



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE  
TRANSPORTATION MEETING SUMMARY**

**Monday, February 22, 2010**

**1:00 p.m.**

**MPC Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room**

**112 E. State St.**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	Chatham County	x
William K. Broker	Georgia Legal Service	
Wayne Dawson	Savannah-Chatham County	x
	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	
Kim Harrison	Savannah Council of the Blind	x
Pat Heagarty	Interested citizen	x
Carol Hunt	NAACP-Savannah Branch	
Hunter Hurst	Georgia Infirmary Day Center For Rehabilitation	
McArthur Jarrett	Interested Citizen	
Robert Kozlowski	Kicklighter Resource Center	
Tom Lamar	Interested Citizen	
Jane Love	Metropolitan Planning Commission	x
Patti Lyons	Senior Citizens Savannah -Chatham Inc.	

Laurie Monroe	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Bill Oakley	Goodwill Industries	x
Greg Schroeder	United Way of the Coastal Empire	
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Ctr for Develop't Services	
Terri White	Savannah Assn for the Blind	x

<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Theodis Jackson	Chatham Area Transit	x
Jack Lewis	Interested Citizen	x

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind	x
Barbara Settzo	for the MPO	x
Wykoda Wang	for the MPO	x

## Call to Order

In the absence of Chairman McArthur Jarrett, Mr. James Aberson served as Chairman and called the February 22, 2010 Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation meeting to order, followed by self-introductions by those in attendance.

### I. Approval of Agenda

Following the reading of the 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 December 14, 2009 ACAT meeting minutes

Following the reading aloud of the minutes, two corrections were noted. Under the Public Participation section, Mr. Tyrone Palmer's name will be added to begin the first sentence. Also, in this same section, the correct name of the Savannah Council of the Blind will be noted.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 ACAT meeting, as corrected.

**ACAT Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 ACAT meeting, as corrected carried with none opposed.**

#### **B. Endorsement of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments**

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented a summary of the staff report that was included with the meeting materials. She reviewed the amendments for two regularly funded projects and for the ARRA funded projects. One of the ARRA projects, the signal interconnect at Montgomery Cross Rd, will not be ready by the ARRA deadline, so it is being moved out and the funds are being reallocated to the remaining city projects. CAT also made changes in their four original projects. Since they decided to use 10% of their apportionment for operating assistance the funding amounts need to be readjusted. They reduced the amount of capital maintenance and security equipment in order to balance. She also reported that no TIGER grant money was given to any projects in Chatham County.

There was a question about whether the city buses could utilize the pre-emption feature like emergency vehicles do.

There was a discussion about the noise level of the new hybrid buses. There was concern that those who are sight-impaired would not be able to hear the buses as they approach. It was noted that the buses are in the diesel mode at the slower speeds used to approach and pull away from a bus stop, and are therefore audible.

Ms. Kim Harrison asked if the Montgomery Cross Rd signal project was being given up completely. Ms. Wang reported that the city is still pursuing this project, but not with stimulus funds.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendments to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the amendments to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program carried with none opposed.**

### **C. Endorsement of the amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program**

Ms. Jane Love reported that these amendments are for budget adjustments. They need to move funds left over from the previous fiscal year to this fiscal year. Also, ARRA funds were moved from the Bay St. improvement project to three ARRA-funded studies. The state has provided some non-stimulus funding for the Bay St. right-of-way. The final amendment is to adjust the figures to match those in an actual contract.

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

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

### **III. Status Reports**

#### **A. ARRA Project Status Update**

Ms. Wang summarized the staff report. The four projects that are part of the GDOT allocation have all been obligated. Three are under construction and one has been awarded to contract. The MPO sub-allocation funds have all been obligated. Signal projects have been obligated and have been let. Staff is in the consultant selection process for three studies. The County is still in the consultant process for the bridge replacement at Wilmington River. All the CAT apportioned funds have been obligated. The Ferry Boat grant will be obligated in time for the April 10<sup>th</sup> deadline. No TIGER grant monies were awarded.

### **IV. Agency Reports**

#### **A. Teleride**

Mr. Theodis Jackson reported that the ten paratransit vans from Detroit are here and in service. The fleet should be at 20-24 vans.

There was discussion about paratransit service outside the ¾ mile limit. Committee members reported difficulty in scheduling 24-48 hours in advance. Ms. Terri White and Mr. Bob Habas said that they hear from some of their clients that are declined a trip because Teleride is already fully booked. These people believe

that others outside of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile area are getting the space on the vans.

Mr. Jackson reported that CAT is going to resume recording incoming calls by the end of the week. When asked about a “wait list”, Mr. Jackson replied that there is no “wait list”. Discussion continued on three main issues – ride turn downs, wait list, and CRC coaches and service. Committee members requested that Barbara Hurst be invited to speak to the group at the next meeting.

Mr. Charles Odimgbe joined the meeting. He reminded the committee that Veolia has a contract with the county to provide county-wide service. Teleride was underfunded but now it is fully funded. The next issue to come up is whether Teleride should offer curb-to-curb service or continue to offer door-to-door service. Veolia is willing to provide Teleride service door-to-door but only if the County will fully fund it.

Mr. Odimgbe reported that the bus stop signage is being changed throughout the service area. All the bus stop signs will be identical and will be on 7' tactile poles.

Mr. Jackson explained how the customer complaint line works. A manager should respond within 48 hours and resolve the issue within 3 days.

## **B. Chatham Area Transit**

There was no further information to report from CAT, besides what had been covered under the Teleride report.

## **V. Other Business**

Ms. Love explained that the mapping exercise for this committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee is the beginning of the non-motorized transportation plan. They are trying to gather information on bicycle and pedestrian issues. The committee members were invited to view the maps and mark locations and routes that were of interest to them. She and another staff member also are here to record verbally-received information on the maps.

Ms. Love reminded the committee that in April the members should be prepared to nominate and elect a vice chairperson for this committee.

## **VI. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the February 22, 2010 ACAT Committee Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday, April 26, 2010 at the MPC Hearing Room at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love  
Transportation Planner