



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Monday, June 21, 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
Teresa Brenner	Interested Citizen	
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	
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	
Theodis Jackson	Teleride	x
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
Greg Schroeder	United Way of the Coastal Empire
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Ctr for Develop't Services
Terri White	Savannah Assn for the Blind

<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Russell Jenette	Chatham Area Transit	x

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Kim Anderson	CAT-Teleride	x
Jessica Mayfield	MPO	x
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind	x
Barbara Setzto	for the MPO	x

Call to Order

Mr. James Aberson, acting Chairman, called the meeting to order.

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 April 26, 2010 ACAT meeting minutes

Following the reading aloud of the minutes, it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2010 ACAT meeting.

ACAT Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2010 ACAT meeting carried with none opposed.

B. Endorsement to authorize further study of requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Entrance Road bridge project

Ms. Jane Love referred the committee to the staff report. She explained that amending the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a two-step process. Today, as part of step one, staff recommends that ACAT endorse authorization to further study this proposed amendment. At this time no project details are available other than it will be funded by federal funds through the National Parks Service. If amended into the plan, it will not take funds away from any other local project.

A motion was made and seconded for endorsement of authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Entrance Road Bridge Project.

ACAT Action: the motion for endorsement of authorization for further study of the requested LRTP amendment for Fort Pulaski Entrance Road Bridge Project carried with none opposed.

C. Endorsement to authorize further study of requested LRTP amendment for Jimmy Deloach connector project

Ms. Love noted that this was a similar type of request as the previous item. The project is proposed to be funded 100% by the state, probably through bond funding. Even though it has no federal funds assigned to it, GDOT uses the TIP as a way to track progress on the project, and thus it would need to be amended into the LRTP first.

A motion was made and seconded for endorsement of authorization for further study of requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy Deloach Connector Project.

ACAT Action: the motion for endorsement of authorization for further study of requested LRTP amendment for the Jimmy Deloach Connector Project carried with none opposed.

D. Endorsement of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Plan

Ms. Love explained that the TIP was the short-range document which programs projects for FY 2011-2014. She proceeded to highlight the changes in this proposed TIP which included a listing of the projects not carried forward from the current TIP because they've either been authorized or delayed, projects that were carried forward from the current TIP, and new projects added to this draft TIP.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) carried with none opposed.

E. Endorsement of the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Love explained the amendments being requested at this time as follows:

- Amendment to reflect updated apportionments of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds and New Freedom funds
- Amendment to include MPO-attributable funds as designated in the TIP for strategic planning studies
- Amendment to include an additional description of streetcar planning under the Strategic Planning Studies task.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the amendment to the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program carried with none opposed.

Status Reports

A. Update on Project DeRenne

Ms. Love reported that the City Council passed a resolution in support of the Boulevard in the Project DeRenne process. This option will change the connections of White Bluff, Hampstead Ave. and I-516 to better handle the traffic in this area. Hampstead Ave. becomes the new “boulevard.” The design also allows for more community-friendly improvements to DeRenne Avenue. The City Council’s resolution also included the study and construction of a sound barrier along I-516 adjacent to the Tatemville neighborhood.

Committee discussion included the issue of adequate pedestrian crossings and installation of audible signals. Ms. Love said there would be traffic signals with pedestrian crossing, but she doesn’t have the detail on whether signals would be audible. If federal funding is used, this project will come before the MPO again. The concern about audible signals revolved around whether the new boulevard would be a state road or a local road; the agencies’ policies on audible signals differs, according to Ms. Kim Harrison.

B. Update on special grant opportunities

Ms. Love reported that the federal government has announced some new grant opportunities as follows:

- TIGER II – staff of several agencies discussed a joint application, but it seems the effort is pre-mature. MPC staff will continue gathering information to be ready for future grant opportunities.

- HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant
- Federal Transit Administration Alternatives Analysis
- HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant – considering applying for this to focus on neighborhoods that were adversely affected by highway projects in previous decades.

C. Report on new transportation legislation (HB 277)

Ms. Love explained that the new transportation legislation aims to create a new source of transportation funding by region. Regions align with the boundaries of the existing Regional Commissions. The law creates a Roundtable panel for each region, for the purpose of approving a list of projects to be presented to the voters in the region. If the Roundtable approves a list, the citizens of the district will vote on a 1% sales tax to fund the listed projects. This goes to the voters on the November 2012 ballot and if passed, the 1% sales tax lasts for 10 years. The percentage of local match required for state-aided transportation projects varies depending on whether the Roundtable comes to an agreement on the projects to be funded and also on whether the voters in the region pass the sales tax referendum.

IV. Agency Reports

A. Teleride

Mr. Theodis Jackson distributed and reviewed ridership reports for Teleride services in March, April and May. He also reported that the comment line appears to be working well. He introduced Kim Anderson. She is currently in training to handle the Teleride service.

In response to a question about old vehicles still in service, Mr. Jackson acknowledged that he is still using older vehicles in the rotation, along with recently acquired ones. Fourteen new vehicles are on order but he is not sure when they will arrive.

Mr. Jackson confirmed that the contract between CAT and Viola has not yet been signed, but a special meeting for that purpose is scheduled soon. Mr. Aberson noted that the contract is a 10 year contract including all CAT, Teleride, and water ferry service.

There was discussion about the relationship between Teleride and the CRC coach service within Chatham County and between Chatham County and any other county. Issues of service coverage area and how to schedule a ride need to be clarified for users.

Mr. Jackson confirmed that any Teleride customer who used Teleride on Dump the Pump Day, when rides were supposed to be free, and who did not get a free ride will be compensated with free ride tickets. He apologized that the instructions about the "free ride day" were not communicated to the Teleride staff.

B. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Russell Jenette distributed two statistical ridership reports. He also reported that new bus stop tags in raised English print and in Braille will be attached to all the bus stop poles. He confirmed that telephone poles used as bus stop signs will be replaced with standard signs.

Mr. Aberson asked for a report on the number of half-fare riders as a way to measure bus usage by the elderly and disabled.

Ms. Kim Harrison asked for a way to use the credit card payment method for half-fares. Currently, it only works with full fare.

V. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

No public comments at this time.

VII. Announcements

Ms. Love announced that there are a surveys regarding bicycle and pedestrian issues online for people to submit their suggestions. If anyone would rather do the survey verbally, they may call her. The results of the survey will be used as staff develops the Non-motorized Transportation Plan.

The next meeting will be Monday, August 23, 2010 at the MPC Hearing Room at 1:00 PM.

VIII. Other Non-agenda Information for Reference

The items posted and mailed were for information only. There was no presentation.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the June 21, 2010 committee meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner