



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Williams Court Apartments

2:00 p.m.
1900 Lincoln Street

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Broker, William K. Dawson, Wayne	Georgia Legal Service Savannah-Chatham County Fair Housing Council	x
Felser, Jeff Fontaine, Yolanda Greenblum, Herb	City of Savannah Housing Authority of Savannah Georgia Infirmary Day Center for Rehabilitation	x
Habas, Bob	Living Independence for Everyone Inc. (LIFE)	x
Hakim, Timamu Hardenbrook, Zoe Hunt, Carol	Chatham Area Transit Authority GDOT District 5 NAACP-Savannah Branch	x
Jarret, McArthur Lamar, Tom Lewis, Jack Lyons, Patti	National Federation of the Blind Interested Citizen Georgia Council of the Blind Senior Citizens Savannah -Chatham Inc.	x x
Monroe, Lori Nichols, Mary Oakley, Bill Schroeder, Greg Simmons, Walt Timmons, Clealice	Economic Opportunity Authority Kicklighter Resource Center Goodwill Industries United Way of the Coastal Empire Savannah Association for the Blind Coastal Center for Development Services	x x
Wang, Wykoda Project Manager Staff Representative	Metropolitan Planning Commission Laidlaw/Teleride Chatham County	x



<u>Member Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Jennette, Russell	CAT	X
Angela James	Housing Authority of Savannah	X
Ann Bush	Laidlaw/Teleride	X

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Pete Liakakis	Chatham County	X
Gardner, William	National Federation of the Blind	X
Leighton, Brian	Savannah Council of the Blind	X

Call to Order

Chairman Tom Lamar called the February 15, 2006 ACAT Meeting to order and asked that everyone present do a self introduction.

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Wang stated the preliminary agenda listed Transportation Improvement Priorities under the heading of Action Items. However, it has been placed under Status Report on the Final Agenda.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of December 7, 2005 ACAT Meeting Minutes

Alderman Jeff Felser moved for the approval of the December 7, 2005 ACAT Meeting Minutes. Mr. Oakley seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: the motion for approval of the December 7, 2005 ACAT Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.



III. Status Reports

A. Task Order Transportation Studies

Ms. Wang reported to the Committee the Metropolitan Planning Commission has selected Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc. (RS&H) to perform the task order transportation studies. The first task of the consulting team will involve the planning of southwest area of Chatham County. Issues will include plans to preserve dedicated rights-of-way, inter-connectivity of developments, and development of detailed zoning requirements, etc.

B. Connecting Savannah Follow Up Activities

Ms. Wang stated the Metropolitan Planning Organization assisted the City of Savannah in developing two Requests for Proposals. The requests are regarding the recommendations from Connecting Savannah on the Hampstead Avenue Connector and DeRenne Six Lane Widening Project. She further reported an RFP for DeRenne Avenue Ambulance Pre-emption is pending the development of a detailed scope of services.

C. Transportation Amenities Plan

Ms. Wang gave a brief summary of the status of the Transportation Amenities Plan Phase Two. She stated Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc. has been selected to develop the design standards. Phase Two process will include coordination with Georgia Department of Transportation, Chatham County, and the City of Savannah to develop the design guidelines for new roadways that will incorporate tree planting, landscaping, bikeways and sidewalks.

D. Transportation Enhancement Application Award

Ms. Wang stated at the December meeting six applications were reviewed for the Transportation Enhancement projects for FY 2006



and 2007. Mr. Tom Thomson and Chairman Pete Liakakis met with the State Transportation Board Members and as a result of that meeting four applications in Chatham County received TE funding: 1) Tybrisa Street Streetscape Improvements; 2) Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd Streetscape Phase 2; 3) AASU Bicycle / Pedestrian Path; and 4) Pooler Sidewalk Extension. The total funding is \$1,220,000 for this area. Ms. Zoe Hardenbrook stated District 5 had 23 projects selected for the amount of 5.9 million dollars.

E. Benton Blvd. Transportation Issues

Ms. Wang stated at the request of Representative Buddy Carter, the MPO staff is facilitating a dialog among local property owners, developers and elected officials to locate funding and explore options to expedite the completion of Benton Boulevard to SR 30. She stated there have been two stakeholder meetings held to date with anticipation of future meetings to be held. Chairman Liakakis stated upon completion Benton Blvd Extension will help relieve some of the traffic congestion for Chatham County residents as well as those in Effingham County.

F. Port Area Transportation Issues

Ms. Wang stated Mr. Thomson is directly involved in the Port Area Transportation Study to better assess and plan for the growing transportation needs of the Port of Savannah. Particular issue of concern is the linkage between the Port and the Distribution Centers. She stated as details are made available, the Committee will be updated on the status. Commissioner Liakakis commented the Port Authority creates over 276, 000 jobs, billions of dollars in the economy and over a billion and a half dollars a year in taxes for this area. Due to the new warehouses being built in this area, assistance is needed to create a plan to alleviate the influx of truck traffic on Highway 25.



G. ACAT Bylaw Modification Update

Ms. Wang stated the Bylaw Update is mostly the membership update. She reported at the December 7, 2005 ACAT Meeting, the Committee agreed the City and the County should fulfill their obligations to provide Paratransit and ADA assistance. Subsequently, the ACAT Chairman sent a letter to Mayor Otis Johnson and the Chatham County Commission Chairman Mr. Liakakis to solicit active participation from representatives of the City and the County. As a result County Commissioner Pete Liakakis was in attendance and a response from Chatham County Human Resource Department stated upon availability of staff a representative will be made available to attend subsequent meetings. Mayor Johnson appointed Aldermen Jeff Felser who was also present and representing the City. Georgia Legal Services will send a representative to fill their seat. There has been no response from the Georgia Infirmary Center, but Mr. Lamar stated that he will continue to contact the Center.

Mr. Bill Oakley moved to send the ACAT Bylaw Modifications to every member notifying him/her of the changes to date so that ACAT can adopt the updated bylaws at the next meeting. Mr. Wayne Dawson seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: the motion to send the ACAT Bylaw Modifications to every member notifying him/her of the changes to date carried with none opposed.

H. Local Transportation Improvement Priorities

Ms. Wang stated the MPO staff is working with the local transportation staff to discuss TIP project prioritization strategies. A priority list will be compiled and submitted to GDOT.



IV. Agency Reports

A. Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study

Ms. Wang reported Georgia Ports Authority and Georgia Department of Transportation Intermodal Freight Services have entered into an agreement to update portions of the Chatham County Intermodal Freight Study (CCIFS). The purpose of the study update is to review recommendations made in the original CCIFS with changes in the area rail and highway systems and assess how the changes could influence the rail operations of the Port Authority and the surrounding communities. Ms. Wang further stated GPA has had a video conference with the freight services provider. The Consultant is finalizing data collection and compilation and recommendations will be presented to the Steering Committees as soon as the meetings can be scheduled.

B. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Ms. Wang gave a brief updated status report on GDOT Interstate Improvement Study. The Georgia Department of Transportation has selected the consultant firm of Jordan, Jones & Goulding for the Interstate Improvement Study. The purpose is to study the Interstate Systems in the area (I-95, I-16, and I-516) and their intersecting routes in Chatham County. Projects will be compared against existing CUTS Long Range Transportation Plan and CUTS Transportation Improvement Program. The consultant is currently gathering existing data.

C. CAT Downtown Transit Station Study

Commissioner Pete Liakakis voiced concerns regarding the potential financial increase requested by the owner of the proposed site. In negotiations with the property owner a few stumbling blocks have developed. He stated efforts are being made to build the Transit Center as soon as possible, as negotiations continue.



Ms. Wang stated CAT Board of Directors selected Cogdell & Mendrala Architects as the architect and engineering firm to design the Transit Center.

D. Laidlaw/Teleride

Ms. Ann Bush gave a brief status report on the reservations, cancellations, non-available trips, and no-shows for the month of January 2006. She reported the department is without a manager at this time; however Mr. Mullin, District Manager, is interim manager until the position is filled. Ms. Bush gave a brief status report of the riding capacity of the new Teleride buses. She stated the capacity for Teleride is overwhelming. There needs to be something put in place to increase the fleet. Ms. Bush presented the new design which will allow more seating for ambulatory clients and provide additional wheelchair accessibility.

E. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Jennette stated Broughton Street repairs are being made and the buses rerouted. Liberty Street and Oglethorpe Avenue are scheduled next for milling and notices have been given to riders of probable delays. As funding is made available, additional bus shelters will be erected. Commissioner Liakakis stated more shelters have been placed in the surrounding communities and the downtown area. Efforts have been increased to encourage ridership throughout the community. The County will provide additional assistance to citizens with disabilities in order to promote their independence. In conjunction the County is now considering to hire a person with disabilities in the Risk Department. This person would offer a first-hand perspective for people with special needs. Due to the lack of curb cuts which hinder wheelchair accessibility, Commissioner Liakakis requested Ms. Bush compile a list of concerns to submit to the County Commissioners, City Council and the State Senator. Alderman Felser agreed and requested the submittal of a



comprehensive list of priority needed curb cut sites throughout the City to present to City Council.

F. Other

Mr. Wayne Dawson reported the first wheelchair accessible taxi in Savannah was available in the parking lot. He requested everyone go out after the adjournment to view the taxi. He stated Yellow Cab Company of Savannah will be responsible for the operation of this service. The taxi is designed to provide service for only one wheelchair at a time but he looks forward to having more taxis in the future.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the February 16, 2006 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Wykoda Wang
Transportation Planner