



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 16, 2006  
Georgia Infirmary

2:00 p.m.  
1900 Abercorn Street

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

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<b>Timmons, Clealice</b>	<b>Coastal Center for Development Services</b>	
<b>Brian Frank</b>	<b>Laidlaw/Teleride</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Staff Representative</b>	<b>Chatham County</b>	
<b><u>Member Alternates</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
<b>Karen Blackard</b>	<b>Kicklighter Resource Center</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Russell Jennette</b>	<b>Chatham Area Transit</b>	<b>x</b>
<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
<b>Dorothy Cohen</b>	<b>National Federation of the Blind</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>William Gardner</b>	<b>National Federation of the Blind</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kim Harrison</b>	<b>Savannah Council of the Blind</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Jean Iaderosa</b>	<b>Chatham Area Transit</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Tyrone Palmer</b>	<b>National Federation of the Blind</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Barbara Setzto</b>	<b>MPO</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Wykoda Wang</b>	<b>MPO</b>	<b>x</b>

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Tom Lamar called the August 16, 2006 ACAT Meeting to order. He asked for those present to introduce themselves.

### **I. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Oakley 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.

### **II. Report from the Nominating Subcommittee**

Mr. Bob Habas presented the following slate of officers: McAuthor Jarret for Chairman and Brian Leighton for Vice Chairman. There

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were no nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations.

**ACAT Action: The motion to close the nominations carried with none opposed.**

### III. Action Items

#### A. Election of Officers

There being no opposition, Chairman Tom Lamar declared the nominated slate of officers elected by acclamation. The incoming officers and outgoing officers were all acknowledged by applause from those in attendance.

#### B. Approval of June 21, 2006 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

**ACAT Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2006 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation carried with none opposed.**

#### C. Endorsement of Amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to include Study of the Savannah Northwest Truck Tollway

Ms. Jane Love presented the staff report. On August 2, 2006, GDOT requested that the FY 2007-2009 TIP be amended to include a study for the Savannah Northwest Truck Tollway. This study would be programmed for FY 2007 in the TIP, if the amendment is approved. The tollway under study would extend from SR 21 (near I-95) to I-16 at I-516. As a major amendment, public advertising and a public comment period are required. The public comment period is from August 6 through August 20, 2006. Ms. Love said that the public

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notice on the amendment appeared in the Savannah Morning News on August 6, 2006, and has been posted on the MPC web site. The requested amendment is consistent with the MPO's 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, and MPO staff recommends endorsement. Ms. Love said that endorsing the study does not mean that the construction of the project will occur. If the study recommends construction, then that project would come before the committee in the development of, or amendment to, future TIPs.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to include Study of the Savannah Northwest Truck Tollway.

**ACAT Action: The motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to include Study of the Savannah Northwest Truck Tollway carried with none opposed.**

#### **IV. Status Reports**

##### **A. SR 204/Abercorn Extension**

Ms. Love reported that the Technical Coordinating Committee will receive a report from the consultant on this study tomorrow (August 17, 2006) and the status of the concept development will be given to the Policy Committee next week (August 23, 2006). The project under study would address congestion alleviation in the western portion of SR 204, between the terminus of Truman Pkwy, Phase V and US 17. A design concept has yet to be developed.

##### **B. Context Sensitive Design Workshop**

Ms. Love reported that Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc. conducted a stakeholders' seminar and workshop at the MPC offices on July 27, 2006. As a step toward the development of a

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roadway design manual for our region, the workshop participants identified a number of contexts in the Savannah area and explored ways that design principles could be applied to specific local projects. The draft of the Design Guidelines is expected from the consultants in September. The committee will have an opportunity to review the draft. 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 the functional classification of the road and to the context of the immediate area.

## **V. Agency Reports**

### **A. Laidlaw/Teleride**

Mr. Brian Frank is the new project manager of Laidlaw/Teleride. He has been on the job for two months. He reported that Teleride has 14 vehicles plus three or four spares. Currently, 13 vehicles are on the road. After discussion with Mr. Frank certain issues appeared to be of major importance to the Committee. These include:

- improvement of communication between consumers and Teleride management
- establishment of a manned consumer Hot-line
- proper and timely mechanical maintenance of the equipment
- consistent and accurate information regarding scheduling and reservations.

Committee members praised the majority of the drivers and the basic operation of Teleride, but stressed the need for further consumer service improvement and better driver response to the consumers.

Mr. Frank extended an invitation to any one who would like to visit his facility and speak to him. It is Teleride's policy to require at least 24 hour notice for reservations. It is also company policy that drivers are

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not to use cell phones while driving. Mr. Frank said that he could have a complaint line in effect in thirty days. On the issue of mechanical maintenance, Mr. Frank stated that while there is currently one mechanic in Savannah, there is another coming next week to assist, and hiring another mechanic is being investigated. Committee members believe that keeping the vans in proper working order would eliminate a lot of the complaints.

## B. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Russell Jennette and Ms. Jean Iaderosa reported on behalf of CAT. Mr. Jennette handed out the latest ridership statistics. He also reported that the 10 new buses were now on the road, and that 50 new bus shelters were on order. CAT is compiling a list of locations for these shelters. The first ones will be placed where slabs have already been laid. When asked about the new buses, Mr. Jennette stated that the new buses replaced old buses, and that the new buses rotate among all the routes.

Ms. Iaderosa handed out literature and explained CAT's Travel Training Program. This is a one-on-one program that teaches an individual how to ride the bus and use the service. The trainer assesses the individual's schedule, accessibility needs, and destinations. A plan is customized for each individual. Following this needs assessment, the program typically consists of three sessions designed to gradually increase the trainee's independence in using the services. This program is open to the general population.

Ms. Iaderosa also reported that CAT is re-designing its web site to make it totally accessible and "Bobby" certified.

Mr. Jennette reported that CAT is providing the city with a list of all bus stops that do NOT have curb cuts. This came as a request from the city.

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Ms. Iaderosa will investigate Mr. Habas' question about whether equipment upgrades for Teleride must occur every time CAT upgrades equipment.

## **VI. Other Business**

Ms. Love asked for comments from those attending about the new meeting place. An alternative would be to meet at the MPC building. It was agreed that the Georgia Infirmary Conference Room was satisfactory, so long as signs continue to be posted directing them to the meeting room. It was moved and seconded to continue meeting at this location.

**ACAT Action: the motion to continue meeting at the Georgia Infirmary, 1900 Abercorn St, carried with none opposed.**

## **VII. Public Participation Opportunities**

There were no comments at this meeting from other citizens.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Love  
Transportation Planner