



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 18, 2007
Georgia Infirmary

2:00 p.m.
1900 Abercorn Street

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

Staff Representative Chatham County

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Kim Harrison	Savannah Council of the Blind	x
Jack Lewis	Interested Citizen	x
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind	x
Dan Shehan	Savannah-Chatham Council on Disability Issues	x

Call to Order

Chairman McArthur Jarrett called the April 18, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Brian Frank moved for approval of the agenda as presented. Ms. Jane Love seconded the motion. The motion carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. **Approval of April 18, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Minutes**

Ms. Love moved for approval of the April 18, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Minutes. Mr. Brian Frank seconded the motion.

ACAT Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation carried with none opposed.

Chairman Jarrett explained an adjustment to the agenda pattern in order to allow Mr. Frank, of Laidlaw Teleride, the opportunity to give his agency report and excuse him to attend another scheduled meeting.

Mr. Frank distributed a status report. He reviewed the reservations actual passengers, cancellations, and no shows for the months of February and March 2007. He stated that the RFP is not out yet for scheduling software. It may possibly be another six months before this software is available. The floor was opened for discussion.

Mr. Hakim questioned whether or not training would be made available for this new software. Mr. Frank replied that it was included in the time frame. Ms. Elders asked if 4:00pm was too late to schedule a ride for the next day. Mr. Frank stated it was not and if there was a different response from staff to notify him. Mr. Jarrett requested that Mr. Frank provide for the next meeting a copy of the complaint log from the recently installed complaint service line.

B. Endorsement of CUTS Participation Plan

Ms. Love gave a staff report on the Participation Plan. She addressed why the MPO is considering adoption of the Draft Participation Plan. She outlined the main revisions included in the Draft Participation Plan as follows: 1) expanding the MPO participation process to include additional agency consultation; 2) developing the participation plan in consultation with all interested parties; 3) incorporate other relevant SAFETEA-LU requirements and provisions; 4) update measures of Effectiveness (MOE) of MPO's participation process; 5) update the MPO's participation process in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process as well as the LRTP/TIP/STIP amendment process; 6) updated media, neighborhood and public review agency contact information; 7) expanded the glossary in the appendix; 8) completed administrative changes – updated MPO and committee meeting times and locations, updated committee member titles, etc; and 9) reorganized the document to facilitate language flow. She added that this draft has been advertised for public comment in the Savannah

Morning News on March 4, 2007 and staff will accept comments until April 24, 2007. The MPO will consider adoption of the plan on April 25, 2007. Staff is recommending that the ACAT Committee endorse the Draft Participation Plan.

It was moved and seconded to accept the motion to adopt the Participation Plan.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the Participation Plan carried with none opposed.

C. Requested actions related to proposed widening of Gulfstream Rd (Gruman Rd and William Wilson Dr) and Robert Miller Jr. Rd

Ms. Love briefly explained to the Committee the voting process outlined on the agenda on these items. She reported that GDOT had contacted staff in February 2007, requesting the widening of Gulfstream Road and Robert Miller Road be added to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). GDOT will provide additional funding for the project so that the LRTP will remain financially balanced. It has to be in the LRTP before it can be adopted into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A segment of Gulfstream Road will be widened from two lanes to five lanes. Robert Miller Road will be widened from two lanes to three lanes with auxiliary turn lanes. There is a bus route along these roads currently and there are two bus stops near the Gulfstream plant. Staff is recommending approval of the request to amend the 2030 LRTP.

- ACAT Discussion and Action on Amendment to the 2030 LRTP to include widenings

The committee discussed the need for sidewalks in the project, since there is transit in the area. The sidewalks would be especially important for any disabled employees at the plant. Chairman Jarrett said he would emphasize this point in his report to the Policy Committee

if the committee decided to endorse the widening. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the amendment to the 2030 LRTP to include the widenings of Gulfstream Road and Robert Miller Road with the recommendation that sidewalks be part of project.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the 2030 LRTP to include the widenings of Gulfstream Road and Robert Miller Road with the recommendation that sidewalks be included carried with none opposed.

- ACAT discussion and action on the Proposed Resolution for the Functional Reclassification of Gulfstream Rd and Robert Miller Rd

Ms. Love explained that this was a necessary step before the projects could be considered for the Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was made and seconded to endorse the Proposed Resolution for the Functional Reclassification of Gulfstream Rd and Robert Miller Rd with the recommendation that sidewalks are included in the project.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the Proposed Resolution for the Functional Reclassification of Gulfstream Rd and Robert Miller Rd carried with none opposed.

- ACAT discussion and action on the Proposed amendment to the FY 2007-2009 transportation improvement plan to include the widenings with the recommendation.

The motion was made and seconded to endorse the Proposed amendment to the FY 2007-2009 Transportation Improvement Program to include the widenings with the recommendation that sidewalks are part of the project.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the Proposed amendment to the FY 2007-2009 Transportation Improvement Program to include the widenings with the recommendation that sidewalks are part of the project carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of Amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP to shift phase for Diamond Causeway from FY 2007 to FY 2008

Ms. Love explained that the Diamond Causeway project is in the current FY 2007-2009 TIP. It has ROW acquisition scheduled for the FY 2007. GDOT will not be ready to acquire the ROW in 2007; therefore GDOT would like to shift this phase of the project to 2008. She stated that ordinarily a shift at this phase would be done as an administrative change. Staff believes this may be a controversial issue at Policy Committee so staff is considering this a major amendment instead of a minor amendment to allow more discussion. She added that staff is recommending endorsement of the amendment to shift the money for ROW acquisition from FY 2007 to FY 2008.

Ms. Jan Elders asked if sidewalks were planned for this project. Ms. Love said that she did not know but she would ask about it.

The motion was made and seconded that the ACAT Committee endorses the amendment to the TIP to shift the phase on the condition that every effort is made to include sidewalks in the project.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the TIP to shift the phase on the condition that every effort is made to include sidewalks in the project carried with none opposed.

E. Endorsement of FY 2008-2011 TIP Priority Establishment Policy and Priority Projects

Ms. Love gave a review of the preview of the priority policy for the next TIP development. She outlined policies in the current TIP. Staff

recommendation was to reinstate the prioritization policies and the projects in the development of the FY 2008-2011 TIP.

The motion was made and seconded for endorsement of FY 2008 - 2011 TIP Priority Establishment Policy and Priority Projects

ACAT Action: the motion for endorsement of FY 2008 -2011 TIP Priority Establishment Policy and Priority Projects carried with none opposed

III. Discussion Item: Status of Curb Cuts Construction

Mr. Dan Shehan, who is a member of the Polio Survivors Association, shared a map he had created to show accessible routes in the historic district. He also shared a map he had obtained from the City of Savannah Streets Maintenance Department. The City had done a comprehensive survey of curb ramps in the historic district in 2006. The findings were that 1384 locations have no ramps, 1376 locations have ramps that are not ADA-compliant, and 161 locations do have ADA-compliant ramps. Since the study, 14 new ADA-compliant ramps have been constructed in the historic district. Mr. Shehan added that Mr. Buddy Bishop, Dept. Head of Streets Maintenance, had said in January that the City had an ambitious plan to construct 462 curb ramps in 2007. The problem is that it is difficult to find contractors to do the work. Mr. Brian Leighton stated that the alleyways are often the problem locations. He also voiced his concerns regarding sign placement.

IV. Status Reports

A. SAFETEA-LU Interim Plan Updates

Ms. Love gave a brief summary on the Interim Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) revisions, which is necessitated by the Federal act called Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). She explained that

this update involves changes in the process for future LRTP updates. Some of the revisions include: 1) the expansion of the list of agencies to be consulted in the planning process; 2) expansion of public involvement plan into a public participation plan; 3) identification of potential conflict between projects in the plan and environmental assets (natural and cultural), as well as potential mitigation activities; and 4) inclusion of any key issues from the Governor's Strategic Highway Safety Plan that are relevant to the MPO. Once the interim update draft is complete, it will be provided for committee review. She added that a transportation glossary is provided on the website to aid in recognition of the terms and acronyms. She also stated she would add this glossary to the mailing packets.

B. Spur 404 /US 17 Back River Bridge Replacement

Ms. Love stated that one of the projects in the 2030 LRTP is the replacement of the Back River Bridge that goes from Hutchinson Island to South Carolina. GDOT plans to construct a two-lane replacement to the northwest of the current bridge. The old bridge will be removed to allow an acceleration lane off of the island. The new bridge will not include sidewalks but will have 10-foot bikeable shoulders. A possible future project would build a parallel 2-lane bridge in the old alignment, providing four-lane capacity that GDOT believes is needed as the island continues to be developed.

V. Agency Reports (verbal)

A. Laidlaw/Teleride

This report was given at the beginning of the meeting in order to allow Mr. Brian Frank to leave for another meeting (see page 3 above).

B. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Hakim provided pictures of the 5 new shelters that have been installed, out of the 25 that were purchased to install this year. Only 2

out of the 5 that have been installed have sidewalks. CAT does plan however to install ramps from the curbs leading to the shelters to allow wheelchair accessibility to and from the bus. The shelters have been installed at the following locations: 1) Abercorn at Dan Vaden; 2) Highway 21 @ Chatham City Apartments; 3) Hodgson Memorial Drive at Masters Inn; 4) MLK at 45th Street; and 5) Skidaway at 36th Street. Mr. Hakim will provide an update on the continued installations at the next meeting.

VI. Other Business

No other business was before the committee.

VII. Public Participation Opportunities

There were no public comments.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the April 18, 2007 ACAT meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner