



CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

CAT Joe Murray Rivers, Jr. Intermodal Transit Center – 1:00 p.m.
610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah
Minutes

August 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the CORE MPO Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
James Aberson	Chatham County	X
Teresa Brenner	Savannah Council of the Blind	X
Wayne Dawson	Savannah - Chatham County Fair Housing Council	
Brenda Pollen	Housing Authority of Savannah	
Pala Valdez	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	X
Carol Hunt	NAACP - Savannah Branch	
Jackie Immel	Georgia Infirmary Day Care Center for Rehabilitation	
Neil Ligon	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Patti Lyons	Senior Citizens Savannah - Chatham County, Inc.	
Pamela Oglesby	Savannah - Chatham Council on Disability Issues (SCCDI)	X
Tyrone Palmer	National Federation of the Blind, Local Chapter	X
President & CEO	Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire	
Representative	Effingham County	
Representative	GDOT District Five	
Representative	Richmond Hill	
Wykoda Wang	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Leslie Wilson	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Demetria (DeDe) Freeman	Chatham Area Transit	X
Stu Klugler	LIFE Board President	
Dr. Frank Lala	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf Interested Citizen	X
<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO/MPC	X
James Small	CORE MPO/MPC	X
Dr. Dana L. Taylor	The Elijah Agency LLC (American Sign Language Interpreting)	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to approve the August 5, 2019 ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Pala Valdez. The motion was passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. Approval of June 24, 2019 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes

☞ [ACAT June 24.pdf](#)

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the June 24, 2019 ACAT meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Teresa Brenner. The motion was passed with none opposed.

2. Adoption of Mobility 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

☞ [Public Notice Mobility 2045 Public Comment Period.pdf](#)

☞ [2045 Project Pages July.pdf](#)

☞ [August 2019 MTP Update Staff Report.pdf](#)

☞ [Resolution Mobility 2045.pdf](#)

Ms. Stephanie Rossi presented the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The Goals and Vision statements were formed in the fall of 2018. Six model runs have been performed. Staff has developed the strategies and improvement recommendations. The draft financially constrained project lists were brought to the CORE MPO Board and advisory committees in April for information and in June for endorsement and approval. Between June and August, staff has received some minor cost changes regarding several projects. These changes have been incorporated into the final financially constrained plan and will be outlined in the TIP amendment report in more detail. Staff is requesting the ACAT to endorse the final adoption of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to the CORE MPO Board in August 2019.

The 2045 MTP includes \$1.8 billion in projects for the Savannah region over 25+ years. \$1.1 billion is on Highway-focused projects, \$553 million on Preservation, Maintenance and Operations, and \$262 million on Non-Highway projects (FHWA and FTA funds).

Staff has conducted intensive public involvement for the 2045 MTP development, including 81 speaking opportunities. Staff has received 645 responses from the online survey and 484 written comments. Staff has documented these comments and the MPO's responses in Appendix D of the 2045 MTP.

Staff has received many comments concerning US Highway 80 to Tybee Island, I-16 @ SR 307 Interchange Improvements, and DeRenne Ave Improvements. These comments have been forwarded to the GDOT project managers, Chatham County and the City of Savannah. Many of the comments on I-16 @ SR 307 pertained to noise and safety with increased traffic in that area.

Staff has also received comments indicating that the 2045 MTP was lacking specific non-motorized projects. In the 2045 MTP, there is a set-aside category for non-motorized improvements. Specific bike, pedestrian and trail type projects will be selected from the Non-Motorized Plan which will be updated after the 2045 MTP adoption.

Ms. Wykoda Wang motioned to endorse the Mobility 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; seconded by Ms. Teresa Brenner. The motion was passed with none opposed.

3. Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 Transportation Improvement Program

📎 [FY 2018 -2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report August 2019.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the FY 2018 – 2021 TIP Amendments for August 2019.

Staff received 4 requests from GDOT for project amendments.

- PI# 0013727, I-16 @ SR 307. GDOT requested to add a Utility phase to FY 2020 and revised cost estimates for the Construction phase in FY 2020. This project will be funded with Z001 funds and Z230 funds. For the construction portion, the \$2.9 million in Z230 funds will not change but the Z001 funds will be increased to nearly \$24 million.
- PI# 0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RIVER & LAZARETTO CREEK. GDOT requested to add a Preliminary Engineering phase in FY 2020 with \$1 million of HB 170 funds. The additional funds will be used for environmental studies.
- PI# 0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONN FROM SR 21/SR 25 to SR 21 SPUR. GDOT requested to add \$1.6 million in FY 2020 for Preliminary Engineering. Approximately \$1.2 million will come from HB 170 funds and roughly \$500 thousand will come from the Georgia Ports Authority as the local sponsor.
- PI# 0010028, CS 1097/DELESSEPS/LA ROCHE AVE FM WATERS AVE TO SKIDAWAY RD. GDOT requested to add a Preliminary Engineering phase in FY 2020 with \$25,000 of HB 170 funds; and add additional local funds to the Construction phase in FY 2020. Z301 funds with local match and Z230 funds with local match have been allocated to the FY 2020 Construction phase. These funds will not change. The cost increase for construction is roughly \$300 thousand and will be provided by the City of Savannah who is the local project sponsor.

The Transportation Improvement Program must be consistent with the most up-to-date Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). All four projects are included in the financially-constrained 2045 MTP. These project cost changes have been incorporated into the 2045 MTP financial plan.

The 15-day comment period for the TIP amendments was advertised and started on July 24. It would end on August 7. Staff has received written comments concerning bike and pedestrian trails connecting to the McQueen's Island Trail related to the US 80 Bridges Replacement project. Staff also received comments concerning the US 80 project. These comments were forwarded to GDOT and Chatham County. Comments were received regarding bike/pedestrian /trail connections that are not related to the TIP amendments but more relevant to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. These comments will be addressed during the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan amendment process.

Staff is requesting the ACAT to endorse the proposed TIP amendments.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to endorse the Amendments to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program; seconded by Mr. Neil Ligon. The motion was passed with none opposed.

4. Updates to Participation Plan and Title VI Planning Documents

- ④ [Title VI and PP Updates Status Report August 2019.pdf](#)
- ④ [CORE MPO Participation Plan May2019-public-review-copy pfe comments.pdf](#)
- ④ [CORE MPO TitleVI Plan Consistent with GDOT Template May2019 pfe comments.pdf](#)
- ④ [CORE MPO Language Assistance Plan May2019 pfe comments.pdf](#)
- ④ [CORE MPO Environmental Justice Plan May2019 pfe comments.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang presented the Participation Plan and Title VI Plan updates.

The CORE MPO is a recipient of federal funds and is required to develop a Participation Plan and Title VI Plan. The Participation Plan outlines the public participation process for development and amendments to MPO plans, programs, and studies. This is one of the main planning products for the MPO under FHWA regulations. The Title VI Plan is developed in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, relating to nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders and regulations. The Title VI plan is related to the Environmental Justice Plan and the Language Assistance Plan.

The Participation Plan undergoes a major update every 5 years in coordination with the MTP update cycle. The Title VI Plan must be updated every 3 years and includes updates to the public participation components within the Participation Plan. The August 2019 updates are outlined below.

Participation Plan

- No major updates were made to the development and amendments processes for the MPO's plans and programs. Those plans include the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, UPWP, etc. Only minor administrative corrections were made.
- The quantitative Measure of Effectiveness (MOEs) of the MPO's public involvement process since 2016 have been incorporated. Previously it was a qualitative MOE, measuring the frequency of meetings. The process has been changed to include the number and racial breakdown of those in attendance at the meetings.
- The public participation summary for the 2045 MTP development was added to the appendix.
- Additional Title VI related goals and objectives were added to Section 3 – Participation Goals and Objectives.
- The Participation Plan can satisfy the requirements outlined in Appendix F of the Title VI Plan.

Participation Plan updates require a 45-day public comment period. That period started on June 27. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is charged with overseeing the Participation Plan update and held a public hearing in conjunction with the August 1st CAC meeting.

Mr. James Aberson stated that he believes the deaf population that uses American Sign language is included in the LEP category. Considering what the LEP covers, American sign language is very different from the English language. He feels we need to reach out to the deaf community and get them involved in the planning process. Ms. Wang asked if he wants to include this in the Limited English Proficiency plan or the Participation Plan. Mr.

Aberson feels it is a part of both. If the goal is to improve and expand communication in the deaf community, it needs to be a bullet point in the plan. Ms. Wang asked if disability includes the deaf community. Mr. Aberson stated that it does, but this is also a communication issue.

Dr. Frank Lala added that the Georgia Association of the Deaf has a lot of clients who are not using public transportation because they need help in understanding, but we do not know what they really want in order to help them. By reaching out, staff may be able to gain a better understanding of their needs.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (HOH) will be included in the Participation Plan to better address the needs of the deaf community. Ms. Teresa Brenner mention the use of Georgia Reading Radio Services. Ms. Wang stated that this has been added to the plan. The language will include deaf and blind populations.

Mr. Neil Legion motioned to endorse the Participation Plan as amended; seconded by Ms. Teresa Brenner. The motion was passed with none opposed.

The **Environmental Justice (EJ) Report** was revised to an **EJ Plan**. It includes the latest census data and the results of the Environmental Justice impact analysis conducted for the 2045 MTP projects. Demographic maps and statistics from the EJ Plan satisfy the requirements outlined in Appendix I of the Title VI Plan. CORE MPO must identify the EJ populations in the Savannah area and outline how we address these populations. The MPO is also required to outline the 2045 MTP project impacts on EJ populations.

The **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan** has been revised to a **Language Assistance Plan (LAP)** that incorporates the latest census data and LAP progress since 2016. Data in the LAP satisfy the requirements outlined in the Appendix H of the Title VI Plan. CORE MPO is required to determine where the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons are located in the Savannah area and develop a LAP. The LAP addresses how to get LEP persons involved in the transportation planning process.

Title VI Plan

A state-wide Title VI Plan template was developed by GDOT in 2018. MPO staff received comments from GDOT on the MPO's existing Title VI Plan. In response to GDOT comments, the MPO's Title VI plan was updated to be consistent with the statewide template. The Title VI Plan updates include revising the summary report to include all required components outlined in the GDOT Title VI Plan template.

- The **Non-Discrimination Policy Statements** have been added to the Title VI Plan and the language revised to match the approved GDOT template language.
- The **Non-discrimination Notice to the Public** has been added to the Plan and language has been revised to match the approved GDOT template. The notice added the assignment of a second person as an Alternate Title VI liaison.
- The **Non-discrimination Complaint Form and Procedures** have been added to the Plan and revised to match the approved GDOT template and procedures.
- **Non-discrimination Records of Complaints and Lawsuits** have been added to the Plan and revised to include records retention procedure requiring the Title VI Plan to be maintained and updated every 3 years.

- **Other** information not included in the previous Title VI plan has been added including 1st time applicant requirement, transportation planning board and advisory committee composition and racial breakdown, a Title VI equity analysis, and more.

The Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) is charged with overseeing the Title VI Plan updates. A public hearing for the Title VI updates will be held during the August 5 ACAT meeting.

Populations that meet the LEP requirement must be above a certain threshold – either more than 5% of the total population in a region or more than 1,000 in number. For the Savannah area, the Spanish speaking LEP persons meet the threshold with a population of more than 1,000. CORE MPO staff used the latest census American Community Survey (ACS) data when making these determinations.

ACAT members reviewed and offered input to the Title VI Non-discrimination statement. This statement will be included in all MPO plans and programs. Changes were made to the current plan by the Assistant Executive Director (AED) of the MPC. Mr. Aberson suggested removing the language “physical or mental handicap” at the previous ACAT meeting. This was removed and “disability” was retained. The MPC AED suggested that “reprisal or all of an individual’s income is derived from a public assistance program” be removed. She suggested that “other protected categories” be included. She also removed “including gender identity and expression” and stated that “sex” and “sexual orientation” should suffice. Mr. Neil Ligon stated that “sex” and “sexual orientation” are not the same and will not properly substitute for “gender identity and expression”. Mr. Ligon stated that “gender identity and expression” need to remain in the statement because they are two different classes.

Mr. Neil Ligon motioned to advise leaving “gender identity and expression” in the Title VI Non- discrimination statement; seconded by Ms. Pala Valdez.

The public hearing was opened and closed with there being no public comment.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to endorse the Title VI Planning Documents; seconded by Ms. Demetria Freeman. The motion was passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

NONE

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Chatham Area Transit

Ms. Demetria Freeman stated that CAT is currently interviewing for the ADA manager. Internal interviews are complete and external interviews are underway. There were roughly 7 applicants who applied for the role internally. CAT staff is looking to have the position secured by the end of August or early September.

For the upcoming Labor Day Route schedule, for the first time, paratransit will have a holiday schedule. It was determined that for Labor Day, it will affect 8 passengers who need to be at dialysis by 5:30am. Ms. Freeman will reach out to Para Transit riders directly as schedules are being made to notify them of the changes and adjustments they may need to

make. There are 10 Para Transit operators in training. They will complete training in the next 3 to 4 weeks. With the new class of 10 operators, Para Transit will have a 3 to 5-person extra-board team that will do the job of floating. These drivers will operate as will-call under demand service.

Mr. Tyrone Palmer added that the route match system was used to notify Para Transit users of public meetings. This will systematically resolve issues with users not being aware of meetings. Users receive an automated phone call notifying them of system dates and changes. Ms. Freeman stated that this was the first time the system has been used to notify the public of meetings.

Mr. Palmer stated that there is a dire need for Para Transit services. The average cost per Para Transit ride is \$35. The customer only pays \$2 each way.

LIFE

Mr. Neil Ligon stated that the LIFE Southern Summer Nights Fundraiser will be held at the Jewish Educational Alliance on August 15th, 2019 from 6:00pm-9:00pm.

V. Other Business

NONE

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

VII. Announcements

[5.Next ACAT Meeting: Monday October 28, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the CAT Joe Murray Rivers. Jr. Intermodal Transit Center](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[6.Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status Updates \(GDOT\)](#)

[Chatham District 5 MPO Project Status \(period ending 6-30-19\).pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 5, 2019 meeting of the CORE MPO ACAT was adjourned.

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.