



CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (ACAT) MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, September 15, 2004
Williams Court Apartments

2:00 P.M.
1900 Lincoln Street

Members Present:

Curley, Bob
Garvin, Dashawna
Hakim, Timamu
Iaderosa, Jean
Jannette, Russell
Lewis, Jack
Oakley, Bill, Vice Chair
Stringer, Pat
Wang, Wykoda

Representing:

Senior Citizens, Inc.
Housing Authority of Savannah
Chatham Area Transit
Chatham Area Transit
Chatham Area Transit
Georgia Council of the Blind
Goodwill Industries
Interested Citizen
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 September 15, 2004 ACAT meeting to order. Hearing no comments, the agenda was approved as distributed.

Dr. Lewis stated that he did not receive the minutes or the agenda on an audiocassette.

Mr. Oakley requested that in the future Dr. Lewis receive the minutes and the agenda on audiocassette in his pre-meeting material.

II. Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2004

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

ACAT Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2004 ACAT meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Ms. Garvin, Ms. Wang, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Hakim, Mr. Jannette, Mr. Curley, and Ms. Iaderosa.

B. Endorsement of Revised Draft 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to Policy Committee

Ms. Wang reviewed the public involvement process for the LRTP. The public comment period started in August, after the draft document was distributed. Comments have been organized and added to a database. Comments that staff could not handle were referred to the appropriate agency for further action.

Mr. Oakley stated that the committee reviewed this plan in some detail at the previous meeting. Those comments are included in the minutes.

Ms. Iaderosa moved to approve the plan as presented. Mr. Hakim seconded the motion.

Ms. Iaderosa stated that comments were made at the last ACAT

meeting. Those comments were taken under advisement. Changes have been made reflecting accessibility of the buses. CAT was also asked to provide information on projected downtown transportation.

Ms. Stringer stated that she noticed one significant aspect of the draft is to change CAT from a bus transit company to a Bi-State Mobility Enterprise. Are we really ready for that in Chatham County? When we have a lot of needs in the county for the transit system as well as for east-west transportation and a bus transit station.

Mr. Oakley stated that these needs were well addressed and well publicized. To his recollection that visionary thinking was met with some enthusiasm in part because this plan extends 26 years from present. The comment about being ready was well-taken. Some of the issues are much shorter horizon issues than our becoming a bi-state mobility enterprise.

Ms. Stringer stated that she was concerned about turning CAT away from its own ridership and away from the issues in our county on to something entirely new and different outside the county.

Ms. Iaderosa stated that at that particular time the CAT Board did not approve the concept of a bi-state mobility authority. However, they did approve the transit development plan, which included a bi-state mobility entity because of the massive growth that is going on. It is important to get a toehold. Even though Chatham County did not approve participation at that time Beaufort, Jasper and Effingham County are pursuing the planning of a bi-state mobility authority. CAT would be one agency among a number of agencies. CAT has not lost sight of what the mission is, which is to safely, responsibly and effectively transport people.

Ms. Stringer stated that there is no money to support high speed ferries and downtown trolleys. She requested that the provision be dropped. CAT needs to pay attention to our county.

Mr. Oakley added that there is a vacuum for labor on Hilton Head Island and the opportunity to open some of those jobs to people who are bussed from more western portions of South Carolina and the opportunity to have some of our people from Chatham County who may not have as many employment opportunities have those opportunities open to them was exciting to me. The trolley issue is a separate issue.

Ms. Iaderosa added that the streetcars would alleviate traffic on the road.

Mr. Oakley asked that the group return to the mission of the committee, which is accessible transportation. Are there accessibility issues that have not been commented on to this point? The Resolution indicates that ACAT did go on record regarding sidewalks.

Ms. Wang added that the committee's request was for the TIP at the last meeting and that the Resolution has been added as an appendix to the document.

ACAT: The motion to endorse the revised Draft 2030 LRTP to Policy committee carried with none opposed. Voting were: Ms. Garvin, Ms. Wang, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Hakim, Mr. Jannette, Mr. Curley, and Ms. Iaderosa.

C. Endorsement of Revised Draft FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Policy Committee

Ms. Wang stated that the TIP is the short term funding program. All projects are derived from the LRTP. There were not many changes from the August draft. GDOT requested some format changes, such as including an index. Comments on the TIP were received concerning the widening of Whitfield Avenue. An amenities corridor was identified in the LRTP in response to public outcry over removal of trees along new roadways.

Mr. Curley moved to endorse the Revised Draft FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Policy Committee. Ms. Iaderosa seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the Revised Draft FY 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Policy Committee carried with none opposed. Voting were Ms. Garvin, Ms. Wang, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Hakim, Mr. Jannette, Mr. Curley, and Ms. Iaderosa.

III. Status Reports

Connecting Savannah

Ms. Wang stated that a three page introduction of this project was included in the pre-meeting mailing. Contact information was listed in the report.

Mr. Oakley stated that it would be appropriate for ACAT to be well-represented at the meeting on September 27, 2004 at the Coastal Georgia Center.

IV. Informational Reports (verbal)

A. Laidlaw/Teleride

Ms. Wang stated that Mr. Jackson was not able to attend the meeting.

B. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Hakim introduced Mr. Janette, who is the project manager for passenger amenities at CAT. Mr. Janette will be attending ACAT meetings. He will be working closely with accessible shelters.

Mr. Hakim reviewed the upcoming route and schedule changes that will take place on October 4, 2004. CAT will be servicing the Wal-Mart at Sandfly. The 2 West Chatham Airport bus will be servicing Crossroads area. It is hoped that these changes would increase ridership and meet passenger needs.

Mr. Hakim stated that he and Mr. Berlon are meeting with representatives from the City to address accessibility issues for the bus shelters.

Ms. Stringer asked whether CAT has seen any increase in ridership since installation of the new shelters.

Mr. Hakim replied that CAT is picking up employees and shoppers at the new Wal-Mart in Sandfly. That increased ridership may be due to a combination of the shopping facility and the new shelters.

V. Other Business

Mr. Oakley asked if anyone had other business to share with the committee. No one came forward.

VI. Public Participation Opportunity

Ms. Stringer stated that she appreciated the kindness of the committee members. She is not a member of ACAT and appreciated the help she received at the meeting.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the September 15, 2004 ACAT meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wykoda Wang
Transportation Planner**