



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, December 12, 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	
Rober Kozlowski	Kicklighter Resource Center	
Tom Lamar	Interested Citizen	
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	x
Laurie Monroe	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Bill Oakley	Goodwill Industries	x
Greg Schroeder	United Way of the Coastal Empire	

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<b>Walt Simmons</b>	<b>Savannah Assn for the Blind</b>
<b>Clealice Timmons</b>	<b>Coastal Center for Development Services</b>
<b>Staff Representative</b>	<b>Chatham County</b>

<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
<b>Barbara Setzto</b>	<b>for the MPO</b>	<b>x</b>

## **Call to Order**

Acting as Chairman in the absence of Chairman McArthur Jarrett, Mr. Bill Oakley called the December 12, 2007 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation meeting to order.

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

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion to approve the agenda carried with none opposed.

### **II. Action Items**

#### **A. Approval of the Minutes of the August 15, 2007 and the October 17, 2007, Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Meetings.**

Ms. Jane Love explained to those present that both sets of minutes needed to be approved at this meeting because the October meeting did not have a quorum so no votes were taken on any action item. She further noted that the August minutes had been sent out in October and that the October minutes were sent out this month and attached to the preliminary agenda. Ms. Love said she also had copies of the August minutes on hand today if anyone needed review.

At the request of Mr. William Gardner, Mr. Oakley read the October minutes, highlighting the significant points in the minutes.

It was moved and seconded to approve the August 15, 2007 and the October 17, 2007 Advisory Committee of Accessible Transportation Minutes.

**ACAT Action: the motion to approve the August 15, 2007 and the October 17, 2007 Advisory Committee of Accessible Transportation Minutes carried with none opposed.**

### **B. Endorsement of the CUTS/MPO 2008 Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Love noted that the proposed 2008 meeting schedule was sent out with the advance materials and was also attached to the final agenda handed out today. She read the proposed dates for ACAT meetings in 2008. They are as follows: February 20, April 16, June 18, August 20, October 15 and December 10. With the exception of December 10<sup>th</sup>, all meetings are on the third Wednesday. The December meeting is on the second Wednesday due to the holidays.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the CUTS/MPO 2008 Meeting Schedule.

**ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the CUTS/MPO 2008 Meeting Schedule carried with none opposed.**

## **III. Status Reports**

### **A. Financial Plan Update of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Ms. Love reported that the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires that the MPO update the financial plan in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) so that the cost estimates of projects better reflect the expected cost in the projected year of the expenditure. She reported that consultants are now working with the

MPO staff to update actual amounts spent on projects authorized since Plan adoption and estimates for projects remaining. There is a chance that the increase in cost estimates will result in a need to drop some projects from the Plan, in order to keep the Plan financially balanced. There will be public participation opportunities for any decisions regarding the projects included the Plan. The CUTS/MPO Committees will consider the Financial Plan Update for endorsement and adoption at the February 2008 meetings. No committee action is required at this time.

In response to a question by Mr. Oakley for clarification, Ms. Love confirmed that the LRTP looks out 25 years while the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) looks out 4 years, but is updated annually.

### **B. Skidaway Narrows Bridge Replacement Concept Meeting**

Ms. Love reported that GDOT held a concept meeting on this project in November 2007. She explained the scope of this project as a two-lane, high-level bridge which will replace the existing bridge. In the future, the original Diamond Causeway project will add an additional, parallel two-lane bridge to provide 4-lane capacity. This future project will occur in conjunction with the widening of Whitfield Avenue to four lanes. Removal of the existing bridge is not planned for the current bridge replacement project, and thus is not part of the \$17.5 million cost estimate.

The main issue at the concept meeting was concerning the alignment of the new bridge. GDOT proposes to build it to the north of the existing bridge. Building to the north requires no additional right-of-way nor does it conflict with the wetlands or the boat ramp to the south. The problem with the north side is the close proximity of the existing power transmission line. Given that a southern alignment would have even greater impacts, the consensus at the concept was that Georgia Power will assess the costs for moving the power lines.

## **C. Safe Routes to School**

Ms. Love presented this report as a point of information. This relatively new source of federal funds was mentioned at the October Policy Committee Meeting. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) concept is not new, but federal funding for these programs in all states is new under SAFETEA-LU, authorized by Congress in 2005. In Georgia, the program is administered by GDOT. Schools, school districts, local governments, and other organizations will be able to request funds for projects. No local matching funds are required.

Ms. Love explained that GDOT will encourage interested groups to enroll in the state's SRTS Resource Center for assistance on the non-infrastructure aspects, such as safety education, enforcement, and encouragement activities. In spring or summer, GDOT will call for applications throughout the state on infrastructure projects, such as new or improved sidewalks, bikeways, crosswalks, and traffic calming designs. At this time, Ms. Love did not know if the Board of Education would coordinate our area's application for funding or if the individual schools would submit projects.

## **IV. Agency Reports**

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

Mr. C.J. McCampbel handed out a packet of materials. He shared statistics for October and November and provided three examples of typical customer complaints and how he and his staff handled them. Statistical reporting categories include: reservations, actual rides, on-time trips, late trips, ride checks, cancellations, no shows, missed trips, subscription turn down, turn downs, mileage, small muni, trips involving wheelchairs, complaints, and subscriptions.

Mr. McCampbel reported that he facilitated a retreat on November 7, 2007 for County Commissioners. Though attendance was small, he

felt it was beneficial. In addition to himself and his staff, the meeting was attended by Mr. Oakley, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Liakakis and Mr. Odell. This meeting gave Mr. McCampbel an opportunity to explain the Teleride system, the coverage area of the system, and the requirements that Teleride must meet in order to ensure funding. It was suggested at this retreat that Teleride produce an informational video about the Teleride service, to show the value of the service, especially in outlying areas that are not part of the Chatham Area Transit (CAT) service district.

Mr. McCampbel also said that CAT Interim Executive Director Joe Murray Rivers has established a Teleride Committee. This is not a decision-making committee. It affords an opportunity for Mr. McCampbel to share ideas with a group. The committee includes some of the County Commissioners, who can gain a deeper understanding of the service, and help Mr. McCampbel communicate issues with the entire Commission.

Mr. McCampbel offered an update on the scheduling software. Implementation will probably occur in early March. The proposals for installation are now all in and review will begin. He confirmed that the current staff will operate the new software. He described to the committee how the software will work and noted that it will include a history of each customer's reservations, destinations, cancellations, etc.

The visual security system is still installed on one vehicle on a trial basis, but the RFP has been delayed due to ideas that were raised at the Teleride retreat. The infrastructure requirements for a real-time video monitoring system are now being investigated. This would be a very sophisticated level of security and not all of the required infrastructure is something that Laidlaw/Teleride can single-handedly obtain or control.

Mr. Gardner, referring to a the October meeting minutes, asked if fares were going to increase. Mr. Oakley, being a member of the

CAT Board, explained that there has been more discussion on the type of service than on fare increases.

Mr. McCampbel reviewed with the committee some concrete examples of customer issues. In his review he included the steps he takes to identify the problem correctly and then how he proceeds to solve it with the customer. Often the issues revolve around a perception of rudeness and/or a misunderstanding of the scope of service Teleride is designed to provide.

Mr. McCampbel reported that Teleride had a public meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The main point of discussion was the customers' perception of the staffs' attitude when dealing with customers. Mr. McCampbel is considering installing a telephone recording system which would allow him to review the actual calls and identify real issues and address them properly. Customers calling in would be alerted that the conversation is recorded. He is hoping that the new scheduling software and other system changes will allow staff to notify customers of a turned-down trip four or five days ahead.

## **B. Chatham Area Transit**

There was no report at this time. As there was no report at the October meeting either, Mr. Oakley asked Ms. Love to notify him if CAT staff does not confirm attendance next time, and he will try to encourage someone to attend, or at least provide a report.

## **V. Other Business**

Mr. Oakley reported that there has been some discussion between Tybee Island officials and CAT regarding bus service to Tybee Island. There are legal issues to be investigated. Also, CAT does not presently have the resources necessary to meet the need if service was to be established to Tybee Island. Mr. Rivers is concerned about the financial demands of current fleet maintenance.

Ms. Jan Elders asked who would be the appropriate person to talk to about this issue, and Mr. Oakley referred her to Tybee Island Mayor Jason Buelterman and County Commissioner Patrick Farrell.

Mr. Felser reported that the Savannah Mayor and City Council passed a resolution to work with the city engineers to reinforce the concrete at the bus stop location at Bull St. & Broughton St. and to work with CAT to establish a shelter at this location in the year 2008. Mr. Felser will see that Mr. Liakakis, Mr. Rivers and Mr. Jarrett all get a copy of this resolution.

Ms. Love reminded the group that a Transportation Enhancement application was submitted for Broughton Streetscape improvement. She does not recall if bus shelters were specified in the project description, but it did include pedestrian and bicycle amenities. Bob Scanlon, with the City, was the contact listed on the application. She will ask GDOT about the status of the Transportation Enhancement funding decisions and share the information with Mr. Felser.

## **VI. Public Participation**

There was no public participation at this time.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the December 12, 2007 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be February 20, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner