



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (ACAT) MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 18, 2004
Williams Court Apartments

2:00 P.M.
1900 Lincoln Street

Members Present:

Berlon, John Paul
Iaderosa, Jean
Jackson, Theodis
Oakley, Bill, Vice Chair
Palmer, Tyrone
Phillips, Doris
Selman, Debra
Wang, Wykoda
Wilkes, Mark

Representing:

Interested Citizen
Chatham Area Transit
Teleride
Goodwill Industries
National Federation of the Blind
L.I.F.E.
Interested Citizen
MPC
MPC

AUDIO TAPES OF THE MEETING MINUTES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT MARILYN GIGNILLIAT AT 912/651-1477 FOR A COPY OF THE TAPE.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Oakley called the August 18, 2004 ACAT meeting to order. Hearing no comments, the agenda was approved as presented.

II. Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2004

Ms. Iaderosa moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2004 ACAT meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Palmer, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Iaderosa, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Selman, Ms. Wang, and Mr. Berlon.

B. Review of Draft 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ms. Wang stated that the public review period started August 11, 2004. Copies of this document were included in the pre-meeting materials that were mailed to ACAT committee members. Written comments would be accepted until September 13, 2004. An informational flyer was also sent out to committee members. The schedule of public meetings was listed in that flyer.

Mr. Wilkes stated that the LRTP is a federal requirement. It is a 20 year forecast plan that addresses regional goals and how transportation can best meet those goals. It is multi-modal. In terms of concerns raised by the committee members, a section would be added which would include policies. This might be a good place to include the accessibility issue.

Ms. Selman stated that about six or seven months ago the MPC adopted a policy saying that all new sidewalks and highway would be accessible. What happened to that policy? Why was it not implemented in that plan?

Mr. Wilkes replied that staff would research the issue to find a copy

of that policy. Anyone who would like to work with staff to develop policies to address any issues, please contact him after this meeting.

Mr. Berlon asked to suspend the agenda in order for those present to introduce each other and state the agency they represent.

Mr. Berlon stated that there are certain areas where this committee could interject policies. The question is how to make certain the policies are included in the LRTP.

Mr. Wilkes replied that any policies that are elaborated in the plan would appear in Section VI.

Mr. Oakley stated that matter came up around the issue of construction that was being done in Garden City. It was a limited access highway. The committee felt that all new construction should conform to appropriate standards. This did pass the MPC.

Mr. Berlon commented on a statement on Page 8, which identified an increased housing need outside of the incorporated area. If people with disabilities are living outside the area, they are certainly going to have some transportation needs to make sure they get to the jobs that are most likely inside the incorporated area. Perhaps a statement could be made about that on the housing area, although there is no suggestion for changes. Then on page 10, second to the last paragraph, starting with "A good public transportation system is essential..." He felt that a paragraph about accessible transportation as a vital aspect of getting to jobs and getting to places could be included as part of the second sentence. He did not have suggested wording.

Mr. Wilkes stated that the LRTP is a federal requirement and any plans must be consistent with federal regulations. In addition, this group is not an implementing organization, it is a planning agency.

Cooperation from several agencies would be necessary to make what is in the plan a reality. In this case, the section was provided by CAT, so it may be necessary to talk with them about these suggestions.

Mr. Oakley stated that when the sense of the philosophy of accessibility in the guiding document is lost, there is the concern that the lack of sensitivity would carry through unintentionally.

Mr. Berlon suggested wording for the first sentence on Page 10. Page 18, he was unsure under the transportation amenities whether this was the section that includes issues that this committee would be concerned about. What are transportation amenities?

Mr. Wilkes replied that Phase One of the Transportation Amenities section is an attempt to preserve roads, buildings, etc. Phase Two would include design guidelines, recommendations that could include bikeways, sidewalks, landscaping.

Mr. Berlon asked for clarification on the statement on Page 48 regarding the ADA.

Mr. Wilkes stated that the sentence may not belong in the document since projects are being recommended that won't be built for 15 or 20 years.

Mr. Oakley stated that it has been called to his attention that certain elements are accessible online and individual commentary are available in addition to elements related to it. People are encouraged to participate in public meetings as early as this week.

C. Review of Draft FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Wang stated that the draft TIP was included in the pre-meeting

mailing. The TIP is the short range program. All of the projects should be consistent with the LRTP. The TIP is updated every year. There is also a public review and comment period. The TIP is on the MPC website. It is also possible to submit comments by e-mail or through the website.

To a question from Mr. Oakley, Ms. Wang replied that no action is required at this time. The plan would be endorsed at the September meeting.

Mr. Wilkes stated that the resolution about accessibility could be incorporated into the final document.

Mr. Berlon asked if language could be added to the 2030 plan in Phase 2 of the transportation amenities resolution that would concentrate on language that would concentrate on people with disabilities. He also asked for a copy of the resolution that this group has passed probably in 2001, possibly 2002 and any other resolution that may have been passed.

D. Teleride Handbook Update Decision

Mr. Berlon stated that upon further review, on May 14, 2003, corrections to the Teleride Handbook were adopted as proposed. However subsequent to that Ms. laderosa made commentary which was not voted upon. The May 14, 2003 minutes indicate that Mr. Dawson's corrections which have to do with Page 3 which who determines eligibility, also Page 6, How do I cancel a trip, some wording there, and also Page 6, may I schedule trips without calling Teleride each time. There were a few words to be inserted and Ms. laderosa has proposed other changes. The only thing to act upon were Ms. laderosa's corrections. Then the committee can set a date in the future to review the Handbook again.

Mr. Berlon's changes, which were recommended in the minutes of

February 18, 2004, are: 1) there is a reference that buses are not accessible. Currently all buses are accessible; 2) the other changes were grammatical and contained no substantive changes; 3) the proposed change to How early should I be ready for my pick up by Teleride as suggested by Wayne Dawson was to change that second sentence to “Teleride will consider themselves on time as long as a van arrives no earlier than 15 minutes;” currently the only changes that need to be made are on Page 5, to change the second sentence under how early should I be for my pick up that has already been adopted. The other change was on Page 8, Can a driver help get me on a Teleride van, it should read as drivers will assist persons in wheelchairs over a curb or one step.

Mr. Oakley stated that the matter of business to come before the ACAT was to approve the changes both cosmetic and the one substantive change that was addressed in May 14, 2003 where we amended the language to show that all CAT buses are not accessible.

Ms. laderosa stated that another discussion a few months back was the handling of the complaint process.

Mr. Berlon stated that both entities are referenced in the Handbook.

Ms. ladeorsa stated that Ms. McGinnis is no longer with CAT, so her name should be removed from the Handbook.

Mr. Berlon moved that the Handbook be adopted as amended by the commentary thus noted in the minutes of May 14, 2003, and this discussion about the complaint procedure such that it reflects the opportunity to contact either CAT or Teleride. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was that the Handbook be adopted as amended by the commentary thus noted in the minutes of May 14, 2003, and this discussion about the complaint procedure such that it reflects the opportunity to contact either CAT or Teleride. Voting were Mr. Palmer, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Iadeorsa, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Selman, Ms. Wang, and Mr. Berlon.

Mr. Berlon moved that the next regularly scheduled review of the Teleride Policy Handbook would be scheduled for April of 2007 unless otherwise deemed necessary. Mr. Palmer seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was that the next regularly scheduled review of the Teleride Policy Handbook would be scheduled for April, 2007. Voting were Mr. Palmer, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Iaderosa, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Selman, Ms. Wang, and Mr. Berlon.

III. Status Reports

Connecting Savannah

Ms. Wang stated that Connecting Savannah project has been contracted to Wilbur Smith Associates. The primary focus of this project would be public involvement. Neighborhood groups would be consulted for input on traffic solutions. There will also be a major kick-off conference in September at the Coastal Georgia Center, where smaller work groups would be formed. More information on this project would be available as it develops.

IV. Informational Reports (verbal)

A. Laidlaw/Teleride

Mr. Jackson reviewed the Non-Available report and the Reservations report, and Cancellation report for June and July. A report was distributed at the meeting.

B. Chatham Area Transit

Ms. Iaderosa stated that 101 new shelters have been installed. CAT can install the shelters, however CAT does not install curbs or sidewalk ramps or curb cuts on the sidewalks. The minutes of the previous ACAT Committee stated that an ad hoc committee would be established to review the conditions under which CAT was given approval for the bus shelters. She is looking for direction as to what to take back to CAT, perhaps a prioritized list to take back to the city.

Mr. Berlon moved that to suspend future installation of bus shelters until the fact that the shelter is fully accessible meaning being able to get to them is clarified.

The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Berlon stated that he would like to see a copy of the bus study and the bus shelter accessibility study. What authorized that study?

Mr. Berlon stated that he created a resolution to address the accessibility issue. He would like the resolution to be considered at the next ACAT meeting. He felt that this committee could suspend approval for any transportation plans or any other plans and make this the number one priority. This is an important issue. As an advisory committee saying that if you want our approval on any

other future action item we are going to suspend such approval of those until this committee is satisfied with the bus stop accessibility issue.

Ms. Iaderosa stated that the Bus Book is published every year. The next edition would be published in October.

V. Other Business

Ms. Wang stated that she had flyers about the upcoming public meetings. Staff would like to have those flyers posted on the CAT buses to publicize these meetings.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 18, 2004 ACAT meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wykoda Wang
Transportation Planner**