



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2009
The Georgia Infirmary**

**2:00 p.m.
1900 Abercorn St.**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	Chatham County	x
Teresa Brenner	Savannah Council of the Blind	x
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	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	
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	
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Terri White	Savannah Assn for the Blind	x
<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Jean Iaderosa	Chatham Area Transit	x
<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 22, 2009 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation meeting to order followed by self-introductions by those in attendance.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as presented.

ACAT Action: the motion to accept the agenda as presented carried with none opposed.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of the February 18, 2009 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Barbara Setzto read the minutes from the February 18, 2009 meeting at Mr. Jarrett's request. It was moved and seconded to approve the February 18th minutes of the Advisory Committee on

Accessible Transportation Meeting Minutes with the following corrections:

- On page 4 correct the spelling of CAT Interim Director's last name to read Rivers.
- On page 8 state the full name of the national legislation as American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- On page 12 correct the name of Mr. Tyrone Palmer.

ACAT Action: the motion to approve the February 18, 2009 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Meeting Minutes as corrected carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of motion to change the schedule of ACAT regular meetings

Ms. Jane Love reported that the proposed meeting date change to the third Monday, as suggested at the April meeting, presented some difficulties. If the committee wishes to continue to meet at the GA Infirmary the meeting time would need to change to 3:00 PM. The third Monday also shortened the necessary preparation time for staff. Ms. Love suggested meeting on the fourth Monday at the MPC hearing room at 1:00 PM. The Savannah- Chatham Council on Disability Issues meets at the MPC at 3:00 PM on the fourth Monday. Since some of the ACAT members attend that meeting as well, it may be beneficial to have the ACAT meeting at 1:00 PM on the fourth Monday. ACAT members who aren't present will be notified, through multiple means, of the results of today's action on a new date, time, and place. The months for the meetings will not change.

It was moved and seconded to move the regularly scheduled bi-monthly ACAT meetings to the Monday before the fourth Wednesday (generally the fourth Monday) at 1:00 PM at the MPC hearing room beginning in June.

ACAT Action: the motion to move the regularly scheduled bi-monthly ACAT meeting to the Monday before the fourth

Wednesday (generally the fourth Monday) at 1:00 PM at the MPC hearing room beginning in June carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement of the Amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009

Ms. Love reported that at the February meeting an amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was endorsed to incorporate the many possible projects considered for stimulus (ARRA) funding. At that time the amount of the MPO's attributable funding was undetermined. Now that the amount is known, the TIP needs to be amended to remove projects that don't have funding.

Ms. Love referenced a table of projects, with one column listing projects that are at the discretion of the local MPO and another column listing of projects that are at the discretion of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Staff is recommending stimulus funding from the MPO portion for the following projects:

- Islands Expressway @ Wilmington River/Bascule Bridge Replacement
- Study for Bull River & Lazaretto Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections
- City of Savannah Pedestrian Countdown Signals
- City of Savannah Audible Pedestrian Push Buttons
- City of Savannah LED Signal Replacement
- 37th Street Corridor Signal Upgrades
- Eisenhower Ave. Signal Interconnect
- City of Savannah Downtown Signal Upgrade
- Mall Blvd. @ Hodgson Memorial Dr. Signal Upgrade
- Montgomery Cross Rd. Signal Interconnect
- Left Turn Lane at Oglethorpe Avenue
- City of Savannah Traffic Pre-emption
- SR 21 Corridor Study

- SR 204 Corridor Study
- Truman Linear Park multi-use path

These projects add up to approximately \$7.2 million.

The staff recommendation being made to GDOT for their Phase 2 allocation includes the following projects:

- SR 307 Overpass over new Port Authority rail line
- SR 25/US 17 @ SR 307/Bourne Ave. – right of way
- SR 25/US 17 @ SR 307/Bourne Ave. - construction
- Edge Line rumble strips at several locations in District 5
- Anderson St. curve reconstruction
- West Gwinnett St. Curve reconstruction
- Truman Parkway Phase V construction
- I-95 resurface & maintenance from SR 25/US 17 to I-16
- President St. Widening/CSX Railroad overpass construction
- Streetscape improvements to MLK Jr. Blvd. - construction

Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) will receive a direct apportionment of \$4.4 million. Projects to be funded with these funds are:

- Hybrid buses
- Capital maintenance
- Security equipment
- Programs support

The last column of the table shows the projects proposed to be candidates in the ARRA discretionary grant awards. Projects for any mode may be considered.

Another table included a list of projects that are proposed to come out of the TIP, as these are neither proposed to receive stimulus funding nor do they have regular formula funding. For the interest of ACAT members, Ms. Love highlighted the transit projects that will be removed.

There was a question about the number of hybrid buses and Ms. Iaderosa confirmed that CAT has ordered 11 hybrid buses. Five hybrid paratransit vans are proposed to be removed from the TIP. Mr. CJ McCampbel will elaborate on this issue during his agency report.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the update of the transit financial information

Ms. Love summarized this amendment as necessary in order to correct funding amounts in the transit section. This is a financial “housekeeping” amendment.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the update of the transit financial information.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the update of the transit financial information carried with none opposed.

E. Endorsement of the MPO authorization to begin the process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Love explained that amending the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a 2-step process. At this time staff is asking for an endorsement to conduct further study of the amendments to the following four projects:

- Diamond Causeway widening project – modify project description from a 4-lane widening project to a 2-lane bridge replacement project
- SR 204 widening project – modify to describe interchange at SR 204 and King George Blvd. as a separate project
- Feasibility study for a proposed I-3 from Savannah to Knoxville – US DOT wishes to conduct a study of a possible new interstate highway
- New rail tie-in to Georgia Ports Authority Mason Intermodal Container Transfer Facility – new rail project funded with the Port's remaining 2005 earmark funds and additional Ports Authority funding. This does not take money from away from any other project.

Ms. Love noted that, as the second step of the LRTP amendment process, staff will present additional information at the June meeting for committee action.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the MPO authorization to begin the process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the MPO authorization to begin the process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan carried with none opposed.

F. Endorsement of MPO priorities for development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Love reported that this endorsement deals with the priorities for the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2010-

2013. The first step in preparing this new TIP is to gather public input on priorities for the TIP. Her report reviewed the previously adopted 1st, 2nd and 3rd priorities for highway projects and priorities for transit projects. The transit priorities from the last TIP are:

- Passenger amenities
- Facility renovations
- Bus and bus-related facilities
- Job Access
- Intelligent Transportation System
- Transit Station
- Tools & Equipment
- Water Ferry

At a public meeting in March, staff collected some comments on the priorities. These comments were included in the written materials in the information packet for today's meeting. Two public hearings will be held on April 23, 2009 at the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting and on April 30, 2009 at the CORE Board meeting.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the MPO priorities for development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the MPO priorities for development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program carried with none opposed.

G. Endorsement of the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Love reported that the Unified Planning Work Program is adopted annually and outlines the staff activities and planning budget for the year. Staff is seeking endorsement of the program in order to continue the cooperative and comprehensive metropolitan transportation planning process.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.

H. Endorsement of Revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan

Ms. Love made the staff presentation. These plans were adopted in October 2007. At this time revisions need to be made to these plans to bring them up to date. Revisions include the naming of CAT as the officially designated recipient of funds for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs, the notation of a memorandum of understanding between CAT and the MPC for the planning and administration of these funds, and the documentation of two rounds of Call for Projects and the project selection process. The purpose of this plan is to outline strategies for the use of JARC and New Freedom funds. The strategies have not changed.

Mr. Jarrett opened the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, the hearing was closed.

There being no further discussion by the committee it was moved and seconded to endorse the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan.

ACAT action: the motion to endorse the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan carried with none opposed.

I. Endorsement of CORE Board Resolution Endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast.

Ms. Love reported that there is already a study suggested for high-speed rail in the southeast coming down from Atlanta to Macon. This was an idea before the Obama administration announced support for high-speed rail linking Charlotte, Atlanta, Macon, Savannah, and Jacksonville. The proposed resolution for MPO endorsement is asking that the Savannah link be included in the study of high-speed rail. Mr. Felser spoke in favor of this resolution.

Ms. Iaderosa expressed hope that ticket prices for high-speed rail would be reasonable and available to the public.

Ms. Love reported that there is a separate section in the ARRA legislation that provides funding for rail. She confirmed that it is not part of the MPO's attributable funding. This resolution will demonstrate the MPO's support for an initiative that other agencies are handling, but which affects our area.

Mr. Oakley stated that the same rail lines should not be used for both high-speed passenger travel and freight since the needs of freight are so different, and the sharing of the rail creates a lot of delay for passenger rail travel.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the CORE Board Resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast.

ACAT action: the motion to endorse the CORE Board Resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and GDOT the study of high-speed rail link between Savannah and Macon as part of

the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast carried with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

A. Call for projects for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding and New Freedom funding

Ms. Love reported on the status of the process for selecting projects for the JARC and New Freedom funds. Staff has conducted a call for projects this spring. CAT is the recipient for these funds, but other agencies could be a sub-recipient for funds. She reported the following proposals have been made:

- CAT request for JARC funds for #2 West Chatham Route
- CAT request for JARC funds for #6 Cross-town Route
- CAT request for JARC funds for Savannah Belles Ferry Service
- City of Savannah request for New Freedom funds for the Accessible Taxi Program
- Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center request for New Freedom funds for paratransit service beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of CAT fixed routes

These projects were evaluated, and recommendations were made to award the JARC funds to the three CAT proposals and award New Freedom funds to the City of Savannah and Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center. A Program of Projects is being developed and will be finalized and posted on the MPO website. CAT is expected to apply for FY 2009 JARC and New Freedom funds and sub-allocated them to sub-recipients in May.

Mr. Jarrett has concerns with the CGRDC plan, particularly the logistics involved in implementing it.

IV. Agency Reports

A. First Transit/Teleride

Mr. CJ McCampbel distributed reports of monthly statistics and comments. As of March 10th, when the route overlay was complete, they began prioritizing core area (Tier 1) callers and those outside of the core area. Those outside of the core area (Tier 2) cannot be guaranteed a ride until the Tier 1 callers are serviced.

Mr. McCampbel commented that the cancellation rate is high because of the 14-day reservation window. He anticipates this number decreasing when the reservation window is changed to 7-day. They will watch this and review the results to determine if the reservation window should be further reduced, possibly to a 3-day window as in other communities.

There was a brief discussion of some customer concerns that occurred during the past two months. The “core area” is defined as within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the CAT fixed route and applies to the point of origin and the point of destination. At this time, Teleride will take a reservation from someone outside the core area but will put them on stand-by. This will continue until the CAT Board comes up with a better solution to service these Tier 2 consumers. Mr. Aberson requested report numbers for service provided within the core area (within the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile). Mr. McCampbel found approximately, on average, 233 trips per month in the Tier 2 area, also referred to as “the gap”. He noted that by eliminating these trips, the savings on mileage does improve the on-time service in the Tier 1, core area.

Mr. Jarrett is concerned that Teleride is still expending its resources to accommodate those outside of the core area.

Mr. Oakley reported speaking with Mr. Odingbe on this subject. Mr. Odingbe has instructed Mr. McCampbel to service those in Tier 2 so

long as the Tier 1, core area, service is not compromised. Mr. McCampbel confirmed that they absolutely service those requests within the core area first. Mr. Jarrett is concerned that expectations are being set for those in “the gap” but that Teleride cannot always fulfill these expectations. He doesn’t see how Teleride can do any service at all in the Tier 2 area. Mr. McCampbel noted that a date for ending Teleride service to Tier 2 customers will be established. Discussion of options to service this customer group are underway; options that do not include the use of the current Teleride fleet.

Mr. Aberson requested a report on activity within the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile core area and another report on activity in the gap area outside of the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.

Mr. McCampbel reported that he may have found some grant money to use for new Teleride vehicles. With a particular grant he may be able to change his request of 5 hybrid vehicles to 15 hybrid vehicles. He is working through two financial propositions now.

B. Chatham Area Transit

Ms. Jean Iaderosa reported that CAT is proposing a new fare policy that introduces a free transfer. The current one-way fare of \$1.00 would increase to \$1.50 but a rider could obtain a free transfer. Ms. Iaderosa reviewed all the proposed fare changes, including an increase for one-way Teleride service from \$1.20 to \$1.80. This proposed new fare policy also includes implementation of a new fare collection system.

Ms. Terri White inquired about the possibility of audio features on ticket vending machines.

Mr. Jarrett asked when the Teleride customer handbook would be distributed. Ms. Iaderosa replied that they are waiting for the finalization of the service area. Mr. Jarrett believes the handbook and the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile pull back of the service area are two separate issues. He wants to move forward with distribution of the handbook to the

consumer immediately. Ms. Iaderosa will report his concerns to the CAT Director and get back to Mr. Jarrett.

V. **Other Business**

There was no other business at this time.

VI. **Public Participation Opportunities**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

VII. **Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the April 22, 2009 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned. **The next meeting will be MONDAY, June 22, 2009 at the MPC Hearing Room at 1:00 PM.** Please note the change of date, time and place.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner