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CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 20, 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	x
Hunt, Carol	NAACP-Savannah Branch	
Jackson, Theodis	Laidlaw Transit Services (Teleride)	
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.	
Howard, Denise	LIFE, Inc.	
Jennette, Russell	CAT	x
Roper, Barbara	Laidlaw/Teleride	x
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Allen, Mignon	Connecting Savannah	x
Carpenter, Linda	Connecting Savannah	x
Gardner, William	Consumer	x
Leighton, Brian	Savannah Council of the Blind	x
Wilkes, Mark	MPC	x

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lamar called the April 20, 2005 ACAT meeting to order.

Hearing no additions or corrections, Mr. Lamar stated that the agenda would stand approved as presented.

II. Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2005

Mr. Jarrett moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Wang seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2005 ACAT meeting carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Leighton, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Hakim, Ms. Roper, and Dr. Lewis.

B. Endorsement of Amendment to FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Jarrett asked if this is the same plan that was approved at the previous meeting.

Ms. Wang replied that Chatham Area Transit has requested this amendment to the current UPWP. The amendment is necessary in order to amend the Transportation Development Plan. This project was not scheduled in the document. It must be scheduled before the money could be released. The UPWP is the annual budgeted staff work program.

Mr. Wilkes added that staff did not have the dollar budgeted at the time the UPWP was completed. Now that the dollar amount is available, it must be added to the document.

Mr. Jarrett moved to endorse the requested amendment to the FY 2005 UPWP. Mr. Hakim seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the requested amendment to the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Hakim, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Lamar, Dr. Lewis, Ms. Wang, Ms. Jennette, Ms. Roper, and Mr. Leighton.

C. Endorsement of FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Wang stated that this is the staff work program for next year. The UPWP outlines what kind of jobs the staff will do and how much money would be spent on each of those jobs. The report is divided into administrative jobs, public involvement, data collection, and assist in planning. Specific items are listed under each category.

Mr. Wilkes added that this document is prepared every year. Plans from previous years are reviewed. This document allows staff to continue the planning process. Special projects that may be unique to a specific year are included as necessary.

Ms. Wang mentioned that last year several suggestions from the ACAT committee were incorporated into the FY 2005 UPWP. Those suggestions included developing passenger education materials for CAT.

Mr. Jarrett moved to endorse the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program. Dr. Lewis seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Hakim, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Lamar, Dr. Lewis, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jennette, Ms. Roper, and Mr. Leighton.

D. Endorsement of Draft FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Wang stated that the TIP is prepared every year. It is a three year program. All the projects in the TIP must be consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan. City and County staff met with MPC staff to review the list of projects that GDOT has proposed for this area. Staff does not believe that the list provided by GDOT adequately reflects the priorities of this area. A letter was sent to GDOT to request that our priorities be constructed. This letter is included in your meeting materials. Staff would like to recommend local

priorities to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Wang added that staff received a reply from GDOT today.

Mr. Jarrett moved to endorse the Draft FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program that reflects the local priorities. Mr. Leighton seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the Draft FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program that reflects the local priorities carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Hakim, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Lamar, Dr. Lewis, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jennette, Ms. Roper, and Mr. Leighton.

E. Endorsement of Holding a Public Meeting for the Proposed Strategies for the Connecting Savannah Process

Ms. Carpenter stated that the consultants will be asking for permission at the Policy Committee meeting to hold a public meeting. A Connecting Savannah working group has been moving the process forward. Now it is time to hold a bigger meeting so that others can become informed about what is being suggested. In June, after comments from the information meeting in May, recommendations would be put forward to the MPO that could be added to the LRTP, or to the TIP.

Dr. Lewis moved to endorse holding a public meeting for the proposed strategies for the Connecting Savannah Process. Mr. Hakim seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse holding a public meeting for the proposed strategies for the Connecting Savannah process carried with none opposed. Voting were Mr. Hakim, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Lamar, Dr. Lewis, Ms. Wang, Mr. Jennette, Ms. Roper, and Mr. Leighton.

III. Status Reports

A. Connecting Savannah

Ms. Linda Carpenter reviewed the status of the Connecting Savannah process. Ms. Carpenter stated that this process began last October with a Stakeholder Conference. East-west travel, trucks on Bay St, and need for an improved transit service were issues that came up during the process. Suggested improvements were highlighted. May 24 is the proposed date for a public meeting to present proposed strategies for the Connecting Savannah process. The meeting will be held at the Coastal Georgia Center.

To a question by Mr. Jarrett, Ms. Carpenter replied that money has been set aside from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for several years to address east-west travel problems.

Ms. Carpenter stated that to get any money for these projects, the projects must be in the Long Range Transportation Plan. This will require that an amendment be adopted by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Jarrett suggested that it might be beneficial to hold a meeting on a Saturday morning.

Ms. Allen outlined the contact with media for coverage of the Connecting Savannah process.

Dr. Lewis suggested that the Georgia Radio Reading Service might be an outlet that would provide information to the visually impaired community.

B. Federal Planning Certification Review

Ms. Wang stated that the certification process was held in March. The transportation program passed this certification with no corrective actions.

Mr. Wilkes added that this is a triennial review. The Federal Highway Administration was very impressed with the local program. Of special importance was the involvement of the ACAT Committee.

C. Transportation Amenities Plan

Ms. Wang stated that CUTS has received a grant from the Department of Community Affairs to develop guidelines for the highway projects. The guidelines would provide improvements such as sidewalks, landscaping, etc. for roadway improvements. Any proposal developed as part of the grant process would come before ACAT for discussion and review.

D. Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study

Ms. Wang stated that this study is a joint effort of the Georgia Ports Authority and the Intermodal Department of GDOT to update the 1998 study. The consultant is still compiling data. When that process is complete, a public meeting will be held and information could be presented to the ACAT.

E. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Ms. Wang stated that GDOT has contracted with consultants to perform this study, which will attempt to prioritize the interstate interchanges in this area and to recommend improvements to the interchanges. The initial meeting has not been held. When the process is determined, all CUTS Committees will be involved.

F. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Mr. Hakim stated that consultants are still working on this study. No additional information is available at this point although he has provided detailed routing information to be reviewed.

Dr. Lewis added that the County Commissioners are very eager to have this matter resolved. It may be possible to have several mini-transfer stations, although nothing has been decided.

To a question from Mr. Jarrett, Dr. Lewis replied that the CAT Board would develop specific recommendations to be presented to the County Commissioners for final approval.

Mr. Jarrett stated that it is time to move forward on this issue. He will take this matter up with the County Commission.

Ms. Wang added that Mr. John Broderick of CAT prepared the staff report that was included in the meeting materials.

G. ACAT Membership Information and Bylaw Update

Ms. Wang stated that there are three vacancies on this committee. At the last meeting, Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Jackson, and Dr. Lewis were appointed to review the Bylaws. What is the status of this review?

Dr. Lewis noted that the Bylaws are different from the way this committee functions. If the Bylaws were enforced, this committee probably could not operate.

Ms. Wang added that the Bylaws were structured in order to represent all of the underserved community. This matter requires some type of action in the future.

Mr. Jarrett asked that Ms. Wang select a date when the subcommittee could meet at the MPC office to begin working on this project.

IV. Informational Reports

A. Laidlaw/Teleride

Ms. Roper distributed a report. She reviewed the complaints,

reservations, non-available trips, cancellations, and no-shows for the months of February and March.

Dr. Lewis stated that legally Laidlaw cannot turn down a trip request. Something must be worked out. How much notice is requested for a no-show?

Ms. Roper replied that Teleride does not have enough vans to do this. All vans are in service. If passengers would have cancelled in time, service could have been provided for those who were turned down. One hour notification is requested. The notification policy is covered in the Teleride Policy Handbook.

B. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Hakim stated that new software is being installed. He is being trained on its use. It is called Trapeze, which will allow him to more efficiently schedule and route buses. The software can also create maps. He is also looking at updating some of the routes to provide additional service in the Cross Roads area and the Silk Hope (Route 17) area where ridership has increased.

The CAT shuttle will change when the Liberty Street goes into effect to service the new Liberty Street Parking Garage. The City has contracted with CAT to provide service to the garage and the downtown area. Additional information would be provided at the next ACAT meeting.

Mr. Jarrett stated that it appears that CAT has a selected process for some of the citizens. There are members of the disabled community who have transportation needs.

Mr. Hakim reviewed his interactions with businesses along Abercorn Street and Television Circle with regard to bus routing and bus shelters in this area.

V. Other Business

There was no 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 April 20, 2005 ACAT meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wykoda Wang
Transportation Planner**