



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 15, 2007  
The Georgia Infirmary

2:00 p.m.  
1900 Abercorn St.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
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	
William Gardner	National Federation of the Blind	x
Bob Habas	Living Independence for Everyone Inc. (LIFE)	x
Timamu Hakim	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
Zoe Hardenbrook	GDOT District 5	
Carol Hunt	NAACP-Savannah Branch	
Hunter Hurst	Georgia Infirmary Day Center For Rehabilitation	
McArthur Jarrett	Interested Citizen	x
Robert Kozlowski	Kicklighter Resource Center	
Tom Lamar	Interested Citizen	x
Brian Leighton	Savannah Council of the Blind	
Jane Love	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x
Patti Lyons	Senior Citizens Savannah -Chatham Inc.	
C. J. McCampbel	Laidlaw/Teleride	
Laurie Monroe	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Bill Oakley	Goodwill Industries	x
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>Member Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
<b>Teresa Brenner</b>	<b>Savannah Assn for the Blind</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kim Harrison</b>	<b>Savannah Council of the Blind</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Russell Jennette</b>	<b>Chatham Area Transit Authority</b>	<b>x</b>

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
<b>Tyrone Palmer</b>	<b>National Federation of the Blind</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Pete Liakakis</b>	<b>Chatham County Commission</b>	<b>x</b>

## **Call to Order**

Chairman McArthur Jarrett called the August 15, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation meeting to order.

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

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Jeff Felser 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. Action Items**

#### **A. Approval of the June 20, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the June 20, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Minutes.

**ACAT Action: the motion to approve the June 20, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Minutes carried with none opposed.**

**B. Requested Amendment to the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the following projects:**

- **Water Taxi**
- **Chatham Area Transit Job Access Reverse Commute**
- **Preliminary Engineering for Gulfstream Rd. widening**
- **Preliminary Engineering for Robert Miller Jr. Rd. widening**
- **Preliminary Engineering for widening I-516 from Veterans Pkwy. to I-16**
- **McQueen's Island Trail – Phase 2**
- **Slip 3/Parcel 7 Riverwalk Extension**
- **Savannah MPO Transportation Study – Sector One**

Ms. Jane Love explained that several of these projects were not authorized for funding in 2007 as expected. They are moving them to FY 2008 so that the money can be spent in that year. She listed the projects included in this amendment as mentioned above. These did not receive authorization because they had been denied by FHWA for various reasons. The Chatham Area Transit Job Access Reverse Commute project requires a coordinated human services transportation plan be adopted. This is in progress. The preliminary engineering for the Gulfstream Rd. and Robert Miller Jr. Rd. widening was not authorized in 2007 by FHWA for unknown reasons.

The county has requested two projects, McQueen's Island Trail and the Slip3/Parcel 7 Riverwalk Extension, be added to the local section of the TIP because they intend to pursue federal funding for these projects. The McQueen's Island Trail – Phase 2 is a bike/pedestrian trail that extends from Ft. Pulaski to Lazaretto Creek. The Slip 3/Parcel 7 Riverwalk Extension project is on Hutchinson Island where they wish to build a riverwalk near the convention center.

Chairman Jarrett commented that of all the items listed in this amendment, the items of particular interest to ACAT are the Gulfstream Rd. and Robert Miller Jr. Rd. widening projects. Have the suggestions offered by the ACAT at the last meeting been included?

Ms. Love explained that preliminary engineering (PE) for these projects had been amended to the FY 2007 TIP because GDOT expected to receive authorization in FY 2007, but did not. This amendment today simply rolls this funding to FY 2008.

It was asked if the ACAT's request about sidewalks to these widening projects will also roll to FY 2008 with the funding.

Ms. Love reviewed the MPO history on this project for clarification. At the April ACAT meeting PE for these two projects was put forth as an amendment to the FY 2007-2009 TIP because GDOT thought that it would access the funds in that fiscal year. It was endorsed by all committees, with the recommendation that sidewalks be included. In June a new TIP for FY 2008-2011 was put forward, which included later phases of the projects, but not PE. The funds set aside for preliminary engineering in the FY 2007-2010 TIP did not get authorized by FHWA in FY 2007 as expected, therefore, today, we are proposing this amendment to roll that funding for PE into FY 2008-2011 TIP so that GDOT can access the money for preliminary engineering in FY 2008 instead. GDOT assures us that the issue of sidewalks & curb cuts will be addressed in the concept design.

Mr. Felser suggested that this committee insert their request for sidewalks and curb cuts again, to be on the safe side.

Ms. Elders asked if any improvements have been made to the existing McQueen's Island Trail Phase 1 that would make it accessible to anyone with disabilities, and would such provisions be part of Phase 2. Is this a good time to insert such a request? Ms. Love explained that this concern needed to be communicated to Chatham County, the entity managing the project currently. Mr.

Oakley mentioned that the current condition of portions of the existing Phase I trail, particularly of the boardwalk near the west end, would make it very difficult for the disabled to access and enjoy the trail. Ms. Love suggested including a recommendation to the Policy Committee, but she also reminded them that the Policy Committee is not responsible for the trail, but they could recommend the County address this.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 TIP with the stipulation that the Gulfstream Rd. project include curb cuts and sidewalks, and with the recommendation that the McQueen's Island Trail Phase 2, as the existing portion of the Trail, be made accessible for the disabled as well.

**ACAT action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 TIP with the stipulation that the Gulfstream Rd. project include curb cuts and sidewalks and with the recommendation that the McQueen's Island Trail Phase 2, as well as the existing portion of the Trail, be made accessible for the disabled carried with none opposed.**

Chairman Jarrett asked if ACAT needed to put any of this in writing. Ms. Love noted that this issue will be incorporated into these meeting minutes, and if Mr. Jarrett mentions it at the Policy Committee meeting it will be included in those minutes, as well.

### **C. Endorsement of Recommended Transportation Enhancement Priorities**

Ms. Love reported that transportation enhancement projects are community-based projects designed to expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience. GDOT allocates this funding and had requested applications from organizations and agencies this past spring. Chatham County is in two congressional districts; each district is allocated approximately \$4 million. Staff did a study and is now reporting on the funding distribution as it relates to our county

population. In the last round of awards, the Chatham County area did significantly better in receiving our fair share, but the three periods before that show that our share of funds was disproportionately low. Staff recommends that the MPO communicate with the State Transportation Board Representatives in order to encourage full funding of the area's requested transportation enhancement projects.

Ms. Love reviewed the five projects submitted:

- Chatham County Sidewalk/bikeway project
- Historic Butler Ave. Pedestrian Safety Project
- AASU Perimeter Bike/Ped Path, Phase 2
- Montgomery St. and connecting Streetscape Improvements
- Broughton St. Streetscape Improvements

The first three projects are in District 1 and compete with each other for funding. The other two are in District 12 and also compete for the District 12 portion of funds.

Chairman Jarrett asked for a description of the street improvement projects. Ms. Love believes the improvements may include such amenities as bike racks, benches, landscaping, and lighting.

Ms. Teresa Brenner expressed a complaint about the recurring phrase "bike/ped," or the grouping of bicycles and pedestrians. Ms. Love understands that pedestrians' and cyclists' needs often conflict with each other. They tend to be grouped together because they are both non-motorized transportation. Mr. Habas requested that the placement of bike racks be in such a way as to not impede pedestrian traffic. There was further discussion on challenges presented to disabled pedestrians by bicycles, whether moving or parked, and concerns by cyclists about the engineering and construction of multi-use paths. (Sharp curves are fine for walkers, but not for cyclists). Ms. Love encouraged members to communicate their concerns about bike racks or other amenities in the City's streetscape projects to Bob Scanlon, with the City of Savannah.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the recommended transportation enhancement priorities.

**ACAT action: the motion to endorse the recommended transportation enhancement priorities carried with none opposed.**

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **A. SAFETEA-LU Compliance Update**

Ms. Love reported that staff is in the process of meeting all the requirements. She reported on what requirements were completed and what tasks are yet to be completed. The previous Public Involvement Plan was revised and adopted by the MPO in April as the Participation Plan. Also, revisions to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) were adopted as an addendum in June 2007. Also in June 2007, the 2004 Congestion Management System was approved and re-certified as the Congestion Management Process, since the original study from 2004 was compliant with the new requirements.

The two tasks that remain are development of a Coordinated Public Transit Human Resources Transportation Plan and an update of the Financial Plan of the 2030 LRTP. MPO staff, CAT staff and the MPO's consultants from Reynolds, Smith & Hill are working on the first project which is scheduled for adoption in October 2007. The second project requires staff and consultants to review and revise estimated project costs in the 2030 LRTP. This update must be completed in December 2007.

Chairman Jarrett asked if CAT was to provide a preliminary report concerning the Coordinated Public Transit Human Resources Transportation Plan. Ms. Love ascertained that Chairman Jarrett was referring to CAT's Transportation Development Plan which is CAT's

plan for the future. MPO staff has requested a draft for review by the MPO committees. To date, that report is not ready.

#### **IV. Agency Reports**

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

No one from Laidlaw/Teleride was at the meeting. Ms. Love confirmed that the information packet and e-mail notice for the meeting materials was sent to Laidlaw as usual. Chairman Jarrett had requested in advance that a report from Teleride be presented at today's meeting. Chairman Jarrett believes we need to redirect a request for a comprehensive report. Although Mr. McCampbel has replaced Mr. Frank at Laidlaw, the packet went to Laidlaw and the e-mail did not bounce back, according to Ms. Love.

It is important to Chairman Jarrett that he and the other members have satisfactory information to share with the consumers of Teleride. He asked what was happening with the purchase of software that was to enhance scheduling. Chairman Jarrett would like a letter sent to Laidlaw/Teleride asking for their support of this committee. Mr. Liakakis assured the committee that he will call Laidlaw/Teleride and request that a representative attend each meeting. Mr. Oakley informed the committee that, as a CAT board member, he had had informal discussions with Mr. McCampbel and felt that he was attending to matters properly, and that perhaps he did not yet realize the importance of his attendance at the ACAT meeting. Chairman Jarrett looks forward to full participation with Teleride. Ms. Love said she would like to confirm Mr. McCampbel's contact information in the MPO database before the Chairman addresses his absence.

Ms. Elders said that the consumer complaint line is active, but how it is functioning, and who is covering it is unknown at this time. The committee needs a status report on the consumer hotline. Chairman Jarrett expressed great concern about how payment for a "no show" is handled. He believes it to be improper not to give a



receipt to someone who pays cash. He has been told that Teleride cannot accept checks or money orders, but Chairman Jarrett does not want to hand someone his cash with no proof of payment.

Mr. Lamar thought the scheduling software was close to operation. Chairman Jarrett believes it has not been installed, and possibly not even purchased.

Mr. Lamar asked why Teleride can't give a courtesy call to the consumer when Teleride is running late.

Mr. Russell Jennette, a representative from Chatham Area Transit, volunteered to take these notes back to Teleride.

Mr. Oakley mentioned that Teleride has discussed the introduction of cameras into the vehicles. This should put the issue of drivers' cell phone usage to rest. These cameras would be in the front and rear of the vehicle.

Mr. Oakley and Mr. Liakakis spoke about issuing a confirmation number or ID # to identify a reservation. This should be instituted at Teleride.

## **B. Chatham Area Transit**

Mr. Jennette reported on the progress of bus shelter installation. Of the 25 that are planned, 13 installations have been completed. He explained that some locations had to be shifted due to GDOT plans for pending turn lanes. He continues to seek county approval for some installations and city approval for others, depending on location.

Mr. Felser is still requesting shelters along Broughton, particularly at Bull & Broughton. These are highly used stops. Mr. Liakakis offered as an explanation that when the Transit Center is ready, riders won't be standing around on Broughton St. waiting to transfer. There may

still be a bus stop there, but people would use the Transit Center to transfer and not have to transfer at Bull St. Mr. Felser is concerned that this Transit Center will take too much time to build. He would still like to see a shelter on Broughton St. regardless of construction of a Transit Center.

Chairman Jarrett asked Mr. Jennette if a temporary measure could be instituted at this corner until this Transit Center construction is completed. Mr. Jennette noted that the present shelters that CAT has must be installed on a concrete slab. Mr. Jennette noted the concern and will take it back to CAT for investigation.

Ms. Kim Harrison asked how new locations for the two shelters that were shifted would be determined, if these were not going on Abercorn at Tibet and Largo, due to turn lanes. Mr. Jennette replied that ridership was the main criteria for selecting shelter location. CAT does a survey. Sometimes customer recommendations are included in the selection process. Ms. Harrison said that when she notified CAT about the dangerous bolts protruding from the bench at Abercorn St. and Montgomery Crossroads, the bench was removed completely, but now there is nothing at this bus stop. She asked who to contact and was referred to the CAT operations department to request a bench and a trash can.

Mr. Liakakis reported that the federal funds that are allocated by the state have been reduced significantly; thus benches and shelters cannot be provided at every stop. Mr. Jennette reported that 25 or more consumers at a given stop are necessary to warrant a shelter.

### **C. Other**

Ms. Love informed the committee that, regarding the progress on the CAT Transfer Center, mentioned earlier, MPO staff was aware that environmental studies were in progress for two potential sites: Louisville Rd., west of Boundary St. and W. Oglethorpe Ave. at the old Greyhound Bus depot. Mr. Oakley confirmed that Greyhound has

been engaged in conversation but he is not sure of where it stands at the moment.

## **V. Other Business**

Earlier in the meeting, Ms. Elders was asked to hold her question about the impact of new management on Chatham Area Transit. At this time Mr. Oakley offered some information. He reported that, as of now, the contract has been terminated with First Transit, but it is yet to be determined who or how the transit agency will be operated. There are a number of possibilities. Mr. Palmer is still here for a 60-day period as oversight transitions to an interim director. He is the only employee of First Transit connected with CAT. All other CAT workers are employees of the county, and their positions are not affected by this contract termination.

## **VI. Public Participation Opportunities**

There were no comments from members of the public.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the August 16, 2007 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner