



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 16, 2008
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	
Jeff Felser	City of Savannah	
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
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	

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>
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind	x
Barbara Setzto	for the MPO	x

Call to Order

Chairman McArthur Jarrett called the April 16, 2008 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation meeting to order followed by self-introductions of those in attendance.

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Jane Love read the agenda. Since a quorum was never achieved no votes were taken on the action items. Discussion only followed on agenda items.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the February 20, 2008 Advisory Committee of Accessible Transportation Minutes.

Ms. Love read the minutes from the February 20, 2008 meeting at Mr. Jarrett's request. Mr. Jarrett asked that the portion of the minutes on page 9 referring to Teleride service surpassing ADA requirements be amended to state that the Teleride service surpasses ADA *geographic* requirements.

B. Endorsement of the CUTS/MPO “Year of Expenditure” Update for the Financial Plan of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ms. Love reported that this update is required by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Cost estimates of projects needed to be updated to reflect the expected cost of the project in the anticipated Year of Expenditure (YOE). Revenue estimates also have been updated. Working with MPO staff, consultants from Reynolds, Smith, and Hills reviewed the projects in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and assigned each to one of four time bands – 2004-2007, 2008-2013, 2014-2020 and 2021-2030. They applied an inflation rate of 2.5% for each year to the cost and to the revenue. Staff had recommended other funding strategies, but GDOT and FHWA had some objections. Staff removed some of the tolling but kept tolling in for three projects – a portion of SR 204 (Rio Rd to Truman Pkwy Phase V), the Northwest Parkway and Effingham Parkway. To make the plan financially balanced some projects had to be removed from the funded portion of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and were moved to the Vision Plan. Ms. Love reviewed the projects moved to the Vision Plan. They are as follows:

- I-16/I-95 Interchange (new)
- I-516/I-16 Interchange (new)
- I-16 Widening from I-95 to I-516
- SR-21 Widening from Northwest Parkway to SR 30
- SR 307/Dean Forest Rd Interchange (new) at Veterans Pkwy
- LaRoche Ave. (operational from Skidaway Rd to So. City Limits)
- Delesseps Ave. (operational from Waters Ave to Skidaway Rd.)
- SR307/Dean Forest Rd (new roadway from US 17 to Garard St)
- Quacco Rd Widening from Pooler Pkwy to I-95
- Quacco Rd/Little Neck Rd Interchange (new) at I-95
- I-516 Widening from Veterans Pkwy to Mildred St.
- DeRenne Ave (operational from Mildred St. to Abercorn St.)

- SR 26/US 80 (operations at Johnny Mercer Blvd)
- Mildred St/Hampstead Ave Widening from I-516 to Abercorn St.
- Abercorn Interchange reconstruction at I-95

Ms. Love noted that the first three projects on this list are still funded for preliminary engineering (PE), but the construction funding was moved to the Vision Plan.

Ms. Loved explained that if the Policy Committee approves the Year of Expenditure Update next week then they can move on to approving the requested amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

C. Requested Amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to shift the Skidaway Bridge Replacement Project from FY 2008 to FY 2009

Ms. Love reported that another amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been requested by GDOT. This is in addition to the two amendments this committee endorsed at the last meeting. At the last meeting the committee endorsed the amendment to shift the right-of-way phases for the Grange Road widening project between SR 21 and SR25 and for the SR204 widening project between King George Blvd and Rio Road from FY 2008 to FY 2009. The new amendment today is a request to shift the construction phase of the Skidaway Narrows Bridge Replacement from FY 2008 to FY 2009. The reason for the shift to FY 2009 is that this design-build project was placed on hold while two bills in front of the legislature were reviewed. Both of these bills were pending and could have changed the way the GDOT awards design-build contracts.

Ms. Love reminded this committee that these amendments can not be made until the Year of Expenditure Update is approved by the Policy Committee.

III. Discussion Item: Update of the Teleride Handbook

Mr. Jarrett would like to appoint a subcommittee to update the Teleride Handbook. He would like to ask Mr. Dawson, Mr. Oakley, a representative from CAT, and Mr. McCampbel to join him on this subcommittee. Mr. Oakley accepted. Mr. Jarrett will speak to Mr. Dawson.

Mr. Jarrett requested a copy of the ACAT bylaws. He wants to be sure that the committee is addressing the issues they are supposed to be addressing.

Mr. Oakley will personally ask a CAT representative to attend the June ACAT meeting.

Ms. Love reported that Patricia Heagarty, a former active ACAT member, is interested in returning to ACAT. There are currently seats available for Interested Citizen representatives.

IV. Status Reports

A. Schedule for adoption of the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Love identified the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as a detailed listing of the yearly activities to be undertaken by the MPO staff. The MPO staff plans to present a draft of the FY 2009 UPWP for adoption in June.

B. Initiation of development of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Love reported that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) must be updated every five years. Development of the plan involves setting goals and strategies for the various projects to be included in the updated plan. The current 2030 LRTP adopted in September 2004 can remain in effect until September 2009. With support from consultant Reynolds, Smith and Hills, MPO staff expects to begin 2035 LRTP development activities after mid-May, pending execution of the funding contracts with the Department of Transportation. The 2035 LRTP is expected to be completed for adoption by September 2009. Extensive public involvement is expected during the development and preparation of this 2035 LRTP.

Mr. Jarrett reported to the committee about a group that had met with Department of Transportation Commissioner Gena Abraham. He noted that she expressed an interest in increasing understanding of para-transit.

V. Agency Reports

A. Laidlaw/Teleride

Mr. C.J. McCampbel said he wanted to clarify a statement that was read in the minutes of the last meeting; the new scheduling software will allow Teleride to confirm one's booking (not reservation) immediately, but the customer still needs to call back to get a pick-up time.

Mr. McCampbel reported that the new scheduling software is currently being installed. Phase 2 of the installation is coming up and will include training for staff using the system. He expects the system to be operational by the end of May, or sooner.

On April 11, 2008 the voice recorder system was installed on the two main telephone lines in the Teleride office. He noted that at a County Commissioners meeting it was suggested that he download the recordings onto disks and keep it for a two year period.

Mr. McCampbel also reminded the committee that one of the Teleride vans is still equipped with the audio/visual camera system as a test model.

Recently, Mr. McCampbel decided that it was no favor to the clients to give them a stand-by reservation, as this sometimes results in telling the client the night before that they cannot actually be accommodated. Therefore, Teleride staff now informs clients when the requested day is full so that the client can go ahead and make other arrangements while they still have time.

Mr. McCampbel pointed out to the committee that there is one particular policy in the current Teleride Handbook that contributes to service inefficiency. He would like to alter the policy so that it does not detract from the efficiencies to be gained with the upcoming new scheduling software. He read the policy that is currently in the handbook:

“How early should I be ready for my pick-up?”

When confirmation with Teleride has taken place regarding a pick up time, the passenger should make every attempt to be in place 15 minutes prior to the scheduled trip time. Teleride will be considered on time as long as a van arrives no earlier than 15 minutes before the scheduled time or later than 15 minutes past the scheduled trip time. Teleride will wait for a passenger for at least 5 minutes past the scheduled trip time.”

Then Mr. McCampbel read his proposed new policy on this same topic:

“How early should I be ready for my pick-up?
When confirmation with Teleride has taken place giving you a pick-up time, you should be ready at that time and in place ready to exit. Teleride will be arriving at your scheduled pick-up time to 30 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time. You will be given a five minute grace period which begins when Teleride arrives anytime between your scheduled pick-up time to 30 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time. The goal of Teleride is to have one arrive at their appointment 0-30 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment.”

He asked the committee to consider this change carefully. The present policy hinders the system. Unless it is changed he will not be able to truly evaluate the impact of the new software.

Mr. Jarrett asked that the revision subcommittee be established quickly and begin their work.

Mr. McCampbel will hold his other suggestions for revision to the handbook for the subcommittee.

Mr. McCampbel addressed the issue of reservation time. Currently reservations may be made up to 14 days out. His staff is recommending changing that to 10 days out. Hopefully, this change will also reduce the number of cancellations.

Mr. Jarrett is concerned about how to reach the larger community of riders of Teleride to inform them of changes and reasons for changes. He doesn't believe Teleride should wait until a customer calls to tell them that there is a change in the procedure. Mr. Jarrett will do all he can to inform as many people as possible about the scheduling process changes.

Mr. McCampbel stressed the importance of looking ahead and planning for increased use before the system is at capacity.

B. Chatham Area Transit

There was no report at this time.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

VII. Public Participation Opportunities

There was no public participation at this time.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the April 16, 2008 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be June 18, 2008 at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner