



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

December 9, 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	
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
Dean Stonecipher	Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision	
Clealice Timmons	Coastal Center for Development Services	
Leslie Wilson	Economic Opportunity Authority	
Brigitte Morrison	Chatham Area Transit	X
Dr. Frank Lala	GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf	X
<u>Voting Alternates</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
<u>Others</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Juliet Donald	Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE), Inc.	X
Darlene West	HLIS	X
Dr. Michael O'Halloran	Chatham Area Transit Board Chairman	X
Stephanie Rossi	CORE MPO/MPC	X

I. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Pamela Oglesby motioned to approve the December 9, 2019 CORE MPO ACAT meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Wykoda Wang. The motion was passed with none opposed.

II. Action Items

1. Approval of October 28, 2019 CORE MPO ACAT meeting minutes

☞ [October 28 ACAT.pdf](#)

Mr. Neil Ligon motioned to approve the October 28, 2019 ACAT Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Wykoda Wang. The motion was passed with none opposed.

2. Amendments to FY 2018 - 2021 TIP

☞ [FY 2018 -2021 TIP Amendments Staff Report Nov-Dec 2019.pdf](#)

Ms. Wykoda Wang stated that staff received the TIP amendment request for six projects.

1. PI# 0010560, SR 26 FM JOHNNY MERCER TO OLD US 80; INC BULL RVR&LAZARETTO – increase ROW funding by \$922,500 in FY 2020.
2. PI# 0006328, BRAMPTON ROAD CONN FROM SR 21/SR 25 to SR 21 SPUR – 1) move the CST phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021; and 2) move the UTL phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021
3. PI# 0015704, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 @ BACK RIVER – move the CST phase from FY 2021 to long range.
4. PI# 0015705, SR 404 SPUR/US 17 FM NE OF SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER – 1) move the ROW phase from FY 2020 to long range; and 2) move the CST phase from FY 2021 to long range.
5. PI# 0013741, SR 25/US 17 @ Savannah River in Port Wentworth – 1) move the ROW phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021 with reduced cost; 2) move the CST phase from FY 2020 to long range; and 3) move the UTL phase from FY 2020 to long range.
6. PI# 0013742, SR 25/US 17 @ Middle River in Port Wentworth - 1) move the ROW phase from FY 2020 to FY 2021 with reduced cost; and 2) move the CST phase from FY 2020 to long range.

The Right-of-Way (ROW) phase cost estimate for the US 80 bridges replacement project has increased from \$280,500 to \$1,203,000. The ROW phase will remain in FY 2020 and the increased cost is expected to be provided by Tybee Island. Ms. Wang suggested that Tybee Island apply for Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds during the upcoming Call for Projects. Currently, it is indicated that Tybee

Island is the local sponsor and is responsible for covering the project's ROW cost. Ms. Wang stated that the money contributed by Tybee could potentially be used as a local match in the HIP funds Call for Projects. It's recommended that Tybee also reach out to GDOT and inquire if additional HB 170 funds or other federal funds can be allocated to this project.

Due to other factors including environmental constraints, the BRAMPTON ROAD Connector project has fallen behind schedule. The Construction (CST) and Utility (UTL) phases for the project have been moved from FY 2020 to FY 2021. There is no cost increase or decrease for the project. Staff received one comment for this project stating that the project's description was incorrect. The description states that Foundation Rd. is a part of the project when it is not. CORE MPO staff is coordinating with GDOT staff to make the correction to the project's description.

The CST and ROW phases for projects SR 404 SPUR/US 17 @ BACK RIVER and SR 404 SPUR/US 17 SAVANNAH HARBOR PKWY TO BACK RIVER have been moved out of the TIP to Long Range. Ms. Wang stated that Georgia and South Carolina DOTs are in the process of reaching an agreement concerning funding for the projects.

The ROW and CST phases for the SR 25/US 17 @ Savannah River bridge replacement project have been moved. The ROW phase has been moved to FY 2021 with a reduced cost and the CST phase has been moved to Long Range. The CST phase for the SR 25/US 17 @ Middle River bridge replacement project has been moved to Long Range and the ROW phase is moving to FY 2021 with a cost reduction. Both projects are considered design build and have experienced delays.

A 17-day public comment period was held, and staff received several comments. Most of the comments were in reference to the US 80 bridges replacement project, particularly the significant increase in the ROW cost. Many comments asked when the revised concept report will be available for review and where the funding will come from. Tybee Island officials expressed concerns about the significant ROW cost increase and why Tybee Island is responsible for the additional funds needed to build a project within GDOT's jurisdiction. Staff is currently waiting on GDOT to complete the revised concept report. This will illustrate the final alignment of the bridge at Bull River and more accurate cost estimates. This should be available for review at the end of January 2020.

The City of Port Wentworth is considering moving the Houlihan bridge to a location where it can be on display due to its historical value. The bridge is over 100 years old and is considered a historical artifact.

Ms. Teresa Brenner motioned to endorse the FY 2018 - 2021 TIP Amendments; seconded by Ms. Pamela Oglesby. The motion was passed with none opposed.

III. Status Reports

None

IV. Agency Reports (verbal)

Chatham Area Transit

Ms. Brigitte Morrison gave an update on the Paratransit vehicles fleet. Currently, CAT has 40 Paratransit vehicles in total, 35 in operation, 3 undergoing service, and 2 that were involved in accidents. CAT is in the process of obtaining 7 new Paratransit drivers. All drivers are undergoing fixed route training and CAT has hired an additional fixed route trainer. CAT is exploring ways to shorten the training time for Paratransit drivers to be on par with the training times of similar agencies. CAT partnered with the Hillsboro Area Regional Transit Authority of Tampa, Florida for the Travel Training Program. They received training on how to conduct a local Travel Training Program. A soft launch of the local Travel Training Program will take place on February 3, 2020. Advertising for the program will start 2 weeks prior and a professional advocacy/promotional video will be filmed. The hard launch of the program will be on February 17, 2020.

Dr. Michael O'Halloran stated that the current Paratransit fleet is equipped to accommodate 500 trips a day. Currently, Paratransit is facilitating 600 trips per day. Around 5-7 vehicles need to be added to the Paratransit fleet. This will be addressed as CAT begins to evaluate the budget.

Mr. Aberson stated that in the past, the Paratransit fleet has experienced nearly 50% of vehicles out of service. He feels the current number of vehicles in service is a great improvement.

LIFE

Mr. Neil Ligon stated that L.I.F.E. is currently settling into the new facility located at 4811 Waters Ave. They are planning a grand opening for their new facility in Jesup Ga. at the end of January 2020. That facility is staffed, and the new hires are in training.

GVRA/Chatham County Coastal Chapter - GA Assoc of the Deaf

Mr. Frank Lala stated that the group is planning a gathering for the month of December.

Committee Discussion

Ms. Wykoda Wang asked for an update on the CAT Redesign project. Dr. O'Halloran stated that it is currently in the move forward phase. The CAT Board had major concerns from Chatham County about removing stops in the area. Until the Board can find a solution, minor adjustments may be made to the current design. Also, the Board is waiting on the City of Savannah to appoint a replacement to the CAT Board due to Mr. Bill Durrence's departure from the Savannah City Council.

V. Other Business

NONE

VI. Public Participation Opportunities

Mr. Tyrone Palmer stated that the National Federation of the Blind of Chatham County will hold their annual Christmas Banquet on Friday, December 20, 2019 at Carey Hillard's on Abercorn Ext.

VII. Announcements

[3.Next ACAT Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the CAT Joe Murray Rivers. Jr. Intermodal Transit Center](#)

VIII. Other Non-Agenda Information for Reference

[4.I-16/Little Neck Road Study Community Open House](#)

[116 LittleNeck MtgFlyer.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the December 9, 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.