



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, June 21, 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
Executive Director Felser, Jeff	Kicklighter Resource Center City of Savannah	X
Fontaine, Yolanda Habas, Bob	Housing Authority of Savannah Living Independence for Everyone Inc. (LIFE)	X X
Hakim, Timamu Hardenbrook, Zoe Hunt, Carol Hurst, Hunter	Chatham Area Transit Authority GDOT District 5 NAACP-Savannah Branch Georgia Infirmary Day Center For Rehabilitation	
Jarret, McArthur Lamar, Tom Leighton, Brian Lewis, Jack	National Federation of the Blind Interested Citizen Savannah Council of the Blind Savannah-Chatham Council on Disability Issues	X X
Love, Jane Lyons, Patti	Metropolitan Planning Commission Senior Citizens Savannah -Chatham Inc.	X
Monroe, Laurie Oakley, Bill Schroeder, Greg Simmons, Walt	Economic Opportunity Authority Goodwill Industries United Way of the Coastal Empire Savannah Association for the Blind	

Timmons, Clealice	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Project Manager	Laidlaw/Teleride	
Staff Representative	Chatham County	
<u>Member Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Stacy Martin	Kicklighter Resource Center	x
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind	x
<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
William Gardner	National Federation of the Blind	x
Carletha Hurst	Savannah Council of the Blind	x
Kim Harrison	Savannah Council of the Blind	x
Jo Hickson	Coastal Georgia Greenway	x
Barbara Setzso	MPO	x
Wykoda Wang	MPO	x

Call to Order

Chairman Tom Lamar called the June 21, 2006 ACAT Meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Love read the agenda as prepared. Following the reading of the agenda, it was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as prepared. The motion carried with none opposed.

Action Items

A. Approval of April 19, 2006 ACAT Meeting Minutes
Mr. Habas moved for the approval of the April 19, 2006 ACAT Meeting Minutes. Mr. Leighton seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: the motion for approval of the April 19, 2006 ACAT Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. Election of Officers

Chairman Lamar opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Leighton asked that we return to this agenda item later in the meeting in hopes that more people would arrive. Chairman Lamar agreed and the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

C. Endorsement of FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program Amendments

Ms. Wang presented the amendments to the UPWP. The UPWP was amended since its approval at the April meeting in order to incorporate additional funding into the plan's budget. Ms. Love moved that the amended UPWP be endorsed by ACAT. Mr. Leighton seconded.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program Amendments carried with none opposed.

At this point in the meeting Ms. Wang suggested, and Chairman Lamar agreed, that everyone at the meeting introduce themselves, as there were many new faces.

D. Endorsement of FY 2007-2009 TIP

Ms. Wang presented the proposed FY2007-2009 TIP for endorsement by ACAT. She reminded the committee that at their April meeting the staff had presented two tiers of highway priority projects for the FY2007-2009 TIP and the Chatham Area Transit Authority prepared the transit priorities. At the April 26 Policy

Committee meeting, it was decided that those projects with construction programmed in the FY2006-2008 TIP should be listed as top priority projects, and thus there are now three tiers of highway priorities. First priority projects are those that have significant regional impact. Ms. Wang explained that this was only a priority listing and does not deal with funding or specifics of any project at this time.

Ms. Wang included in her presentation the findings from staff research in response to concerns raised at the April Policy Committee meeting. The staff reviewed the existing projects and noted that 7 projects have been delayed due to production scheduling and/or funding availability. But 4 projects have been advanced due to funding availability. Ms. Wang also stated that Priority One projects in the 2030 LRTP were reviewed from a safety and security aspect with attention paid to hurricane evacuation routes as they relate to the project prioritizing. The transit priorities identified by CAT are consistent with the transit projects programmed in the proposed FY2007-2009 TIP.

After a brief discussion it was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2007-2009 TIP.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2007-2009 TIP carried with none opposed.

- E. Review of request to amend the MPO Bikeway Plan and the 2030 LRTP to include the Back River Bridge Bikeway

Ms. Love explained that when the MPO receives a request to amend the LRTP, the advisory committees' options are to endorse the request to the Policy Committee, leading to more detailed study, or to reject the request by not endorsing. The staff recommendation is for endorsement to allow further study.

Jo Hickson of Coastal Georgia Greenway asked ACAT to endorse the proposal to make the Back River Bridge accessible to bicycles when the existing bridge is replaced in the future. She explained how this will allow bicycle riders to cross the Savannah River between Georgia and South Carolina thus creating an important connection in the bikeway extending from Maine to Florida.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the request to amend the MPO Bikeway Plan and the 2030 LRTP to include the Back River Bridge Bikeway.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse further study of the request to amend the MPO Bikeway Plan and the 2030 LRTP to include the Back River Bridge Bikeway carried with none opposed.

- F. Review of request to amend the 2030 LRTP to include language in support of enhancement projects.

Ms. Love presented this request. She explained that the Transportation Enhancement program (TE) provides funding for a broad range of projects such as design and construction of bicycle, pedestrian or non-motorized facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors; acquisition, preservation and rehabilitation of historic sites and structures; and aesthetic improvements, such as landscaping and other scenic beautification efforts. GDOT administers this program. In order to be funded, projects that are submitted to and selected by GDOT must be included in our LRTP. GDOT has requested three LRTP amendments to include each of the TE projects in Chatham County that GDOT has selected for funding. As GDOT accommodates no input from the MPO in the TE selection process, MPO staff is recommending a simplification of the resulting amendment formality by adding a paragraph to the 2030 LRTP that would cover any enhancement projects that GDOT selected and approved. The proposed paragraph is as follows:

“The GDOT selection process for transportation enhancements is a centralized one whereby MPOs have no input into project applications or project selections. Applications for TE funding are made directly to GDOT, and final project selections are made by the Transportation Board. As such, this list of priority transportation enhancements should be considered illustrative. Additional transportation enhancement projects may be considered consistent with MPO Long

Range Transportation Plan if they meet current state and federal requirements for TE projects, and have been duly selected for funding by the Transportation Board.”

It was moved and second to endorse the request to amend the 2030 LRTP to include language in support of enhancement projects.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the request to amend the 2030 LRTP to include language in support of enhancement projects carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Connecting Savannah Follow Up Activities

Ms. Love reported that at the close of the proposal submission period, the City of Savannah had received four proposals for the East DeRenne Widening Project and two proposals for the West DeRenne/Hampstead Connector Corridor Project.

Mr. Felser asked if these proposals were available for review. Ms. Love said that she believes the selection committee members are the only people who have access to the documents right now.

B. Benton Blvd. Transportation Issues

Ms. Love reported that since April, three additional stakeholder meetings were held on May 25, June 5, and June 8 to discuss and explore options for accelerating the project of completing Benton Blvd to SR 30. Ms. Love reported that it was determined that while most developers were willing to reserve right-of-way for the proposed project, it is likely that some, if not all of this right-of-way will need to be acquired. It was also determined that there are several active development proposals along the corridor, and that none of the developments include the requirement to construct Benton Blvd.

C. Transportation Amenities Plan

Ms. Love reported that Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc. has been instructed to proceed with the Transportation Amenities Plan Phase 2, Design Guidelines. The consultant has discussed stakeholder identification with MPO staff and will hold stakeholder meetings in Savannah and Atlanta. A workshop will take place in mid-summer. The purpose of the guidelines is to specify how desired amenities should be incorporated into future road construction. The manual will recommend a variety of treatments, each specific to a certain type of road. ACAT will receive a draft of the Guidelines at a future meeting.

D. GDOT Chatham County Interstate Needs Study

Ms. Love stated that GDOT's project team will be presenting to the CUTS Technical Coordinating Committee and updating them periodically on the progress. The purpose of this project is to analyze the existing interstate transportation network for Chatham County and to develop a list of proposed improvements to this system. The study will consider congestion, the impact of development, truck and freight traffic, port access, and the impacts any proposed alternatives will have on the historic, community, and natural resources of Chatham County. At this time, the project team is collecting data and base year information.

E. GDOT Statewide Truck Lanes Needs Identification Study

Ms. Love explained that this is a study GDOT is conducting to determine where truck lanes are needed throughout Georgia. Due to the ports here in Savannah, Chatham County is a special focus area of the study.

IV. Agency Reports

Neither Laidlaw/Teleride nor CAT had representatives present at the ACAT meeting. Therefore, no reports were given.

Returned to Agenda Item II-B: Election of Officers

Ms. Love explained that MPO staff had mistakenly placed Elections on the June agenda, and that actually the elections should take place at the August meeting, according to the ACAT Bylaws. However, the Committee can instead discuss nominations today.

Mr. Leighton asked for a reading of the duties and responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair of ACAT. Ms. Love read from the ACAT Bylaws. It was recommended that a Nominating Committee be formed from members present to propose a slate of officers to be presented and voted on at the August meeting. Mr. Leighton, Ms. Love, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Habas volunteered for the Nominating Committee. Mr. Habas will chair the Nominating Committee. Staff will coordinate a meeting time and location. Mr. Leighton asked that all members of ACAT be notified that a Nominating Committee has been formed and that elections will be at the August meeting.

V. Other Business

A. List of Curb Cuts (Ramps)

Since the April meeting, Mr. Leighton has asked three different people for a list of necessary curb cuts to pass on to Mr. Felser for city action, but no one had such a list. Mr. Leighton proposed that a sub-committee of ACAT be formed to compile a list. Mr. Felser confirmed that if he knew the priority sites for curb cuts, he would push for city action on this issue. Mr. Leighton and Mr. Habas will work on the list and submit it to Mr. Felser.

B. Changes in representation

Ms. Martin, an alternate representative for Kicklighter Resource Center, agreed to be a contact, but she told the group that a new Executive Director begins work on Monday, June 26, 2006.

It was also mentioned that Alphonso Dandy serves as alternate to Mr. Simmons from the Savannah Association for the Blind. He should be contacted to participate in ACAT meetings.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

No members of the public presented themselves.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the June 21, 2006 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner