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CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, February 16, 2005
Williams Court Apartments

2:00 P.M.
1900 Lincoln Street

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Black, Allan R.	Chatham County	
Broker, William K.	Georgia Legal Service	
Dawson, Wayne	Savannah-Chatham County	
	Fair Housing Council	
Fontaine, Yolanda	Housing Authority of Savannah	
Greenblum, Herb	Georgia Infirmary Day Center for Rehabilitation	
Hakim, Timamu	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
Hunt, Carol	NAACP-Savannah Branch	
Jackson, Theodis	Laidlaw Transit Services (Teleride)	x
Jarret, McArthur	National Federation of the Blind	x
Jones, Billy	City of Savannah	
Kortes, Donna	Kicklighter Resource Center	
Lamar, Tom	Interested Citizen	x
Lewis, Jack	Georgia Council of the Blind	x
Lyons, Patti	Senior Citizens Savannah -Chatham Inc.	
Monroe, Lori	Economic Opportunity Authority	

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Phillips, Doris	Living Independence for Everyone Inc. (LIFE)	
Schroeder, Greg	United Way of the Coastal Empire	
Scott, Teresa	GDOT District 5	
Simmons, Walt	Savannah Association for the Blind	
Timmons, Clealice	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Wang, Wykoda	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x
<u>Member Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Curley, Bob	Senior Citizens Savannah -Chatham Inc.	x
Howard, Denise	LIFE, Inc.	x
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Leighton, Brian	Savannah Council of the Blind	x

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lamar called the February 16, 2005 ACAT meeting to order.

Mr. Jarrett moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Ms. Wang seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to approve the agenda as distributed carried with none opposed. Voting were: Mr. Leighton, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Curley, Ms. Howard, and Dr. Lewis.

II. Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2004

Mr. Jarrett moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Lewis seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2004 ACAT meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were: Mr. Leighton, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Curley, Ms. Howard, and Dr. Lewis.

B. Endorsement of FY 2005-2007 TIP Amendments

Ms. Wang stated that staff received three requests from Chatham County to amend the TIP. The requested amendments include funding for the study of a new interchange at Jimmy DeLoach Parkway and U.S. Highway 80, State Route 307 Dean Forest Road Extension from U. S. Highway 17 to Garrard Street. The public comment period on these projects extends to February 14, 2005. The third request was to replace the drawbridge on the Islands Expressway. In addition, a request has been received from CAT for transit projects. The first is Section 5307 to change the line item from communications to passenger amenities; second, for Section 5309 to change the fund base for passenger amenities; and, to add another line item to Section 5309 to add communication funds. These amendments were advertised in the Savannah Morning News. So far, no comments have been received.

Mr. Jarrett asked whether the expectation was that ACAT would make comments.

Ms. Wang replied that was correct; however, the comment period for the requested amendments has expired except for the bridge replacement request.

Mr. Jarrett asked for clarification on the role of ACAT.

Ms. Wang replied that the Policy Committee is seeking endorsement from ACAT for these amendments.

Dr. Lewis asked how the expressway would affect the issues that ACAT deals with.

Ms. Wang replied that the requested amendment is only for Preliminary Engineering oversight. When the project moves forward, there may be implications for disability issues.

Dr. Lewis stated that for ACAT to endorse any of these projects, he would need to know that the issues of the disability community are going to be addressed, such as pedestrian access, curb cuts, audible signaling, and bikeways.

Mr. Jarrett stated that it was his understanding that some of this is supposed to take place. How will this affect the issues that this committee is to address? Clarification on the role of ACAT is necessary.

Mr. Lamar stated that he could not attend the upcoming Policy Committee meeting. Dr. Lewis offered to represent ACAT at the February Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Jarrett asked for more detail on the transit related projects.

Ms. Wang replied that staff received a request to change the scope of communications for passenger amenities. Specific examples were not provided. For Section 5309, the communications were added but passenger amenities were reduced.

Dr. Lewis moved to approve these amendments conditional that the Policy Committee understand that the disability issues that pertain to transportation be given full consideration. Mr. Jarrett seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was for conditional endorsement of the proposed TIP amendments subject to the condition that the Policy Committee understand that the transportation issues that affect the disability community be given full consideration. Voting were Mr. Leighton, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Curley, Ms. Howard, and Dr. Lewis.

C. Resolution for Ms. Debra Selman

The Resolution of Appreciation for the late Debra Selman was read to the committee. Dr. Lewis moved to endorse the Resolution. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion.

Ms. Wang stated that Ms. Selman's sister could not be present to accept the Resolution. Staff would send the Resolution to her.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the Resolution of Appreciation for the late Debra Selman carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Leighton, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Curley, Ms. Howard, and Dr. Lewis.

III. Status Reports

A. Connecting Savannah Study

Ms. Wang informed those present on the progress of the Connecting Savannah Study. Six Stakeholder Conferences have been held. The next meeting would be held on February 24, 2005 at the Coastal Georgia Center starting at 5:30 PM.

Dr. Lewis added that small groups were formed to discuss particular issues which are then coordinated into specific policies. These policies would be outlined so that an action plan could be formed. He was the only person who showed up for a small group on accessibility needs.

Mr. Leighton stated that he no longer receives notification for future meetings. Mr. Jarrett has not received notification either.

Ms. Wang replied that she would follow-up on this matter. There is a link to Connecting Savannah on the MPC website. Comments or concerns could be entered there.

B. Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study

Ms. Wang stated that this study is an update of a study originally conducted in 1998. The purpose of the update is to review selected recommendations made in the original study with respect to changes in the area rail system and how the changes could influence the rail operations of the Georgia Port Authority and how they would affect the surrounding communities. The update is being coordinated with the GDOT Office of Intermodal Programs and is expected to be complete in the first quarter of CY 2005.

C. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Ms. Wang stated that GDOT is preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an interstate improvement study. Funds have been earmarked for this study, which would focus on several interstate interchange improvements. So far no specific information for this study is available to the MPO yet. ACAT will be updated in the future as the study progresses.

Mr. Jarrett stated that he wanted to make sure that ACAT has the opportunity to review the report.

D. 2004 Congestion Management System (CMS) Final Report

Ms. Wang stated that this document is available on the MPC website. Carter & Burgess was hired as the consultant to do this report, gather and analyze data, and make recommendations. The MPO

would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for its participation in this study.

E. 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Final Report

Ms. Wang stated that this document is also available on the MPC website. A synopsis was included in the pre-meeting materials. Ms. Wang also thanked the committee for its participation in the Plan update process.

F. Federal Planning Certification Review

Ms. Wang stated that the Savannah Urbanized Area reached more than 200,000 residents according to the 2000 Census, so CUTS has been designated a Transportation Management Area. The review takes place every three years. This will be the first federal certification review for CUTS. All Federal and State transportation related agencies will examine documents, policies, and procedures. A public meeting has been scheduled for March 2, 2005 at 6:00 PM in the MPC Hearing Room, which is located in our offices at 112 East State Street. Notices were sent to all media, newspapers, Community Calendars, and information was placed on the MPC website.

Mr. Jarrett asked to have a copy of the notice sent to the Georgia Area Radio Reading Service. This group reaches a large audience throughout the area. Any notices like that should go to them.

Ms. Wang replied that she would follow through on that suggestion.

G. Quality Growth Grant Approval for Context Sensitive Design Standards

Ms. Wang stated that this item evolved from the discussion of preserving canopy trees in roadway projects. The grant is from the Department of Community Affairs, with matching funds supplied by

the City and County. The goal is to develop design standards that would allow for these assets to be maintained.

H. GDOT Regional ITS Architecture Study

Ms. Wang stated that GDOT has a consultant who has developed the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) architecture for Georgia. This would try to coordinate with all the organizations related to transportation in the state.

I. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Dr. Lewis stated that a study is being conducted on two available sites.

IV. Informational Reports

A. Laidlaw/Teleride

Mr. Jackson reviewed the statistics for November and December 2004, and January 2005. Complaints for the same period were also discussed.

Dr. Lewis asked if there was a way to notify passengers when the ride would be 20-30 minutes late.

Mr. Jackson replied that Teleride tries to notify passengers when they are running behind schedule. However, it is not always possible to reach the person.

Mr. Jarrett asked what happened to the system that was in place through CAT where all the complaints were going to a central location.

Mr. Jackson replied that this is a work in progress. For those requesting a short ride when they see a Teleride van stopping for a

scheduled trip, it is always best to contact the dispatcher to find out if this unscheduled trip would inconvenience other scheduled rides.

Ms. Wang asked for clarification on the process for registering complaints.

Mr. Jackson replied that the policy in the Teleride office is that when complaints come in they are to be written up and slid under his door in order for him to respond to them. There is a central phone number for passengers to call, which is the main number for CAT to voice their complaints. The idea is to centralize the process so that complaints are not going everywhere.

Ms. Wang stated that complaints are coming to her office at the MPC.

Mr. Jackson replied that these calls could be directed to the main phone number for CAT, or call him.

B. Chatham Area Transit

Nobody from CAT showed up at the meeting.

C. Other

Ms. Wang stated that the Policy Committee meeting would feature an overview on Transportation Planning. This is to serve as an orientation for the new Chairman of the County Commission. This meeting will start at 9:00. Mr. Plumeau, a consultant on the Connecting Savannah project, is presenting this information.

Ms. Wang also stated that the TIP has to be amended to STIP because it was adopted three months after the state TIP was adopted.

Ms. Wang stated that John Paul Berlon has resigned from the ACAT. Replacements must be obtained for Mr. Berlon and the deceased Ms. Selman.

Mr. Lamar asked for help in recruiting members of the disability community to replace Ms. Selman and Mr. Berlon.

Dr. Lewis suggested that it might be beneficial to include someone from outside the city.

Ms. Wang read from the By-laws regarding replacement of members.

It was agreed that the By-Laws should be updated.

Mr. Jarrett recommended Mr. Leighton from Savannah Council of the Blind for one of the positions.

Dr. Lewis suggested that the membership list could be distributed for review.

Ms. Wang agreed to send the by-laws and the current membership list.

Mr. Lamar appointed a committee to review the By-laws. The members of the committee are Dr. Lewis, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Jarret.

V. Other Business

There were on other business.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

Mr. Lamar asked if there was anyone present with a transportation issue to address.

No one came forward.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the February 16, 2005 ACAT meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wykoda Wang
Transportation Planner**