



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 19, 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	
Felser, Jeff	City of Savannah	x
Fontaine, Yolanda Greenblum, Herb	Housing Authority of Savannah Georgia Infirmary Day Center for Rehabilitation	
Habas, Bob	Living Independence for Everyone Inc. (LIFE)	
Hakim, Timamu Hardenbrook, Zoe Hunt, Carol	Chatham Area Transit Authority GDOT District 5 NAACP-Savannah Branch	
Jarret, McArthur Lamar, Tom	National Federation of the Blind Interested Citizen	x x
Leighton, Brian Lewis, Jack Lyons, Patti	Savannah Council of the Blind Georgia Council of the Blind Senior Citizens Savannah -Chatham Inc.	x
Monroe, Lori Executive Director 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	
Wang, Wykoda	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x

Project Manager **Laidlaw/Teleride**
Staff Representative **Chatham County**

<u>Member Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Jennette, Russell	CAT	x
Tery Newton	Housing Authority of Savannah	x
Ann Bush	Laidlaw/Teleride	x

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
William Gardner	National Federation of the Blind	x
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind	x
Peter Boateng	National Federation of the Blind	x
Jane Love	MPO	x
Barbara Settzo	MPO	x

Call to Order

As the Chairman Tom Lamar arrived late, McArthur Jarrett called the April 19, 2006 ACAT Meeting to order and asked that everyone present do a self introduction. At this time Ms. Wang introduced Ms. Love, who will represent the MPO at future meetings, and Ms. Settzo, who will take the minutes for today's meeting and for future meetings.

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Wang read the agenda of the April 19, 2006 ACAT Meeting and the agenda was approved.

II. Action Items

- A. Approval of February 15, 2006 ACAT Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jennette moved that the minutes of the February 15, 2006 ACAT Meeting be approved. Mr. Leighton seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: the motion for approval of the February 15, 2006 ACAT Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement of FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Wang presented the final FY 2007 UPWP for endorsement by ACAT to the Policy committee indicating that the final document incorporated comments received from FHWA, FTA and GDOT. Mr. Jennette moved that the UPWP be endorsed by ACAT. Mr. Leighton seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement of Amendment to FY 2006-2008 TIP to include preliminary engineering for Grange Road

Ms. Wang stated that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the short-range programming document of the MPO transportation planning process. The FY 2006-2008 TIP was adopted by the MPO in June 2005. GDOT requested that the TIP be amended to include preliminary engineering of the Grange Road widening project in FY 2006. Since this is a major amendment, a 15-day comment period is required. The advertisement for the review and comment of this amendment was published in the *Savannah Morning News*, posted on the MPC website and sent to the other local media.

Mr. Jarrett asked what the original plan was for Grange Road and Ms. Wang responded that it was in the long range plan, but is now being advanced to the TIP at the request of GDOT. The road will be widened from 2 to 3 lanes between SR 21 and SR 25.

Mr. Lamar moved that ACAT endorse the amendment to the FY 2006-2008 TIP. Mr. Jarrett seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to FY 2006-2008 TIP to include preliminary engineering for Grange Road in FY 2006 carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of the FY 2007-2010 Local Transportation Improvement Priorities

Ms. Wang presented the list of local priority projects identified for potential inclusion in the FY 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Wang explained that an endorsement by ACAT is not an approval of design of any of these projects, only an affirmation that these are priority projects for the FY 2007-2010 TIP. The MPO does not handle the actual design of any of these projects.

Ms. Wang also explained that these projects have no completion dates at this time. This priority listing is just one of the steps in the lengthy process to acquire federal funds and finally get the projects built.

Mr. Lamar moved that the priority list for FY 2007-2010 TIP be endorsed as presented. Mr. Leighton seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the FY 2007-2010 Local Transportation Improvement Priorities carried with none opposed.

E. Adoption of revised ACAT Bylaws

Ms. Wang presented the final draft of the revised ACAT Bylaws for adoption by ACAT. This final draft was mailed to all members as

instructed by ACAT at the February meeting. Most of the revisions were made to the membership list, including deleted members, added members, revised members, and reinstated members. Also included in the revised Bylaws were administrative updates changing the meeting dates to the current meeting dates for 2006 and updating the title of the MPO staff member who attends ACAT meetings. The date of the revised Bylaws will be added to the Bylaw cover page as "Revised April, 2006." Also, deleted from Article II, section 1 were the words, "shall be 26 and" following the words "The number of members".

Mr. Lamar moved that the Bylaws be adopted as revised and presented. Mr. Leighton seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: The motion to adopt the ACAT Bylaws as revised and presented carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Task Order Transportation Studies

Ms. Wang reported to ACAT that at their April 4, 2006 meeting the Metropolitan Planning Commission authorized the Executive Director of the MPC to execute the contract with Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc. (RS&H) to perform the task order transportation studies. The first task order will focus on the development in the southwest area of Chatham County. Issues to be addressed may include roadway inter-connectivity among developments, capacity issues of arterials/collectors, options for funding, needed preservation of future rights-of-way improvements, and development of processes to evaluate the transportation impacts of development.

B. Connecting Savannah Follow Up Activities

Ms. Wang stated the Metropolitan Planning Organization assisted the City of Savannah in developing two Requests for Proposals (RFP): East DeRenne Widening Project, and West DeRenne/Hampstead Connector Project. To her knowledge the City is still revising these draft RFPs. Ms. Wang assured the Committee that the final draft will be posted on the city's website when it is ready.

Mr. Felser asked if there was a separate RFP for DeRenne Avenue Ambulance Pre-emption. Ms. Wang reported that the MPO has not started on such a RFP. Mr. Felser requested an update on this at the next meeting.

C. Transportation Amenities Plan

Ms. Wang reported that at the April 4, 2006 meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Commission authorization was given to the Executive Director of the MPC to execute the contract with Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc. to develop the Transportation Amenities Plan, Phase Two design guidelines. Phase Two will be a cooperative process with GDOT, Chatham County and the City of Savannah to develop design standards for new roadways which will incorporate tree planting, landscaping, bikeways, sidewalks and other desired transportation amenities. Ms. Wang stated that there will be separate recommendations for local, state and interstate roadways. It is believed that the issue of sidewalks will be the topic of most interest to ACAT.

D. Benton Blvd. Transportation Issues

Ms. Wang reported that Benton Boulevard extension will help alleviate traffic congestion around the I-95 and SR 21 area. Since federal funding could not be found for the project, the MPO is facilitating a dialog between Effingham County and property owners/developers between SR 30 and Meinhard Rd to develop detailed cost estimates

and to explore local funding options including state aid, developer participation, SPLOST, etc.

E. GDOT Interstate Improvement Study

Ms. Wang reported that the Georgia Dept of Transportation (GDOT) Office of Planning selected the consulting firm of Jordan, Jones & Goulding (JJ&G) for the Interstate Improvement Study. The purpose of the study is to develop and document an Interstate Needs Analysis and Prioritization Plan for all Interstate Routes (I-95, I-16, and I-516) and their intersecting routes in Chatham County. The plan will prioritize existing interstate projects that are currently in the CUTS Long Range Transportation Plan, the CUTS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the GDOT 6-year Construction Work Program, and the GDOT Long Range Program.

JJ&G is currently gathering existing data and performing initial analysis on existing data. This study is scheduled for completion no later than February 2008.

IV. Agency Reports

A. Laidlaw/Teleride

Ms. Ann Bush gave a brief status report on the reservations, cancellations, non-available trips, and no-shows for the month of February 2006 and March 2006. Ms. Bush expressed her concern that with the growth in Chatham County, the current fleet of 16 vehicles will not be enough to cover the anticipated growth in ridership. When asked how many vehicles she thinks will be needed, she could not say with any certainty.

Ms. Wang suggested that she contact the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center who is developing a regional plan to provide transit service. They may be able to help with coverage in the rural

areas of Chatham County. It was suggested that a representative from Georgia Regional RDC be asked to attend the next ACAT meeting and to work with Teleride to coordinate efforts to meet the need.

Mr. Jarrett stressed how important it is for the needs of the Teleride population to be accommodated, no matter what agency does it, though he expressed his hope that the CAT Board would rise to meet this challenge. He would like to see other CAT Board members at ACAT meetings to discuss the needs of Teleride.

The issue of lack of curb cuts (ramps) at intersections, which hinders wheelchair accessibility, came up at this point in the meeting. The February minutes indicated that Mr. Liakakis and Mr. Felser requested a list of priority curb cut sites be submitted to City Council, County Commission, and the CAT Board. Ms. Bush was to compile this list. At this meeting there was discussion about who is responsible for making this list. It was agreed that if ACAT can come up with a short list of priority sites, then Mr. Felser will take it to the City Council and make a push for action. He needs to have this list so he can see where the weak spots are in the system to correct this problem.

Mr. Leighton agreed to ask his contacts if they have such a list. If they do, he will acquire this list and bring it to the next ACAT meeting in June.

B. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Jennette presented a brief update on the Transfer Center. They are still in land/site negotiation. No final site selection has been made.

Mr. Leighton asked what the CAT policy was regarding bus drivers using cell phones. Mr. Jennette responded that the CAT policy was

that no driver was to use a cell phone while driving a vehicle. He acknowledged that this was a problem.

Mr. Jennette also acknowledged the need for better communication between CAT and the public concerning temporary bus re-routing and bus stop changes for situations such as the recent road maintenance projects in downtown. They are working on a better means of communicating these changes.

Mr. Jennette will report at the next ACAT meeting in June on the progress of re-starting the Travel Training Program.

Mr. Jennette also reported that CAT has ordered 25 new bus shelters. A list of locations that need a shelter is being compiled. He confirmed that ridership numbers play a part in determining shelter placement.

V. Other Business

Ms. Wang requested that all members and alternates provide her with a current e-mail address.

Ms. Wang stated that all the meeting materials are on the MPC website.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the April 19, 2006 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner