



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Monday, October 25, 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	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	
Yolonda Fontaine	Housing Authority of Savannah	
William Gardner	National Federation of the Blind	x
Bob Habas	Living Independence for Everyone Inc. (LIFE)	
Timamu Hakim	Chatham Area Transit Authority	
Zoe Hardenbrook	GDOT District 5	
Pat Heagarty	Interested Citizen	x
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	x
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>
Kim Anderson	CAT – Teleride (Veolia)	x
Jeff Hauser	Veolia	x

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Pam Bebin	Interested citizen	x
J. Bryant	SSU grad student	x
Jessica Hagan	MPO	x
Mike Hughes	SSU grad student	x
Charles Odimgbe	Chatham Area Transit (Veolia)	x
Iris Rine	SSU grad student	x
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind	x
Barbara Setzto	for the MPO	x
Wakeeluh Williams	SSU grad student	x

Call to Order

Mr. McArthur Jarrett called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

Following self-introductions, 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 August 23, 2010 ACAT meeting minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2010 ACAT meeting.

ACAT Action: the motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2010 ACAT meeting carried with none opposed.

Mr. James Aberson requested that the meeting minutes continue to include the actual votes registered by members who are in attendance for each action item.

B. Endorsement of the proposed updates to the current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ms. Jane Love reported that these proposed revisions were necessary to bring project descriptions in line with actual projects approved as the result of recent studies. The amendments refer to the Project DeRenne project, Connecting Savannah projects, and ARRA funded projects. The financially-constrained LRTP already contained a general place-holder project for DeRenne Avenue, due to the fact that the City of Savannah was conducting the Project DeRenne study at the time of adoption. Now that the Savannah City Council approved three projects resulting from Project DeRenne. The proposed revision would replace the original place-holder project with:

- Project DeRenne Boulevard Option
- East DeRenne Avenue Improvements
- West DeRenne Avenue Improvements

The next revision concerns projects from Connecting Savannah. Bay Street signal and intersection improvements project has been completed so it needs to be deleted. There are two projects in the Vision Plan related to the Truman Parkway which are being combined into one.

The final revision concerns the corridors which have ARRA-funded studies. Multiple projects in each of the three corridors are being

grouped together by corridor as LRTP items, with the ARRA-funded studies being one phase in each case. The three corridor studies are SR 21 corridor, SR 204 corridor and US 80 corridor.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the proposed updates to the current Long Range Transportation Plan.

ACAT Action: the motion to endorse the proposed updates to the current Long Range Transportation Plan carried with none opposed.

Status Reports

A. Update on Regional Transportation Sales & Use Tax

Ms. Love reminded the committee that the Transportation Investment Act 2010 will create regional transportation tax districts. The first step is development of the criteria to be used to select eligible projects. This is currently underway. The second step is project selection by the Round Table. The Round Table is made up of designated county and city representatives. The third step will be a voter referendum in August 2012. The fourth step will be project implementation after the revenue is collected.

Ms. Love explained the financial details of the proposed tax including anticipated revenues and the plan for distribution of revenues.

Discussion followed and included such topics as the role of, and commitment to, transit projects; concern about Chatham County's financial contributions versus the county's representation at the Round Table; the distribution of revenue relative to contributions; increased local match required for projects if the project list and/or the tax are not approved.

B. Update on ARRA-funded studies

Ms. Love reported on the three studies – SR 21 Corridor Study, SR 204 Corridor Study, and US 80 Bridges Replacement Study. All three have had stakeholder and public meetings in September 2010. Ms. Love reported on the feedback gained from these meetings. The next steps include a review of data and public comments, evaluation of alternatives for each corridor, and selection of a preferred alternative.

C. Update on the Non-motorized Transportation Plan – Summary of Surveys

Ms. Love offered a summary of the on-line bicycle survey and on-line pedestrian survey. For the interests of ACAT, she focused on the Pedestrian Survey results, which were collected from the 49 respondents.

Following Ms. Love's report, Ms. Teresa Brenner expressed her disappointment about the low survey participation. It was suggested that GARRS be added to the distribution list for such communications in the future. There is no longer a local office, but Ms. Love will check on this.

A member of the public asked if there was any focus on handicapped-related issues. Ms. Love responded that the survey inquired about the need for ADA-compliant ramps.

Ms. Love added that the survey was only one of the methods used to collect information. More specific information about improvements for the disabled was obtained during the mapping exercises conducted with ACAT at one of their spring meetings. All of this will inform the development of the non-motorized transportation plan.

Agency Reports

A. Teleride

Ms. Kim Anderson presented proposed revisions to the Teleride Handbook. It is proposed to keep the current application but to include a Part B which would need to be completed by the applicant's doctor confirming the disability and including a determination of a time period for Teleride eligibility. Part B will be used to re-certify riders for the Teleride service.

It was suggested that a legitimate service provider such as a social worker be allowed to complete Part B, not just doctors.

Mr. Charles Odimgbe noted that, as the Teleride system has improved, there has been an increase in ridership. There is a direct relationship between ridership and costs. As ridership goes up, so do costs. Currently they are using 20 vehicles on a daily basis.

Mr. James Aberson would like to see a process for determining ADA eligibility. Any disability does not necessarily make a person ADA-eligible. By federal law, Teleride is required to serve only ADA-eligible persons. Teleride may serve others, but they do not have to be served or have the identical rules and fees as ADA-eligible persons. He suggested that the county commission needs to distinguish between the two groups of customers.

Mr. Odimgbe confirmed that these changes have not gone into effect yet. They hope to be implemented on January 1, 2011. They have put these proposals before the CAT Board for the first review.

Ms. Anderson reported that another proposed change is to institute curb-to-curb service. Currently they offer door-to-door service. The change will save time and help to maintain promptness.

Discussion followed that included the questioning of the time saved by this curb-to-curb service, the importance of the driver being on time if users now must wait outside, the ability of ADA-eligible riders to get to the curb, and the ability of riders to use fixed-route buses.

There was also a discussion of specific problems (extremely early pick-ups, late pick-ups, requests denied) that riders have experienced. Mr. Odimgbe asked that any rider with a problem regarding service call immediately so that the problem can be addressed at the moment. It was suggested that Ms. Anderson's phone number be included in the handbook. Mr. Odimgbe also asked for written feedback from the committee members on the proposed changes in the customer handbook.

Two other issues that may change in the handbook are the process for cancelling a trip request and how Teleride will handle repeated "no shows". Teleride is requesting a 2-hour cancellation notice prior to the appointed pick-up time. They are also considering a penalty after three no-shows in a row. The goal is to change some riders' behavior. Discussion followed on these two points.

Mr. Tyrone Palmer requested that there be a public hearing before these changes are implemented.

Mr. Jeff Hauser reported another change will be eliminating nightly call-backs to confirm ride requests.

Mr. Hauser confirmed that the new eligibility requirements would be phased in.

The request was made that Ms. Anderson send out these proposed changes to the handbook by email.

B. Chatham Area Transit

There was no additional report at this time.

V. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

No public comments at this time.

VII. Announcements

The next meeting will be Monday, December 13, 2010 at the MPC Hearing Room at 1:00 PM. This is a week earlier than usual, due to holidays.

VIII. Other Non-agenda Information for Reference

No items.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the October 25, 2010 committee meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Love
Transportation Planner