Rithvika and Edward are taking the lead on this.

Asia and Rithvika have finished checking the functional classification and number of lanes for the Travel Demand Model.

The new CORE MPO planning area boundary was approved by the CORE MPO Board in June. We are coordinating with GDOT to get revenue projections within the boundary for the next 25 years.

The Freight Plan update is almost done. Deliverables are available for review on the website.

The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is currently being updated and will be presented during this meeting.

The Urban Flooding Model Study is wrapping up in October.

Pooler gave a presentation on the US 80 Corridor Study at the TCC committee meeting. The deliverables are online on the CORE MPO website.

Chatham Area Transit gave a presentation on their Master Transit Plan at the TCC meeting as well.

All the presentation files are attached to the agenda under Notices.

We have a new transportation planner, Genesis, who will take the lead on the Congestion Management Process. Anna is working on the resiliency planning. Staff is working on the second round of public meetings. The second round will not be as extensive as the first. The draft plan development will be focused on in October and will be complete in March/April. The third round of public involvement will start after the 2050 MTP draft is presented.

#### [5. CORE MPO Regional Freight Plan Update](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said all the deliverables are on the Freight Plan website. We are inviting comments on these deliverables. Once the deliverables are finalized, there will be a summary attached to the Task 8 document. The last EDFAC meeting will serve as the public information meeting. The purpose is to invite public comments or outline what comments have been received and how we addressed them. The study will wrap up in October.

#### [6. Urban Flooding Model Study Update](#)

Ms. Anna McQuarrie said since taking over as Project Manager in June, we received the Task 2.1 deliverable, the SWMM (Storm Water Management Model) in July. The hydrographs will be ready this month, which will essentially be the outcome of the model. Other tasks such as the social vulnerability matrix, financial stewardship and project prioritization tool are expected closer to October. The final deliverables will be submitted by October 31<sup>st</sup>. We expect to have a final presentation from the consultants in October.

The SWMM is used throughout the world for planning analysis and design, related to stormwater runoff. This was developed by the EPA to help support local, state, and national stormwater management objectives to reduce runoff for infiltration and retention and help reduce discharges that cause impairment of water bodies. This is a one-dimensional model. It is not necessarily a flood map but can give an approximation of where areas flood. What the drainage basin tells us is the capacity of a manhole, where it is likely to flood, where there might be overflow, and that means we can focus more infrastructure resources here. From a planning perspective, it will tell us more about stormwater needs and where to invest more.

This model is based on 10–25-year rainfall events. Essentially stormwater engineers in the MPO can use the information now. This is only in Chatham County. The inputs can be changed on the model such as sea level rise or no sea level rise, etc. The next deliverable will be the output of the model.

If you are interested in finding out more, go to the flood study on the CORE MPO website. You will find the links to look at the model.

## [7. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update Status Report](#)

Ms. Asia Hernton said the CORE MPO has been going through an update of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. In terms of recent activities, we have been collecting data to analyze current bike and pedestrian conditions in the area. Some of that data includes bike and pedestrian volumes, origin and destination data, crash hotspot analysis, and a level of comfort analysis of our existing bikeways. We had a steering committee meeting last week for further discussion and input. Some of the data collected is bike volume data which tells us where people are biking the most, pedestrian volumes etc. The source of the data is from Strava Metro, a great resource that supplies free bike and pedestrian related data. We also used data from the Census and the American Community Survey on vehicle availability and commutes. We are trying to get public input so people can tell us what they need and where. In person observation is another method being used to see where resources are needed. There will be a deeper look to see if there is anything that could be skewing the bike or pedestrian volumes. From this data we can see that a lot of bike and pedestrian trips are ending in the downtown area within Savannah.

A crash hotspot analysis was done to show where some of the crashes are happening the most. We can see the concentration of pedestrians crash density within the Savannah area. The Savannah area sees higher density of bike crashes than other areas. There was a level of comfort analysis done, and this refers to how comfortable the biking conditions are to the average person. The rating is on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the most comfortable and 5 being the least. The parameters for this analysis originated from the Athens in Motion Plan. It uses speed limits, functional classification, and bike lane design as factors to determine the comfort of that bikeway. The easiest to use bike lanes are concentrated in the Savannah area. The hardest to use areas are spread out though Chatham County. With some modifications, protected bike lanes with a barrier, some of the medium difficulty bike lanes would be easier to use. The majority of the observed bike lanes had a level of comfort of 1. Very few had a level of comfort of 5. We want to bring the 3's down, if possible, which can be done by adding a physical barrier and buffer to the bike lane. Other observations made with this analysis are that a lot of bike lanes were inconsistent in size and design. A bike lane on a street may suddenly change in a way that it looks which might be confusing to the user. Additionally, intersections were hard to navigate and understand. There were some bike lanes that were easy to use until it reached an intersection. We want to review some design guidelines to make those intersections easier to navigate.

The next steps are to use the data to create a project list for the bike and pedestrian resources and then present the project list to the community for input. Review some of the unconfirmed bike lanes to assess the level of comfort. Look at the sidewalk/crosswalk side of the plan. The completed project list is expected to be done in February 2024 with an adoption date in June 2024.

Ms. Pamela Oglesby asked if accessibility was a factor in this plan. Ms. Asia Hernton said accessibility is one of the central focuses of the plan, but just not in this presentation, which is more focused on data. She stated that she can present a status report on accessibility and non-motorized transportation at the next meeting.

Ms. Oglesby asked if the crash data showed a lot of crashes on Ogeechee and Highway 17. She stated that there are a lot of crashes on that road, especially by the Walmart and motels, where a lot of people try to cross the street. The crash map showed multiple crashes in the Ogeechee/US 17 area. Ms. Oglesby also recounted how a light was put on West Bay Street, and as a result, no pedestrian crashes have happened near that light. Ms. Hernton said she will take note of that area and look into it further.

Ms. Oglesby then asked if this plan was like the Vision Zero Plan. Ms. Hernton replied that this is not a Vision Zero Plan, but has similar goals. She also recounted how CORE MPO staff attended a Vision Zero event for the City of Savannah and is aiming for the two plans to align. Ms. Wykoda Wang also replied, stating the Vision Zero Plan is a City of Savannah Plan, but the projects within the plan can be added to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to receive federal funding if needed. She also stated that Savannah's Vision Zero efforts cover only the City of Savannah, but the CORE MPO covers a much larger area. Additionally, Chatham County, Effingham County, and Bryan County are also working on Vision Zero Plans.

## [8. FY 2024-2027 TIP Development](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the original adoption date was targeted for August, but all the data was not in at that time. The statewide TIP has changed their adoption schedule to October as well. There will be a preliminary draft developed for review by the Federal Highway, Federal Transit and GDOT by the end of the month. The public comment period will start in September. We will target an October adoption.

## [9. MOU, Membership Dues, Restructuring, Bylaws](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang said the MPO boundary, bylaws, and MOU are being updated due to the census change. The Savannah Urban area has expanded so as a result, the MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary needs to be changed. The methodology was presented in the last 3 rounds of meetings. In June, the MPO Board adopted the MPA boundary. The next steps now are developing the MOU and finalizing the committees and the membership, adding the information into the bylaws, and having the fee structure/membership dues finalized. There was a workshop Monday for the member agencies to propose the methodology for how to calculate dues. There was a meeting Wednesday with ACAT and CAC representatives on how to consolidate the two committees into the Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Committee. Staff are developing the bylaws for that. There will be a more focused area for this committee. All information will still be provided to the new

committee but there will be a more focused agenda in hopes for it to be more productive. The hope is to have this adopted in October by the MPO Board. Once this is adopted staff will send all the information to the local municipalities and the modal representatives for signature. Once those signatures come back, we will forward the document to GDOT for signature, and they will then forward to the Governor's office for final signature and approval.

The current MOU includes the expanded areas of Guyton, Pembroke, Springfield, Rincon, Richmond Hill, portions of Effingham and Bryan counties. All of Effingham south of SR 119 and all of Bryan County except for Ft. Stewart. The CAC and ACAT will be consolidated into the Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee. There will be a focus on equity and public participation. This committee will advise the MPO Board and possibly the Chatham Area Transit Board as well with the ADA access to buses and access to the Paratransit services, bus stops, etc. This committee will oversee the development and maintenance of several documents, including the Participation Plan and the Title IV Plan for environmental justice and language assistance.

Please review this documentation language and provide feedback regarding this. There will be a new committee established that will be focused on planning and implementation of bike and pedestrian and trail projects. That will be the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory committee. The language for this is outlined in the document as well. Language was added to better outline what the CORE MPO does. The TIP used to be updated annually, now it is every 3-4 years. The language has been updated for this as well. Appendix A shows the approved MPA boundary by the MPO Board. Regarding the dues' structure, we are still working with the municipalities on this. Bryan County and Richmond Hill will meet internally to discuss how to split their dues. Effingham County will meet with their own municipalities as well. Chatham County currently pays 25% of the municipalities' share of the membership dues. There needs to be a coordination meeting to discuss making changes or keeping it the same.

Staff is asking for feedback from this committee regarding the new committee structure.

#### **IV. Agency Reports (verbal)**

#### **V. Other Business**

Mr. Neil Ligon, with L.I.F.E., said they attended the Travel Ability conference this past weekend. The focus was promoting accessible tourism and collaborating with other agencies and municipalities.

Ms. Tia Baker, with CAT, said there was a new class of 12 paratransit drivers starting training today. The electric vehicles are on the road and they are

working through any issues that arise. Ms. Oglesby said she saw on WSAV the micro-transit system was scheduled to roll out May of 2024. Ms. Baker said that was the plan as of now.

## **VI. Public Participation Opportunities**

## **VII. Notices**

### [10. GDOT Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [11. Chatham County Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [12. City of Savannah Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [13. Savannah Hilton Head International Airport Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [14. Chatham Area Transit Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [15. LATS-SCDOT Project Status Update Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [16. US 80 Corridor Study Status Update](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [17. CAT Master Transit Plan](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [18. TIP Funding Tracking Report](#)

Report attached to agenda.

### [19. Next CORE MPO ACAT Committee Meeting October 23, 2023 at 1:00pm.](#)

## **VII. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the August 21, 2023 ACAT meeting 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.